

2011 College of Agricultural Sciences Honor Alumnus

Recipient: **Scott Hoffman Black**, (B.S., '94, Horticulture; M.S., '98, Ecology)

Current position: Executive Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



Scott Hoffman Black will receive the College of Agricultural Sciences Honor Alumnus Award. Black is the accomplished director of both large and small science-based conservation groups and campaigns. He has an extensive background in designing and implementing programs to protect biological diversity and to conserve habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Since 2000, Black has been executive director of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation in Portland, Ore. Mr. Black works to bring together scientists, farmers, wildlife managers, and landowners around the country and overseas, with the twin goals of economic and environmental viability. He has grown the organization in staff and budget, and the group's research and advocacy work encompasses butterflies, moths, bees, beetles, crustaceans, dragonflies, worms, and other species. Mr. Black, conservation leader, scientist, and activist, also gives lectures, workshops, and educational presentations on a wide array of invertebrate issues.

As a student, Black co-founded Wildlands Action Group/Rainforest Action Group to help students learn more about protecting forests around the world. A few years later, he served as public lands chair for the Poudre Canyon Sierra Club, where he worked on a county sales-tax initiative to fund open space purchases. He co-founded Public Lands Watch of Northern Colorado and became its president. This all-volunteer organization significantly impacted ecologically and economically sustainable land-management policies in the state of Colorado that are still in place today.