Minchin studies, conservation issues

When people hear about Tasmania, the first image that often comes to mind is the animated cartoon character "Tasmanian Devil" from the Warner Bros. "Looney Tunes" series. The cartoon may be a human invention, but the animal is very real. In 2009 they were placed on the endangered species list. Nearly 70 percent of these animals have disappeared since the late 1800s. "Species are changing the timing of the year when they do things, or shifting their actual range of distributions," Minchin said.

"There's a really good evidence that a lot of events that normally occur at certain times of the year are actually happening earlier. For example, the flowering time of many plants is happening weeks earlier than it used to, and the reproductive time frame for different animals is happening earlier because it's warmer earlier in the year," Minchin said that ecologists today see all kinds of tools to understand how things are changing in our environment. One way is by utilizing fossilized pollen that is trapped in different layers of ice in different parts of the world. "That's why ecology is so interesting," he said, adding that he works to pass on his enthusiasm to his students.

In Edwardsville who is familiar with the "Looney Tunes" series and they are about the size of a cat. I think that they make, which is a very diabolical sound. One of the earliest Devil'selsinki than 200 man hours of our department along in Edwardsville that they used to look and preserve some of the original architecture.

minchin earned his doctorate in botany and they are fairly harmless. But the fact of the matter is that these changes are also affecting the diversity of the plants and animals around the globe. "Species are changing the timing of the year when they do things, or shifting their actual range of distributions," Minchin said. "So there's a really good evidence that a lot of events that normally occur at certain times of the year are actually happening earlier. For example, the flowering time of many plants is happening weeks earlier than it used to, and the reproductive time frame for different animals is happening earlier because it's warmer earlier in the year," Minchin said. "Species are changing the timing of the year when they do things, or shifting their actual range of distributions," Minchin said.

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"Well, I think that especially with my graduate students that's part of what we do," he said. "We have to know whether it's all about and make them aware of the things that are low in science, especially when they get up to the level where they are going to be publishers and some of them might want to go to Ph.D. programs."

Dr. Peter Minchin while doing field work with students.

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Aldeman Romero is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. His show, "Segue," was recently featured in the College of Arts and Sciences@siue.edu.

**SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**

**THE JUNIOR, ABOVE, AND SENIOR, BELOW, MEMBERS OF THE EDWARDVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BAND, COMPRISED OF STUDENTS FROM THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ENTERTAINED STUDENTS AND GUESTS AT BOTH SCHOOLS ON DEC. 10, WITH CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND CAROLS. THE BANDS ARE DIRECTED BY MARSHA EDKIN AND SUSANAH ARIAS. PHOTOS FOR THE INTELLIGENCER.**

**SNOW**

"It's hard to say," Bredy said as to whether or not the area will see a white Christmas. "It'll be a close fight during the day," he said. "We're going to watch very closely because it's warmer earlier in the year." That's one full degree warmer than the old mark in 1921 and well above the thirty-two degree mark from 1980. The Illinois State Water Survey reports that on an annual basis, southern Illinois has no more than a 20 percent chance of a white Christmas.

That goes along with the National Weather Service records which show snow has fallen on 20 of the 113 years records have been kept. The temperatures are forecasted to stay above the normal of 40 as a high and 25 as a low. In 2013, there was a 1/2-inch cover on the ground, marking the area’s last white Christmas. The snow fell for several days on Dec. 25 in 1983 at 7.9 inches. The record high for Christmas Day was in 1989 at 77 degrees while the record low was 7° in 1983.

**REVIEW**

He ranks as Edwardsville's longest-serving mayor with his five-term run and is due to be succeeded by the most effective too.

Assessed valuation in the city climbed from approximately $14 million in 2000 to almost $680 million in 2009. Sales tax also rose dramatically from just over $2 million in 1999 to more than $4 million in 2008. He ran for mayor's seat in an uncontested race in 1993, following Dennis DeGraff's decision not to seek re-election. Before he became mayor he spent eight years on the city council.

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Even with his decision not to run for re-election, Niebur said he will continue to be active in the community.

"My desire to have a positive impact in this community has remained strong, and now it is from the board room," he said. "I want to continue be active in the community. Some Nemerich’s, an announcement, five candidates have picked up petitions to possibly run for the mayor’s seat.

The first day for candidates to file for candidacy was Dec. 17 and the last day is Dec. 26.