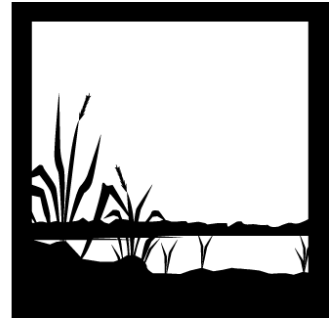
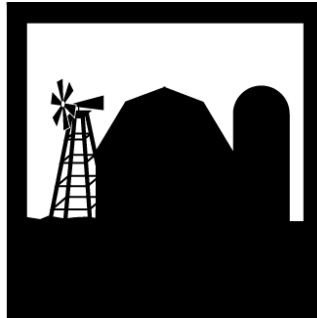


US-IALE Newsletter

Issue 18/4, September 2003



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

Compiled by Bob Keane, US-IALE Secretary

Notes from the Chair
Eric Gustafson

2003 US-IALE Banff Meeting
Colleen Hatfield

Program Chair for the 2005 Annual Symposium

A Program Chair is needed for the 2005 US-IALE Annual Symposium. The meeting will be held in Syracuse, NY on March 13-16, 2005, and will be hosted by Jim Palmer and Robin Hoffman of the Landscape Architecture Department at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The Program Chair will work with the local hosts to identify a Conference Theme, invite plenary speakers, solicit abstracts, and develop and publish a Conference Program. No proceedings will be published. Persons interested in urban environments are especially encouraged to consider this opportunity. Please contact Eric Gustafson to find out more. egustafson@fs.fed.us (715) 362-1152.

The Canadian Rockies provided a breathtaking backdrop for the 18th Annual Meeting of the US-IALE in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Crisp mountain air, deep blue April skies and hints of spring flirted with conference attendees as they embraced this year's theme of thinking Beyond Borders – Linking Landscapes. A total of 274 conference attendees were immersed in the magnificent scenery and Canadian hospitality.

The featured speakers provided compelling and thought-provoking examples of critical issues we face in the 21st century. Individually and collectively, Irena Creed, Marco Festa-Bianchet and Bob Sanford epitomized the meeting's goals 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'. Irena Creed from the University of Western Ontario shared her insights in understanding the complex interactions and potential impacts of

environmental change on the terrestrial-aquatic and terrestrial-atmospheric linkages in forest ecosystems. Marco Festa-Bianchet from the Université de Sherbrooke shared his rich knowledge of mountain ungulates to illustrate the ephemeral nature of human-conceived borders and the critically pressing need to better understand the impact of the human signature on wildlife populations the landscape. The keynote speaker for the banquet and spokesperson for the United Nation's International Year of Fresh Water initiative, Bob Sanford brought to the forefront the global water crisis we are now facing with 40% of the world's population currently experiencing water shortages. At no time in our collective history has it been more important to know what is happening to our water and to take personal responsibility for watershed stewardship.

As well as adding spark and youthful energy to the meetings, students took away valuable experience and insights from the meeting. There were 117 students in attendance, 74 of which were IALE members. With 60 talks and 30 posters, over three-quarters of the students presented their work at the meeting. A significant portion of the students attending the meeting was made possible through travel grants provided by the US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award and the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program. Foreign Scholar Travel Award recipients included budding landscape ecologists from five different nations including Switzerland, Germany, Belarus, Argentina and Brazil. Spearheaded by Jack Liu and his colleagues at MSU, 20 NASA-MSU award recipients presented their research and made valuable contributions to the meeting's success. Many other students were awarded travel grants from their schools in recognition of the importance of their contributions to the meetings.

It is debatable whether conference organizers, Marie-Josée Fortin and Bruce Milne, should be awarded the Medal of Bravery or the Cross of Valour for their efforts. The long hours and

attention to endless details that they and their recruits devoted to the effort made this conference an exemplary example and role model of a smoothly run and well-organized conference. The expertise and talent of the Banff Conference Center staff (and in particular the chefs!) also facilitated an enjoyable and logistically effortless meeting. More than a few belts had to be loosened a notch or two thanks to the culinary extravaganza offered up three times a day!

The spectacular Canadian Rockies provided respite and abundant opportunities for exploration at the mid-meeting break. Field trips offered up healthy doses of the stunning wilderness and rich heritage that surrounds the village of Banff. Trips to Lake Louise and Vermilion Wetlands exemplified the challenges and difficulties of managing and restoring a fragile yet heavily impacted mountain ecosystem. Of course, it goes without saying that more than a few adventure-seeking souls tested their downhill skills on the famous Rocky Mountain powder. At the end of the day, meeting attendees returned to their normal routines, refreshed and energized from a memorable conference.

2003 IALE World Congress Bob Keane

The marathon plane trip was well worth it. Those US-IALE delegates that endured the 20-40 hour trip to Darwin, Australia were treated to an international IALE World Congress that was jammed packed with cutting-edge presentations and Australian hospitality. The conference opened with chants and dances from native aboriginal peoples and a hearty welcome from the Governor of the Northern Territory, and then ended with a diverse suite of field trips to all parts of northern Australia including Kakadu National Park, Litchfield Park, and Arnhem land.

The Congress was well organized in a wonderful setting – Darwin – the capital of the Northern Territory. Darwin is surrounded by extensive estuarine communities and upland tropical savannas dominated by fire. In fact, several smoke columns could be seen from all conference venues throughout the congress. The Australians proved to be exceptional hosts and a great time was had by all.

This World Congress definitely had an international feel, with around 467 delegates from over 35 countries attending on the theme “Crossing frontiers: Landscape ecology down under” (Australia had 174 representatives, USA 71, The Netherlands 29, Japan 24, Germany 21, and the UK 19). There were three days of oral presentations across 8 concurrent sessions (about 250 spoken papers), 150 posters, and 4 interesting plenary talks. About 100 delegates were students; some of whom attended a week-long course on landscape sustainability in the Northern Territory. Conference organizers Richard Hobbs and Diane Pearson did an incredible job planning and organizing this multifaceted Congress. Dr. David Bowman gave an excellent introductory plenary talk introducing the delegates to the unique landscape ecology of northern Australia and the corresponding cultural and historical factors that influence its management. Dr. Kevin McGarigal gave the last plenary on “The evolving science and application of landscape pattern analysis” speaking on the seven significant transitions in landscape metric science and ending his talk on the future developments in pattern analysis. Prof Paul Opdam and Drs. Barbel Tress, Gunther Tress, and Gary Fry rounded out the other plenaries.

Many sessions and symposia in the conference were dedicated to the following landscape topics: ecology, assessment, biotic interactions, conservation, and restoration. There were some special sessions on GIS, remote sensing, fire, climate change, and fragmentation. However, the overwhelming number of talks concerned the interaction between landscape ecology and

human activities including policy, planning, assessments, and integrating human processes in landscape management. The topics were very timely and the content of most talks was very interesting.

Some significant things happened at the IALE meeting. First, US-IALE member Louis Iverson was elected as the vice president of IALE. Second, we found out that the journal *Landscape Ecology* was one of the top five journals in the Kluwer stable with a high citation index, pdf request rate, and acceptance rate.

Some of us attended the extremely interesting “Fire and fire regimes in savanna landscapes” field trip to Litchfield Park about an hour southwest of Darwin. Drs. Dick Williams and Garry Cook hosted a comprehensive field trip where the fire ecology of tropical savanna landscapes was expertly presented in a series of informative stops. We also had a chance to cool off in a plunge pool. Many thanks to Dick and Garry for the time spent organizing such a complex field trip for over 80 people.

Polling other US delegates attending the conference I got the following comments:

- Swimming in tropical Darwin was quite an adventure since you had to dodge crocodiles (“salties”), deadly jellyfish, and hidden sharks
- It was neat to attend a conference on landscapes where fire was so clearly evident on the landscape.
- I don’t know a single plant or animal in this area.
- Kakadu was amazing
- Wonderful field trips, especially the interaction of native peoples with Australian landscapes

The beautiful Darwin sunsets provided a stunning setting for many delegates as they dined at the many organized social events at the congress. The banquet night was especially notable with a local all-girl band leading a gaggle of wild landscape ecologists in a series of rock-

and-roll dances – Who knew landscape ecologists could dance like that? Jetlag was an easy price to pay for the attendance at this wonderful conference and most US delegates spent time at other Australian destinations before and after the conference.

Call for Nominations

Patrick Zollner

The US Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology requests nominations for (1) Distinguished Landscape Ecologist, and (2) Distinguished Landscape Ecology Practitioner. These awards are ordinarily given for distinguished contributions over a period of years. A description of these awards as well as a list of previous winners can be found on the US IALE web page (www.cof.orst.edu/org/usiale/awards.htm). Please forward names and a brief description of the merits of the nominee(s).

Nominations are also requested for the BEST PAPER published in the field of landscape ecology. Nominated papers should represent a significant contribution to the theory and practice of landscape ecology, and must be published between January 2002 and January 2004. Papers need not be published in the journal Landscape Ecology. Please include a copy of the paper and a brief statement of the merits of the paper. PDF versions of papers are preferred if they are available. Send nominations to:

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5985 Highway K
Rhineland, WI 54501
pzollner@fs.fed.us
FAX 715-362-1166

DEADLINE: February 2, 2004. Please include your name and a means to reach you (telephone or e-mail) in case the awards committee needs more information.

Thank you for your help in recognizing and rewarding significant contributions to our field.

REQUEST FOR JUDGES

An award for best oral or poster presentation made by a student at the 2004 annual meeting will be presented at the 2005 annual meeting. The award provides travel expenses and a waiver of registration fees for the 2005 US-IALE annual meeting. Any person willing to evaluate student presentations should register as a judge on web page (ncrs.fs.fed.us/4153/iale/main.html). Each judge typically evaluates 3 presentations. This is an important contribution to the development and encouragement of young scientists and to the Society. Please volunteer today!

Students interested in competing for this award should go to the competition web page (ncrs.fs.fed.us/4153/iale/main.html) and register. Note students who compete must be US-IALE members and are only eligible once during each degree program. Details of eligibility can be found at the student competition web page.

Winner of 2003

Student Presentation Award

Patrick Zollner

Pat Zollner coordinated the competition for the Best Student Presentation Award at the 2003 meeting in Banff. Eighteen students participated in the competition, and 44 people volunteered to serve as judges. Pat would like to thank these judges, who have made a valuable contribution to the encouragement of excellence in student research: David Andison, Peter August, Matthew Baker, Hugh Barclay, Don Bragg, T. Brown, Tenley Conway, Tom Crow, Steve Cummings, Andrew Fall, Marie-Josée Fortin, Kathryn Freemark, Steve Garman, Kim Hall, Geoffrey Hay, Geoff Henebry, Falk Huettmann,

Louis Iverson, Geoff Jacquez, Jockeu Jaeger, Malcom Jones, Mary Khourg, Laura Kracker, Ed Larurent, Joshua Lawler, Larry Li, Jack Liu, Margaret Livingston, Dave Lytle, Andy MacKinnon, Nancy McIntrye, Marc Parisien, Rob Potts, Saviat Rajee, Sam Riffell, Tania Schoennagel, Lisa Schulte, Doug Steventon, Brian Sturtevant, Glenn Sutherland, Sandra Turner, Joy Wolf, and Pat Zollner. Now, here are the winners.

Best Student Presentation Award:

Jennifer Miller - Department of Geography, San Diego State University. For her oral presentation,

“A comparison of methods for incorporating spatial dependence in predictive vegetation models”. Jennifer will receive a \$500 travel award toward her travel to the 2004 US-IALE Annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Best Student Presentation Honorable Mention:

Monika Moskal - Department of Geography, University of Kansas. For her oral presentation, “Harmonic analysis of natural and man made disturbances in the Yellowstone region.”



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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 U.S.; linking U.S. landscape ecologists with the international community of landscape ecologists; and promoting interdisciplinary research and communication among landscape scientists and professionals, such as planners, who apply principles of landscape ecology. Benefits of membership in US-IALE include: membership in the umbrella international organization, the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE); discounts to our journal Landscape Ecology; Annual Meeting with discounted registration fee, subscriptions to the US-IALE Newsletter and IALE Bulletin, copy of the membership directory, and the US-IALE website. Please renew your membership or join US-IALE by filling out this form and submitting it to the Membership Secretary (see address below). Submit by January 31, 2003, to ensure there is no lapse in your membership benefits.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Website Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____

New Member: Yes _____ No _____

If you are a new member, please indicate how you learned about US-IALE:
__colleague __Landscape Ecology __web __meeting announcement __other (describe)

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

DUES

2003 Regular Member (\$30.00) \$ _____
2003 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: Nancy Castro, US-IALE Membership Secretary, Appalachian Laboratory 301 Braddock Rd. Frostburg MD 21532.

* 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.