EVERGLADES WETLAND RESEARCH PARK DIRECTOR MITSCH AND TEAM TOURS WETLANDS AND LECTURES AT UNIVERSITES ACROSS CHINA

Professor Bill Mitsch, Eminent Scholar and Director of FGCU’s Everglades Wetland Research Park and the Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration and Management in Naples, toured China, lecturing and discussing potential collaborations with several Chinese research and education institutions over the period July 8 – 24, 2013. Professor Mitsch was accompanied by two others from the FGCU College of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Ruthmarie H. Mitsch (courtesy appointment in Department of Humanities) and Dr. Li Zhang (Assistant Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park) both participated in the discussions, field trips and banquets. The tour was organized by Dr. Zhang and was sponsored by all of the organizations that were visited.

Formal Seminars

The 4 formal seminars that Professor Mitsch presented in 3 Chinese cities were the following:

July 10, 2013 “Ecological engineering of the best kind: Restoring wetlands and rivers in the Midwest and south Florida USA” Ecological Restoration Salon, Ecological Society of China, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

July 12, 2013 “Protecting the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Everglades with wetlands—A tale of two watersheds and two nutrients” Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China

July 17, 2013 “Wetlands, carbon, and global climate change” Center for Earth System Science, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

July 19, 2013 “Methane and carbon in the world’s wetlands” Department of Environmental Science, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

Discussions on Collaboration in China

Discussions were held about collaboration on wetland and related research with administrators and scientists from Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Tsinghua University, Beijing Normal University, and Capital Normal University in Beijing, Sichuan University in Chengdu, and Qinghai Normal University in Xining. As a first result of those discussions, several Chinese scientists will be coming to the Everglades Wetland Research Park in the coming academic year as visiting scholars to collaborate on Everglades research with students, staff, and faculty.
The Drs. Mitsch and Dr. Zhang greeted by Tibetan welcome committee at a wetland research lab operated by Qinghai Normal University near Qinghai Lake on the Tibetan Plateau.

Viewing cormorant colony on Qinhai Lake in the Tibetan Plateau. Altitude here is about 10,000 feet above sea level.