

University of Florida Faculty Senate

Distinguished Professor Lecture

Presented by

Dr. Jack Putz

Still Trying to Save Tropical Forests

October 17th, 2016 - 4PM - Emerson Alumni Hall

Johnny Weissmuller-filled Sunday afternoons swung Jack into a career dedicated to tropical rainforest conservation. Based on his experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia in the early 1970s and his subsequent four decades of research on conservation, not to mention more academic publications than most anyone would care to read, one might expect Jack to have enlightenment to share and workable solutions to provide.



Instead, he will offer clear suggestions about what doesn't work and only vague hints about what might promote conservation under some conditions in some places. His litany of conservation options includes market-based interventions to promote climate change mitigation and forest product certification. He will unapologetically talk more than is justified about improved forest management and the need for its intensification in order to secure future timber yields. His presentation will also feature some public hand-wringing about the roles suitable for extra-tropical researchers in jungle conservation. Finally, as a purveyor of capacity building, he will make an impassioned but logically flawed case for conservation emerging from enlightened self-interest. He assures potential attendees that it won't be all gloom-and-doom and promises forgo imitating the songs of Bornean gibbons.