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**Art and Science converge at the Museum of Life and Science, March 17**  
*NC regional artists join science experts to illuminate important environmental issues*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The Disappearing Frogs Project (DFP), in partnership with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), and the Museum of Life and Science (MLS) in Durham, North Carolina is hosting an Art Reception and Science Panel Thursday, March 17, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Over 100 regional artists have donated original works of art, each capturing their personal perspective of the impact and effects of globalization. Download invitation: [http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/postcard\\_web.pdf](http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/postcard_web.pdf)



"Vanish," Pam Winegard

The DFP brings awareness to the threat of extinction and inspires action to prevent it by using art to stimulate intellectual curiosity about our environment. On Thursday evening, art and science will converge in the Terrace Gallery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Museum. Meet and mingle with the artists and enjoy a panel discussion as science experts illuminate the environmental issues facing amphibian populations worldwide.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> DFP art exhibit to be installed in North Carolina since February 1, 2016. The local and regional artwork which fills the exhibit space is our largest exhibition to date. It spans approximately 400 square feet and showcases nearly 200 distinctive works of art.

The DFP art exhibit is on display through May 1, 2016 and is free with admission to the Museum.

**Featured Artists:**

Eleven regional artists are prominently displayed on their own wall. These artists are recognized regionally and nationally. Artistic styles range from realism to abstract, and include paintings and work in glass, wood, clay and discarded materials. Featured artists and links to their respective sites and galleries:

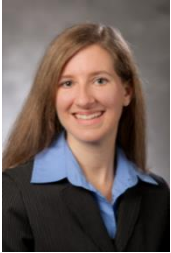
Leslie De Rose, Loren Di Benedetto, Sharon Dowell, Leatha Koeffler, Janet Lasher, Nerys Levy, Isaac Payne, Lori Sanderson, Ian Wegener, Pam Winegard, and Terry Thirion.

Download artist's statement: [http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/artist\\_statements-for-2016-DFP-MLS-exhibit.pdf](http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/artist_statements-for-2016-DFP-MLS-exhibit.pdf)

## **Purchases:**

All art on exhibit is available for purchase. Proceeds from sales support ASA, world leaders in amphibian conservation, education, and research. From habitat protection to disease research, policy guidance to education program development, the Alliance builds real solutions to global threats.

## **Science Panel Members:**



Nicolette Cagle: A dedicated naturalist and environmental educator with a PhD in Ecology. Nicki is a Lecturer in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University where she teaches courses emphasizing natural history and environmental education & communication. She is also the Director of the Environmental Science Summer Program at Duke and Director of the NSOE Communications Studio.



Rachel Hopkins: A graduating senior at Durham Academy and a voice of the millennial generation. Rachel has always been interested in the natural world, and when she learned of the global decline in frogs and other amphibians, she decided to do her part to advocate change. Among her many accomplishments in 2013 she spearheaded the designation of two North Carolina State Symbols: the State Frog (Pine Barrens Treefrog) and the State Salamander (Marbled Salamander). Now, the North Carolina Zoo features a Pine Barrens Treefrog Exhibit and is conducting field research using radio telemetry to collect important data to help this disappearing species continue to exist, <http://courier-tribune.com/news/local/nc-zoo-saving-wildlife-wild-places>



Elizabeth Losos is a tropical forest ecologist and holds PhDs in tropical ecology and a MPA in public policy. For the past 11 years, Dr. Losos has been President and CEO of the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), a nonprofit consortium of nearly sixty universities, colleges, and research institutions from around the world. Dr Losos is also an adjunct professor at Duke University.



Ron Sutherland is a conservation scientist working with the Wildlands Network. Ron received his PhD in Environmental Sciences and Policy from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University; here he studied the response of frogs, snakes, and other wildlife to urbanization in the Sandhills region of North Carolina.



Jeff Hall, Moderator, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) biologist, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Jeff works to promote habitat management that benefits reptiles and amphibians as well as other wildlife species.

The DFP has a full schedule of activities in the Triangle area and at Raven Rock State Park, Lillington, N.C. throughout the month of March and April. In celebration of the NC Science Festival, April 8-24, the DFP has partnered with MLS in Durham, Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh, and Kidzu Children’s Museum in Chapel Hill for a multitude of frog-themed programming all geared toward children. All events are open to the public.

A current schedule of upcoming events can be found [here](#). For more information about the DFP visit our website, <http://www.amphibians.org/disappearingfrogsproject/>

Art. Awareness. Action – working together to make a change for amphibians worldwide.



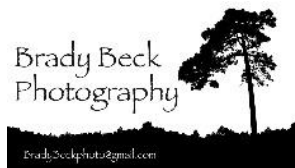
*In 2015 the Disappearing Frogs Project partnered with the [Amphibian Survival Alliance](#) (ASA), world leaders in amphibian conservation, education, and research. The goal of the partnership is to raise awareness of global amphibian declines, inspire people to take personal action to protect these incredible species, while also providing a unique opportunity for artists to support amphibian conservation, education, and research.*

*The ASA is a Fiscally Sponsored Program of Global Wildlife Conservation a registered 501(c)(3). Tax ID #26-2887967*

The mission of the DFP is to use art to support scientific, educational and community efforts that focus on amphibian preservation.

**Photo:** “Vanish”: A mixed media, oil, and encaustic on birch panel by Matthews, N.C. artist Pam Winegard. “Vanish” is a visual narrative and comment on our changing environment. The loss of our beautiful natural landscape is linked to the disappearance of our fellow inhabitants; often the result by human manipulation of their habitats. Download image: <http://www.amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Vanish-by-Pam-Winegard.jpeg>

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