The Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership (MoRAP) has hired recent MU Ph.D. graduate Michael Sunde, who was advised by Hong He and Jason Hubbart. Dr. Sunde’s past research has focused on analyzing the impacts of land-cover and climatic changes on water resources. He will begin working, together with other staff, on two new projects that are just underway at MoRAP: ecological systems mapping for Kansas and Nebraska, and fire fuel mapping and modeling for the state of Texas. These new projects (see figures below) are substantial, and will continue through the next two or three years, at least. Figure 1 (below left) MoRAP will be working with Texas A&M Forest Service to improve fire fuel mapping for Texas. Figure 2 (below right) MoRAP will be working with partners and Kansas and Nebraska to provide ecological systems models and maps for both states. (Submitted by Dave Diamond.)
EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two faculty from the School of Natural Resources competed in the Show Me State Games Powerlifting competition on Saturday July 22\textsuperscript{nd}. Jennifer Upah won the bronze medal in the Women’s Open Division, and Tony Lupo won gold in the Men’s Master’s division (50-54 age group).

SPOTLIGHT

The Conservation Laboratory was the original home of one of the first Cooperative Wildlife Research Units in the country. However, the first occupant was neither fish nor wildlife, but a maize geneticist. The following account was researched and written by Jeff Crane, Assistant Professor of History, Culver Stockton College, and appeared in a brochure announcing the opening of Stephens Hall after it was renovated and remodeled in 2002 for Dr. Gerald Hazelbauer and Dr. Linda Randall who were recruited to investigate molecular aspects of the Life Sciences. Compiled by Joe G. Dillard, Room 47 Archivist.

“For a short time the new Wildlife Conservation Building housed a scientist on her way to winning a Nobel Prize. Maize geneticist Barbara McClintock was recruited in the spring of 1936 by the influential geneticist Lewis Stadler, who had received an $80,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to create a major genetics center at the University of Missouri. McClintock took a position as an Assistant Professor in the spring of 1936 and was soon assigned an office in the Wildlife Building. A well-known story illustrates her reputation for the unconventional. Returning to the Wildlife Building one night, she could not find her keys and a night watchman refused to let her in because he doubted she was a faculty member. Her response was to climb a tree and gain entry to the open window of her office on the northwest corner of the building. In 1983, McClintock was awarded the Nobel Prize for her discovery of transposable genetic elements, first described by her in maize.”

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