

Jonathan Clark

Professor
Department of Zoology
Weber State University
Ogden UT 84408-2505 USA

Education & Experience

I earned my Ph.D. in molecular genetics from Ohio State University. From 1991-1997, I was a Research Associate in ecology and evolution at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Since 1998, I have been a Professor in the Department of Zoology at Weber State University, which is a center for studies of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. I was a visiting scholar at the University of Valencia, Spain (2005), and a visiting scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC (2009).



In addition to my scientific activities, for nearly 20 years I have been involved in local and national leadership positions of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society (<http://sigmaxi.org>). Sigma Xi is one of the oldest and largest (40,000 members) scientific organizations in the world, with over 200 past and current members receiving the Nobel prize. I currently serve as the Director of the Northwest region of Sigma Xi (national election) and am a member of its international Board of Directors.

My main research focus is the use of genetic data to examine the diversity and adaptation of invertebrates associated with the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, an important historical, cultural, and economic resource for the state of Utah. I am also involved in productive collaborations to examine the microbial diversity of Great Salt Lake. I regularly participate in meetings in the North America and in the past six years alone have given presentations in Argentina, the Netherlands, Ireland, China (twice), Australia, Russia, and South Africa. Details on my research activities can be found at <https://www.weber.edu/jonclark>.

Recent Publications & Presentations (Students underlined)

Truong, A., M. Sondossi, and **J.B. Clark**. 2017. Genetic identification of *Wolbachia* from Great Salt Lake brine flies. *Symbiosis* 72:95-102.

O. Bedolla and J. Clark. 2017. DNA Barcoding of Great Salt Lake invertebrates. *7th International Barcode of Life Conference*, Kruger National Park, South Africa, Nov. 20-24.

Haney, S. and **J. Clark**. 2017. Invertebrate diversity in Great Salt Lake revealed by DNA barcoding. *Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*, Waimea, HI, June 19-23.

J. Clark, O. Bedolla and S. Haney. 2017. Genetic studies of invertebrate diversity in the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. 13th International Conference on Salt Lake Research, Ulan-Ude, Russia, August 21-25.

Hunziker, K., S. Redon, N. Berthelemy and **J. Clark**. 2015. Genetic characterization of parasites from Great Salt Lake brine shrimp. *Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*, San Francisco, CA, June 14-17.

Nguyen, S. and J.B. Clark. 2014. Genetic analysis of invertebrates from Great Salt Lake, Utah. *12th International Conference on Salt Lake Research*, Beijing, China, July 14-18.

Candidate's Statement

Salt lakes are an underappreciated natural resource, providing numerous recreational, ecological and economic benefits. In spite of their importance, many of the world's saline lakes are shrinking at increasing rates. I have participated in the last three meetings of the International Society of Salt Lake Research (Argentina, China, Russia), giving presentations on invertebrate and microbial diversity of Great Salt Lake. The strength of this meeting is that it provides a forum where chemists, biologists, and water specialists can discuss approaches to increasing the understanding of saline lakes. This cooperation is crucial to developing strategies to effectively manage these important natural resources. My priorities for the ISSLR are to:

- Recruit and train young scientists interested in saline lake research. I regularly supervise student research projects on Great Salt Lake, resulting in peer-reviewed publications and presentations (see above).
- Encourage awareness of the importance of saline lakes and the ecological threats they face. Because Great Salt Lake is one of world's best-known salt lakes, it can be used as a model for good management practices that involve public and private cooperation.
- Improve the organization of the ISSLR conference to attract more research scientists. I regularly attend numerous scientific conferences and I can offer a perspective that might be useful in attracting many scientists that are not familiar with the Society. Broadening the participation of the conference would help to strengthen both the science and the finances of the Society.