

Invasion of the Crabs: Researcher Bio

Dr. Shon S. Schooler



I grew up on a small farm near Marathon City, Wisconsin where I helped my parents and brother with raising beef cattle and growing ginseng. When I wasn't baling hay or working in the ginseng fields, I spent my free time in the forest and streams.

After graduating high school in 1989 I went to the local community college for two years and decided to study botany. I then transferred to University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I also became interested in insects and received my B.S. degree in Environmental Science. While finishing my degree I worked in a theoretical ecology research lab on campus where I studied the effects of parasitoid wasps on aphids in alfalfa fields. I decided I wanted to continue in science and was accepted to the graduate program at Oregon State University in 1996. I studied the impacts and management of invasive aquatic plants and received my Ph.D. in 2003. I then was hired on as a postdoctoral scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in Brisbane, Australia, where I continued to study invasive plants with an emphasis on biological control using host-specific insects. During this time I traveled around the world (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico, Puerto Rico) looking for potential biological control agents for invasive aquatic plants in Australia.



Looking for potential biological control agents for water fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) in Venezuela.

After seven years at CSIRO I then moved back to the United States in 2011 and spent the next seven years at the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Superior, WI. In this position I broadened my research to include water quality issues and invasive animal species such as the emerald ash borer and the rusty crayfish.

In 2018 I moved back to Oregon. I am currently the Research Coordinator at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) in Coos Bay. My main task is to facilitate research that provides information for improving the management of aquatic resources. This includes conducting research, assisting researchers, and developing research priorities through consultation with local and regional natural resource managers. The priority research themes for the SSNERR currently include marsh restoration, water quality, invasive species, and climate change. I also mentor graduate and undergraduate students conducting research projects, and provide technical advice on numerous local, regional, and national committees.