

# US-IALE Newsletter

Issue 21/1, February 2006



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

Compiled by Bob Keane US-IALE Secretary

## Message from the Chair

*Peter August*

Time sure flies by when we are having fun! My tour as Chair of US-IALE is almost over and I want to send along a few comments and observations.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve US-IALE. I have totally enjoyed my interactions with the officers, committee chairs and members, student reps, journal editors, reps from Springer, the IALE officers, conference hosts and programs chairs, our membership secretary, and our web team. As we all know, organizations like US-IALE operate on the energy and commitment of its membership; The US-IALE team is a terrific one. And there is plenty of fun to go around -- if you are not on a committee, consider signing up for one of our programs. I guarantee you will find it worth your time.

I wish Bob Gardner the very best as he begins his term as Chair this Spring. Bob has some great ideas for US-IALE and the organization is in good hands! As the outbound lame duck Chair, let me offer a couple of thoughts.

**The Next Generation** -- What US-IALE does for its young members is incredible. Jack Liu mentioned to me this week that the NASA/MSU award program

will have made it possible for almost 200 students to attend the meetings over its soon-to-be one decade of activity. Those student recipients of the 1990's are today's leading scholars and practitioners of landscape ecology. The rich suite of student programs at the annual symposium (paper/poster awards, evening social, career forums, mentor lunches) are unique to US-IALE and are one of the best things we do. Our Foreign Scholar Travel Award that allows us to bring up and coming colleagues from around the world to our meetings truly makes a difference. It is a life-event for our young guests and it enhances the scholarship at our meetings. Keep up the good work!

**Seamless Enterprise** -- IALE is unique among those professional societies where landscape ecology is pursued (e.g., SCB, ESA, AAG, ASLA) because it is the premier setting where the front-line of the scientific research community and many of the players in the practice of landscape ecology are at the same table communicating. We advocate for a seamless continuum from science to practice. This is our strength. Our science empowers the practice of land stewardship, and our stewardship guides our science and research.

**Connecting** -- US-IALE reaches the academic community very well, especially the ecological sciences and natural resource fields. Are we reaching our planning and design colleagues as well as we can? I

think we can improve here. US-IALE has a strong presence with many of our resource stewardship professionals. The US Forest Service and EPA are well represented among our ranks and they do us a great service bridging the science and the practice. I think we need stronger representation by the National Park Service, BLM and some of the other front-line stewardship agencies. We have a lot to share with them. I work with state resource managers and I hear the term “landscape ecology” all the time as they describe their regional resource management projects. Rarely do I find they know about US-IALE and the work we do. Connecting better with state agency land stewards should be an important and productive challenge for us.

**Our Programs** -- Our annual conference is our flagship activity. The scholarship, camaraderie, and learning we all take in is reason enough to be a member of US-IALE. If we want to reach out to our colleagues who have a hard time traveling or do not have a culture of conferencing, we need to expand our programs. The web is an obvious venue for this and there are some incredibly exciting ideas on the table to expand our Internet presence - for example, the landscape image library, topical white papers, etc. US-IALE has a crackerjack web team and we need your help to develop exciting and useful content.

The quality of US-IALE is a reflection of its members. We have a lot to be proud of and I am very grateful to have worked with many of you who make our programs happen. My tour as Chair has flown by and I have had a great time. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego in March. The program looks exceptional, the location is terrific, and the field trips will be awesome. See you there!

Pete August

## Student News and Notes

*Matt Luck and Kimberly Mattson*

We have a couple of student events scheduled for the San Diego meeting in March.

**The student social** will be held on Wednesday night at Canes Bar and Grill on Wednesday, March 29 from 9-12 pm. Come join us for some fun, food, and drinks on the beach, and it's just a short walk from the hotel. Admission is free.

**The Student-Mentor Lunch** will be taking place on Thursday from 12-1 pm. You get to meet with a prominent landscape ecologist over a free lunch. If you would like to participate in the Student-Mentor lunch, please email Matt for more information.

If you are looking for a roommate or are looking for activities at the meeting, please use the student forum at [http:// www.usiale.org/students/](http://www.usiale.org/students/)

Matt Luck (mluck@unm.edu) and  
Kim Mattson (mattsonh@vt.edu),  
US-IALE Student Representatives

## Treasurer's Report

*Mary Santelmann*

Hello, from your US-IALE Treasurer! The finances of US-IALE continue to be stable. Although we have seen an increase in our operating expenses (now about \$21,000 a year), the increase in member dues this year to \$45 for regular members and \$30 for student members (while still a bargain) is helping to make up the difference. We appreciate our members' willingness to help keep the organization running in the black. Members recognize that they are receiving improved services from the society, such as excellent web-based member services, professional assistance in organizing the annual symposium (which we believe will make it feasible for our members who are considering becoming symposium hosts to make that decision and say yes!). Our operating

expenses in 2004 and 2005 were about \$7000 and \$5000 more than the average for the previous two years, respectively, for the combination of electronic banking and credit card authorization fees, increased time investment from our webmaster and membership secretary, and use of a secure web site from our web host at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University. Last year's annual symposium in Syracuse, NY essentially broke even while delivering a great time and opportunity to reconnect to our east coast members. Once again, I have managed not to fall for any phishing scams, investment fraud, or similar cons this year due to my suspicious nature when it comes to financial matters.

I am looking forward to passing the treasurer's position on to a new member this year. I would like to express my personal gratitude to the Executive Committee members I have served with over the past four years, who have made this a great experience. I also want to thank all of the members who have hosted our annual symposium in the past few years because the income from these symposia to the society kept us in good financial shape, as well as helping to promote our society's mission. I am looking forward to this year's meeting in San Diego! You'll find me at the beach learning to surf. Oh, no, I meant to say I'll be attending all of your talks, of course.

Mary Santelmann, Treasurer

## Awards

*Jan Silbernagel*

The US-IALE Awards Committee is reviewing nominations for the 2006 Society Awards, including:

- Distinguished Landscape Ecologist,
- Distinguished LE Practitioner,
- Distinguished Service, and
- Outstanding Paper.

Typically, only 1 of the Distinguished Awards be presented in a given year, but that the Awards Committee will review nominations for all 3 categories to

select the single most deserving. You can see a listing of past recipients in each category on our website at:

[www.usiale.org/awards.htm](http://www.usiale.org/awards.htm)

We may still be able to consider a late nomination by emailing a simple letter with the name of the nominee and a brief case for their contributions. If you are nominating an outstanding paper published in 2005, please send along the .pdf if possible, link to the journal page, or full citation. You may email nomination letters, pdfs, &/or questions to me at [jmsilber@wisc.edu](mailto:jmsilber@wisc.edu).

**Students** -- If you will be giving a paper or presenting a poster at the 2006 US-IALE Symposium in San Diego, please consider entering the Best Student Paper competition. US-IALE annually presents an award to a student for the outstanding oral paper or poster given at the Society's Annual meeting. The winner of the award will receive a check for \$500 to use toward travel expenses to the next US-IALE annual meeting, and will receive a plaque commemorating the award. You can sign up online until Feb 28, 2006 at:

<http://zircote.forestry.oregonstate.edu/usiale/sap/students.aspx>

Lastly, we can still use judges for the Student Award Program. If you will be attending the annual meeting in San Diego, and plan to sit in on some talks, then this is a great way to contribute to development of landscape ecology students. Volunteer judges will be assigned 2-3 student posters or presentations to evaluate using a standard form. If you can do this, please go to the page for judges at:

<http://zircote.forestry.oregonstate.edu/usiale/sap/judges.aspx>

and fill out the quick online form. We will use this information to best match judges with student papers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to drop a note to me.

Thanks for your nominations & sign up!

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## Important Elections

*Nancy McIntyre*

In 2006, we will have vacancies in the posts of Treasurer, 2 Councillors-at-Large, and a Student Representative. Running for office are:

Treasurer - Rob Corry, Margaret Livingston

Coucillor-at-Large - John DiBari, Geoff Henebry, Sam Riffell, Lisa Schulte

Student Rep - to be determined

Many thanks to these folks for agreeing to run for office!

After its great debut in 2005, voting will be conducted strictly online in 2006. Ballots should be available for online voting by March 1 and will close by the San Diego meeting.

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee (Joan Nassauer, Janet Silbernagel, Sandra Turner, and Dean Urban) and to the online voting folks (Matt Gregory, Rebecca Kennedy).

## 2006 Symposium

*Janet Franklin*

**It is almost here!**

*US-IALE 2006 Annual Symposium in  
San Diego, California, Mar 28 – Apr 1, 2006,  
at the Bahia Resort Hotel.*



US-IALE will hold its annual symposium in San Diego, California, from Tuesday March 28 to Saturday April 1, 2006. Presenters and attendees should register as soon as possible at:

<http://www.usiale.org/sandiego2006/>

because we have a number of exciting field trips and workshops planned and space in those events is very limited. The meeting location is the Bahia Resort Hotel in the Mission Beach area of San Diego. Mission Beach has a “boardwalk” atmosphere - -think Coney Island – with easy access to beach and bay, walking paths, and bicycle roller blade, kayak, surf board and sailboat rentals. Make your hotel reservations soon in order to take advantage of the excellent meeting rate available to us for single, double, triple or quad occupancy at the Bahia: <http://www.usiale.org/sandiego2006/travel.htm> ).

On that same page of the conference web site, scroll down for more hints about what to do in San Diego courtesy of your Local Organizing Committee.

The theme for the meeting is “Linking landscapes and seascapes: Conservation and ecosystem management at the land-sea interface.” Solving current and future environmental issues requires multidisciplinary approaches that integrate the physical, ecological, and social sciences in space and time. This theme was selected to highlight emerging issues

critical to San Diego and the southern California region and increasingly important worldwide. We have especially tried to bridge the land-water divide in landscape ecology and have structured the program that way.



*Bahia Resort Hotel, Mission Bay*

An opening reception on Tuesday evening March 28 will be followed by plenary and concurrent oral sessions on Wednesday, Thursday morning, and Friday, and our poster session will be on Wednesday evening. Field trips will be offered on Thursday afternoon, a US-IALE tradition, and on Saturday (post-conference). The societies' awards, including the foreign scholar award, and the NASA-MSU student fellowship awards, will be presented at the conference dinner on Thursday evening (so we urge everyone to attend) and, as is also our tradition, US-IALE will sponsor a social event for student members on Wednesday night.

**Scientific Program** -- The scientific session for the US IALE Annual Symposium is very strong this year, thanks to the many people who assisted in coordinating and reviewing submissions. The schedule now holds 163 oral and poster presentations on a wide variety of topics, contributed by scientists from around the world. The symposium proposals were impressive this year. The conference will feature nine organized symposium sessions, on topics including exurban landscape change, connectivity, historical ecology and knowledge transfer. And all this in only three days! I expect that attendees will return home after the conference stimulated and challenged by

scientific (and social) interactions with their fellow landscape ecologists.



*Balboa Park*

**Field Trips** -- Three field trips on Thursday afternoon lead by knowledgeable local experts will explore Torrey Pines State Reserve, Cabrillo National Monument and the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park (on the timely topic of living with fire in the southern California landscape). Longer field trips on Saturday will venture further afield exploring the varied topography of the region (from beaches to chaparral to desert sands).

Workshops on Fragstats, GEOMOD, LANDIS-II and RHESSys will take place on Saturday at the Department of Geography's facilities at San Diego State University, thanks to the hard work of Professor Douglas Stow of the Local Organizing Committee and the talented instructors who are also the developers of these important landscape analysis tools (Drs McGarigal, Pontius, Scheller and Tague).

**Keynote Speakers** -- We are fortunate to have two very special keynote speakers whose talks will resonate with the meeting theme and give us both a regional and international perspective. Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra will speak at the opening plenary session on Wednesday. Dr. Ezcurra (<http://www.sdnhm.org/research/ezcurra.html>) is director of the San Diego Natural History Museum's scientific research division. Dr. Ezcurra is leading a regional initiative funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation focused on the understanding and management of the Sea of Cortés as a whole, single ecosystem,

including the people who live and work there. Highlights of his 30-year career include developing the first environmental impact assessments in Mexico and promoting creation of the California Condor release program in Baja California, Mexico. He has received numerous awards for his professional contributions to the field on ecology, including the prestigious Conservation Biology Award from the Society for Conservation Biology in 1994. Most recently, Dr. Ezcurra was President of the National Institute of Ecology (INE) for Mexico. During the four years he served, the number of pages (journals, articles, and even complete books) downloaded from INE's web site increased 50 fold, a testament to the success of his campaign to broaden the dissemination of INE research findings.

Professor Hugh Possingham (<http://www.uq.edu.au/spatialecology/index2.htm>), Director of the Ecology Centre, University of Queensland, Australia, and a recently elected Fellow of The Australian Academy of Sciences, will give his keynote address on Friday during the plenary session. His talk, entitled "Some challenges in conservation planning theory and tools," is coauthored with Ian Ball. Professor Possingham has expertise in spatial and theoretical ecology, and his innovations in both terrestrial and marine reserve design make him especially well-suited to speak to the conference theme. In 1995 he was appointed Foundation Chair and Professor of the Department of Environmental Science at The University of Adelaide. In July 2000 Hugh took up a joint Professorship between the Departments of Zoology & Entomology, and Mathematics at The University of Queensland. In February 2001 The Ecology Centre was established with Hugh as Director. He is currently an Australian Research Council Professorial Research Fellow. The Possingham lab works on empirical and theoretical aspects of the applied population ecology of plants and animals with a unifying interest in environmental applications of decision theory. He suffers from the affliction of obsessive bird watching.

We are looking forward to a full and stimulating week in San Diego thanks to everyone who has contributed to planning the meeting, including (but not limited to) our meeting planner Cindy Delaney (Delaney Meeting and Event Management), the Local

Organizing Committee and the Program Committee, US-IALE, and our sponsors and exhibitors. I will leave you with a few facts about San Diego:

- Population SD County in 2000: 2.8 m
- Population in 1980: 1.9 m
- Plant species in San Diego County: 1500 (25% of California's flora)
- Area of San Diego County: 11,721 sq km (3% of California)
- Average daily max temp in March: 66°F

Respectfully submitted by  
the Local Organizing Committee Chair,  
Janet Franklin, Department of Biology, San Diego State University ([janet@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:janet@sciences.sdsu.edu)) and  
Sarah Goslee,  
US-IALE 2006 Program Chair

# IALE Working Group Announcement

Marion Potschin

## *Landscape Ecology Education Network (LE-Net)*

Get involved !!!!

The proposal for an IALE working group (WG) on training and education was approved through the IALE executive Committee on 15.07.2005. Now the idea needs to be developed and more IALE members encouraged to participate. It is proposed to organise the first official meeting during the next IALE world congress in Wageningen 2007, and elect an Executive Committee/Broad of the WG.

The training and teaching in Landscape Ecology is aimed at different levels (Master- and PhD level and possibly consultant training).

**The aims** of this working group are to:

- achieve an **overview of existing courses**;
- **link to existing** teaching projects and initiatives (see below);
- **co-ordinate and assess** teaching and training in the field on an international platform;
- **develop criteria** for selecting PhD and related courses linked to IALE conferences (announcement through Expressions of interest);
- to assess and co-ordinate the existing (diverse) **credit point system**;
- to **promote the needs** for teaching and training in our field; and
- **to set up funding sources** which allow students to attend PhD courses linked to IALE congresses/research activities.

A future goal could be to get courses in Landscape Ecology and related subjects (landscape research in general) accredited. See for example RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, <http://www.rics.org/default.htm>).

There is no membership fee for the Working Group. However members of the Working Group must be registered IALE members, or need to become one within the next 12 months. Become a corresponding, active member or even considering standing for a post? Being an Active member means that I could expect the person to respond to my emails, provide feedback etc. A corresponding member means that you would receive news, but are not expected to respond.

In Wageningen the following **positions need to be elected**: chair of the working group and a representative to the IALE council. However there is the possibility to elect more active posts, like “curriculum officer”, “publicity officer”, “literature officer”, “credit system officer”. It would also be useful to have representative for “young landscape ecologists” or master or PhDs levels.

To get in direct contact with you rather than circulating it to the regional contacts I have set up an email list from all IALE members mentioned in the June 2005 IALE directory. However this list can only be as recent as you forward your information to the membership administrator - at the present period this is the treasurer Rob Jongman (an please copy changes to me as well).

Here are some other important events that are taking place:

1. **IALE World Congress 2007** -- Did you know that a congress page has been set up? Did you have a look at it recently? The call for the organisation of symposia and workshops is out!!!

All symposium and workshop proposals should be submitted by 1st March 2006 to the Scientific Committee:

([rob.jongman@wur.nl](mailto:rob.jongman@wur.nl))

Homepage: <http://www.iale2007.com/>

2. **Job offers** -- I think it could be a great opportunity to inform each other through a mailing list like this one (additional to the homepage or bulletin). Let me know what you think about this? Too many mails or a good idea?

3. **Bulletin** -- Please become active and forward all IALE related information like

- congresses
- interesting projects
- new publications, but also
- PhD abstracts

To Felix.Kienast@wsl.ch to be published in the bulletin

4. **IALE working Group on Education and Training** -- If you are interested have a look at the attachment or get directly back to me.

And last but not least.... What do you think about IALE international? Let me have your ideas, suggestions for improvement and I will discuss it with the Executive Board members at our next meeting.

Suggestions for all parts of the outline are welcome.

Best wishes

PD Dr Marion Potschin

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[www.landscape-ecology.org](http://www.landscape-ecology.org)

## Upcoming Conferences

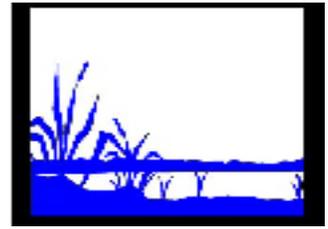
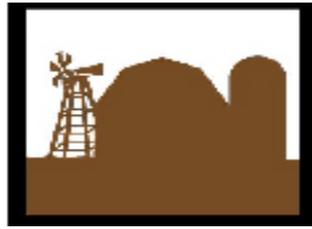
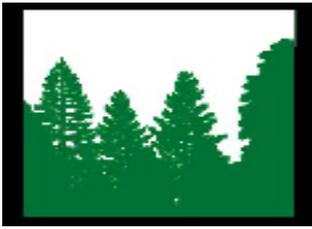
Bob Keane

### *Advances in Threat Assessment and their Application to Forest and Rangeland Management*

July 18-20, 2006, Boulder, Colorado, USA  
North American forests and rangelands are affected by a host of natural and anthropogenic threats, including invasive species, pests, disease, uncharacteristic fire, severe weather, climate change, and loss of wildlands. These threats often act in concert and without regard for land ownership, making them difficult to identify and anticipate much less manage or control. The Eastern and Western Threat Assessment Centers of the USDA Forest Service are organizing a conference to integrate the latest scientific and experience-based knowledge and deliver it to managers of forests and rangelands in a timely, useful, and user friendly manner. Abstracts are invited, see the conference web site at

[www.forestencyclopedia.net/encyclopedia/threats/](http://www.forestencyclopedia.net/encyclopedia/threats/)

for more details or contact John M. Pye  
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US-IALE

United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology  
2006 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, 2006, 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:

2006 Regular Member (\$45.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Student Member (\$30.00; 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.

***It is NOW possible to join/renew online at <http://www.usiale.org/membership.htm>***

\*US-IALE only processes subscriptions to *Landscape Ecology* for student members. Regular members can subscribe through the Kluwer Publishing homepage for *Landscape Ecology* ([www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm](http://www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm)). You must be a member of IALE to receive member subscription rates from Springer.