



Bringing the Adventure and Science Communities Together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASC Adventurers Aid in Discovering New Species

Helena, MT March 7th, 2013 - [Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation](#) (ASC) is excited to announce the discovery of two new species of diatoms, important indicator species for climate change, collected by ASC volunteers this past summer. ASC - a nonprofit organization that facilitates partnerships between outdoor enthusiasts and researchers- paired several hikers traveling to [high alpine lakes](#) with diatom researcher, Dr. Loren Bahls, and his quest to sample the single-celled organisms throughout the Northwest.

Diatoms are responsible for 40% of carbon fixation and oxygen production world wide. There are an estimated 200,000 species globally, but only 24,000 have been identified. The Northwest is the least sampled area in the US. Bahls explains, “Samples collected by ASC volunteers from remote regions of the Northwest have a high probability of including new species, some of them endemic to a single pond or lake.”

The new species were discovered in samples collected by Ryan Davis and Beverly Boyton, two hikers who contacted ASC because they wanted to do more with their time in the woods. Dr. Bahls honored their efforts by naming the new species after them. Davis’s diatom, *Cavinula davisiae*, was found in a lake near Mt. Rainier. Boynton found the diatom, *Stauroneis boyntoniae*, while hiking in the Wind River Range in Wyoming. For Davis, finding a new diatom was icing on the cake, “It gave me an excuse to visit new places, and made me feel useful and less selfish for wanting to get to far-flung areas.”

Over the summer, 50 samples were submitted to Dr. Bahls from ASC volunteers. In addition to the new species, the samples included three species that had not been previously documented in North America and helped provide a more complete understanding of diatoms in North American alpine

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environments. Dr. Bahls' article is approved for publication in the March issue of *Phytotaxa*. For more information on the diatom project visit <http://www.adventureandscience.org/diatom-lake.html>.

About Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation was founded in January of 2011 with the understanding that many people traveling in the outdoors genuinely want to do more for the places they visit but often struggle with how to help. ASC exists to bridge this gap by pairing adventure athletes already traveling to some of the earth's most difficult-to-reach places with the scientists who need information from these areas. ASC also has the goal of creating unique and innovative learning experiences about science while also saving the scientific and conservation communities millions of dollars in data collection costs. For more information visit www.adventureandscience.org

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