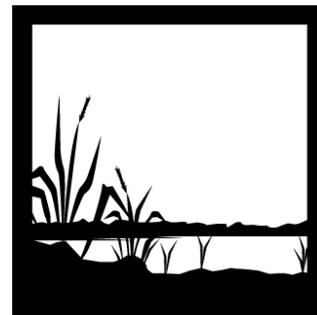
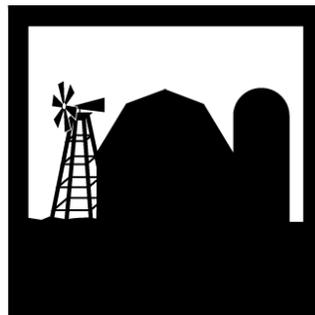


US-IALE Newsletter

Issue 18/1, June 2002



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

Compiled by Janet Ohmann, US-IALE Secretary

Notes from the Chair

Eric Gustafson

Why are you a landscape ecologist? Why are you a member of a Society with a mission to promote the science of landscape ecology? If you are like me, you are convinced that landscape structure is related to landscape function, and that because change is ubiquitous, we must study these relationships to predict the consequences of change. Landscape ecologists are uniquely prepared to examine the cumulative consequences of the vast number of individual, local changes that are transforming the landscapes in which we live, work and recreate.

In April we gathered in Lincoln, Nebraska for our 17th Annual Symposium to consider the theme of *Landscapes in Transition: Cultural Drivers and Natural Constraints*. The meeting was an unqualified success. 355 people from 15 countries attended the meeting. Geoff Henebry, Jim Merchant and their planning committee did an outstanding job of organizing the meeting, the program, the venue, the field trips, and social events. I'd like to thank them publicly for their dedicated and highly organized service to the Society.

The 18th Annual Symposium of US-IALE will be held on April 2-6, 2003 in the Canadian

Rockies, in beautiful Banff, Alberta. The meeting is being organized around the theme *Beyond Borders, Linking Landscapes* by Bruce Milne and Marie-Josée Fortin. This will be an excellent meeting in a spectacular location. Conference details will take shape at www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE_2003. Start making your plans to attend – and remember to plan to do some skiing! The IALE World Congress will also be held in 2003, in Darwin, Australia. This quadrennial event brings together landscape ecologists from around the world. You'll recall that the last Congress was held here in the US, in Snowmass, Colorado. You'll find information about the World Congress at www.iale.ntu.edu.au/.

Executive Committee Officers. US-IALE owes a debt of gratitude to the outgoing executive officers. Virginia Dale has served ably and wisely as Chair. During her tenure the bylaws were revised to establish the office of Chair-Elect. I can personally attest to the wisdom of this action, as it has helped to make my transition to Chair (relatively) painless. Phil Townsend finished a 3-year tour of duty as Treasurer, and did an excellent job. He is to be commended for accepting an extra year of service to provide needed continuity for the Executive Committee. Thanks also to Kevin McGarigal and Tony King, who served as Councillors-at-Large. Rebecca (Hess) Kennedy

was an excellent Student Representative, who took the lead in revamping the US-IALE website. I'd encourage you to check it out, and offer Rebecca kudos and suggestions (www.cof.orst.edu/org/usiale). She has volunteered to continue to provide leadership for improving and maintaining the website. Please join me in thanking these officers for their generous volunteer support of US-IALE.

I'd also like to welcome the officers who were elected in April. Mary V. Santelmann is our new Treasurer, Bruce Jones and Laura Musacchio are Councillors-at-Large, and Jennifer Fraterrigo is the newest Student Representative. I am delighted by their enthusiasm and dedication. They join an equally dedicated cohort of continuing officers: Janet Ohmann, Jingle Wu and Nita Tallent-Halsell. I look forward to working with each of them.

My strategic goals as Chair. As I begin my tenure as Chair, I have 3 primary goals: 1) to increase the membership of our Society, 2) to improve the services provided by the Society to its members, and 3) to increase the visibility of US-IALE as a relevant source of scientific expertise for other scientists and the American public. Our membership has hovered around 300 since 1997. However, I am confident that there are many more than 300 scientists who call themselves landscape ecologists. One reason that our membership has not grown recently may be that the benefits of membership are not worth even our modest dues. The Executive Committee has developed plans to improve services and to make them more visible. Enhancing the visibility of US-IALE will require a larger, more noticeable membership and better communication and marketing. Landscape ecology is widely viewed as extremely relevant to many of the natural resource management and conservation issues of our day. Our members have this expertise. I'd like people to think of US-IALE when they have a landscape ecology question. You've probably noticed that these 3 goals are inextricably linked. We need more members to have the revenue to provide better services and enhance our visibility, but we need to provide the services to attract and retain the members. I believe we can advance toward all 3 goals simultaneously, and each member of the

Executive Committee has taken on tasks to move us forward. Some of the initial projects we have undertaken include, 1) revising the US-IALE brochure that can be given to prospective members, 2) developing a high-impact poster that can be exhibited at scientific meetings or other venues to increase the visibility of US-IALE, 3) improving the look and expanding the content of our website, including educational materials and job listings, 4) distributing an electronic membership directory annually, 5) improving our membership renewal process. We have identified other high priority actions that require greater preparation and planning. I will share some of those in subsequent newsletters.

I am honored to lead this Society for the next 2 years. I have shared where I'd like to lead us. But we cannot get there by me working alone. We can't get there even if the Executive Committee defies all laws of human nature and follows through on every task they commit to. We need you. If you'd like to help, or have suggestions, please contact me (egustafson@fs.fed.us). After all, this is YOUR Society, and together we can make it more effective.

Awards and Elections

2002 US-IALE Awards

Bruce Milne, Chair, Awards Committee

Calls for nominations for awards were disseminated through the US-IALE Newsletter, the US-IALE Listserver, and an electronic mail database maintained by the Awards Committee Chair. The Awards Committee members for 2002 included Patrick A. Zollner, James F. Palmer, and Alan Johnson. Winners of the 2002 Awards are:

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award:

Dr. Louis Iverson for his groundbreaking quantitative assessments of individual tree species distributions and for his major

contributions to US-IALE during a critical period of its growth as a society.

Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award:

Great Plains Restoration Council for The Buffalo Commons, a proposal to create a 1 million acre region for roaming bison. The Buffalo Commons unites people of diverse backgrounds through community action and applies geographic information systems analysis to select sites for restoration.

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

Award: Kim With and Tony King for their paper: *Kimberly A. With and Anthony W. King. 2001. Analysis of landscape sources and sinks: the effect of spatial pattern on avian demography. Biological Conservation 100:75-88.*

Best Student Presentation Award: Scores from judging of the 2002 student presentations are still being analyzed. Results will be announced on the US-IALE listserver by July 31. All student participants and judges will also receive an e-mail announcing the winner at this time. Note that the awards committee is contemplating some changes to the way this program is run in the future. Watch future newsletters for announcements on the format of these revisions.

Dr. Patrick Zollner coordinated the competition for the Best Student Presentation Award at the 2002 meeting in Lincoln. 41 students participated in the competition, and 54 people volunteered to serve as judges. We would like to thank these judges, who have made a valuable contribution to the encouragement of excellence in student research: Phyllis Adams, Tala Awada, Matthew Baker, Gary Bentrup, Jesslyn Brown, Kelly Burnett, Scott Clark, Bryan Coppedge, Virginia Dale, Brent Danielson, Diane Debinski, Karin Fassnacht, Richard Flamm, Curt Flathre, Michael Flaxman, Steve Friedman, Sarah Gergel, Sarah Goslee, Jerry Griffith, Eric Gustafson, Hong He, Geoff Henebry, Jeff Hepinstall, George Hess, Tamara Hochstrasser, Louis Iverson, Alan Johnson, James LaGro, Jr., Richard Lathrop, Edward Laurent, Joshua Lawler, Bai-Lian (Lar Li), Margaret Livingston, Ron McCormick, Don

McKenzie, Vicky Meretsky, Jim Miller, Roy Plotnick, Robert Potts, Sam Riffell, Santiago Saura, Janet Silbernagel, David Stoms, Brian Sturtevant, David Theobald, Monica Turner, Sandra Turner, MaryWhite, Kimberly With, Jin Yao, Dennis Yemshanov, Chang Yu, Patrick Zollner, Giovanni Zurlini.

In anticipation of the 2003 Annual Conference, US-IALE members are encouraged to identify outstanding papers published in the field of landscape ecology and to volunteer as judges of student presentations at the meeting. This year, the registration form for the conference in Banff, Canada will enable participants to register as judges.

2002 US-IALE Foreign Scholar Award Program and Awards

Sam Riffell

Through the Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA) program, the US-IALE annually provides travel funds to landscape ecologists from foreign countries to present their research at the annual meeting. The FSTA program is not only an outreach effort, but also a mechanism that fosters international exchange about advances in landscape ecology and helps build collaborative relationships. Foreign Scholars were selected based on several criteria: original and outstanding research in landscape ecology, financial need, and the contribution the award would make to their professional development. This year, we were pleased to grant \$1,000 travel awards to 5 promising landscape ecologists from 5 different countries. This year's winners were:

Fabio de Castro is an environmental scientist (Ph.D., Indiana University, USA) currently holding a post-doctoral position at the State University of Campinas, Brazil.

Crispen Marunda is a citizen of Zimbabwe and is in the final year of his Ph.D program in the Department of Environment at the University of York, United Kingdom.

K. Ramesh is pursuing doctoral research at the Wildlife Institute of India.

Kerrie A. Wilson is a doctoral student at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Eulogio J Chacón-Moreno is an Aggregated Lecturer in the Instituto de Ciencias Ambientales y Ecológicas (Institute of Environmental and Ecological Sciences) of the Universidad de Los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela.

The FSTA program would not exist without the support of the US-IALE membership through donations from individuals and proceeds from the annual book auction. At the Nebraska conference, the book auction netted over \$1,000 for the FSTA program. Thanks to the exhibitors for book contributions and to US-IALE members for their support of the auction. A grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enabled us to make multiple awards again this year. Special thanks to Bruce Jones (EPA Las Vegas Lab) and Geoffrey Henebry (University of Nebraska) for making this exceptional grant happen.

The FSTA committee for 2002 consisted of Sam Riffell (Chair, Michigan State University), Peter August (University of Rhode Island), John Bissonette (Utah State University), Virginia Dale (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Sarah Gergel (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis), Phil Townsend (University of Maryland), Russell Watkins (3001, Inc.), and Jianguo Wu (Arizona State University).

2002 US-IALE Election Results

At the 2002 US-IALE meeting in Lincoln, Mary V. Santelmann was elected to a two-year term as Treasurer, Bruce Jones and Laura Musacchio were each elected to two-year terms as Councilor-at-Large, and Jennifer Fraterrigo is Student Representative for a two-year term. Congratulations, all!

Meetings

2002 US-IALE Meeting

Geoff Henebry and James Merchant

The 2002 US-IALE meeting took place April 23-27 at the Cornhusker Hotel and Burnham Yates Conference Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The final count was 355 registrants. Of these 121 (35%) were regular members, 88 (25%) were student members, 69 (19%) were regular non-members, 26 (7%) were student non-members, and 51 (14%) were prepaid registrations. The latter category covered vendors and exhibitors as well as conference helpers.

A geographic analysis of the registrants finds that 37 (10%) were from 16 countries other than the US: Canada (14); Brazil (4); Netherlands and Poland (3 each); Colombia (2); Armenia, Australia, China, India, Italy, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe (1 each). Of the 318 US registrants, the regional breakdown shows the majority of registrants came from the middle of the country: Great Plains (44%); Midwest (17%); West and South (11% each); Southwest (9%); and Northeast (7%). States with at least 10 registrants included: Nebraska (58); Wisconsin (31); Colorado (20); Iowa (16); Missouri (15); Kansas (13); South Dakota (12); North Carolina and Michigan (11 each); New Mexico and California (10 each).

The symposium featured three plenary talks, seven special sessions, 34 regular sessions, and two poster sessions. A well-received innovation this year was a set of 6 technical workshops held on the day prior to the opening of the meeting. Enrollment in the workshops totaled 100, including 24 in Kevin McGarigal's FRAGSTATS workshop. The workshops may have reduced participation in the field trips. The five Thursday field trips had 91 participants while only 23 brave souls took the Saturday field trips.

With one more visit to the symposium website (www.calmit.unl.edu/usiale2002/), you will find 3 items of potential interest: (1) a pdf

version of the printed program, (2) changes to the printed program, and (3) selected digital photos from the event. (There are also 35mm print photos that will be posted once we digitize them.) The website will remain intact for at least the next 24 months.

We have many people to thank. We extend our thanks to the plenary speakers, Drs. Jim Sherow, Janet Franklin, and Mark Schaefer, for their stimulating and informative presentations. We also thank banquet speaker Dr. Jim Stubbendieck for sharing his fascinating exploration into recent land cover change in Nebraska using repeat photography. We are also grateful to Dave Wedin for his impersonation of Dr. Charles Bessey lecturing on “Why we should plant trees” and engaging Chris Helzer of The Nature Conservancy in debate on the desirability of woody species displacing native prairies. Finally, we thank our local and regional planning committees, our generous sponsors, and the many students and staff at CALMIT for helping to make the symposium a success!

2003 US-IALE Meeting

Bruce Milne and Marie Josee-Fortin

“Beyond Borders - Linking Landscapes,” www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE_2003. The US-IALE is hosting its 18th annual meeting April 2-6, 2003, in Canada’s oldest National Park: Banff. The interdisciplinary nature of landscape ecology encourages the emergence of balanced fluxes across space and scale linking landscapes. This meeting will help participants to discover fruitful synergies that span existing disciplinary, cultural, institutional, and political borders. Although boundaries are a natural engine for change, the chronic separation of ourselves from nature limits the very creativity and intuition needed to solve the ongoing environmental crisis. Activities at this meeting are designed to reconnect us with our natural essence as residents of landscapes, thereby inspiring solutions that take us beyond borders, toward a balanced sustainable world of energy, matter, and information flow. What better place than Banff to achieve this goal! Keynote speaker is

Dr. Marco Festa-Bianchet, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and Co-chair of COSEWIC Terrestrial Mammals Specialist Group, Departement de biologie, University de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada.

- Call for symposia, workshops, and short courses: deadline September 6, 2002
- Call for abstracts: deadline December 6, 2002
- Pre-registration: January 31, 2003

For meeting information visit www.zoo.utoronto.ca/US-IALE_2003 or contact one of the meeting co-hosts:

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2004 US-IALE Meeting

The 2004 US-IALE symposium will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bruce Jones and Nita Tallent-Halsell of the US EPA, Landscape Ecology Branch, are hosting. The dates and theme are to be announced.

2003 IALE World Congress

The IALE World Congress, which convenes every four years, will occur in July of 2003 in Darwin, Australia (www.iale.ntu.edu.au/).

New US-IALE Website

Rebecca Kennedy, Website Coordinator

As your humble Website Coordinator, on behalf of all those who have been involved in the modifications of the website, I am pleased to announce the new US-IALE website. Check it out at www.cof.orst.edu/org/usiale and me know what you think. For now, please update your bookmarks to www.cof.orst.edu/org/usiale. We plan to have the use of www.usiale.org as our new domain name in the coming weeks. I'll send out an e-mail to the US-IALE listserver about the change when we hear that it has been approved.

We've expanded the site's content, layout, and features which we hope you will find approachable and useful. We are constructing the site so that it can be built upon with your input, so we hope to hear from you about both site functionality and content. If you have comments or input about site content or layout, please e-mail me at rebecca.kennedy@orst.edu. If you have technical questions, or have trouble connecting to the site, please e-mail Matt Gregory, our webmaster, at matt.gregory@orst.edu.

The site's new home is at the College of Forestry at Oregon State University in Corvallis. This location has a secure and stable server, a regular system of backups, and a great technical support staff. If your bookmark is set up to connect to either the old site address at Texas A&M (where the site was formerly located) or via the University of Rhode Island's site (where Pete August, the listserver coordinator, is located), you will automatically be forwarded to the new site location.

We also have a new webmaster, Matt Gregory. Matt is a Faculty Research Assistant in the Department of Forest Science at Oregon State University. His presence as webmaster will provide continuity to site maintenance and updates – and Matt has a lot of great ideas about how to structure the site so it functions optimally for us. He has already implemented some of these ideas, with flair, on the new site. We'd like to thank Ramesh Sivanpillai for his long stint as webmaster. Ramesh devoted many hours to the

development and upkeep of the original US-IALE website. He is completing his dissertation work and moving on to new horizons. Thank you for all your time and hard work, Ramesh!

We have also established a new Website Committee. Currently the Committee is comprised by members Nita Tallent-Halsell, Jen Fraterrigo (both current US-IALE Student Representatives), Jeff Hollister, Roy Plotnick, Louis Iverson, and myself. This committee was set up to address website development issues in terms of content and features. Some topics under discussion are the potential for web renewal of memberships, secure areas available only to members, and a job/opportunities posting area. Each of these has technical, monetary, openness, and/or timeliness components which are under discussion. We welcome comments about any of these subjects, or any other ideas you have for the US-IALE website. We want the site to work for you and reflect the great diversity and technical prowess of our organization.

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* website (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 feels the price break for students is worth the effort. 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

Nita Tallent-Halsell, Rebecca Kennedy, and Jennifer Fraterrigo

Wow! One third of the registrants at this year's annual symposium were students. Even more impressive is that 84 of the 111 student attendees were members. Great job, students! We also saw a big increase in student memberships from 2001 to 2002, up from 61 to 106, which is an increase from 19% to 33% of all members. Thanks to all of you for showing your interest and commitment by becoming members, and we encourage you to continue your membership and to tell your student colleagues to become members so we can continue to have great student-related amenities at future meetings and throughout the year. Many students indicated they joined and attended this year's annual symposium because US-IALE gives students an opportunity to meet and socialize with leaders in the field. For some, US-IALE is an extension of one's academic community. Whatever your reasons, we thank you and hope you'll continue your US-IALE membership through your student years and beyond.

At the annual symposium, the two US-IALE sponsored events, the Student Social and Mentor Breakfast, provided opportunities for students to meet and mingle. These were well attended and most appreciated. Our thanks to Geoffrey Henebry and James Merchant for their assistance in planning these events. The Annual Student

Social, held at the Crane River Brew Pub, drew a light and jolly crowd. It was the perfect opportunity for students to become acquainted and reacquainted as well as discover future collaborators. Thanks to US-IALE for providing the financial support for this ever-popular event. The very next morning, so bright and early, students gathered again for the Mentor Breakfast. We'd like to give a special thanks to the mentors who showed their support and gave up precious sleep to attend. Your presence made the gathering a success. Our thanks go also to Virginia Dale who provided the festive decorations for the mentor breakfast.

Elections allowed us to greet a new Student Representative as well as bid farewell to another. Much thanks and appreciation to Rebecca Kennedy for her drive and enthusiasm these past two years. Don't despair, we will continue to see much of Rebecca as she has agreed to continue to lead the Website Committee. Greetings to our new Student Representative Jennifer Fraterrigo, a Ph.D student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working with Dr. Monica Turner. Special thanks to Pete Gomben for his willingness to run in this year's election. It was a close race!

During 2002, Nita and Jen will be contributing to the advancement and development of US-IALE and its student members on many fronts. We will be planning the student activities for the 2003 meeting in Banff, Alberta, Canada, working with Rebecca (rebecca.kennedy@orst.edu) on the Website Committee, and responding to the needs and requests presented to us by the students of US-IALE. We appeal to you for input and ideas on all fronts. Please send us comments about the timing, the structure and what kind of student activities you would like at the 2003 meeting (tallent-halsell.nita@epa.gov and jmfrater@wisc.edu). Also, we welcome suggestions on what more US-IALE can do for you as well as what you can do to help US-IALE. It's your organization, and we are here to make it a great organization for you!

Association Business

2002 US-IALE General Membership Meeting Minutes

Janet Ohmann, US-IALE Secretary

The annual General Business Meeting of US-IALE was held on 24 April 2002 in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the annual symposium. The meeting was convened at 12:00 noon by US-IALE Chair Virginia Dale during lunch, thereby assuring an all-time record attendance. Items of business included:

(1) Eric Gustafson (Chair Elect) introduced the candidates for open offices on the US-IALE Executive Committee. These included: Bruce Jones and Nancy McIntyre for Councilor-At-Large, slate 1; Morgan Grove and Laura Musacchio for Councilor-At-Large, slate 2; Jiquan Chen and Mary V. Santelmann for Treasurer; and Jennifer Fraterrigo and Pete Gomben for Student Representative. Elections are being held during the current symposium.

(2) Rob Jongman, IALE Treasurer and invited guest, described the purpose and activities of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, the parent organization for US-IALE. Important activities of IALE are: maintaining a website to facilitate global integration, networking, and exchange of information; keeping an inventory of institutions where landscape ecology is taught; publishing a Bulletin every two months; publishing a book series and other publications; organizing regional conferences in regions that cannot afford to host their own; and organizing the World Congress every four years. The next Congress is July 2003 in Darwin, Australia. Workshop proposals are being solicited. He requested that announcements posted to the US-IALE listserv or website also be sent to Felix Kienast (fki@lagonda.wsl.ch), IALE Secretary, for posting on the IALE website.

(3) Bruce Milne (Program Chair) presented plans for the 2003 annual symposium, to be held at the Banff Convention Center in Banff,

Alberta, Canada. The meeting theme is “beyond borders” (geographical, political, disciplinary, cultural), with focus on water, animal movement, and First Nation participation. Sept. 20 is the deadline for submitting symposium proposals. Marie-Josée Fortin (Local Host) is organizing field trips. Brochures are being distributed at this year’s meeting.

(4) Virginia Dale (Chair) summarized the status of future meetings. A proposal to hold the 2004 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, is under consideration. Possibilities for 2005 and beyond include: Maryland, Massachusetts or Vermont, and San Diego. The option of hiring a professional meeting organizer to handle logistics was introduced, and this has greatly improved the willingness to volunteer to host the annual meeting. This approach would free up the Program Chair to focus more attention on science content.

(5) Virginia Dale (Chair) presented the Treasurer’s report for Phil Townsend (Treasurer). US-IALE is maintaining a stable balance at around \$50,000. Most of these funds were generated by the 1999 IALE symposium in Colorado. About half of the total is reserved capital that generates income for US-IALE awards. Over the past five years expenditures have exceeded income. Dues average about \$8,000/yr, 73% of which goes directly to IALE. Our second greatest expense is the Membership Secretary. Detailed financial reports are available to anyone interested. A Financial Planning Committee comprised of Phil Townsend and two others is being formed to advise on investments and other financial planning issues. To be considered is raising dues to fund website development and other key strategic tasks and member services.

(6) Janet Ohmann (Secretary) presented the membership report based on numbers provided by Nancy Castro (Membership Secretary). The overall trend for the last seven years is flat, and currently at 321. Almost a third are student memberships, a notable increase over previous years.

(7) David Mladenoff (Editor) reported on the status of *Landscape Ecology*. Submissions have been around 100/yr, but last year jumped to about 130. Rejections have increased, but most

are rejection without review. Subscribers this year will receive 7 issues instead of 6, as a supplemental issue is added. Time from submission to publication has been shortened, despite more pages and submissions. Journal content has been diversified to include perspectives, science reviews, brief reports, and book reviews. Selected papers and all abstracts from the first five years of the journal have been scanned and posted on the Kluwer website. Online manuscript submission and review is being initiated to avoid international mail slowdowns.

(8) Bruce Milne, Chair of the US-IALE Awards Committee, described the awards process. Winners will be announced at the banquet. 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. Bruce also thanked the volunteers currently judging student presentations at this year's meeting. Judging of student awards was coordinated by Pat Zollner.

(9) Sam Riffell, Chair of the Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA) Committee, summarized the mission of the Committee, selection criteria for the awards, nature of the awards, advertising strategy, and review process. 23 applications from 14 countries were received this year, a large increase over last year. Recipients this year include: Fabio de Castro, Crispen Marunda, K. Ramesh, Kerrie A. Wilson, and Eulogio J Chacón-Moreno. These individuals will be recognized at the annual banquet. Support for these awards comes from the silent book auction, donations from US-IALE members, and a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Members of the FSTA Committee include Sam Riffell (Chair), Peter August, John Bissonette, Sarah Gergel, Russell Watkins, and Jianguo (Jingle) Wu, and *ex officio* members Virginia Dale and Phil Townsend.

(10) The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

US-IALE Treasurer's Report

Phil Townsend, past Treasurer

Overall Finances. Our finances are stable. The large increase in recent years is due exclusively to profits from the 1999 and 2000 Symposia that were donated back to our organization.

Cash Flow (2001-2002). Our general expenses (operating expenses plus Membership Secretary fees and IALE dues) account for >100% of the dues paid to us by our members. Operating expense costs have declined recently due to the switch from mail to electronic communication, but will increase as we pay for website development and maintenance. The Student and Foreign Scholar Travel Award Funds have remained stable and are growing slowly. Currently, these funds can support 1-2 student awards of \$500 per year and 1 foreign travel award of \$1000. Recent donations from EPA have allowed us to offer more foreign travel awards, and the NASA/MSU awards provide a nice alternative to the US-IALE award.

Other Notes. As always, US-IALE values the input of its members, especially with regards to increasing our endowment. Thankfully, our approach has been very conservative, so we have not lost money in the recent economic downturn. However, we still want to increase our ability to serve our membership. To this end, we seek members who are willing to serve on the financial advisory board of US-IALE.

Joining or Renewing Membership in 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*.

You can renew or initiate membership in US-IALE using the form at the end of this Newsletter or obtained from Nancy Castro, US-IALE Membership Secretary, Appalachian Laboratory, 301 Braddock Rd., Frostburg MD 21532; phone 301-689-7152; e-mail ncastro@al.umces.edu. In addition, renewal forms are sent to US-IALE members each year 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 the Membership Secretary.

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US-IALE

United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology

2003 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.

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