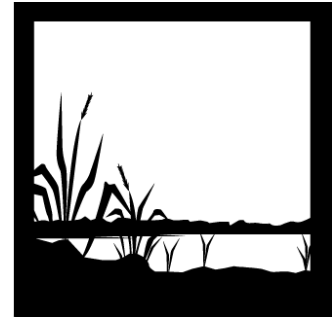


US-IALE Newsletter

Issue 17/1, July 2001



U.S. Regional Association of the International Association of Landscape Ecology

Compiled by Janet Ohmann, US-IALE Secretary

Notes from the Chair

Virginia Dale

The U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE) continues to thrive in its 17th year. The organization provides common ground for researchers and practitioners interested in how pattern and process interact. The Society fosters communication as well as interdisciplinary research and management.

The need for a regional chapter of IALE in the U.S. is even more apparent than ever. The ideas being developed by landscape ecologists and the research being conducted are intriguing as is evidenced by the caliber of the articles in *Landscape Ecology*. The need for ways to deal with landscape issues continues to grow as the U.S. faces such complicated concerns as how to provide energy alternatives without compromising environmental resources, pervasive land-use change (such as urban sprawl), and creative ways to understand and deal with climate change. The field of landscape ecology continues to mature with both the development of landscape ecology tools and ideas and of successful case studies using these concepts. One of the best ways for landscape

ecologists to learn about new developments is by attending the annual US-IALE symposium.

The 16th annual symposium in Tempe, Arizona was a great success. Program Chair Jianguo (Jingle) Wu and Program Coordinator Laura Musacchio are to be congratulated for such a diverse and interesting program. The social events provided many opportunities for interactions with colleagues. The field trip to the Grand Canyon was spectacular, and the other trips were fun and educational as well. The diversity of presentations was intriguing, and the caliber of the presentations was quite high. The attendees were able to share ideas with colleagues from all over North America and representing 15 countries. The Foreign Travel Award program, chaired by Peter August, supported many of these foreign participants. As usual, the symposium had a high percentage of student participation. The meeting was fun and educational, and I regret that not all of our members could attend.

Future meetings are likely to be just as interesting. The 2002 US-IALE Symposium will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Geoffrey Henebry is serving as the Program Chair, and James Merchant is the Local Host. The theme of "Landscapes in Transition: Cultural Drivers and Natural Constraints" offers a context that draws on many aspects of our organization. Several

field trips, workshops, and short courses are being planned in conjunction with the meeting.

Plans also are underway for the April 2003 US-IALE Symposium for Banff, Canada. For that meeting, Bruce Milne will serve as Program Chair and Marie-Josée Fortin as Local Host.

The IALE World Congress, which convenes every four years, will occur in July of 2003. For those who are able to make the trip, the meeting will be held in Darwin, Australia. Information about the IALE World Congress can be found at www.ntu.edu.au/faculties/science/sbes/iale-oz/worldcongress.html.

We are seeking a location for the 2004 US-IALE meeting. Please let me know if you have suggestions for a location. These symposia are a key way that our Society interacts and learns about landscape issues in different parts of the country. Although it takes work to organize the symposium, past hosts have said that the efforts have definitely been worthwhile.

US-IALE operates via the efforts of its members, who voluntarily take on the tasks needed to run and promote the organization. Besides those who help with the annual symposium, we have a group of hard-working officers. The tremendous efforts and support of the outgoing executive officers are appreciated. Steve Seagle has done a superb job as Secretary of US-IALE for two terms and also served as our representative to American Institute for Biological Sciences. Alan Johnson completed his term as Councilor-at-Large and as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Student Representative Marlene Cole has done an excellent job of engaging students in various activities of US-IALE. We particularly appreciate her organizing "Lunch with A Mentor" at the recent symposium. Please be sure to thank these past officers for their generous support of US-IALE.

Elections were held during the 2001 annual meeting for Councilor-at-Large, Student Representative, Secretary, and Chair-Elect. Jianguo (Jingle) Wu was elected Councilor-at-Large. Nita Tallent-Halsell was elected Student Representative. Janet Ohmann is our new

Secretary. As you may recall, US-IALE recently changed its bylaws so that a Chair Elect will be in place for one year prior to serving as Chair, so that person can gain some understanding and experience of how the chapter operates. Eric Gustafson is our new Chair Elect. This new group of officers will join Treasurer Phil Townsend, Councilors-at-Large Tony King and Kevin McGarigal, and Student Representative Rebecca Hess, whose terms continue.

Every member of US-IALE has something to contribute to the organization. Some conduct research that is shared at our annual symposium or published in our journal, *Landscape Ecology*. Others attend the annual meeting and participate in workshops or field trips. The Executive Committee seeks volunteers who can help foster several goals of the Society as determined by the strategic planning process. The current Strategic Planning Committee is chaired by Tony King. Please contact him if you are interested in assisting that effort. Alternatively, Phil Townsend is leading a group to evaluate our financial planning and future and would appreciate your help.

Another clear need for US-IALE is improved communication with those who would benefit by knowing about the Society. Our US-IALE brochure recently has been updated. In addition, Marlene Cole and Rebecca Hess have been working to renovate our Web page. Furthermore, ideas are being discussed about how our Web site might be expanded to provide more information about tools for landscape analysis. We appreciate the efforts of Ramesh Sivanpillai in building and maintaining our first and current Web site.

One way to pursue communication lines is via outreach to other organizations. Therefore, Kevin McGarigal made sure we were represented at the 2001 Conservation Biology meeting, and several of us will represent US-IALE at the upcoming Ecological Society of America meeting. We will also be sure that our representation continues with the American Institute for Biological Sciences. The US-IALE poster has been updated so that we can

effectively communicate the essence of US-IALE at these meetings.

Several ideas for ways to generate additional support for US-IALE are being discussed. Bruce Jones is leading an effort to develop a handbook that contains information about potential sources of support, procedures for seeking out funding, and some basic information about US-IALE that could be used in solicitations for support. The handbook should serve as an introduction to agencies that may support US-IALE. Bruce is also considering ways to encourage more federal employees to participate in US-IALE and attend the annual symposium. He will continue efforts to identify federal support for the 2002 Nebraska symposium.

US-IALE continues to seek ways to bridge between the science and application of landscape ecology. As part of implementation of the Strategic Plan, Kevin McGarigal is interested in exploring the potential for workshops or short courses for practitioners that would be targeted to groups or individuals. Some of these activities might be cosponsored with other organizations or occur as part of the US-IALE annual meeting.

These outreach activities can only occur with the active support of the US-IALE members. As past chair Louis Iverson said, "Ask not what society can do for you, but what you can do for US-IALE." It is through the volunteer efforts of our many members that the chapter has flourished.

If you would like to volunteer to assist US-IALE in any of these endeavors, please contact me at DaleVH@ornl.gov. It is through efforts of its members that US-IALE can accomplish the many goals that it has set forth.

Awards and Elections

2001 US-IALE Awards

Eric Gustafson

Calls for nominations for awards were disseminated through the US-IALE Newsletter, the US-IALE Listserv, and an electronic mail database maintained by the Awards Committee Chair. Winners of the 2001 Awards are:

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award:

Gary W. Barrett – University of Georgia.

Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award:

The Nature Conservancy.

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

Award: Juan E. Keymer, Pablo Marquet, Jorge Velasco-Hernandez, and Simon Levin.

For "Extinction thresholds and metapopulation persistence in dynamic landscapes. *The American Naturalist* 156:478-494. (2000)

Honorable mention: **Margaret Palmer, Christopher Swan, Karen Nelson, Pamela Silver, and Rachel Alvestad.** For "Streambed landscapes: evidence that stream invertebrates respond to the type and spatial arrangement of patches." *Landscape Ecology* 15:563-576. (2000)

Leadership in Action Award: **Jerry F.**

Franklin – University of Washington.

Best Student Presentation Award: **Matthew**

Baker -- School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan. For his oral presentation, "Predicting spatial variation in riparian hydrology and forest composition across Lower Michigan," at the 2001 meeting in Tempe. Matthew will receive a \$500 travel award toward his travel to the 2002 US-IALE Annual meeting in Lincoln, NE.

Best Student Presentation Honorable

Mention: Geoffrey Hay -- University of Montreal. For his oral presentation, "Scale-space for landscape ecologists: a novel approach for defining multi-scale landscape structure in high-resolution imagery."

Dr. Patrick Zollner coordinated the competition for the Best Student Presentation Award at the 2001 meeting in Tempe. 59 students participated in the competition, and 62 people volunteered to serve as judges. Pat and I would both like to thank these judges, who have made a valuable contribution to the encouragement of excellence in student research: Janine Bolliger, Jan Butaye, Jiquan Chen, Steve Dagger, Virginia Dale, Deborah Dalton, Michael DeMers, Lisa Dent, Wei-Ta Fang, John Fraser, Eric Gustafson, Sandra Haire, Colleen Hatfield, Hong He, Geoff Henebry, George Hess, Robin E. Hoffman, Cynthia Huebner, Louis Iverson, Hans Jacquemyn, Henriette Jager, S. Taylor Jarnagin, Alan Johnson, Lucinda Johnson, Jeffrey Jones, Bob Keane, John Kupfer, Raffaele Laforteza, Ed Laurent, Joshua Lawler, Chao Li, Elena Lioubimtsevai, Jack Liu, Matthew Luck, Kevin McGarigal, Nancy McIntyre, Don McKenzie, Vicky Meretsky, Carol Miller, Bruce Milne, Harini Nagendra, Evelyn Ng, Matt Rollins, Arturo Sanchez, Steve Seagle, Tamara Shapiro, Janet Silbernagel, Carl Skinner, Jonathan Smith, Robbert Snep, Bo Song, Kenny Tanizaki-Fonseca, Daniel Tinker, Lise Tole, Sandra Turner, Michael Wimberly, Joy Wolf, X. Ben Wu, Douglas Wunneburger, Dennis Yemshanov, Patrick Zollner, Christina Hargis.

Bruce Milne has accepted an appointment to replace me as Awards Committee Chair. It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair since 1993, but I am ready to place the responsibility into other, capable hands. I have enjoyed the support and assistance of many Society members over the years, and I thank you for the privilege of serving.

2001 US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Awards**Pete August**

The US-IALE places high value on the scholarly contributions of foreign landscape ecologists at the annual conference. To this end, it provides one or more travel grants to scientists from economically underprivileged countries to assist them in participating in the conference. The five awards made this year were funded by the proceeds of a generous grant from the Las Vegas Lab of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (thanks to Bruce Jones and Jingle Wu), proceeds from the successful book auction at the 2000 Annual Meeting of US-IALE, and donations from US-IALE members.

We received 11 applications from seven countries. Applicants were judged on the scientific merit of the papers they proposed to present at the conference, financial need, communication skills, and the importance of attending the conference for their professional development. Although all the applications were meritorious, the six winners were exceptionally well qualified. They are:

Mr. Huayong Zhang, Department of Plant Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing, China). Mr. Zhang is a plant ecologist and is just finishing his Ph.D. dissertation. Unraveling ecological patterns and their relationship with processes has been his research focus for the past decade. Although landscape ecology in China has been developing rapidly since the late 1980s, there is a serious lack of effort to integrate empirical studies with theoretical ones. Mr. Zhanh hopes to make this integration. This would have been Huayong's first professional conference in America, but unforeseen circumstances at the last minute made it impossible for him to travel to America. The title of his presentation was scheduled to be "*Vegetation pattern and climatic conditions: a statistical thermodynamics theory.*"

Dr. Linhai Guo, Environmental Research Institute, University of Wollongong (Gwynneville, New South Wales, Australia). Dr. Guo's research focuses on multiscale analysis of landscape connectivity (fragmentation or isolation). He also develops predictive models of the occurrence of the brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, a threatened species of marsupial in New South Wales. Dr. Guo's research has important implications in assessing the conservation value of remnant habitat islands to assist landscape designers in assigning conservation priority to habitat patches based on their contribution to connectivity. The title of his presentation at the conference was "*Multi-scale analysis of landscape connectivity in Kangaroo Valley, NSW Southeastern Australia in the context of landscape ecology.*"

Mr. Shlomo Brandwine, Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University (Meiter, Israel). Mr. Brandwine is finishing up his PhD dissertation and is studying the effect of soil moisture patchiness on productivity, abundance, and migration of invertebrate populations in desert ecosystems. Shlomo was anxious to come to these meetings where he "wishes to exploit the opportunity of being in the company of so many landscape ecologists, and to meet, in person, people that so far I correspond with, only by letters." The title of the paper he gave at the meetings was "*Binding ideas in the response of populations to the dynamics of landscape mosaics.*"

Dr. AbuBakr AbdelAziz Mohamed, International Rice Research Institute (Makati City, Philippines). AbuBakr's research focuses on integrating spatial variation of land unit boundaries and composition into the land use planning process. He is particularly interested in land use planning in highly productive tropical environments where microspatial heterogeneity is extreme. The title of his paper was "*Modelling spatial heterogeneity for planning land use in rainfed environments.*"

Dr. Noorizan Bte Mohamed, University of Putra Malaysia (Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia). Noorizon is a landscape architect and works with the problem of balancing growth and economic development with the protection of biological and social resources of Malaysian landscapes. She is particularly interested in contributing to the development the National Landscape Policy for Malaysia. The title of her paper was "*The revitalisation of the Malaysian urban landscape.*"

Mr. YuFu Chen, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing, China). YuFu is a plant ecologist whose research centers on the analysis of ecological patterns of the landscape units in the Mu Us sandy land, a semi-arid area of China. He is a few months away from completing his dissertation. This is his first overseas ecology meeting and he welcomed the opportunity to meet colleagues from other parts of the world and learn of the latest advances in landscape ecology. The title of his paper was "*Quantifying spatial pattern of a sandy landscape in North of China by lacunarity analysis.*"

2001 US-IALE Election Results

At the 2001 US-IALE meeting in Tempe, Eric Gustafson was elected to Chair-Elect [*see article on Bylaws change*] and will lead US-IALE for two years beginning in 2002. Janet Ohmann was elected to a two-year term as Secretary, Jianguo (Jingle) Wu was elected to a two-year term as Councilor-at-Large, and Nita Tallent-Halsell is Student Representative for a two-year term.

Meetings

2001 US-IALE Meeting

Jianguo Wu and Laura Musacchio

The 16th Annual Symposium of US-IALE was held at Arizona State University, Tempe, 25-29 April 2001. Dr. Jianguo Wu and Dr. Laura Musacchio were Program Chair and Program Coordinator, respectively. A major goal of landscape ecology is to understand the interactions between spatial pattern and ecological processes, the role of scale, and hierarchical linkages in heterogeneous landscapes that are increasingly shaped by human activities. This understanding is essential not only for unraveling how nature works, but also for developing a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature. Therefore, the theme of the 2001 US-IALE Symposium was "Understanding the interactions among pattern, process, scale, and hierarchy in human-dominated and natural landscapes, with a special emphasis on landscapes that have been most profoundly modified by humans -- the urban environment."

The four plenary presentations focused on human-dominated landscapes: "The landscape paradigm in ecology: heterogeneity, hierarchy, and humans," by Steward Pickett; "Pattern and process in the human-dominated landscape of central Arizona," by Nancy Grimm and Charles Redman; "Influencing the social and political metabolism of landscapes," by Orié Loucks; and "Watersheds, history, landscape planning and community development: reflections on fifteen years of the West Philadelphia Landscape Project," by Anne Spirn. Urban ecosystems and landscapes were well represented in most of the 27 sessions and were the focus of several sessions including "Pattern and process in urban landscapes," "Land use and land cover change: pattern and process," "Land use modeling," and "Land use planning and landscape architecture."

This was one of the largest US-IALE meetings, with 375 registered participants and about 285 presentations. We thank all of the participants who attended the event, especially the international participants. The full program, including all abstracts, is still available on the conference Web site: www.west.asu.edu/leml/iale2001/. The Web site will remain on the internet for the next few years.

2002 US-IALE Meeting

Geoff Henebry and Jim Merchant

The 17th annual symposium of US-IALE will be held on 23-27 April 2002, in the Cornhusker Hotel and Burnham Yates Conference Center in Lincoln, Nebraska (www.calmit.unl.edu/usiale2002/). We expect attendance by over 400 ecologists, landscape architects, geographers, planners and other professionals from across the continent and beyond. The program will include special thematic sessions (see call below), contributed paper and poster sessions, workshops and field trips emphasizing innovations in basic and applied research, analytical tools, and the integration of policy and ecosystem management. The confirmed slate of plenary speakers includes: James Sherow (History, Kansas State University); Janet Franklin (Geography, San Diego State University), and Mark Schaefer (Association for Biodiversity Information).

Landscapes host intrinsically complex dynamics: biotic and abiotic processes occur within and across the landscape yielding patterns of influence that affect these processes in turn. Ecological patterns and processes weave their mutual causality through space and time. Human actions and decisions about the landscape are an integral aspect of the mode and tempo of how dynamics unfold across the landscape. The theme for the 17th Annual U.S. Landscape Ecology Symposium is "Landscapes in transition: cultural drivers and natural

constraints.” The theme stems in part from the meeting location: the Great Plains of North America has seen successive waves of anthropogenic landscape change. Of increasing interest is the integration of socio-economic and socio-political perspectives into the theory and practice of landscape ecology. Cultural drivers encompass a range of system forcings, including *abrupt institutional or political changes*, e.g., the collapse of communism, onset/cessation of armed conflict; *abrupt or phased policy change*, e.g., Homestead Act, Endangered Species Act, Conservation Reserve Program; and *changes in cultural preferences*, e.g., shifts in urban/suburban/rural demographics. Natural constraints on system responses can include reconfiguration of habitat, metapopulation connectivity, and loss of biodiversity; local hydrometeorological dynamics and drainage/depositional networks; partitioning of surface energy balance; and the fertility of soils and the resilience of belowground communities to disturbance.

Call for Special Session Proposals

We invite proposals by members interested in organizing special sessions (oral or interactive) that highlight or complement the Symposium theme. Of particular interest are the following topics: agroecology, agroforestry, and the landscape ecology of grasslands; recent innovations in geospatial information technologies as applied in landscape ecology; historical and contemporary landscape ecology of the Great Plains; landscape ecology and biodiversity; the changing ecology of lakes, rivers, and wetlands in central North America; landscape ecology and natural disturbances (e.g., severe storms, hail, fire); and, landscape ecology and natural history museums. Proposals for special session should include a title, a brief description of the concept and its relationship to the Symposium theme, and a list of likely presenters. Please plan on 20-minute talks. Note also that the display area for the posters will be in well-illuminated locations that are central to

the meeting space and traffic. The deadline for special session proposals is September 7, 2001. Send proposals to the Program Chair: Dr. Geoffrey M. Henebry, Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies/Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 113 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0517; phone: 402-472-6158; fax: 402-472-4608; e-mail: ghenebry@calmit.unl.edu.

2003 US-IALE Meeting

The 2003 US-IALE symposium will be held at the Banff Centre (www.banffcentre.ca) in Alberta, Canada, 2-5 April. Marie-Josée Fortin (University of Toronto, Canada) and Bruce Milne (University of New Mexico) are hosting. The theme of the meeting is "Beyond boundaries -- linking landscapes."

2004 US-IALE Meeting

US-IALE is seeking a location for the 2004 meeting. Please contact Virginia Dale (DaleVH@ornl.gov) if you're interested in hosting.

2004 IALE World Congress

The IALE World Congress, which convenes every four years, will occur in July of 2003 in Darwin, Australia (www.ntu.edu.au/faculties/science/sbes/iale-oz/worldcongress.html).

Communications

Wanted: Book Reviews for *Landscape Ecology* *Louis Iverson*

Landscape Ecology Editor-in-Chief David Mladenoff has initiated a book review section for the journal. He asked Louis Iverson to be book review editor. Louis is looking for people willing to serve as book reviewers. In most cases, you do get to keep the book! Though not all details are in concrete, the system will work like this: (1) Interested reviewers send curriculum vitae (CV) and topics of interest to Louis, who will maintain the list for potential reviews. (2) To preserve independence of reviews, individuals may not request particular volumes to review. (3) As books come in to Louis, he will solicit reviews by supplying the cover and table of contents to the potential reviewer. He will also ask if there might be a conflict of interest; if so, the solicitation will be withdrawn. (4) If the reviewer agrees to the review, the book will be sent. (5) The reviewer will be given approximately two months to complete the review. (6) The review should be crafted from the perspective of a landscape ecologist; i.e., books from other fields can be reviewed if they provide insights valuable to the field of landscape ecology. (7) The length of the review should be no longer than about one page of Journal space. (8) If you have suggestions of "must review" books, please send them (along with publisher information) to Louis, who will evaluate the request. Know, however, that you will not be the one asked to review the book (see (2) above). Whether the book will be reviewed also depends on several factors, such as whether the publisher will send a copy of the book.

Please help make the book reviews a valuable service to our field! Send your ideas, CVs, and topical interests to: Louis R. Iverson, USDA Forest Service, 359 Main Road,

Delaware, OH 43015-8640; phone 740-368-0097; fax 740-368-0152; e-mail liverson@fs.fed.us.

US-IALE Conferences Showcase New Work Destined for Peer-Reviewed Journals *George R. Hess*

Information about publication success rate, time and path to publication, and publication outlets is useful for graduate education and professional development, because it can be used to identify successful publication strategies. It also can indicate the originality and caliber of work being performed by members of an organization such as US-IALE.

In July 2000 I mailed the first part of a survey aimed at understanding and documenting the evolution of publications from presentations made at the 2000 US-IALE meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Two hundred baseline surveys were sent out and an impressive 80% (159) were completed and returned. Among my findings from analysis of the baseline data were...

(1) Most of the work presented was new: 70% of presenters were presenting their core material for the first time ("core material" is the main finding or insight of the work presented) (n=159).

(2) Almost all presenters have published (9%) or intend to publish (83%) their work. Only 8% indicated they would not seek to publish their core material presented (n=156).

(3) Most work was (or will be) submitted to peer-reviewed journals (96%, n=137).

(4) Only 12% are considering submission to *Landscape Ecology* (n=137).

Baseline data will be augmented with data collected during annual follow-up surveys for the next 3-4 years. The first follow-up survey was mailed out in July 2001. For more detail visit www4.ncsu.edu/~grhess/research/pubpresent.

Web Site Developments

Rebecca Hess

We are in the process of developing a new, enhanced Web site for US-IALE. While the current Web site provides basic information about the organization and other amenities, we want to improve US-IALE's Web site so that it better reflects the technical and multi-dimensional nature of the field of landscape ecology. Landscape ecology is rich with graphical elements and spatially-related visuals, and we want the site to reflect these attributes. Further, the World Wide Web has developed as a locale not only for information dissemination but also for idea exchange and linkage forming, and we want to include these features on our site and make it a site YOU want to check in on because it gives you information that helps you with your landscape ecology research and practice.

To this end, at the Tempe meeting the Executive Committee prioritized Web site development as a key tool in US-IALE's outreach, communication, landscape-ecology-fostering, and expansion goals. The Executive Committee voted to earmark a significant quantity of funds toward developing a new, highly functional, updateable Web site. To this end, we are: (1) looking for a new, permanent home for the Web site; (2) soliciting bids for Web site development and maintenance, potentially linked to the new permanent home; (3) updating existing information on the current US-IALE Web site; (4) developing an interactive database of job postings, opportunities, and announcements; (5) accumulating a list of landscape ecology-relevant links to include on the site; (6) seeking links to sites to feature in a "landscape ecology hotspot" highlight area; (7) developing topic-based idea-exchange "chat" areas; (8) developing a map with embedded links to areas of landscape ecology research and practice; (9) soliciting ideas about what users desire from a new US-IALE Web site.

We welcome any assistance or expertise you may have in any of these areas. Please contact Student Representative Rebecca Hess (Rebecca.Hess@orst.edu) if you wish to provide input to developing US-IALE's new Web site.

Suggestions for Improved Content and Outreach Potential of US-IALE Web Page

Jerry Griffith & Kevin McGarigal

The revised Web site under construction for US-IALE will provide basic information on such items as membership and subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology*. However, with some help from the membership the Web site can serve more effectively as a resource base not only for landscape ecologists but for other professionals and students.

One step towards achieving greater outreach and attracting those outside the discipline to the US-IALE Web site might be making the site a clearinghouse of information. Specifically, the first step might be to inventory existing landscape metric software, as this is perhaps one of the more widely-known contributions of landscape ecology. At the same time, we acknowledge that these are only tools; the way landscape metrics are used depends on the questions asked and the context in which the results will be interpreted and used. With all the different landscape metric software packages out there, the organization can produce a useful Web page that provides short descriptions of these packages and links to more information. Some of this software is widely known while others are passed around more privately among researchers. Currently, there are FRAGSTATS and other packages that have GUI interfaces with them, such as FRAGSTATS/ARC, PATCH ANALYST, and LEAP II. Add to these APACK, RULE, SPAN, LANDSTAT, and the r.le module used with the GRASS GIS package, and perhaps others of which we are unaware. Also important, there are several spatial simulation model and

neutral model programs. A Web page that would inventory and provide basic information about these tools would be useful and might bring many students and non-US-IALE members to the Web page.

We are seeking input from members on how best to develop this part of the Web site. Any and all ideas are welcome at this early stage of planning. Please send your comments to Jerry Griffith (griffith@usgs.gov).

Subscribing to *Landscape Ecology*

US-IALE no longer processes subscriptions and renewals to *Landscape Ecology*, except for student members. Regular members will continue to deal directly with Kluwer Academic Publishing. This direct line of contact with the publisher allows subscriptions to be charged to credit cards. Directions for subscribing to the journal are found on the *Landscape Ecology* Web page (www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm/0921-2973). Note that to receive the IALE member discount, you must first renew your membership with US-IALE. Your receipt from US-IALE will include your US-IALE member number.

Provide your member number to Kluwer when you subscribe to the journal. US-IALE will transmit the names and member numbers of active members to Kluwer so that they can finalize your subscription. The current subscription price for *Landscape Ecology* is \$80.00. **Student members** who subscribe to *Landscape Ecology* can send their subscription fees to US-IALE at the time of membership renewal. This saves US-IALE and Kluwer from having to coordinate student identification and allows Kluwer to offer the journal to students at a reduced rate (\$60.00). Although this process places a greater book keeping burden on US-IALE, the Executive Committee felt that the price break for students was worth the effort.

[See note re. problems with student subscriptions in the Treasurer's Report.] A form for renewal

of both regular and student memberships, student subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology*, and new member applications is at the end of this Newsletter.

Student News and Notes

Rebecca Hess

Student activities at the April, 2001 meeting in Tempe, Arizona

The Mentor Lunch, a catered affair, drew over 100 attendees to chat and dine. Our thanks go to Program Coordinator Laura Musacchio and Program Chair Jingle Wu for supplying funding and securing the venue for this event, and to Student Rep. Emeritus Marlene Cole for coordinating the event and matching students with mentors. We hope that the students who attended had a chance to converse with one or more landscape ecology professionals, and benefitted from this exchange. Thanks, too, to all you mentors who gave your time and energy to make this a successful event!

The Annual Student Social drew over 100 students who mixed and mingled and...well, socialized, strengthening those elusive landscape ecology ties that can only grow stronger with time and experience, and repeated contact at future *Landscape Ecology* meetings. Who knows what future research pushing the forefront of landscape ecology will come of these interactions? The event was held on the patio at The Bandersnatch, a Tempe brewpub. US-IALE graciously sponsored the event, and our thanks go to them for their active promotion of student involvement and interaction in US-IALE activities.

Important notice to students

Students, please take note. There was a good deal of discussion and concern at the Executive Committee meetings in Tempe about declines in student membership to US-IALE. While student *attendance* at annual meetings is up, student *membership* in US-IALE is down. Therefore, we need your help. We need you to join the organization if you are not already a member. We need you to promote student membership among your landscape-ecology-minded peers. US-IALE has a history of promoting student activities and interests, but this is likely to change if student membership continues to decline. At a series of meetings in Tempe, the Executive Committee discussed several options intended to bring student participation at meetings more in line with student membership levels, including restricting participation in US-IALE-related student activities to student members, making membership mandatory to attend meetings, giving attendance discounts to members, or cutting financial assistance for students altogether. It is difficult for the Student Representatives to lobby for funding for student activities if we have few student members but strong student attendance at meetings by non-members. So we strongly encourage you to become a member, and to tell other students you know who take an interest in landscape ecology to become members. Thank you!

Association Business

2001 US-IALE General Membership Meeting Minutes *Steve Seagle, past US-IALE Secretary*

The annual General Business Meeting of US-IALE was held on 26 April 2001 in Tempe, Arizona, during the Association's annual symposium. The meeting was convened at 5:30

PM by US-IALE Chair Virginia Dale. In attendance were the US-IALE Executive Committee and approximately 25 US-IALE members. Items of business included:

(1) Results of the recent vote by US-IALE members concerning changing the US-IALE Bylaws to include a Chair-Elect on the Executive Committee were presented by Steve Seagle. Voting results were 83 in favor of the change and 0 against. Thus this change will be incorporated into the official US-IALE Bylaws, and an election will be held at this meeting for Chair-Elect.

(2) Plans for the 2002 annual symposium, to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, were presented by Geoff Henebry and Richard Sutton. A preliminary schedule was presented and input from the membership was invited. A flyer announcing the symposium was made available. It was noted that the 2003 symposium is scheduled for Banff in Alberta, Canada, with Marie-Jose Fortin as Local Host and Bruce Milne as Program Chair. Locations and hosts for the 2004 symposium were solicited.

(3) The Treasurer's report was presented by Secretary Steve Seagle for Treasurer Phil Townsend. US-IALE did file a tax return for 2000 because our three-year average gross receipts were greater than \$25,000. Because US-IALE is tax-exempt, no taxes were actually paid. In total assets US-IALE is very stable with a current total net worth of \$52,111, owing largely to income from the previous two symposia. Data on expenditures and comparative spending for the last two years were made available to anyone interested. US-IALE funds were not invested this past year, but most funds remain in money market accounts. A US-IALE Financial Planning Committee is planned to advise on financial investments. Anyone wishing to participate on this committee should contact Phil Townsend. Some problems with student subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology* have been reported and are being investigated by the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

(4) US-IALE membership numbers were presented by Secretary Steve Seagle. The low

membership at this time last year was ameliorated by memberships received in the last half of 2000, with total 2000 membership ending at 295. Current membership for 2001 is 283. These totals are relatively stable since 1998. However, the number of student members has declined for the last two years. Several mechanisms for enticing students to join US-IALE were discussed, including financial penalties for non-members registering to attend the annual meeting (this should also apply to non-students).

(5) D. Mladenoff, Editor-In-Chief, reported on the journal *Landscape Ecology*. The Journal continues to do well with a low backlog of papers for publication, lower costs, more pages printed annually, plans for innovations (e.g., book reviews, review articles, short communications, etc.), and a strong citation rank.

(6) Eric Gustafson, Chair of the US-IALE Awards Committee, reported that award recipients for the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist and Distinguished Landscape Ecology Practitioner had been chosen and would be announced at the annual symposium banquet. He also noted that Ed Laurent would publicly receive the Best Student Paper Award from last year's meeting at this year's annual banquet. Eric thanked the volunteers currently judging student presentations at this year's meeting.

(7) A written report was received from Peter August, Chair of the Foreign Scholar Travel Awards Committee. This report summarized the mission of the Committee, selection criteria for the awards, nature of the awards, advertising strategy, and review process. Eleven applicants, from seven countries, were received this year. Recipients this year include: Huayong Zhang, Linhai Guo, Shlomo Brandwine, AbuBakr AbdelAziz Mohamed, Noorizan Bte Mohamed, and YuFu Chen. These individuals will be recognized at the annual banquet. Support for these awards comes from the annual silent book auction, and this year by a generous \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Members of the FSTA Committee

include Peter August (Chair), John Bissonette, Russell Watkins, Jianguo Wu, and Sam Riffle.

(8) Alan Johnson presented a report outlining the major objectives of the US-IALE Strategic Plan and how US-IALE is meeting them. The report noted that progress has been made on establishing tax-exempt status, consideration/pursuit of joint meetings, support of a student social at the annual symposium, and development of a US-IALE display for use at other meetings. It was noted that the Executive Committee will lead an effort to develop a new display (poster style) by the end of June. Anyone interested in displaying this poster at a meeting should contact the Executive Committee. Items in the Strategic Plan with highest priority for implementation include: improving communication within US-IALE, developing capacity for involvement in policy by issuing position statements, and creation of an endowment to stabilize US-IALE funding.

(9) Candidates for open offices on the US-IALE Executive Committee were introduced. These included: Eric Gustafson and Steve Seagle for Chair-Elect; Janet Ohmann and Yegang Wu for Secretary; Kevin Gutzwiller and Jianguo (Jingle) Wu for Councilor-At-Large; and Jonathan Bossenbroek, Nita Tallent-Halsell, and Edward Laurent for Student Representative. Elections will be held during the current symposium.

(10) Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

US-IALE Bylaws Change

Steve Seagle

In 2000, the US-IALE Executive Committee determined that the Association would be well-served by having a Chair-Elect position. Conceptually, by having a Chair-Elect work with the Executive Committee and current Chair for one year before assuming the duties of Chair, she/he would be better prepared to take on those duties and maintain any ongoing initiatives. Past-Secretary Steve Seagle worked with *ad hoc*

committee members Marlene Cole and Eric Gustafsen to develop proposed changes for the Bylaws, which were then reviewed and edited by the entire Executive Committee. In spring of 2001, voting by the US-IALE membership took place by e-mail and regular mail. The proposed addition of a Chair-Elect position to the US-IALE Executive Committee was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 84 to 0. This approval led to amending the Bylaws and electing US-IALE's first Chair-Elect at the 2001 Symposium in Tempe, AZ.

Activities of the US-IALE Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

Alan R. Johnson

A brief history of the Strategic Plan

In 1997, Louis Iverson, then Chair of US-IALE, established an *ad hoc* Strategic Planning Committee. A draft Strategic Plan was presented to the general membership and discussed at the US-IALE meeting in East Lansing, Michigan, in March 1998. Based on input received, the Plan was revised and subsequently published in the June 1998 US-IALE Newsletter. The members adopted the Plan via mail-in ballots.

Subsequently, Chair Jack Ahern charged an *ad hoc* committee with making specific recommendations for implementing the Strategic Plan. This committee submitted an Implementation Document listing specific action items. The current Strategic Plan Implementation Committee was organized by the current US-IALE Chair, Virginia Dale, and charged with defining priorities and making progress toward implementing the Strategic Plan, using the Implementation Document of the previous Committee as our primary guideline. Alan Johnson served as Committee Chair until the end of his term as Councilor-at-Large at the Tempe meeting. Tony King is current Committee Chair.

Progress to date in implementing the Plan

A number of action items recommended in the Implementation Document have been enacted or have resulted in substantial progress. These include: (1) increasing opportunities for students to interact with established landscape ecologists via "lunch with a mentor," (2) obtaining tax-exempt status for US-IALE, and (3) supporting student socials at annual meetings.

Priorities for future implementation

There are a number of action items from the Implementation Document that the Committee regards as high priorities. Three areas have been chosen for attention in the near term:

(1) Improving communication, both internally among members and externally with scientists, practitioners, and policy makers. Communication is the lifeblood of the organization. We recommend that the Executive Committee identify the key communication needs of the organization, including what needs to be communicated and the targeted audiences. Multiple options exist for improving communication. Improvements in the Web site are being pursued to more effectively utilize it to promote discussion and disseminate information. We also recognize the Newsletter is one of our key communication tools, and seek to promote its use as a forum for important topics.

(2) Organizing *ad hoc* committees to address important economic, social, and environmental issues, leading to published reports that are widely distributed. One model for accomplishing this objective would be for each new Chair to appoint a committee to address a chosen topic. The committee could include members representing government, conservation organizations, academics and land use managers. The committee could function for the two years of the Chair's appointment, produce a report, and organize a symposium for the annual meeting to disseminate their conclusions. Other avenues for

dissemination range from Web-based publication to peer-reviewed articles (perhaps as a special issue in an appropriate journal).

(3) Reviewing the financial basis for the organization, leading to developing a plan to stabilize and increase the funds available. This may include creation of an endowment or identifying other sources of income for the organization.

Membership Renewal

A form for renewing your membership in US-IALE is attached to the end of this Newsletter. In addition, renewal forms are sent to US-IALE members each fall by e-mail. Please watch for this important mailing and reply as soon as possible. Also, if you know that your e-mail address has changed since your last renewal, please send an update to: Amy Hall, US-IALE Membership Secretary, UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688; e-mail ahall@cbl.umces.edu.

To Join US-IALE

Anyone with interests in any facet of landscape ecology is welcome to join US-IALE. By joining US-IALE you automatically become a member of our parent international organization. Benefits of membership include our bi-annual Newsletter that reports on US-IALE activities and meetings, the International IALE Bulletin that is issued several times annually, reduced registration rates for our annual symposium, and discounts on subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology*. A membership form is found attached to this Newsletter or can be obtained from Amy Hall, US-IALE Membership Secretary, UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38,

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US-IALE Treasurer's Report

Phil Townsend

Total Assets. The US-IALE continues to be on solid financial ground. Our total net worth as of 4/10/01 was \$52,111. This total includes a donation from the proceeds of the 1999 IALE symposium, as well as proceeds of \$1,858 from the 2000 US-IALE symposium in Ft. Lauderdale.

Cash Flow (April 2000 – April 2001). US-IALE experienced a net loss of \$920 during the last reporting period. This was a consequence of having paid dues of \$12,620 to the international society for both 1999 and 2000 during the 4/00 – 4/01 period (we normally pay only one year at a time). The total difference in revenues between the last two accounting periods (-\$5,879.54) can be explained entirely by the IALE dues for 1999 actually paid in late 2000 (\$6,720). Also of note: when comparing 1999 to 2000, we have managed to trim expenses through lower expenses paid to the Membership Secretary, lower amounts paid for *Landscape Ecology* subscriptions, and less paid for Foreign Travel Awards in 2000, although in 2001 we will again pay out more thanks to an EPA contribution. New expenses have included covering the student socials in 2000 and 2001 (not done in 1999) (approx. \$1000).

Other Important Notes:

We had to report our income to the Internal Revenue Service for the first time this year. We do this when our three-year average gross receipts exceed \$25,000. Our gross receipts barely exceeded \$25,000 in 1999, but not for the three-year average. During 2000, our gross receipts were \$36,692.20 (expenses were \$19,255.18). We are a tax-exempt organization and pay no taxes.

Income from the 1999 symposium was not invested (due to stock market woes, this is not such a bad thing), but continues to accrue interest in a money market account.

If there are any members of IALE interested in serving on a financial advisory/planning

board, please contact Phil Townsend at townsend@al.umces.edu.

There has been a snafu with Kluwer in terms of distributing the student subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology* that were paid to US-IALE. This was exacerbated by Phil Townsend (Treasurer) being out of the country in January and February and Amy Hall (Membership Secretary) on maternity leave after that. As of July 2001, Kluwer has been paid for the student subscriptions, and (pending notification by Kluwer) they should be sent out very soon. We apologize for this inconvenience, and recognize that the students have still not received their subscriptions. Please be assured that these are forthcoming.

<u>Comparison Report:</u>	<u>4/99-4/00</u>	<u>4/00-4/01</u>	<u>Difference</u>
INFLOWS			
Foreign Scholar Travel Fund	3020.54	1092.08*	-1928.46
General Fund (dues, interest, donations)	13,221.42	10,310.77	-2910.65**
Symposium Proceeds	20,000.00	1858.00	-18,142.00
Student Award Funds	799.03	744.92	-54.11
Uncategorized	0.00	164.63	164.63
TOTAL	37,040.99	14,170.40	-22,870.59
Total (not including Symposium)	17,040.99	12,312.40	-4,728.59
OUTFLOWS			
Foreign Travel Awards	5,400.00	0.00*	5,400.00
IALE Membership	0.00	12,620.00	-12620.00
Operating Expenses	7,549.91	2,471.14	5,078.77
Student Awards	990.28	0.00*	990.28
TOTAL	13,940.19	15,091.14	-1,150.95
GRAND TOTAL	23,100.80	-920.74	-24,021.54
Grand Total (Excluding Symposium)	3,100.80	-2778.74	-5,879.54***
* Does not include 2001 donation by EPA to Foreign Travel Fund, or awards from that donation. Does not include 2001 student travel awards.			
** 2000-2001 amount does not include <i>Landscape Ecology</i> subscriptions, now handled by Kluwer.			
*** 1999 IALE dues of \$6,720 were paid in 2000. Actual difference is +\$840.46 for 2000-2001.			

US-IALE

United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology

2001 Membership Application and Membership Renewal Form

US-IALE was formed with the purposes of: fostering the science of landscape ecology in the United States; linking U.S. landscape ecologists with the international community of landscape ecologists; and promoting interdisciplinary research/communication among landscape scientists and professionals, such as planners, who apply principles of landscape ecology. Membership in US-IALE automatically includes membership in our umbrella international organization, the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE). Please renew your membership or join US-IALE by filling out the following form and submitting it to the Membership Secretary.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

New Member: Yes _____ No _____

Interest Keywords: _____
(e.g., spatial analysis, urban planning, conservation biology, etc.)

DUES

2001 Regular Member (\$30.00) \$ _____
2001 Student Member (\$20.00; Please include copy of student ID) \$ _____

DONATIONS

Student Award Fund (To support Best Student Presentation Award) \$ _____
Foreign Travel Award (Aids int'l attendance at US-IALE meetings) \$ _____
General Fund (General financial support of US-IALE) \$ _____

SUBSCRIPTION*

Landscape Ecology (STUDENTS ONLY) (\$60.00) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

RECEIPTS will be sent out via e-mail (if available) unless checked here: _____

Please send this form with a check (U.S. \$ on a U.S. bank only), purchase order, or money order (payable to US-IALE) for the total amount to: Amy Hall, US-IALE Membership Secretary, UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, P.O. Box 38, Solomons, MD 20688.

* US-IALE only processes subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology* for student members. Regular members are encouraged to subscribe, and can do so through the Kluwer Publishing homepage for *Landscape Ecology* (www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm/0921-2973). You must be a member of IALE to receive member subscription rates from Kluwer.