

David Unger, Ph.D. – Maryville College, KY

Dr. Unger received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky (2007) where he studied the ecology of a recolonizing black bear (*Ursus americanus*) population. He received his Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1999) where he investigated den and rendezvous site selection by grey wolves (*Canis lupus nubilus*) in Northern Wisconsin. He received his B.S. in Biology, Minor in Chemistry at Eastern College (1992). His general biological interests revolve around the wonder and complexity of all living things including behavior, anatomy/physiology, adaptation/evolution, population dynamics, and ecology. Dr. Unger's specialty is in Wildlife Ecology, specifically predator/prey interactions, recovering/recolonizing predator populations, reproductive behavior of predators, and the influence of predation on adaptation, natural selection, and diversity. He has worked on the Yellowstone Wolf Project (2009, 2010), Colorado Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) project (2003, 2008), and Colorado Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*) project (2010, 2011), amongst others. Since 2012, Dr. Unger has worked as an Associate Professor of Biology teaching Zoology, Ecology, Study Abroad, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at Maryville College, Maryville, TN where he received the outstanding teacher award his second year (2014). His research focus in recent years has diversified, moving from large predators to such things as prey selection and food habits of a reintroduced American Marten (*Martes americana*) population in west-central Michigan, Eastern Box Turtles (*Terrapine carolina carolina*) and Salamander ecology in eastern Tennessee (including Great Smoky Mountains National Park), Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) population dynamics and reproductive ecology on Cumberland Island National Seashore off the coast of Georgia, and tropical fish diversity, coral reef biofluorescence, and the basking behavior of the Bonaire Whiptail Lizard (*Cnemidophorus murinus*) on the Caribbean Island of Bonaire, Municipality of the Netherlands. Dr. Unger is an avid scuba diver (NAUI – Dive Master, 2016), swimmer, gardener, hiker, birder, loves global travel, and (after his father) regards Sir David Attenborough as his hero. Simply put, Dr. Unger loves life and has problems deciding which part of the creation is the most fantastic.