



US-IALE Newsletter

Winter 2012

Winter 2012

Volume 27/1

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US-IALE 2012 Annual Symposium

Informing Decisions in a Changing World

April 8-12, 2012

Newport, Rhode Island

The US-IALE 2012 Annual Symposium is fast approaching and the planning committee has been hard at work. During the week after New Years, the full planning committee (Pete August, Sarah Haas, Jeff Hollister, Kristen Hychka, Betty Kreakie, Anne Kuhn-Hines, Kathy Vigness-Raposa, and YQ Wang) retreated to the Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve on Prudence Island (winter population of 90) to review abstracts and develop the program. After 2 ½ days of



Newport Bridge
Photo from Alexey Sergeev

reading 300 abstracts, sorting, mixing and matching, and an occasional walk on

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Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Panda Habitat Under a Changing Environment

Contributed by Mao-Ning Tuanmu

Winner of Best Student Presentation Award 2011

Under the current rapidly changing environment, effective and efficient conservation practices rely on good knowledge of the spatiotemporal dynamics of species habitat and their underlying drivers. Like many other species, the giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) is facing an uncertain future. On the one hand, land use/cover changes have caused significant loss and degradation of panda habitat due to the rapid increases in human population and demand for nat-

ural resources, as well as the exponential growth of China’s economy, in the past several decades. Currently only around 1,600 wild panda individuals survive and are limited to China’s six mountain regions at the edge of the Tibetan Plateau. On the other hand, since the end of last



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President's Message

Landscape ecology: how can we help?



Dean Urban
US-IALE President
2010-2012

In my lab, we have been exploring local temperature variability as revealed by thermal imagery from the Landsat Thematic Mapper mission. These images show a heterogeneous mix of local heat islands from development and thermal refugia in larger forested tracts, with temperature differences that are already large relative to those anticipated over the next several decades. This serves as a harbinger for future climates and thus an invitation to use

urban landscapes as mesocosms for global change research. But I don't need scientific research to make this real to me: my study area—my home—was just reclassified by USDA to a warmer plant hardiness zone, and I've already noticed the change in my yard (C4 grasses have voluntarily taken over my lawn) and garden (a whole new ensemble of weeds). This winter passed without a single sustained freeze and I am already dreading this summer's crop of mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers. In my last column, I wrote of the challenges of regional drought, driven by increasing demand for water and greater variability in temperature and precipitation. In short, climate change is happening and it is affecting our lives. We will, of course, adapt: we really have no other choice.

Adaptation to climate change broaches a complicated suite of issues. Adaptation invokes resilience in the strict definition of being able to withstand forcings—not without experiencing significant change, but without suffering system-level failure. Resilience, in turn, invokes the broader goal of sustainability: to maintain the provision of ecosystem services in the face of systemic change. Our emerging national program on adaptation to climate change properly nests these terms: adaptation aims for resilience under change, toward long-term sustainability of human and natural systems. While beguilingly simple in concept, adaptation will likely prove somewhat less simple in application.

In some circles, researchers distinguish multidisciplinary, interdis-

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Note From Editor-in-Chief of Landscape Ecology

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you - IALE members - for your contributions to the continued success of our journal as authors and reviewers. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Also, I am pleased to call your attention to several outstanding special issues:

1. Landscape Ecology, Volume 26, No. 09 (2011): Special issue - Soundscape Ecology; Guest Editors: Bryan C. Pijanowski and A. Farina
2. Landscape Ecology, Volume 27, No. 02 (2012): Special issue - Landscape connectivity analysis for conservation: insights from combining new methods with ecological and genetic data; Guest Editors: Sandra Luque, Santiago Saura, and Mari-Josée Fortin
3. Coming soon: Special section—Adapting complex multi-level landscape systems to climate change; Guest Editors: Eric Koomen, Eveliène Steingrover and Paul Opdam
4. Coming soon: Special issue - Key concepts and re-

search priorities for landscape sustainability; Guest Editor: Laura R. Musacchio

You may access these special issues at our journal web site: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/0921-2973>.

Finally, timely assessments and syntheses of particular research topics in landscape ecology are crucial for the development of the field, and I welcome you to consider submitting review papers to our journal anytime. Once they are accepted, they will be highlighted under the article category of Landscape Ecology in Review.

Thank you all again, and I am looking forward to your continued support for our journal!

—Jianguo (Jingle) Wu
Editor-in-Chief,
Landscape Ecology

Student News and Notes



Molly van Appledorn (left) and Jessica Price (right), Student representatives

We have 4 events scheduled for students at the 2012 US-IALE meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, plus some great opportunities.

The **Student-Mentor Lunch** will be held on Monday, April 9th from noon to 1pm. This event 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 conference registration process and indicate their current work (professionals) or prioritize their desired future occupation (students) from these categories:

academic, federal government, state or county agency, non-profit, or business. We will try to match students and professionals according to their professional aspirations. This event is free, but registration is mandatory.

The **Student Social** will be held Monday, April 9th, from 9pm to 11pm. Come meet your fellow student landscape ecologists! Complimentary appetizers and limited bar services will be offered courtesy of US-IALE. All students welcome!

The **NASA-MSU Professional Development Workshop** will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. This year's workshop, titled "From Application to Employment: Starting a Career in Landscape Ecology" will feature Anita Morzillo from Oregon State University, Betty Kreakie at EPA, and Kathy Vigness-Raposa with Marine Acoustics, and others. During this half-day workshop, professionals will explain key differences in applying for jobs in different sectors (academia, government, business, and non-profit), techniques to make your application and interview stand out, tailoring your application for the position, and other tips for a successful application process. Bring a draft resume or CV you would like to improve as a hard copy or digitally on

your personal laptop. Space is limited to the first 45 students to register and some refreshments will be provided.

To foster interaction between students and professional landscape ecologists, we're asking non-students to **Pick Up the Tab** for student drinks at the pre-banquet evening social, Tuesday, April 10th from 6 to 7 pm. As a student, you get a free drink by finding the person at the social and introducing yourself. This way you can meet current practitioners in an informal, relaxed setting.

You can get **constructive feedback** on your oral or poster presentation from practicing landscape ecologists by requesting that

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Need a roommate for the symposium?

Check the box during online registration to get email addresses for other registrants looking to share!

Accepting Nominations!!

US-IALE is currently soliciting nominations for the following Officer positions to be elected at this spring's annual meeting: President, Treasurer, Councilor -At-Large (2 positions), and a Student Representative. Each position is two years long. We encourage both self nominations and nominations of others. Please send nominations to Christopher Lepczyk at

lepczyk@hawaii.edu by March 1st.

US-IALE Winter 2012 Awards Update

The Awards Committee is looking forward to announcing winners for some or all of the following awards at the 2012 annual banquet in Newport, Rhode Island. The nomination period closed in January.

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology. The Awards Committee reviews nominations for papers published during the past year that make an outstanding contribution to the literature of the field of landscape ecology. In 2011, the outstanding paper award was presented to Gilbert-Norton et al. (2010) for their publication "A meta-analytic review of corridor effectiveness" in *Conservation Biology* (24:660-668). Honorable mention was awarded to McGarigal et al. (2009) for "Surface metrics: an alternative to patch metrics for the quantification of landscape structure" in *Landscape Ecology* (24:433-450).

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist. The intent of this award is

to recognize unique individuals whose long-term scientific contribution have helped to define the field of landscape ecology, and is the most prestigious award presented by our Chapter. Recent recipients include Lenore Fahrig (2011), Jianguo "Jingle" Wu (2010), Joan Iverson Nassauer (2010), and Herman H. "Hank" Shugart, Jr. (2009).

Distinguished Landscape Practitioner. The intent of this award is to recognize outstanding applications of the principles of landscape ecology to real-world problems. Recent recipients include Wes H. Jackson (2010) and Kevin McGarigal (2009).

Further information about each award and a complete list of past award recipients can be found at <http://www.usiale.org/index.php?id=awards>

Distinguished Service Award. The intent of this award is to recognize individuals who have contributed exceptionally in terms of time, energy, and dedication to advance the mission of US-IALE. Recent recipients include Monica Turner (2010).

Best Student Presentation. The intent of this award is to recognize the best presentation (oral or poster) given by a student at the previous annual meeting. The award includes a \$300 cash award, a waiver of one future meeting registration fee, and one complimentary attendance on a fieldtrip or at a workshop of the awardee's choice at a future annual meeting. Waiver of registration and fieldtrip or workshop fees may be applied to one of the next two subsequent US-IALE annual meetings. We congratulate the winner from the 2011 meeting, Mao-Ning Tuanmu (Michigan State University), for "Can

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NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Update

This year will mark the 15th anniversary of the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award Program!

To date, this program has supported almost 300 students from 120 institutions worldwide. Awards are being offered to students who are presenting at the 2012 annual meeting. Approximately 20 awards will be given for the selected students to cover expenses associated with attending

the meeting. These special awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). The selected students will have opportunities to meet with some leading landscape ecologists at a special dinner gathering, learn the latest developments in landscape ecology at the symposium, and build professional networks with other symposium attendees.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the NASA-MSU program, a number of activities have been planned at the 2012 annual meeting, such as two NASA-MSU symposia

and two NASA-MSU workshops.

—Jack Liu (Chair) and Anita Morzillo (Co-Chair), NASA-MSU Award Program



Foreign Scholar Travel Award Update

The purpose of the FSTA is to provide support for landscape ecologists from foreign countries to attend the annual US-IALE conference and to foster international exchange about advances in landscape ecology. We received 17 applications this year representing 11 countries: Benin, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, and South Africa. Winners are selected based primarily on the scientific merit and application of their work to landscape ecology, but financial need and demonstrated professional development are also considered. If you missed the application deadline for this year's symposium, please consider applying for the award next year. More details on eligibility and the selection criteria can be found online (<http://www.usiale.org/newport2012/us-iale-foreign-scholar-travel-award>).

We'd like to thank Nancy McIntyre (Texas Tech University), Robert Corry (University of Guelph), and Tammy Wilson (National Park Service) for taking the time to carefully review and rank all the applications. Winners will be announced at the annual symposium in Newport, RI.

During the symposium, we will hold the annual Silent Book and Software Auction. Please remember to donate any books you may have on your shelves...old and new are greatly appreciated. There will be tables at registration for you to drop off your goodies. Also, don't forget to bid early and often on the great items that will be available at the auction. Proceeds from all sales directly fund the FSTA scholarships.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Silent Auction during this year's symposium. Please consider helping. It is great experience for students. If you would like to join the FSTA committee, please email ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us.

— Deahn Donner and
Kathy Vigness-Raposa (Co-Chairs),
Foreign Scholar Travel Award Committee

BOOKS NEEDED!

Please consider donating books to the silent auction

Report from Meeting Site Selection Committee

As you must know (and can read about elsewhere in the newsletter), the 2012 meeting is April 8-12 in Newport, RI and will be hosted by Jeff Hollister and Anne Kuhn-Hines (US EPA Research Lab, Narragansett, RI) and Pete August (URI). We hope to see you there!

A reminder for everyone—the 2013 meeting will be held April 14-18 in Austin, TX! The Austin meeting is being organized by Tim Keitt and Kenneth Young (Program Chairs), both at University of Texas at Austin; Roy Rich (Local Host) –a research associate at the University of Minnesota, currently residing in Austin; and Wendy Gordon (Local Host) –Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Additional members of the organizational committee are Jennifer Miller (UT), Sarah Dooling (UT), Rob Coulson (Rice University), and Mike Huston (Texas State University). Check the US-IALE web site for information about this meeting as it becomes available.

We have now received proposals or pre-proposals for potential meeting locations for 2014 and 2015 and are involved in high-level, delicate negotiations about these proposals. I am just kidding! But we do have potential locations. Since the potential locations have not been finalized, I do not want to say anything yet... stay tuned!

We are always thinking ahead about future meeting locations. The most important component of a successful meeting is a committed and enthusiastic local organizing committee. So please contact me or anyone on my committee, either by email or in person at the Newport meeting, if you have ideas or aspirations about hosting a future meeting.

— Your Site Selection Committee,
Janet Franklin (Chair, Arizona State University, Janet.franklin@asu.edu)
Jennifer Miller (University of Texas – Austin)
Pete August (University of Rhode Island)
Matt Baker (University of Maryland – Baltimore County)

US-IALE 2012 Annual Symposium (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

beautiful Prudence, an exciting program emerged. Some highlights for US-IALE 2012 are:

- Three great plenary speakers, including **Dr. Scott Nixon** with the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, **Dr. J. Morgan Grove** with the US Forest Service and Baltimore LTER, and **Dr. Mark Anderson** with The Nature Conservancy, will touch on the theme of the meeting, "Informing Decisions in a Changing World." Each will provide a unique perspective on landscape ecology across varying scales of the northeastern United States.
- Six workshops with topics including starting a career in landscape ecology, The National Ecological Observatory Network, land surface phenology, land change modeling, the statistical language R, and statistical analysis of data differing in support.
- Eight separate symposia with talks focusing on coupled human and natural systems, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, landscape resilience, green space in urban landscapes, map comparison methods, environmental sensors and loggers, LANDIS-II, as well as land cover mapping and modeling in the US.
- Six different field trips highlighting the coastal New England landscape, including half day field trips to visit the East Bay landscape of the Sakonnet region of Rhode Island; to visit two local farms that are producing and selling fresh, locally grown food; and to explore Narragansett Bay from the water on board the 45' vessel Alletta Morris. Full day field trips will explore Cape Cod National Seashore/Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Block Island, and several restoration projects in southern Rhode Island.



USIALE 2012 Program Team hard at work crafting the program - clockwise around table Kathy Vigness-Raposa (front left), Jeff Hollister, Sarah Haas, Anne Kuhn-Hines, Betty Kreakie, Kristen Hychka, and Pete August. Photo by YQ Wang.

In addition to the field trips, workshops, and symposia, attendees will be able to choose from nearly 250 oral and poster presentations. We are excited about hosting all of you this April 8-12 at the Newport Marriott in Newport RI for the 27th US-IALE Annual Symposium: Informing Decisions in a Changing World. Follow the links below for more information, to register, and to become a member of US-IALE.

Meeting Website: <http://www.usiale.org/newport2012>

On-line Registration: <http://www.cvent.com/d/scqk73/4W>

US-IALE Membership (Become a member for discounted conference registration):
<https://knothole.forestry.oregonstate.edu/usiale/membershipnew/memberstep1.aspx>

— US-IALE 2012 Program Committee

Is there something you'd like to see in the next newsletter?

Send your suggestions to eminor@uic.edu

US-IALE 2012 Annual Symposium (cont.)

Photo by Roy Hilbinger



Photo from www.historicnewengland.org



Top photographs: Gooseneck Cove (left) and Watson Farm (right), two field trips during the upcoming symposium.

Bottom: A hint of things to come. The 30 most frequently-used words in abstracts submitted to the 2012 symposium (common English words were removed). Created at www.wordle.net



President's Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

ciplinary, and transdisciplinary approaches to science. Multidisciplinary means simply that several disciplines have an interest in the problem and bring their perspective to bear; these perspectives do not, however, inform those from other disciplines. For example, many disciplines might be interested in climate change, each for its own (private) reasons. Interdisciplinary approaches involve collaboration and cross-fertilization among disciplines: e.g., ecology influenced by economics to the extent that the ecologist approaches the problem in a new and different way. Transdisciplinary problem-solving engages stakeholders beyond scientific disciplines, invoking a commitment by science to tackle problems of societal concern and also a reciprocal investment by society, that science can and should help solve those problems. From this perspective, adaptation to climate change is the quintessential transdisciplinary challenge we face today.

As landscape ecologists, we have a long history in multidisciplinary—we have even defined our field as the intersection of many disciplines. And, we have a strong track record in interdisciplinary collaboration. Our record in transdisciplinary problem-solving is a bit more uneven. To be sure, a large proportion of landscape ecologists engage in real problems on real landscapes. What

we have not yet realized is that compact with society, to the extent that when society faces challenges, they turn to landscape ecologists for solutions.

Adaptation to climate change is in its essence an exercise in risk management: What sorts of changes do we expect? How severe will the impacts be? Where are the most vulnerable sites? How certain are we about these risks? What are the costs of mitigating these risks—monetarily and in terms of human values? How should we make management and policy decisions given these risks and costs? These are interdisciplinary questions about how the configuration of landscapes affects their function, and about spatial heterogeneity and scale. In short, this is landscape ecology.

Landscape ecology is maturing as a discipline and with this maturity comes responsibility: the self-awareness to recognize what our capabilities are and how those capabilities might be useful to others. Being mindful of our work will lead many of us to engage in adaptation or other transdisciplinary efforts. This will be good for us all.

— Dean Urban
US-IALE President

Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

your presentation be evaluated. Volunteer professionals will lend their expertise by providing comments about your research and presentation style. This opportunity is separate from the **Student Presentation Award Program**, for which students can register only once per degree program and for which you should enroll only when you have completed research results. To participate in either program, check the box during online registration. See the Student Activities and Awards sections of the website for more information.

We are still looking for nominees for the student representative position for 2012-2014. Have you considered becoming a student representative? Being a member of the executive committee allows you to meet many professionals in your field and gives you insights into how a national scientific organization functions. US-IALE's student activities are coordinated by two student representatives, who have overlapping two-year terms, with 1

position replaced each year to ensure continuity. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact us!

We look forward to seeing you in Newport!

— Jessica Price & Molly Van Appledorn
Student Representatives

*See the Student
Activities section of the
website for information
about the upcoming
symposium*

Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Panda Habitat (cont)



(Continued from page 1)
 century, the Chinese government has implemented several ambitious conservation projects, including two of the largest forest conservation and restoration programs in the world. Due to these conservation efforts, deforestation has been reduced and forests have been recovering in many places across China, including those within the panda's geographic range.

geographic range.

As part of a long-term research program on human-panda interactions in coupled human and natural systems, my dissertation work focused on the spatiotemporal dynamics of panda habitat under a rapidly changing environment. Through the integration of remote sensing technology with species distribution modeling, my colleagues and I have developed effective and practical tools for characterizing and monitoring panda habitat and its changes across large geographic regions. Panda habitat models built with variables portraying remotely sensed phenological characteristics of vegetation have allowed us to measure panda habitat conditions across space and time, identify major drivers of panda habitat change, and evaluate the effectiveness of current conservation efforts. Findings of these studies have provided essential information for guiding the conservation of the giant panda and its habitat.

Results of my dissertation research indicate that current conservation programs have produced beneficial effects on panda habitat, but climate change may become the next major threat to the survival of the species. For instance, ensemble projections of bamboo distribution under different climate change scenarios suggest potential reduction in the extent of bamboo distribution. Since giant pandas are dietary specialist (more than 95% of their food is composed of bamboo), changes in bamboo distribution pose a big challenge for giant panda conservation in the face of climate change. However, as a conservation icon, a national treasure of China, and one of the most beloved species in the world, threats to giant panda survival may become a catalyst for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Therefore, challenges for giant panda conservation may also constitute an opportunity for finding better ways to protect biodiversity under climate change, not only in China but also around the world.

— Mao-Ning Tuanmu



Mao-Ning Tuanmu, Winner of Best Student Presentation Award 2011

Treasurer's Report

Our finances are very stable. Our net worth continues to increase, with recent year ending total balances of \$127k (2009), \$129k (2010), and \$138k (2011). Our Portland, Oregon meeting had a net gain of \$2739 with \$1878 in book sales, \$26,126 in registration fees, \$17,860 in general expenses, and \$8950 in foreign travel and other student expenses. Additional details about our income and expenses for 2011 will be provided at the 2012 meeting in Newport, RI.

— Robert Scheller
 Treasurer, US-IALE

Awards Update (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

the Giant Panda survive climate change?”, and honorable mention recipient Kristin Marshall (Colorado State University) for “Wolves, elk, and willows: landscape configurations on Yellowstone’s Northern Range.” Mao-Ning and Kristin will be acknowledged at the banquet at the 2012 meeting in Newport.

US-IALE Sponsored Student Travel Awards. For the fourth year in a row, US-IALE is offering sponsored student travel awards. Up to ten awards for up to \$500 will be offered for attendance at the 2012 meeting in Newport.

— The 2011-2012 US-IALE Awards Committee

Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Todd Lookingbill, Steven Walters, & Anita Morzillo (Chair)

Benefits of Membership

Membership offers discounts to annual meetings and subscriptions to the journal *Landscape Ecology*.

Our annual meetings continue to expand and offer state-of-the-science access for meeting participants. We also have a very active student group who strives to engage the next generation of landscape ecologists. The [US-IALE website](#) and [FACEBOOK](#) are focal venues for students to keep in touch.

The bi-annual newsletter keeps you up to date with the organization’s current happenings, new efforts in which the organization is engaged, and timely articles with a landscape ecology focus. The Newsletter will continue to expand to include important news for members as well as job announcements, meeting announcements, etc. As a member, if you have an article you would like to

see in the Newsletter, contact the US-IALE Secretary.

Our website is a ready resource for landscape ecologists. Have you checked it out lately? We (the Executive Board) would like to encourage you to promote the organization and its resources to your colleagues, friends, and students.

This is a great organization—consider getting involved. Please contact one of the members of the Executive Board for more information.

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

[US-IALE Membership Information](#)

**Join us on FACEBOOK for
up-to-date information**

<http://www.facebook.com/usiale>



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

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

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?

Landscape Architects
Land and Nature Managers
Land Use Planners
GIS Specialists
Wildlife Biologists

Ecologists
Conservation Biologists
Biogeographers
Spatial Statisticians
Ecosystem Modelers



US IALE on the Web



IALE on the Web