

Dr. Patrick Ellsworth is from the deserts of southern Arizona where he spent much of his childhood finding birds, lizards, and snakes and remains an avid birder and herper. Before attending college, he had jobs working with on cotton and citrus farms. After his junior year in high school, he got a scholarship to work in a plant physiology lab at the University of Arizona and that started him on his path to becoming a scientist. He attended the University of Arizona and worked in labs studying plant physiology and plant physiological ecology where he was introduced to stable isotope tools, which has remained a major tool in his research. He graduated with degrees in Ecology/Evolutionary Biology and Plant Biology. From there he moved north to attend the University of Wyoming and received a Master of Science in Ecology and Watershed Management working with David Williams. His research focus was water use and hydrogen isotope fractionation in desert woody perennials. From there he decided to get out of the cold and attend the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida where he received a Ph.D. in plant physiological ecology working with Leonel Sternberg. His dissertation research was studying the interrelationship between root structure and leaf phenology. Afterward finished his PhD he moved north again to Washington state to work at the Washington State University in Asaph Cousins' lab, studying water use efficiency as an agronomic trait in the C₄ grass *Setaria*. Patrick and his wife Patricia have four boys and are excited to live in south Louisiana.