

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

US-IALE Newsletter

June 2009

Volume 24/2

Inside this issue:

<i>Green Infrastructure—Feature Article</i>	1
<i>24th Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>US IALE Awards</i>	2
<i>Enhancing US-IALE Mission through Sponsorship</i>	5
<i>Foreign Scholar</i>	6
<i>Student News</i>	6
<i>Presidents Message</i>	7
<i>CHANS-Net Events</i>	7
<i>Shugart—Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Address</i>	8
<i>McGarigal—Distinguished Landscape Ecologists Practitioner Address</i>	9
<i>New US-IALE Executive Board Members</i>	10
<i>2009 Election Summary</i>	11
<i>NASA-MSU Awards</i>	12
<i>Service Appreciation</i>	15
<i>25th US-IALE Anniversary Symposium</i>	18
<i>Web News</i>	18
<i>"25 for 25"</i>	19
<i>Membership Committee Report</i>	19
<i>Nominating Committee Report</i>	20
<i>Benefits of Membership</i>	20
<i>US-IALE Executive Board</i>	21

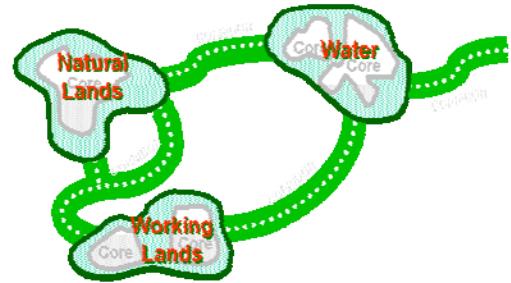
Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscape Science and Practice

Although land use has traditionally been managed at the local level, a consensus is building that these local decisions have global consequences and that a landscape-based approach is needed to adequately address maintenance or restoration of ecosystem function. To address this need, state, local, and federal agencies, in conjunction with nonprofit organizations, have developed a strategic, science- and ecosystem-based approach to resource protection, restoration and growth management known as Green Infrastructure. This approach is rooted in landscape and restoration ecology, conservation biology and watershed man-

agement principles. One of the critical products of Green Infrastructure planning is the identification of an interconnected network of natural lands, working lands,

(Continued on page 16)

Ecological Assessment – Hub & Corridor



US-IALE Annual Symposium Snowbird, Utah April 2009

<i>Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscape</i> : The 2009 Symposium of the US Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology was held at spectacular Snowbird Resort in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. The weather was one of the highlights of the event with temperatures at the start of the conference in the mid 60's, and 3 fresh feet of snow on the ground by the end of the conference. Avalanche warnings, building lockdowns, and broad array of topics covered made the	19
--	----



week exciting.

There were a total of 316 attendees from 43 US states and 3 Canadian provinces. In addition 19 countries were represented. Almost one-third of the attendees were students who participated in special student workshops (See Student's Report), and pre-

(Continued on page 2)

2009 US-IALE Awards

2009 Student Presentation Award

This year 31 students registered to have their presentations considered for this award, which were evaluated by a total of 38 judges (at least 3 reviews per student). The Awards committee is pleased to announce the winner, who will receive a \$500 cash award:

- **Alisa Wade**, Colorado State University, *Urban encroachment on the US protected area network* (oral presentation)

We also recognize two recipients of Best Student Presentation Honorable Mention Awards, who will receive \$100 cash awards:

- **Niko Balkenhol**, University of Idaho, *Hierachial, multi-scale analysis of landscape-genetic relationships in Idaho cougars* (oral presentation)
- **Jennifer Littoral**, Arizona State University, *Effects of urbanization on avian species diversity in the Phoenix metropolitan area: patterns in vegetation fragments* (oral presentation)

Many thanks to all the student participants and especially to the judges who are an essential component of the student award program. **Student Travel Awards**

Ten students were selected from a pool of 47 applicants to receive these awards, which included \$500 for travel to

the US-IALE conference and one year membership to US-IALE. These awards were made available by generous contributions from local sponsors of this year's conference including the U.S. Geological Survey, Cooperative Research Units Program, and the Utah State University College of Natural Resources and the Ecology Center.

Travel Awardees:

Name	Institution
Christopher Barber	South Dakota State University
Michael Clifford	Northern Arizona University
Bradley Cosentino	University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
Jesse Lasky	University of Texas, Austin
Wei Liu	Michigan State University
Theresa Noguire	University of California, Santa Barbara
Matthew Tomlinson	University of British Columbia
Tara Trammell	University of Louisville
Mao-Ning Tuanmu	Michigan State University
Patrick Jantz	University of California, Santa Barbara

**Anita Morzillo ,Chair
US-IALE Awards Committee**



2009 US-IALE Student Travel Awardees. Jack Liu (US-IALE President) and Anita Morzillo (Awards Committee Chair) far left; John Bissonette, Program Host and representative for Student Awards Sponsors U.S. Geological Survey, Cooperative Research Units Program, and the Utah State University College of Natural Resources and the Ecology Center.

2009 Annual Symposium...

(Continued from page 1)

sented on a wide range of topics in the poster and concurrent sessions.

The meeting was kicked off with a Welcome Social on Sunday evening followed by a Student Social. An insightful and inspiring plenary delivered by Thomas Baerwald, Senior Science Advisor from National Science Foundation greeted

Monday morning's registrants. In addition to concurrent sessions, Monday also held a Student Mentor Lunch and the Poster Social which was followed by the NASA-MSU/CHANS Banquet. All in all, a very busy first day of the conference.

Following concurrent sessions on Tuesday morning, the afternoon was filled with several workshops and discuss-

(Continued on page 4)

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist

The intent of the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award is to recognize unique individuals whose long-term scientific contribution has helped to define the field of landscape ecology, and is based on nominations received by the US-IALE membership. This year's recipient is Herman H. "Hank" Shugart, Jr., the W.W. Corcoran Professor of Environmental Sciences and the Director of the Center for Regional Environmental Studies at the University of

Virginia. Hank is among the pioneers of the landscape ecology discipline in North America and is recognized for his research related to biogeochemistry, energy flow, and forest composition and structure at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and his contributions to evaluation of forest gap dynamics that helped define contemporary landscape forest modeling.



Hank Shugart, Jr selected as the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist

Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award

The objective of the Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award is to recognize outstanding applications of the principles of landscape ecology to real-world problems, and is based on nominations received by the US-IALE membership. This year's recipient is Kevin McGarigal, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Kevin is recognized for his outstanding achievements related to his long-term and diverse research and related service on topics including fragmentation dynamics, landscape measurements, statistics, fire ecology, amphibians, and birds, which serve as a scientific foundation for the resource management community.



Kevin McGarigal selected as the Distinguished Landscape Practitioner

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology (2008)

The Awards Committee reviews nominations for papers published during the past 2 years that make an outstanding contribution to the literature of the field of landscape ecology.

This year we selected **Trembl, E.A., P.N. Halpin, D.L. Urban, and L.F. Pratson's** "Modeling population connectivity by ocean currents, a graph-theoretic approach for marine conservation," a 2008 paper in *Landscape Ecology* (23:19-36). Joe Sexton accepted the award on behalf of all of the authors.

We also selected one paper to receive an Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

Honorable Mention Award: **Nassauer, J.I., and P. Opdam's** "Design in science: extending the landscape ecology paradigm," a 2008 paper in *Landscape Ecology* (23:633-644). Zhifang Wang accepted the award on behalf of the authors.

Finally, we thank Geoff Henebry, outgoing member of the Awards Committee and committee Chair for 2007-2008. Concurrently, we welcome Todd Lookingbill (UMCES) as a new member.

"Modeling population connectivity by ocean currents, a graph-theoretic approach for marine conservation"

2009 Annual Symposium...



Tom Edwards, Program Chair for the 2009 US-IALE Symposium in Snowbird, Utah



John Bissonette, Program Host for the 2009 US-IALE Symposium



Cindy Delaney, of Delaney Meeting and Event Management was instrumental in meeting success

(Continued from page 2)

sions including a workshop on climate change and a discussion on research challenges and opportunities. The day was capped with the banquet, sponsored by Jack Liu and Family and the U.S. Geological Survey, where 2008/2009 Landscape Ecology awards were announced and service to the organization acknowledged.

Wednesday, meeting participants were greeted with over a foot of new snow that had fallen overnight and the buildings were in avalanche lockdown. Once the loud booms for avalanche control subsided, concurrent sessions filled most of Wednesday along with a tasty lunch, also included in the registration fee. Thursday was devoted to workshops and fieldtrips.

There were a total of nine different symposia offered throughout the meeting as well as 51 concurrent technical sessions. A total of 59 posters were presented during the poster session. In addition, eight workshops were offered during the meetings with 246 registrants attending at least one workshop. A total of 23 participated in the fieldtrips that were offered.

We want to especially thank sponsors for their significant contributions that made this years meeting a great success. Through their contributions we were able to keep the registration fees within range which also included bonuses such as the banquet, several additional meals and refreshment breaks. The 2009 meeting sponsors included Utah State University, College of Natural Resources, and The Ecology Center; University of Minnesota, Department of Landscape Architecture; Jack Liu and Family; U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources and Cooperative Research Unit Program; Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UC Santa Barbara.

The conference was a big success due to the talents and efforts of many people. However, recognition and appreciation is particularly deserving for **Tom Edwards, Program Chair; Matt Gregory, Co-Program Chair; John Bissonette, Program Host; and Cindy Delaney of Delaney Meeting and Event Management, LLC.**



Campos do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil, 4-7 of October 2009

Registration open until 25th September 2009

Enhancing US-IALE's mission through conference sponsorship

Conference organizers are constantly faced with the dilemma of providing an inexpensive conference that everyone can attend while conference costs continue to increase. Conference costs are skyrocketing making conference registration prohibitively expensive, especially for students. One possible way to lower the registration fees and still conduct an effective conference is to increase revenue by obtaining sponsorships from a wide variety of organizations such as government agencies, companies, and educational institutions that support landscape ecology. In the winter of 2008, Jack Liu, current US-IALE President, formed a Sponsorship Committee to address the problem of rising conference registration costs and to stimulate formal partnerships with other organizations.

The Sponsorship Committee developed detailed [guidelines](#) for sponsoring the conference. There are currently five levels of sponsorship 1) Global (\$5000); 2) Continental (\$2000-\$5000); 3) Regional (\$1000-\$2000); 4)

Ecosystem (\$500-\$1000); and 5) Patch (\$250-\$500) with each of these levels providing the sponsor with various benefits from free booth registrations (a \$600 value) and full page advertisements in the program (\$200-\$500 value) to verbal recognition at the conference. Interested organizations have the option of sponsoring a coffee break, general session, keynote presentation, or even the banquet. In return, they get benefits commensurate with their sponsorship amount.

So, do you know of an agency, organization, or company that might want to provide funding for the US-IALE annual conference? How about your own organization? We challenge all US-IALE members to hit the streets and try to get sponsors for our annual conference. If you know someone or some agency that is interested in sponsoring the most exciting landscape ecology conference in the US, please contact me and we'll do the rest.

**Bob Keane, Chair
Sponsorship Committee**

Do you know of an agency, organization, or company that might be interested in sponsorship opportunities at a US-IALE annual conference?

US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award Program

This spring, the FSTA committee awarded \$1200 travel awards to two foreign scholars:

Pongchai Dumrongrojwatthanais, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biology at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand presented his research on using an agent-based model to determine land use conflicts in northern Thailand.

Sisi Wang, a Ph. D. candidate in the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture at Peking University, presented her research on using ecological infrastructure to inform smart growth and safeguard coupled human and natural systems.

Foreign Scholars are 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. The competition is stiff, and the review committee's decisions are

not always easy. Eight countries were represented by applicants this year.

I would like to especially thank Springer Books, ESRI, Clark Labs and private donors for their generous support of our annual silent auction. We received excellent books and continue to auction ArcGIS and IDRISI Taiga softwares. The FSTA program would not exist without the support of these donors and US-IALE membership. Please continue your support of the FSTA by donating books, participating in the book auction, and patronizing the booksellers/exhibitors next spring in Georgia. If you'd like to see additional software available at the auction, please let me know and I will try to get a copy (ddonerwright@fs.fed.us). Look for some changes to the silent auction next year.

**Deahn Donner
FSTA Committee Chair**

This year's Foreign Scholar recipients are from Thailand and China.

Student News and Notes

More than 100 participants attended the three student events organized for the 2009 Annual Conference in Snowbird, UT. The student social, mentor lunch, and student workshop were each a big success and we look forward to more student activities at the conference next year.

The student social was held on Sunday, April 12 from 9-11 pm at the Aerie Lounge located conveniently at the top floor of the venue, Cliff Lodge. Since this event immediately followed the welcome social we had an opportunity to personally invite all students who had already arrived. The student social provided a nice opportunity for old and new students to meet and exchange ideas in a relaxed setting. Limited bar service was provided, courtesy of US-IALE. A total of about 60 students showed up, a fairly good turnout considering that it was the first day at the conference.

The student-mentor lunch was held on Monday, April 13 from 12:00-1:20 pm. The student-mentor lunch brings students and landscape ecology professionals together to discuss professional development issues in a small group setting. Both students and professionals sign up in advance for this event through the online conference registration process, and indicate their desired future occupation (students) or current job (professionals): teaching faculty, research faculty, government research, government management, state or county agency, or non-profit organization. We matched students and professionals according to their professional aspira-

tions. This was a free event, but registration was mandatory. There were about 65 students and 25 mentors who signed up for this event, which created a well balanced student / mentor ratio at each table. Despite efforts to keep registrants informed about our events, a few students and mentors were not aware that they were required to sign up for this event during registration. Mainly this occurred when their registration was handled by someone else (e.g. university department), who would not know what extra event to sign up for. Thus, for the coming years we have planned to tackle this issue through a reminder email or a prompt in the abstract review page. Overall the student mentor lunch was a huge success with 2-3 mentors at each table and great feedback from everyone.

The NASA-MSU professional development workshop was held on Tuesday, April 14 from 1:00-5:00 pm. The workshop, entitled "[Interviewing for Landscape Ecology Jobs](#)", brought together young professionals who recently went through the interview process, as well as more senior professionals who have been on search committees, to share their experience and insight into interviewing for landscape ecology jobs. A panel of speakers working in different types of organizations talked about the qualities that make good candidates in their respective institutions, and talk about some pitfalls to avoid in the application process. Special thanks to our invited speakers John Wiens, Bob Keane, Lisa Schulte Moore, and Diane Debinski, who took their valuable time to share their experience and perspective on this important topic. A total of 28 graduate students (including the organizers), post doctoral fellows, and other interested individuals participated in this workshop. This free workshop was sponsored by the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement program. The power points and the other documents from the workshop are available in the member's only section of the [US-IALE website](#) (under Student Section / Resources).

For the coming year our goals are to continue these invaluable student activities for our old and new student participants, in addition to substantially



Student-Mentor Lunch

(Continued on page 17)

President's Message – Jack Liu

The 2009 meeting in Snowbird was a great success! On behalf of US-IALE, I would like to reiterate our deep appreciation to Tom Edwards (Program Chair), John Bissonette (Local Host), Cindy Delaney (Meeting Planner), Matt Gregory (Webmaster), a number of students at Utah State University, and many others for their outstanding efforts and hard work in making the wonderful meeting possible. The meeting theme “Coupling Humans with Complex Ecological Landscapes” was perfectly addressed by excellent Keynote Speaker Tom Baerwald, Senior Science Advisor at the U.S. National Science Foundation, as well as presenters at the symposia, workshops, and oral and poster sessions. Many thanks to the generous meeting sponsors, organizers of symposia and workshops, presenters, and other attendees for

making the meeting a marvelous event. I am also very grateful to Bob Keane and his Sponsorship Committee for their effort and energy in generating an impressive amount of support from sponsors.

I am most thankful to several individuals who have “retired” from their official duties, including Janet Silbernagel (Councillor-at-Large, 2007–2009), Martin Simard (Student Representative, 2007–2009), Matt Gregory (Webmaster, 2003–2009), Sam Rifell (Foreign Scholar Travel Awards Committee, Member 1999–2002 and Chair 2002–2009), Cami Martin (Membership Secretary, 2007–2009), and Geoff Henebry (Awards Committee, Member 2003–2007 and 2008–2009 and Chair 2007–2008). I had the distinct pleasure of working with them and will miss them.

(Continued on page 14)



Jack Liu, US-IALE President

CHANS-Net Events at the US-IALE 2009

While humans have interacted with nature since the beginning of human history, unpacking the complexity in human-nature interactions remains a central challenge for the scientific community and for society to understand and achieve environmental and socioeconomic sustainability. An increasing number of scholars around the world have been exploring complexity of Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS), but further understanding this complexity is required. In order to further CHANS research, a new International Network of Research on Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS-Net) was recently launched, with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

The kick-off event of the network was a **Symposium on Complexity in Human-Nature Interactions across Landscapes** that brought together leading CHANS scientists representing 17 projects funded by NSF.

The speakers presented original and innovative research emphasizing reciprocal interactions between human and natural systems (i.e., not only human impacts on the environment, but also impacts of the environment on humans), at multiple scales (spatial, temporal, and organizational) and from a landscape perspective. Examples of complexity included emergent properties, surprises, time lags, legacy effect, path dependence, heterogeneity, feedback loops, discontinuities, criticality, thresholds, nonlinearities, reciprocal interactions, and ripple effects. Although not every presentation in this symposium addressed every aspect of complexity, the symposium as a whole constituted a broad view of recent and exciting advances in understanding complexity.

In order to enable more in-depth discussion of the issues raised in the Symposium



[CHANS-Net Resource link
on the web](http://chans.net)

(Continued on page 13)

Hank Shugart ***Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Address***

"As humans are becoming an ever greater force to alter and fragment landscapes of all sorts, landscape ecology becomes central to understand how landscape pattern influences dynamical change."

I am pleased, flattered and humbled, all at the same time, to receive the US-IALE Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award for 2009. My sincere thanks go to the Awards Committee for being so kind to grant me this honor — which came as a complete surprise to me. Recognition from the US-IALE is the highest form of praise, all the more so because of my longstanding interest in understanding the dynamics of landscapes. My deepest thanks to you all, the awards committee and the US-International Association of Landscape Ecologists.

You may note a strong resemblance between me and Robert Gardner, himself an earlier recipient of this same award. This is because Bob has agreed to read this brief acceptance of this honor for me. For those of you who haven't met me, I am much better looking. Bob is speaking tonight in my stead because I had the good fortune to receive a university-wide teaching award from the University of Virginia that is being given this very night. Try as I might, I couldn't figure out a way to be in two places at once and I appreciate Bob helping me out of this dilemma.

Being labeled "Distinguished" by one's colleagues must be one of the most pleasant appellations possible for any mature scientist. It certainly is a big positive step over other terms such as "Geezer" or "Old Codger" attending the passing of years into decades. Virginians are often categorized as holding to the past. "How many Virginians does it take to screw in a light bulb?" "Four. One to screw it in and three to discuss how good the old bulb was." Breaking with this venerable tradition, I would like to close with a few comments from my, now distinguished, geezerdom about the bright future of Landscape Ecology both in the United States and across the world.

We live in a world with a growing popu-

lation and concerns about the effects of global change of many sorts. As humans are becoming an ever greater force to alter and fragment landscapes of all sorts, landscape ecology becomes central to understand how landscape pattern influences dynamical change. The interplay of pattern and process that is at the root of our work is beginning to emerge as models of climate dynamics are improved. Our physical environmental scientists colleagues are becoming aware of the importance of surface heterogeneity.. Also, in a world with simultaneous collapses in biotic diversity and with widespread invasion of often undesirable species, the landscape processes that produce these changes will cry for increased understanding.

When the majority of you fly home from this meeting and look from your airplane window, all of your views will bear witness to the hand of humanity upon the landscape. We need to know what these changes mean at every level of organization. This was the insight from the formation of IALE; it is our challenge for the future. I close by praising the insight of my fellow landscape ecologists to have seen what was needed to be known and working to understand landscapes. The critical element for the future, in my opinion, is synthesis. To quote T.S. Eliot ("The Rock" 1934):

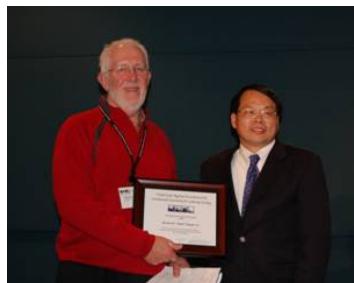
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

The future is about our being able to transform the knowledge that has been laboriously gleaned from information about landscapes — we must transform this knowledge to wisdom; wisdom to understand what we are doing to our planet and what we should do.

Again, I thank you all for this award and for Bob for reading this note.

Hank Shugart



Bob Gardner (left) accepting Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award for Hank Shugart. Jack Liu, US-IALE President on right.

Kevin McGarigal

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Practitioner Address

Weeks after returning from the annual IALE meeting in Snowbird, Utah, I was asked to provide a transcript of my acceptance speech for the Newsletter. Not having written an acceptance speech, what follows is my best recollection of what I said at the banquet.

When I was notified that I would be receiving this award, there was no mention of why, other than a hint towards my role as the developer of Fragstats. So, after getting over the immediate shock and amazement of the news, I carefully reflected on my personal relationship with Fragstats over the years. Any of you that have developed, distributed and supported software can probably appreciate the love-hate relationship that I have had with this (and other) software. Sometimes it has felt like a really bad cold that I just can't get rid of, while at other times it has felt like a vital organ that I just can't live without. Metaphorically, I have come to realize that the evolution of my relationship with Fragstats has been like the evolution of my beard. In 1995, when I released the first public version of Fragstats, my beard was full, solid black and growing vigorously. Every day I looked in the mirror, there were new hairs and they were growing fast. Indeed, I had to trim my beard every couple weeks just to keep up with the growth. Eventually, as is inevitable with these sorts of things, the criticisms started to trickle in and, coincidentally, when I looked in the mirror, I had gray hairs in my beard. Soon, the few gray hairs became many gray hairs and eventually they coalesced into gray splotches, and my whole beard took on the appearance of a motley dog. At first, I did what most humans do when they don't like what they see – I tried to ignore the problem. That only worked for a while, because every day when I looked in the mirror, those splotchy gray hairs were still there staring right back at me. So I did what most people do next – I tried to get rid of the problem altogether by shaving off my beard. That worked initially, but a few weeks later my beard grew back. So I shaved it off again. And it grew back

again, and again, and again. Each time I shaved it off, the dang thing would just grow back, and worse yet, each time it grew back it had even more gray hair and looked even more motley. Eventually, I gave up trying to fight it and learned to accept my beard for what it was – a landscape mosaic of irregularly shaped black patches embedded in a semipermeable mostly gray matrix. Actually, depending on the scale (i.e., distance from the mirror) and perspective (i.e., the angle of viewing), it is probably better characterized as a landscape gradient – but that's another story. I realize now that even though my beard may not look so great anymore, it does serve a very important purpose – it keeps my face warm in the winter. The lesson I learned, and the lesson for all in the realm of ecosystem management, is that it is probably unwise to fight the forcings of nature.

On a more serious note, I would like to thank the many individuals who have contributed to the development of Fragstats over the years, especially four individuals. First, two different computer programmers have worked on the software. Barbara Marks, then a programmer at Oregon State University, worked with me on the original version of Fragstats. Eduard Ene, a programmer at the University of Massachusetts, worked with me on the most recent release and is currently working with me on the next version of the software. Fragstats would not have been possible without the skilled contributions of these two individuals. On the intellectual side, Dr. Maile Neel, now an associate professor at the University of Maryland, was a post-doc in my lab for a couple of years and contributed substantially to the evaluation of metric behavior. Lastly, and most importantly, Dr. Sam Cushman, now a research scientist with the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, MT, was a Ph.D student of mine and worked on several applications involving Fragstats. He has and continues to work closely with me on out-



Kevin McGarigal, Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Practitioner, with Anita Morzillo (Awards Committee Chair) and Jack Liu (US-IALE President).



*Kevin McGarigal has been the principle driving force behind the development and implementation of **FRAGSTATS**.*

(Continued on page 17)

Welcome New US-IALE Executive Board Members:



**US-IALE President-elect,
Dean Urban** (Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC)

Landscape Ecology: What are we doing and where are we going?

To begin: thanks to all for the vote of confidence in electing me to represent US-IALE, and thanks for this opportunity to share my vision of what landscape ecology is now, and what it might become.

This past semester I took part in seven dissertation defenses, each of which was concerned to some extent with spatial heterogeneity and scale—the stuff of landscape ecology. Finishing a dissertation is a significant benchmark on a path of personal and professional development. Ideally, the dissertation stakes a claim of intellectual ownership: “This territory is *mine*.”

I did my own dissertation on metapopulations, forest birds in a landscape mosaic. This was in the early 1980’s—heady times for the discipline. We had just moved past applying island biogeographic theory to terrestrial habitat islands and were actively seeking new models to explain area and isolation effects observed in forest patches. Importantly, as a graduate student I was familiar with essentially all of the work being done in that area; indeed, I knew most of the key players personally. This was not difficult at that time: most of the key players might have fit comfortably into a classroom.

Even in its beginnings, landscape ecology was a wide-ranging and inclusive field. Although the 1984 Allerton Park workshop identified a few themes that might define the field, all comers were welcome and the discipline borrowed from ecology, geography, landscape architecture, and a host of other fields. The common threads were spatial heterogeneity and scale, the same threads that serve as hallmarks of the discipline today. The difference today is that these same threads have been woven into all of ecology and other disciplines as well.

So what does it mean today to be a landscape ecologist? How does one stake a claim of intellectual ownership in a discipline that is so wide-ranging and inclusive? Could a student today even pretend to be familiar with all the work being done on any given topic? The ever-expanding volume of work being produced in an ever-shrinking world makes it difficult to claim familiarity—much less ownership—of any aspect of this diverse field. This is not a bad thing, of

course, but it does raise some vexing questions. If everything and everyone is concerned with pattern and scale, and if any discipline that embraces these themes is landscape ecology, then we run the risk that, by being everything, we become nothing special. So again, what is it, exactly, that we are doing?

A recent essay (*Conservation Biology* 23:557-567, 2009) posed 100 questions that, if answered, would provide a solid foundation for conservation practice. 100? I would be happier with three or fewer. In a sense, we already have just two general questions for landscape ecology: (1) How does pattern develop? and (2) What are the implications of pattern? These are large questions, to be sure, as each implies a set of more detailed questions nested within. For example, the former question evokes questions about the role of biophysical constraints, biotic interactions, and disturbance regimes in generating pattern and how pattern evolves over time. Implicitly, because “pattern” makes sense only at particular scales, questions about pattern also raise questions about scale. The latter question about implications might be partitioned among populations, communities, and ecosystems; or it might as well be sorted by ecosystem type (biome), or to contrast semi-natural and developed landscapes. Any of these questions, in turn, might be focused more narrowly to emphasize particular nuances or details. For example, my own dissertation (as well as some more recent work) focused on implications of pattern, then on populations and metapopulations, then on issues of connectivity as made available in graph theory: It takes 4 levels of “zooming in” to locate my work within its larger context. Presumably, any of us should be able to walk through a similar hierarchy of nested questions, to locate our work explicitly within the larger framework of the discipline. Done collectively, this defines a concept map of our discipline.

My vision for landscape ecology is simple. I hope that we will take some time to reflect on what we are doing and how it fits together. Ideally, every journal article, every presentation at a meeting, every seminar, every classroom lecture, could begin with a conceptual locator map that plainly sets out what it is being done: what big question, what focused question within that context, and what details are being developed or extended. Thus, while all manner of

(Continued on page 17)

US-IALE Councillor-at-Large—Mike Wimberly (*GISc Center of Excellence, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD*)

I am an associate professor and senior scientist at the GISc Center of Excellence at South Dakota State University. My research focuses on integrating ecological concepts with the application of satellite imagery, geospatial datasets, and spatial statistics to assess environmental and health hazards at broad spatial scales. Current projects include using remote sensing data for ecological forecasting of West Nile virus and epidemic malaria, examining the influences of physical and social environments on geographic patterns of obesity, exploring the environmental impacts of expanded biofuels feedstock cultivation, and studying how landscape patterns of fuels, vegetation, and

physiography affect the risk of high-severity wildfire. I have also developed and taught university courses in GIS, landscape ecology, and spatial statistics. Outside of work, I enjoy playing the guitar in bluegrass and old-time jams sessions and partaking in a variety of outdoor activities with my wife Anne and kids Alice and Zach.



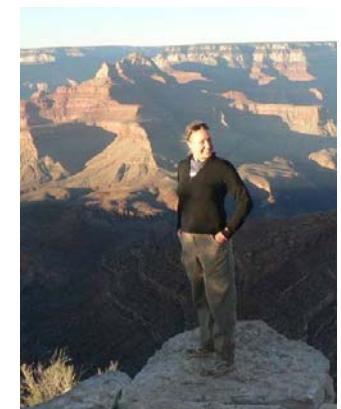
Mike Wimberly, new US-IALE Councillor-at-Large

I have always been attracted by the interdisciplinary nature of landscape ecology, and I believe that our field should continue to engage and interact with a variety of disciplines, including medicine, agronomy, and the social sciences. As a councilor-at-large, I look forward to helping promote the field of landscape ecology and sustain the vitality of US-IALE.

US-IALE Student Representative—Tabitha Graves (*School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona*)

Hi! I'm a wildlife biologist finishing my 2nd year as Ph.D. student in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Generally, I hope to help wildlife co-exist with humans and am particularly interested in fostering connectivity in and between natural populations. I'm also interested in improving techniques used in habitat analyses. I am currently studying the spatial ecology of grizzly bears in northwestern Montana in collaboration with Kate Kendall (USGS), my advisor Paul Beier (NAU), and many other researchers. My project focuses on linking landscape elements to population-level parameters and processes: abundance, dispersal, and gene flow. I obtained my M.Sc. in Wildlife Biology at University of Montana in 2002 working on the impacts of motorized recreation on grizzly bears and have been working on

spatial aspects of grizzly ecology since then. I co-taught workshops on scripting in GIS and analyzing GPS collar data at the national Wildlife Society meetings and just finished teaching a graduate seminar on Scale in Ecology. I also served as the Treasurer for the Remote Sensing/ GIS/ telemetry working group of the Wildlife Society for 2 years. In a past life I helped begin the alternative transportation program at UW-Madison. In my free time (although this feels very limited as a graduate student), I enjoy hiking, skiing, bicycling, playing mandolin, and cooking great food from all over the world. As student representative, I'd like to continue facilitating student involvement in US-IALE, increase awareness of the travel awards, continue traditions such as the student-mentor lunch, and organize workshops and other student activities.



Tabitha Graves, new US-IALE Student Representative

2009 election summary:

	<u>Outgoing</u>
President-elect	none (overlapping terms)
Secretary	none
Councillor-at-Large	Janet Silbernagel
Student Rep.	Martin Simard

<u>Incoming</u>
Dean Urban
Colleen Hatfield (staying on)
Mike Wimberly
Tabitha Graves

NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Michigan State University. This was the 12th consecutive year of the program, which to-date has supported approximately 250 students. Twenty-two students were selected to receive awards this year: They were:

“..12th consecutive year
of the program, which
to-date has supported
approximately 250
students”

Carissa Aoki	Colorado State University
Anne Axel	Michigan State University
Niko Balkenhol	University of Idaho
Jennifer Costanza	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Nancy Dammann	Columbia University
C. Emi Fergus	Michigan State University
Monica Iglesia	North Carolina State University
Crystal Kolden	Clark University
Liang Liang	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Mathieu Maheu-Giroux	McGill University, Canada
Brian Miller	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Jessica Morgan	University of British Columbia, Canada
Susan Mortenson	University of Nevada Reno
Xubin Pan	Texax A&M University
Nick Reo	Michigan State University
Derek Robinson	University of Michigan
Kimberly Robinson	Purdue University
Martin Simard	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Tomas Vaclavik	University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Alisa Wade	Colorado State University, Fort Collins
Alex Zvoleff	San Diego State University



2009 NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awardees at US-IALE Symposium in Snowbird. Jack Liu (far right) and Anita Morzillo (second from left) oversee the program.

CHANS-Net ...

(Continued from page 7)

presentations, a companion **Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in Research on Complexity of Coupled Human and Natural Systems** was held the following day, with participation open to all attendees at the USIALE meeting. We were delighted to have over 90 participants register for the workshop, necessitating its relocation to a larger hall.

The workshop began in panel format, with the Symposium presenters responding to audience questions, ideas and suggestions relating to their respective presentations, and to further issues raised by the workshop participants. Discussion focused on the challenges to conducting CHANS research due to its novelty and its interdisciplinarity. The panelists addressed both theoretical and methodological issues (e.g., disciplinary terminology and modeling approaches), as well as institutional barriers (e.g., reward structures) to projects whose personnel come from many different fields. These discussions resulted in the distillation of a number of key substantive and methodological issues meriting further examination.

The second part of the Workshop then took up these issues in break-out group format. The groups outlined strategies for meeting the challenge of interdisciplinarity, focusing in particular on the role of conceptual frameworks as keys to creating mutual understanding of the nature of, and interconnections among, the components of the systems being studied. The importance of scale considerations and long-term historical perspectives and indigenous knowledge were also addressed by the breakout groups.

An important, recurring theme was the policy implications of CHANS science, and in particular how the science can be made accessible to stakeholders. The Symposium participants have discussed a number of 'next steps' including possible synthesis paper(s), as well as planning for next year's events, which the participants felt might usefully be held in Washington, D.C.

With support from the US National Sci-

ence Foundation, CHANS-Net supported the attendance of fourteen **CHANS Fellows** at USIALE 2009. In addition to presenting their own research, the Fellows participated in the Symposium and Workshop described above. They also enjoyed numerous opportunities to interact informally with the Symposium speakers, learning about the latest developments in CHANS research and to build professional networks with other attendees.

CHANS-Net is hosted by the Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability at Michigan State University, under the guidance of Jianguo (Jack) Liu and William (Bill) McConnell. Please visit the [CHANS-Net website](#) at to learn more and to join the network, if you haven't already. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Jack Liu
Bill McConnell

*2009 CHANS-Net Awardees
with Tom Baerwald (NSF Senior
Science Advisor, far right) and Jack
Liu (US-LALE President, far left)*

Beier, Colin	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	Milder, Jeffrey	Cornell University
Dai, Zunguo	Clark University	Morzillo, Anita	US Environmental Protection Agency
Dilts, Thomas	University of Nevada - Reno	Nichols, Elizabeth	Columbia University
Kuemmerle, Tobias	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Rhemtulla, Jeanine	McGill University
Levi, Taal	University of California-Santa Cruz	Roy, Eric	Ohio State University
Li, Hailong	Peking University, China	Seijo, Francisco	Middlebury College School in Spain
Martin, Sherry	Michigan State University	Walsh, Shelia	University of California-San Diego



President's Report...

(Continued from page 7)



Janet Silbernagel receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Jack Liu

I am particularly grateful to Colleen Hatfield (Secretary, 2007–2009), who has been reelected and will continue to serve as secretary for 2009–2011, and to Rebecca Kennedy (Web Coordinator 2001–present), who has agreed to continue to serve as the web coordinator. Their exceptional dedication and commitment are truly remarkable.

I am looking forward to working with our new officers and webmaster: Dean Urban (President-elect), Michael Wimberly (Councillor-at-Large), Tabitha Graves (Student Representative), and Matt Viehdorfer (Webmaster). Their willingness to serve US-IALE is greatly appreciated.

I am delighted that the Membership Committee, under the new leadership of Falk Huettmann (fffh@uaf.edu) and in collaboration with Rebecca Kennedy, Matt Viehdorfer, Treasurer Lisa Schulte, and Cami Martin, is undertaking a major innovation by converting all member information into a web-based master database. Thanks to Pat Zollner for his great service and effort as Chair of the Membership Committee during the past several years. I also appreciate his willingness to continue serving on the Membership Committee for at least another year to facilitate a smooth transition. While I wish committee member Laura Bailey and her family the very best during Laura's maternity leave, I thank Vanessa Hull for her willingness to serve as a new member of the Membership Committee. Because Lisa Schulte has made an exceptionally generous offer to take on many of the responsibilities of the Membership Secretary and because the upcoming web-based membership system will accomplish other duties of the Membership Secretary, US-IALE will not fill the position of Membership Secretary.

I am pleased to announce that a new committee, the Past Officers Advisory



Martin Simard receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Jack Liu



Matt Gregory receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Jack Liu

Committee, has been established. I am very grateful that Peter August has agreed to chair the new committee, and that Ashton Drew, Eric Gustafson, Louis Iverson, Mary Santelmann, Steven Seagle, and Janet Silbernagel have agreed to serve as committee members.

I would like to extend warm congratulations to all individuals who received various awards and recognitions. Their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter. Many thanks go to Anita Morzillo, Chair of the Awards Committee, and other committee members for their hard work.

Matt Baker (Councillor-at-Large and Chair of the Meeting Site Selection Committee) deserves special recognition for his exceptional ability in working with meeting hosts and in having identified sites for the 2011 and 2012 meetings. If you or someone you know would be interested in hosting annual meetings in 2013 and 2014, please contact Matt (mbaker@umbc.edu).

Next year will mark the 25th annual meeting of US-IALE. Gary Barrett (former president of US-IALE and Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award recipient) and his wife Terry have been working diligently to prepare the meeting and celebration. Please mark your calendar (April 5–9, 2010) and plan to participate in this special occasion in Athens, Georgia, where the first annual meeting was held. I cannot wait to see you in Athens next April!

Jack Liu
US-IALE President

Our immeasurable gratitude to those who have given their time and talents

US-IALE is by in large run by a dedicated group of volunteers who not only have a passion for the field of landscape ecology but also recognize the importance of the organization and the potential contribution it can make to the field. The tireless and unselfish commitment of time and talent contributed by volunteers is directly reflected in the activities, symposia and student involvement reported throughout this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity

to recognize and express our appreciation to those who have each made significant contributions to the success of the organization and are passing the hat on to others who have stepped up and agreed to serve.

IALE has been extremely fortunate to have a continuing pool of members who are willing to volunteer their time. Please consider becoming actively involved in the organization—the payback is the ability to directly see the benefits of your efforts and the continuing success of the organization.



*Janet Silbernagel, Councillor-at-Large,
2007-2009*



*Martin Simard, Student Representative,
2007-2009*



*Sam Riffell, Foreign Scholar Travel
Awards Committee; Member since 1999,
Chair since 2002*



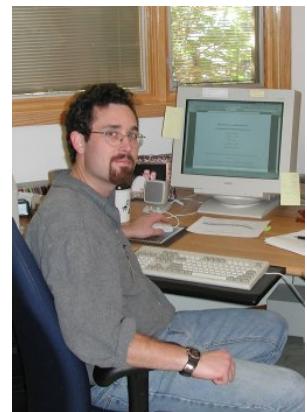
*Matt Gregory, Web Master;
2003-2009*



*Geoff Henebry, Awards Com-
mittee. Member 2003-2009,
Chair 2007-2008*



*Cami Martin, Membership Secre-
tary, 2007-2009*



*Pat Zollner, Membership
Committee Chair; 2007-
2009*

Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscape Science and Practice

(Continued from page 1)

and waters necessary to maintain and support healthy ecosystem and the services they provide humans.

"Although the design, implementation and management of Green Infrastructure networks at the regional, state or local scale present great opportunities, they also represent many challenges. "

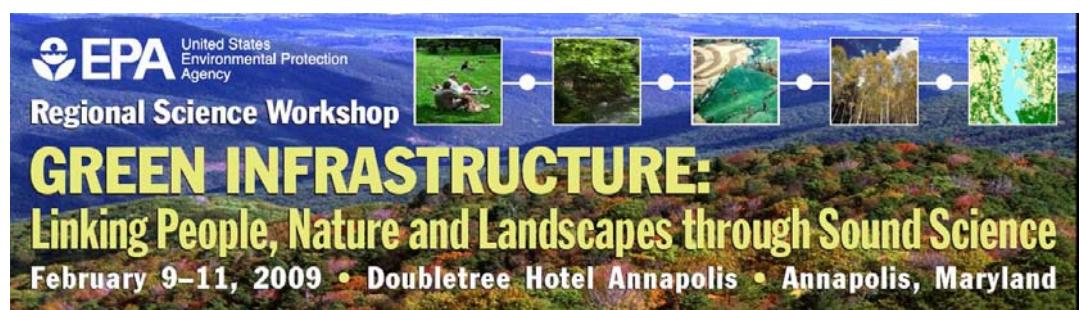
This approach also creates a framework for strategically targeting and prescribing conservation and restoration activities, including "best management practices". By identifying these opportunities in a scientifically defensible way, planning and regulatory decisions can be both more economically sound and environmentally friendly, supporting healthy, livable communities. Increasingly, localities are assessing their Green Infrastructure to ensure that land development patterns are ecologically sensitive and protect critical resources such as drinking water, agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, parks and other open spaces. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is beginning to use this approach to prioritize its own activities and to work synergistically with other environmental agencies and conservation organizations to minimize costs and maximize the effectiveness of their actions.

Although the design, implementation and management of Green Infrastructure networks at the regional, state or local scale present great opportunities, they also represent many challenges. From February 9 – 11, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region III and the Office of Research and Development organized a Regional Science Workshop entitled Green Infrastructure: Linking People, Nature and Landscapes through Sound Science. The

goal of the workshop was to explore these challenges and determine the state of knowledge within the field, in order to support implementation activities by the public and private sectors.

The workshop, which was held in Annapolis, MD, included presentations, expert panels, and breakout discussions about the state of the science in Green Infrastructure planning and implementation. Over 100 registrants from across the United States, representing local, state, federal, and non government organizations participated in the workshop. Besides discussing the current state of Green Infrastructure science and practice, participants also developed a set of research needs to further land conservation efforts. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the workshop was the formation of a Mid-Atlantic Green Infrastructure Community of Practice (MAGICoP). This will serve as a forum for scientists, planners, decision-makers and on-the-ground implementers, from all levels of government and the private sector, to support each other's work, share ideas, and information, create partnerships and leverage scarce resources. For more information about the workshop visit the website at: <http://epa.ccb-cmc.org/GIWorkshop/>. If you are interested in participating in MAGICoP contact Matt Nicholson.

Matt Nicholson
Christine Mazzarella
Bill Jenkins
Susan Spielberger



Student News...

(Continued from page 6)

increasing US-IALE's website content for students and improving navigation. So far we have created a whole new section for students with past conference materials (members only), structured information on student awards, added a direct link to the student discussion forum, and created a system for finding roommates at the conference. We plan to continue this effort, which is part of a broader effort to revamp the structure and content of the US-IALE website. If you have any suggestions for additional material the student section should contain, we'd like to hear from you. Additionally for the next meeting we plan on providing the student presenters (or anyone else for that matter) with "evaluation forms" to distribute among their audiences if they wish to get feedback from them on their presentations. More details on this will be provided in the future.

Please welcome **Tabitha Graves** as the new student representative for 2009-10. Tabitha who is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at Northern Arizona University and is excited to help continue the tradition of wonderful professional development opportunities provided by US-IALE.

We would like to thank **Martin Simard** for his hard work and time over the last two years. He brought many ideas to the position and to the Executive Committee on behalf of student interests.

Please feel free to email [Namrata Shrestha](#) and [Tabitha Graves](#) with student questions or concerns. We would particularly like to hear from you if you have suggestions for the student activities and the student section of the website. Have a great summer.

**Namrata Shrestha
Tabitha Graves
Student Representatives**

Landscape Practitioner...

(Continued from page 9)

reach (e.g., teaching workshops) and has been a major source of intellectual inspiration for the evolution of the next generation of Fragstats, which will quantify continuous surface patterns in addition to the conventional patch mosaics.

In retrospect, I realize now that the award was for contributions extending beyond just Fragstats – which is extremely gratifying – so I apologize for the narrow focus above. I am deeply honored by this award, which is in

many ways the greatest achievement that I could aspire to as a landscape ecologist. To practice landscape ecology and, in particular, to help facilitate the practice of landscape ecology by others, is my professional ambition. To know that I have partially fulfilled this goal is deeply gratifying.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the US-IALE Awards Committee and the US-IALE members for bestowing this great honor on me. It will reside in me forever as one of my life's greatest moments.

Kevin McGarigal

US-IALE President-elect, Dean Urban ...

(Continued from page 10)

questions might be interesting, all manner of questions are *not* equally compelling or useful. In particular, what do we already know, and which questions remain largely unresolved? As we consider these questions over time we should arrive at some consensus about the central themes and most pressing issues in our field. This is not to suggest that we restrict what we do; but rather, that we organize and prioritize what we do, and that we do so deliberately and openly.

Landscape ecology is a discipline and a community of scientists. And while I will not suggest that we have been neither as disciplined nor as reflective a community as we might, I will say that there is room for improvement. The first step on both fronts is the same: to stake a claim for the intellectual territory of our work, and to communicate this claim to our peers and colleagues. It is time to come together to update the map of our discipline and, as we prepare to celebrate the 25th anniversary US-IALE symposium, to chart the future of landscape ecology.

2010 US-IALE 25th Anniversary Symposium IS WHAT HUMANS DO NATURAL?

5-9 April 2010
Eugene P Odum
School of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia



Program Hosts and Program Chairs, Gary Barrett and Terry Barrett, introduce the 2010 25th Anniversary US-IALE Symposium in Athens Georgia during the 2009 Symposium in Snowbird, Utah

The annual symposium will be held in the Georgia Center for Continuing Education – Conference Center & Hotel on 5-9 April 2010. Approximately four hundred and fifty registrants are expected including IALE participants traveling from several countries.

The former Institute of Ecology is now the Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology — the first stand-alone school of ecology in the nation. Participants engaged in diversified disciplines and fields of study are welcome to join us in Athens, Georgia next spring to address societal problems in a transdisciplinary format. The 2010 US IALE symposium will provide a time for reflection on the history of landscape ecology, and perhaps paramount, a place for strategizing problem-solving methodologies relevant to our futures.

Landscape ecology had its beginnings in North America when Gary W. Barrett, then Ecology Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF), recommended funding for a workshop held at Allerton Park, Piatt County, Illinois in April 1983 (f.i., Risser et al. 1984). Gary W. Barrett, currently Odum Chair of Ecology, and Terry L. Barrett were invited to host and serve as co-program chairs for the twenty-fifth year celebration of US IALE, to be held at the University of Georgia on 5-9

April 2010. Terry and Gary officially accepted this invitation at Snowbird, Utah during the twenty-fourth symposium in April 2009. With regard to the twenty-fifth anniversary-celebration of the United States Regional Association for the International Association for Landscape Ecology, we propose two questions to contemplate: *What is the actualized contribution of Landscape Ecology when considered as a body-of-work; and What is the actualized contribution of your body-of-work regarding Landscape Ecology?*

For those not prone to retrospection, we offer a question, as the theme of the twenty-fifth year celebration, *Is What Humans Do Natural?*

The symposia proposal deadline is *Wednesday, 15 September 2009*. For additional information see [the US-IALE web page](#).

Proposals of scholarly work that (a) represent collaboration of unique pairings of disciplines addressing landscape ecology; and/or (b) demonstrate an inventive approach to technology such as GIS, that is relevant to landscape ecology, will be encouraged for 2010 symposia. Presentations may be articulated as prototype or model as well as the traditional poster or oral presentation.

2010 25th Annual Symposium
Terry L Barrett and Gary W Barrett
Hosts and Program Chairs

US-IALE Website News

We are pleased to welcome our new webmaster to the USIALE website. [Matt Viehdorfer](#), who daylights as an upper level Oregon State University College of Forestry Helpdesk support person, with duties that include website development, has taken over the web programming reins from our retiring webmaster, Matt Gregory.

Matt Gregory is leaving the site in great shape, with a newly revamped appearance and reformulated underpinnings. We offer

our vast thanks to Matt G. for his many years of excellent service as he turns to other copious work duties and, hopefully, has more time with his family. You will likely still see Matt G. at meetings since his day job involves landscape ecology!

Matt Viehdorfer has already been hard at work. We are in the midst of developing an enhanced member interface. First steps involve transitioning the membership data

(Continued on page 20)



Matt Viehdorfer, the new US-IALE Webmaster

“25 for 25”

US-IALE will celebrate its 25th Annual Meeting next year (April 5–9, 2010) in Athens, Georgia, where the inaugural meeting was held. To celebrate this great occasion, local hosts Gary and Terry Barrett have been working diligently and planning a number of exciting events for the meeting.

I would urge US-IALE members and friends as well as their institutions to join me in providing financial support to keep the registration fees low so more people (especially students) can attend the special meeting. For every \$25 donation individuals and institutions make for the 25th Annual Meeting, my family and I will provide a match of \$5 (up to a total of \$2,500). All

contributions are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the meeting program and web site.

To donate, please contact [Lisa Schulte](#), Treasurer of US-IALE, Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, USA, (515) 294-7339. Checks can be made payable to US-IALE. Information about other forms of donations can be obtained from Lisa.

Many thanks in advance for your generous contributions to the 25th Annual Meeting celebration.

Jack Liu
US-IALE President

US-IALE Membership Committee

Like many societies that deal with environmental and natural resource issues, U.S. IALE faces a decline in membership. This is specifically the case for our younger cohort, e.g. undergraduate, graduate and early career academics and professionals. However, these young members are the basis of the future of our society and its success, and therefore worthy of investment. Thus we have undertaken the challenge of trying to stop the current and overall downward trends in membership enrollment. After several meetings and consultations, we have identified seven action items: i) create and distribute an updated flyer that presents IALE to undergraduate students, non-members and the public, ii) focus on targeted IALE marketing campaigns, iii) promote membership issues as a relevant criteria for decisions on future conference venues, iv) create a centralized, up-to-date and protected IALE membership database online available for many IALE officers and purposes, v) inquire on membership status of international members and awardees, vi)

find databases and information on previous (lost) members, and vii) facilitate discussion and ideas on how to make IALE and its expertise more widely known and used.

We are currently in the process of addressing the outlined items and appreciate support and constructive feedback from the IALE community. We will be sending the new membership flyers to individuals for comments and will be contacting member groups in the near future for additional feedback. In the meantime, if you have additional comments, please feel free to contact us.

Some organizational and book-keeping news: In April 2009 former chair Pat Zollner handed over the IALE membership affairs (thanks Pat!) to the new chair; all group members remained active for another term (Lauren Bailey will be replaced by Vanessa Hull for reasons of maternity leave). Thanks to all!

“..we have identified seven action items...” to foster membership enrollment in US-IALE

Falk Huettman, Chair
US-IALE Membership Committee

Nominating Committee Report

The following candidates were elected to positions on the US-IALE Executive Committee on 13 April 2009:

President-elect (1): Dean Urban
Secretary (1): Colleen Hatfield
Councillor-at-Large (1): Mike Wimberley S
Student Representative (1): Tabitha Graves

Online voting began on March 3 and concluded the day before the banquet (Apr. 13). Election results were announced at the banquet (Apr. 14).

Online turnout was very low (~25). Paper ballots were therefore made available at the conference; 3 such ballots were completed.

Low voter turnout was brought up at the 15 April board meeting; I will be in communication with Matt Viehdorfer (new webmaster) about having the voting e-announcement go only to members, so that they can simply link to the online voting site without needing to type in a username or password.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee (Sam Riffell, Lisa Schulte, Janet Silbernagel, and Pat Zollner), the Student Reps (Namrata Shrestha and Martin Simard), online voting webmaster Matt Gregory, and to all of the nominees for agreeing to run.

Web News...

(Continued from page 18)

and history from numerous databases to a unified online version, and developing the framework for the new password-protected access point approach for individual members. With this in place, we hope to have much member business conducted online, including better tracking of member history data and the ability for members to update their personal information, and more. Stay tuned for more on this topic.

Website development for the 2010 USIALE meeting in Athens, Georgia is underway. Information about this exciting commemorative meeting is now available at the [Meeting website](#).

We continue to have web pages (see Resources tab) devoted to publicizing your position announcements (or to help you find that job

you've been seeking), and to providing information about landscape ecology tools, teaching resources, related research programs and links, and related meetings. So be sure to visit the [USIALE website](#) if you are looking for anything landscape-ecology-related. If we don't have it, we may be able to direct you to a location that does. And, if you have knowledge of a website we could add, please let me know.

As always, the website lives to serve the organization, and the organization is comprised by its membership. So, if you have any comments about the website, or thoughts about how we could make it work better for you, please let us know! You can reach me at the link below.

Rebecca Kennedy
USIALE Website Coordinator

Benefits of Membership

An organization
is as strong as
its membership.
Consider getting
involved.

If you are reading this, you are most likely a member of US IALE. We (the Executive Council) would like to encourage you to promote the organization and its resources to your colleagues, friends and students. It is easy: [Membership](#)

We have made great strides in developing the US IALE web page, the membership interface, re-

vamped newsletter and enhanced student resources. Our meetings continue to expand and offer state-of-the-science access for meeting participants. This is a great organization, consider getting involved. Please contact one of the members of the Executive Council for more information.

Current US IALE Officers

Jianguo (Jack) Liu*President, 2008-2010*

Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

115 Manly Miles Bldg.

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI 48823-5243

(517) 432-5025

jliu@panda.msu.edu**Dean Urban***President-Elect 2009-2010*

Nicholas School of the Environment

Duke University

Durham, NC

919-613-8076

deanu@duke.edu**Colleen Hatfield***Secretary, 2009-2011*

Biological Sciences, Holt Hall

California State University

Chico, CA 95929 USA

(530) 898-4235

chatfield@csuchico.edu**Lisa A. Schulte***Treasurer, 2008-10*

Natural Resource Ecology and Management

339 Science II

Ames, IA 50011

(515) 294-7339

lschulte@iastate.edu**Namrata Shrestha***Student Representative, 2008-2010*

University of Toronto at Mississauga

Department of Geography,

South Building 1156A

3359 Mississauga Rd.

Mississauga, Ontario L5L 1C6, Canada

(905) 828-5273

namrata.shrestha@utoronto.ca**Tabitha Graves***Student Representative, 2009-2011*

School of Forestry

Northern Arizona University

P.O. Box 15018

Flagstaff, AZ, USA

tabgra@yahoo.com

(406) 396-4162

Sarah Gergel*Councillor-at-Large, 2008-2010*

Department of Forest Sciences and

Centre for Applied Conservation Research

3024 - 2424 Main Mall

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada

(604) 827-5163

sarah.gergel@ubc.ca**Matt Baker***Councillor-at-Large, 2008-2010*

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

mbaker@umbc.edu**Mike Wimberly***Councillor-at-Large, 2009-2011*

GISc Center of Excellence

South Dakota State University

Brookings, SD 57007

((605) 688-5350

Michael.Wimberly@sdstate.edu

Have a question for US-IALE? — contact any member of the Executive Committee

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that our finances continue to be relatively stable and our net worth has increased. Our total expenses increased to \$123,127 a year because we now include symposium expenses and income in our budget. Our operating expenses in 2008 were slightly lower than 2007 at \$7099, since the services of the membership secretary for the year were donated by the University of Maryland. Operating expenses continue to be covered by membership fees. Last year's annual symposium in Madison, WI realized a sizeable profit of \$39,480 (income and Foreign Scholar Travel Award book auction sales). Our net income for the year was \$30,637;

the difference between this number and the symposium profit include expenses incurred for the 2009 annual symposium in Snowbird, UT and a \$2500 loan we made to the South American Chapter of IALE in support of their 2009 meeting in Brazil. The Executive Board has voted to invest much of the remaining proceeds from the 2008 meeting in a CD to provide a stable funding source for the Foreign Scholar Travel Award. The Chapter already owns a CD to support the Student Award. I'm projecting a flat budget for 2009.

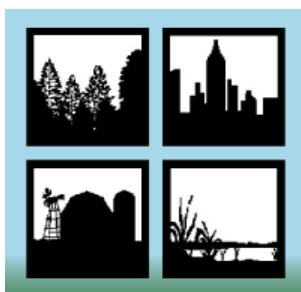
**Lisa Schulte Moore
Treasurer, US-IALE**

US-IALE's purpose is to

- foster landscape ecology in the United States
- provide a link among practitioners in landscape ecology within the United States as well as the international community
- promote interdisciplinary research and communication among scientists, planners, and other professionals concerned with landscape ecology

Who Would Benefit from US-IALE Membership?

<i>Landscape Architects</i>	<i>Ecologists</i>
<i>Land and Nature Managers</i>	<i>Conservation Biologists</i>
<i>Land Use Planners</i>	<i>Biogeographers</i>
<i>GIS Specialists</i>	<i>Spatial Statisticians</i>
<i>Wildlife Biologists</i>	<i>Ecosystem Modelers</i>



[US IALE on the Web](#)



International Association
for Landscape Ecology

[IALE on the Web](#)