



US-IALE Newsletter

Summer 2012

Summer 2012
Volume 27/2

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New US-IALE Officers!

At the 2012 annual symposium in Newport, RI, US-IALE members elected five new officers:

- Kurt Riitters, President
- Jeffrey Hollister, Councillor-at-Large
- Audrey Mayer, Councillor-at-Large

- Michelle Steen-Adams, Treasurer
- Julie Ripplinger, Student Representative

Short biographies of each officer are on pages 8-9.

2012 Annual Symposium Newport, RI

US-IALE's Annual symposium was held on April 8-12 in scenic Newport, RI and focused on the theme "*Informing Decisions in a Changing World*." The weather, notoriously fickle in early April in Southern New England, was cooperative and allowed participants to take advantage of the coastal landscapes in and around Newport.

Over 300 landscape ecologists from all over the United States and fifteen foreign countries attended the conference. Participants were able to choose from hundreds of presentations, numerous special Symposia, six workshops, and three field trips. And, as is tradition with US-IALE, we had very strong student participation with ~125 students attending. There were a number of student-focused activities including a student/mentor lunch, an evening student social held at a

local Newport pub, and the popular "We'll Pick up the Tab" cocktail reception social.

The three plenary speakers were exceptional! Each of the presentations focused on the meeting theme of

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View from the Cliff Walk in Newport, RI

President's Message



Kurt Riitters, US-IALE President

As I assume this role on behalf of US-IALE members, I would like to begin by recognizing the retiring officers for their outstanding service – Jessica Price (Student Representative 2010-2012), Janet Franklin and Ed Laurent (Councillors-at-Large 2010-2012), Robert Scheller (Treasurer 2010-2012), and Dean Urban (President 2010-2012). Sincere thanks are also due the retiring standing committee chairs Anita Morzillo (Awards), Janet Franklin (Meeting Site Selection), and Chris Lepczyk (Nominating). Deep appre-

ciation also goes to Jeff Hollister (Program Chair), Cindy Delaney (Meeting Planner), and Pete August and Anne Kuhn-Hines (Local Hosts) for their time and effort to ensure the success of the 2012 annual conference in Newport. As you browse this newsletter, I hope you will be moved to take the opportunity to serve on a committee or as an officer, or to support Wendy Gordon, Tim Keitt, and Ken Young in preparing and conducting the next annual conference in Austin.

Warm congratulations are extended to each of this year's award recipients who are recognized in other sections of this newsletter. Here, I would like to note the 15th

anniversary of the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards program, with thanks to Jack Liu (founder) and to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Michigan State University (supporting institutions). To date, this program has supported the participation of over 300 students worldwide in US-IALE conferences. Put simply, that is a remarkable achievement. Well done, Jack!

I turn now to the important topic of an upcoming vote on the establishment of a standing Policy committee. In March 2010, US-IALE formed an Exploratory Taskforce on Public Policy including John Wiens,

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2013 Symposium in Austin, Texas

With the Texas summer well underway, the organizing committee of the 2013 US IALE symposium is looking forward to cooler weather next spring when we will host our annual meeting in Austin. Our theme next year will be "Landscape Dynamics Along Environmental Gradients." We've been hard at work rounding up plenary speakers, checking out the hotel, and investigating field trips. We have lined up some terrific speakers: Glenn McDonald of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability; Fritz Steiner, Dean of the Univ. of Texas' College of Architecture; and Maria Uriarte of Columbia University. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, a showcase for central Texas plants and a UT research site, will be one of our field trips. If you have not experienced Austin, "the Live Music Capitol of the World," you are in for a treat. April should be perfect with highs in the 80's and lows in the 60's. If you are into live music, head down to the Continental Club for blues or practice your two-step at the Broken Spoke. Wildflowers should be in

abundance. Mid-April is also peak season for the Texas coastal bird migration; single-day records top 250 species. We are looking forward to some great science and a fun meeting next spring.

— Program Chairs/Local Hosts



Possible field trips around Austin: Hill Country Karst Bat caves (left), BBQ and music venues (right).

Images from Google Images.

US-IALE 2013—Austin, TX

Local Host: Wendy Gordon (Ecologia Consulting)

Program Chairs: Timothy Keitt (University of Texas at Austin), Kenneth Young (University of Texas at Austin)

Meeting Theme: Landscape Dynamics Along Environmental Gradients

The New Membership Liaison



Anita Morzillo, Membership Liaison

This spring, the US-IALE Executive Committee (EC) voted to add a new position of Membership Liaison to the EC group. This is a voluntary and non-voting EC position to which an individual is appointed by the President. Dean Urban and Kurt Riitters have asked me to serve in this position.

The objective of the membership liaison is to answer questions and facilitate communication of concerns about membership from individuals within the society. In the past, those items have been handled by a Membership Secretary and, more recently, by our webmaster Matt Viehdorfer. During the past couple of

years, Matt and others also have been working hard to compile numerous membership files and databases that have been constructed over time in various structures during the decade-long transition from snail-mail to electronic membership payment and renewal. Now that US-IALE is operating with an almost-completely electronic membership payment system, we seek to increase the ability of technology to help us manage our memberships and record of them. This task is beyond Matt's responsibilities; more importantly, it is more appropriate for a member of the society to manage the membership information.

The first year of this effort is underway. The EC recently agreed to change the membership year to match the calendar year of January to December (formerly it was October to September). Michelle Steen-Adams provided a detailed analysis of how this might affect society assets as

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Student News and Notes



Julie Ripplinger (left) and Molly Van Apple-dorn (right), student representatives

Spring always brings about a busy season of field work preparations, coursework duties, and other scheduling demands for students. We were delighted to have over 100 students from around the country and abroad take time out of their hectic April schedules to attend the 2012 US-IALE annual meeting in beautiful Newport, RI. Attendees were well-rewarded with quality presentations and a warm, welcoming atmosphere fostered by the hosts and program chair. Students had the opportunity to participate in networking and professional development activities such as the Student-Mentor Lunch, the Pick-Up-The-Tab and student socials, the

NASA-MSU professional development workshop, and the presentation feedback program in addition to the regular meeting events. We appreciated your feedback on these activities and look forward to improving them for next year's meeting in Austin!

More than 90 students and 30 landscape ecology professionals participated in the annual **Student-Mentor Lunch**. In response to previous years' feedback, we tried a different arrangement in which seating assignments were only made for professionals and students self-registered for placement. This arrangement allowed for greater student control over their own career-exploration process and avoidance of repeat matches over time. Participants expressed an overall satisfaction with the lunch, and we anticipate taking a similar approach at next year's conference with a few minor tweaks.

A more informal way for students to meet landscape ecology professionals was facilitated through the **Pick-Up-The-Tab Social**. Landscape

ecology professionals (non-students) purchased student drink tickets prior to the event for distribution to attending students. Each ticket had the name of the purchaser, and students had to find this person at the social and introduce themselves. This was a fun way for students to meet current landscape ecology professionals and learn more about landscape ecology in an informal, relaxed setting. Many thanks to all of the landscape ecology professionals who picked up the tab and made this event a huge success! The **student social** was held at a lo-

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The student-mentor lunch

US-IALE 2012 Awards

Big congratulations to the following 2012 Award winners, announced at the annual banquet held on April 10th in Newport.

Student Travel Awards

For the fourth year in a row, travel awards were made available by US-IALE thanks in part to a generous contribution from the University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute. Ten students were selected to receive up to \$500 for travel to the US-IALE conference.

Emily Cohen, University of Southern Mississippi
Jessica Hightower, University of Central Florida
Karla Letto, Memorial University
Kristi Nixon, University of Wisconsin
Teresa Olson, University of Wisconsin
Elizabeth Paulson, University of Colorado
Jeffrey Schneiderman, University of Missouri
Kangping Si, Clark University
Kunwar Singh, University of North Carolina - Charlotte
Wenjuan Wang, University of Missouri



Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

The 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. Two papers received awards at the 2012 banquet:

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology:

María Uriarte, Marina Anciães, Mariana T.B. da Silva, Paulo Rubim, Erik Johnson, and Emilio M. Bruna. 2011. Disentangling the drivers of reduced long-distance seed dispersal by birds in an experimentally fragmented landscape. *Ecology* 92:924-937.

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology, Honorable Mention:

Jens-Christian Svenning, Matthew C. Fitzpatrick, Signe Normand, Catherine H. Graham, Peter B. Pearman, Louis R. Iverson and Flemming Skov. 2010. Geography, topography, and history affect realized-to-potential tree species richness patterns in Europe. *Ecography* 33:1070-1080.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have contributed exceptionally to US-IALE. Exceptional service represents a contribution to US-IALE in terms of time, energy and dedication that advanced the mission of US-IALE in an extraordinary manner and thus deserves special recognition. This year's recipient was **Jingle Wu**, the Dean's Distinguished Professor of Sustainability Science at Arizona State University. Jingle is a past member of the Executive Committee as a Councilor-at-Large and has been the editor of the journal *Landscape Ecology* since 2005, overseeing a growth in the number of manuscripts handled, number of pages published, and Impact Factor for our flagship journal.

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>

US-IALE 2012 Awards

Award for Best Student Presentation

This 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.

At the conference banquet of the 2012 meeting in Newport, the recipient of the 2011 Award for Best Student Presentation, Mao-Ning Tuanmu (Michigan State University), was acknowledged for his oral presentation "*Can the Giant Panda survive climate change?*". Kristin Marshall (Colorado State University) was also presented an honorable mention award for her presentation "*Wolves, elk, and willows: landscape configurations on Yellowstone's Northern Range*".

Also at the annual meeting, 19 students registered to have their presentations considered for the award for best student presentation. These presentations were evaluated by a total of 37 judges. The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winners, who will be acknowledged at the 2013 US-IALE annual meeting in Austin:

Award for Best Student Presentation:

Jenica Allen, University of Connecticut

Socio-economics drive invasive plants in New England through forest fragmentation (oral presentation)

Award for Best Student Presentation – Honorable Mention:

Steven Collins, Texas Tech University

Developing species distribution models for riverine dragonflies with multiscale environmental parameters (oral presentation)

Many thanks to all the student participants and especially to the judges who are an essential component of the student award program: Shannon Brewer, Alexander Buyantuyev, Jessica Canfield, Jennifer Costanza, Robert Coulson, Ashton Drew, Sara Gagne, Sarah Goslee, Eric Gustafson, Sandra Haire, Kirsten Hazler, Hong He, Jeffrey Hepinstall-Cymerman, Kristen Hychka, Sadahisa Kato, Robert Keane, Adrienne Kovach, Yangfan Li, Kevin McGarigal, Chris Merford, Emily Minor, Jennifer Moore, André Negreiros, George Perry, R. Gil Pontius, Narcisa Pricope, Kurt Riitters, Peter Schweizer, Douglas Shoemaker, Alan Short, Bogdan Strimbu, Michael Strohbach, Brian Sturtevant, Kathleen Vigness-Raposa, Y.Q. Wang, Eric White, and Yolanda Wiersma.

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist

The Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award recognizes individuals whose long-term scientific contribution has helped to define the field of landscape ecology, and is based on nominations received from the US-IALE membership. This year we honored **David Mladenoff**, the Beers-Bascom Professor of Conservation in the Department of Forest Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin. David has made significant contributions to several key research areas including pre-settlement vegetation, wildlife habitat, forest simulation modeling, remote sensing, forest biodiversity, experimental harvesting, soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics, GIS, and climate change. His LANDIS model is used by researchers worldwide. He has published more than 120 papers and book chapters, and was lead editor of two books. His work on gray wolf habitat received the outstanding paper award from US-IALE in 1997. See [page 10](#) for an abridged version of David's response to the award.

Please be sure to send in your nominations for society awards when we issue the call for nominations later this year. And, please consider serving as a judge for the student award program at the annual conference in Austin next year. Thank you!

— The 2011-2012 US-IALE Awards Committee

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

NASA-MSU Awards

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). This is the 15th consecutive year of the program. The selected students have opportunities to meet with some leading landscape ecologists at a special dinner gathering, to learn the latest developments in landscape ecology, and to build professional networks with other conference attendees. Nineteen students received awards this year:

Katherine Behrman, University of Texas
 Bray Beltrán, Arizona State University
 Christopher Bobryk, University of Missouri
 Karin Burghardt, Yale University
 Steven Collins, Texas Tech University
 Patrick Culbert, University of Wisconsin
 Monica Dorning, University of North Carolina – Charlotte
 Hope Draheim, Michigan State University
 Matthew Duveneck, Portland State University
 Peng Gao, University of South Carolina
 Christopher Hakkenberg, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 Spencer Meyer, University of Maine
 Daniel Miller Runfola, Clark University
 Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis, University of Toronto
 Bradley Pickens, Louisiana State University
 Jessica Price, University of Wisconsin
 Patrick Raney, SUNY – Environmental Sciences and Forestry
 David Simeral, University of Nevada – Reno
 Zhiqiang Zhao, Peking University and Michigan State University



The NASA-MSU dinner
 Photo by Zhiqiang Zhao

The NASA-MSU program also sponsored two workshops and two symposia at this year to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the program. One workshop focused on starting a career in Landscape Ecology and what to expect from different employment sectors, whereas the other centered on linking abiotic drivers and biological responses as related to phenology. The two symposia covered topics related to drivers and feedbacks among coupled human and natural systems, and the use of environmental sensors as a tool for landscape ecology research.

The 2012 NASA-MSU Awards Committee consists of Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Chair), Anita Morzillo (Co-Chair), Garik Gutman (NASA), and Shuxin Li (MSU).



Dr. Garik Gutman, program manager at NASA, at the NASA-MSU dinner. Dr. Gutman has been a main supporter for the NASA-MSU Program; he came to the US-IALE meeting to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the NASA-MSU program
 Photo by Zhiqiang Zhao



Farewell Message from outgoing president

Thanks, and keep up the good work



**Dean Urban, US-IALE
President 2010-2012**

With the elections of the spring 2012 annual meeting, I end my term as president and revert to being an ordinary citizen. I am, of course, grateful for the honor of serving as nominal lead of US-IALE. Here, “nominal” takes on a rather refreshing and encouraging tone, as I discovered while acting as president that most of the actual work for US-IALE is done by others. Similarly, while I have been nominally in charge for the past two years, much of what has transpired during that

time began before my tenure and will be completed after my term. Continuity is a good thing.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped make things work so smoothly over the past 2 years: officers, volunteers, and past officers who have hung around to provide guidance as needed. Likewise, I am deeply grateful to the officers who during the past 2 years have rotated out of one position only to volunteer for another. This fluid rotation among positions makes it easier to maintain a sense of continuity over time, but also ensures that the people who are most invested in US-IALE view the organization through different lenses over time. This system is essentially a conveyor belt that delivers highly qualified people to influential positions within

our organization. While “promoting from within” isn’t always the best organizational strategy, it clearly works for us—in part because the influx of new entry-level talent is so impressive. US-IALE’s membership is strongly represented by students, and this is a wonderful thing.

Two key issues emerged during my tenure as president, and both began before and will persist beyond my term. Both are significant because of the precedents they set. The first is the establishment of a standing committee on policy, a committee commissioned years ago and now put forward as a permanent entity informing the executive committee. This is significant because it signals the maturation of our discipline from a largely

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Highlights of Special Symposium

Each year, conference attendees organize special symposia around particular topics of interest. This year, there were eight special symposia at the US-IALE Annual Symposium in Newport, RI. One of them is highlighted below.

Environmental sensors and loggers: New approaches to characterizing heterogeneity and applications in landscape ecology

Organizer: Thomas Albright, University of Nevada, Reno

One of several special NASA-MSU symposia held during the 27th Annual Meeting of US-IALE, eight speakers participated in this symposium highlighting applications of environmental sensors and loggers in landscape ecology. Environmental sensors and loggers allow scientists and managers to record and monitor measurements of an array of physical, chemical, and biological variables in the field at multiple locations. As these technologies improve and become more affordable, the speakers in this symposium represent an expanding group of scientists using such sensors and loggers to uncover new insights by characterizing environmental heterogeneity at finer scales, with greater accuracy and biological relevance, and for different variables than possible in the past.

After an introduction by organizer and session chair, **Tom Albright** (U. Nevada, Reno), **Patrick Raney** (SUNY-ESF) presented on topographic and hydrogeologic controls on temperature variation in the Appalachians and Northeastern wetlands. **Dave Simeral** (Desert Research Institute, UNR) gave a presentation illustrating large variations in envi-

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New US-IALE Officers

The following officers were elected at the 2012 annual meeting in Newport, RI



President: Kurt Riitters

Kurt Riitters is a Research Ecologist and Team Leader with the US Forest Service in Research Triangle Park, NC, and Adjunct Professor of Forestry at North Carolina State University. He received his B.E.S. (Elected Studies, 1976) and M.F. (Forest Management, 1978) degrees from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. in Forest Science (Silviculture, 1986) from Oregon State University.

Kurt has authored or co-authored over 75 peer-reviewed journal articles on various aspects of quantitative ecology and spatial analysis, and his current research focus is to improve and apply landscape pattern analyses for national- to global-scale environmental assessments, even as he is becoming more interested in the fast-paced dynamics of his home landscapes where urbanization is a key

driver of change. His work has appeared in many environmental reports including the Millennium Assessment, the Official Atlas of the United States, and the State of the Nation's Ecosystems. He serves on the editorial board of the journal *Landscape Ecology*, and served as Councillor-at-Large of US-IALE in 2004-2006.



Treasurer: Michelle Steen-Adams

Michelle Steen-Adams is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of New England (Biddeford, Maine). She received a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College, an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Joint-Ph.D. in Forest Ecology and Management and Environmental Studies from the University of Wis-

consin-Madison.

Her primary expertise is forest landscape history and change, especially in relation to social factors, such as ownership and culture. She has expertise in integrative research methods, specifically integrating landscape ecology, environmental history, and historical ecology. Currently, her research contributes to cou-

pled human and natural systems (CHANS) project with the USDA Forest Service that examines human adaptation to fire-prone landscapes in central Oregon, and how to improve it through policy. At UNE, she teaches several courses, including *Forest Landscape Ecology and Management*.

Councillor-at-Large: Jeffrey Hollister

Jeffrey Hollister is a Research Ecologist with the US Environmental Protection Agency's Atlantic Ecology Division and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island. He has a B.S. in Biology from Baker University, an

M.S. Degree in Resource Ecology from Duke University, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Rhode Island.

His primary expertise is in the spatial component of ecology and environmental sciences, particularly in the application

of geospatial technologies to environmental research. Currently his research focuses on how changes in nutrient loads to Northeastern lakes and ponds might alter the provisioning of ecosystem services and impact the risks to human health from cyanobacteria blooms.



Councillor-at-Large: Audrey Mayer

Audrey Mayer is an Associate Professor in Ecology and Environmental Policy at Michigan Technological University where she holds a joint position between the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and the Department of Social Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2000 from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Currently, her "sustainable landscapes" research group is working on several regional and international projects: sustainable oak forest management in western Iran; the design of "Green Infrastructures" in rural and urban landscapes around the world; the ecological impact of information flow regarding forest management among private forest owners in the Upper Penin-

sula (UP) of Michigan; and landscape-scale conservation of semi-aquatic mammals in the UP.

Audrey is particularly excited about the US-IALE's intentions to initiate a Public Policy committee, as she is strongly committed to science that helps inform policy and would be happy to contribute to this effort.



Student Representative: Julie Ripplinger

Julie Ripplinger received her M.S. in Ecology from Utah State and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Ecology, Conservation, and Environmental Sciences at Arizona State.

Her research interests focus on spatio-temporal vegetation patterns and resilience espe-

cially in anthropogenic landscapes. For her Ph.D., she is using multivariate methods and mathematical models to better understand the coupling of urban development with vegetation dynamics. As a student representative, she would like to (1) improve access to research/funding

opportunities for student members via job boards at annual symposia and on the US-IALE website, and (2) to encourage global interchange of ideas among landscape ecology students by developing an online discussion forum for all IALE student chapters.



Foreign Scholar Travel Award Update

The purpose of the US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award 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. Our annual silent book and software auction raises travel funds to help support the cost of these awards. This year, we received seventeen applications from eleven countries: Benin, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, and South Africa. The winners are selected primarily based on scientific merit and the application of their work to landscape ecology, but financial need and demonstrated professional development are also considered. This year's award was presented to Marc Elgin M. Delgado, a Ph.D. student from the Philippines, who presented a talk titled "Inter-catchment analysis of landscape fragmentation in an upland area under land reform: A case study of Claveria, the Philippines" and a poster titled "Landscape fragmentation in the Philippine uplands by roads: Can we strike a balance between rural development and sustainable landscape management?".



Dean Urban (left), Marc Elgin M. Delgado (middle), and Kathleen J. Vigness-Raposa (right)

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

BOOKS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Please consider saving books to donate to the silent auction at next year's conference



David Mladenoff,
*Distinguished
Landscape
Ecologist*

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award

Response from David Mladenoff

The Distinguished Ecologist award from the society is particularly meaningful to me. I am of the generation that became active in US IALE in the late 1980s, after the founders that brought influence from Europe and began the group in North America, such as Frank Golley, and Richard Forman. Typically not trained in Landscape Ecology, once in universities we developed new courses in landscape ecology. The society was a great influence on me, and I feel as if I grew up professionally in the society. I very much appreciate the award and I am very grateful to the committee and the society. Thank you very much.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to provide my first report as your new Treasurer. We owe a tremendous thank you to our outgoing Treasurer Robert Scheller, who maintained thorough financial records, developed a decade-long analysis of US-IALE finances, and assisted during the treasurer transition period. Thank you, Rob! Our finances continue to be stable. Our net worth has increased from approximately \$129,600 at the end of 2010 to \$133,000 at the end of 2011. The balance as of April 2012 is \$126,238. Our primary income sources in 2011 were membership dues, the annual conference and the FSTA book auction. Memberships (\$14,020) continue to cover operating expenses. Our Newport, Rhode Island meeting was a success with 303 registrants. The conference balance sheet

indicates that income (registration (\$78,700) and other items) vs. expenses broke even, though conference finances have not yet been finalized. US-IALE awarded \$7,424 for student travel to the 2011 meeting (FSTA: \$4,950; Student travel award: \$2,474). Additional details of the 2012 conference finances will be presented in the next newsletter. I am projecting a flat budget for 2012.

— Michelle Steen-Adams,
US-IALE Treasurer

President's Message (cont.)

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Fred Swanson, Jack Liu, Virginia Dale, Tom Crow, and Joan Nassauer (Taskforce Chair). The Taskforce report was received by the US-IALE Executive Committee in March 2011. Among the recommendations of the Taskforce was one for the creation of a standing Policy committee, whose role would be "to lead US-IALE in facilitating the use of landscape ecology knowledge by landscape policy makers and decision makers." Rather than taking policy positions, the Policy committee would focus on ways and means to transfer landscape ecology knowledge, build systematic awareness of that knowledge, and connect decision makers with landscape ecologists.

In the previous newsletter, Dean Urban challenged us to become more self-aware that we as landscape ecologists really do have the knowledge and experience to make real, unique, and good contributions to solving some of society's largest environmental problems. We cannot ignore that challenge because, as Dean noted, the science of landscape ecology is maturing, and with maturity comes responsibility. Apart from each of us and our individual actions, I believe the proposed Policy committee can be part of the way that we as a group can respond to Dean's challenge.

Like the five existing standing committees (Awards, Foreign Scholar, Nominating, Meeting Site Selection, and Sponsorship), a standing Policy committee would be distinguished from ad hoc committees by its basis in the US-IALE By-Laws. Creation of the committee therefore requires amendment of the By-Laws, through a vote by the members. Following decisions made by the US-IALE Executive Committee in 2011, this vote will occur sometime in the next several months.

At the same time, members will also vote on a second amendment of the By-Laws to create the volunteer position of Membership Liaison, which is described in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. I believe the approval of this amendment is important not only to recognize the outstanding efforts made by the *ad hoc* Membership Liaison over the past several years, but also to ensure the maintenance of a very effective Membership process in the future. More information about the proposed amendments and voting procedures will be coming to you soon via e-mail.

I wish each of you a happy, safe, and productive summer!

— Kurt Riitters
US-IALE President

Farewell Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

introspective endeavor to a more service-oriented enterprise. This is an extremely important benchmark of our maturation as a discipline, and I encourage us all to support this transition (see Kurt Riitters's presidential message, and other information in this bulletin). In a very real sense, this witnesses our growth from a discipline that is *interesting* to one that is *useful*.

The other trend is more technological, and reflects our transition to web-based protocols for engaging members. This broad set of changes includes updates of our web presence, outreach via social media outlets (twitter, facebook), but also, fundamental changes to how we manage member accounts and services. This evolutionary change in media has forced a transition in how we use our website, and also how we manage member accounts. As part of this, the website will be changing rather substantially over the next several months. Member services, including membership renewals, will be managed via the web. To facilitate member interactions with the website, we have suggested a new position, membership liaison, to sit as a nonvoting member of the Executive Committee. We see this position as a natural step along the evolutionary path from paper records to web-based member services. I hope you will ratify the amendment to our bylaws that codifies this important change (see related information in this newsletter).

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who have worked closely with me over the past couple years, as well as the new cohort of officers who are now stepping into leadership positions. This impressive level of engagement over issues and over time is what underscores the core values of landscape ecology, as a discipline and as a network of collaborators and friends. I look forward to continuing to participate in this network and our shared enterprise.

— Dean Urban

Special Symposium (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

ronmental temperature lapse rates in mountainous terrain. These were followed by two talks on the intertidal zone by scientists who showcased some of the unique challenges posed by this highly variable environment. **Luke Miller** (Stanford) discussed some innovative approaches to measure temperature and wave velocities, including a sensor his colleagues designed using Wiffle balls. **Sarah Gilman** (Claremont Colleges) then showed how organism characteristics and local position in the intertidal system can override continental scale variation in temperature and radiation. Returning to terra firma, **Sam Cushman** (US Forest Service) illustrated how sensors can help produce temperature surfaces to support fire spread models. **Zack Holden** (US Forest Service) showcased work examining temperature and humidity heterogeneity over large areas in the inland Northwest. The last speaker, **Janet Franklin** (Arizona State U.), shared an early perspective on new research examining the potential of microclimates to mediate climate change responses by plants.

Following the talks, the speakers remained for a 45-minute panel discussion, covering a variety of topics including rodent proofing, radiation shielding, and dealing with the “fire hose” of data that sensors can produce. In addition to being enjoyable and informative, the symposium was a cross pollination, bringing together intertidal and terrestrial scientists, many of whom have kept discussions going long after the meeting.

— Thomas Albright

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

Send your suggestions to
eminor@uic.edu

Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

cal Newport watering hole, the Star Bar. We had a great turnout of folks who enjoyed the complimentary drinks and munchies. Students relaxed while playing games of pool and darts, and, of course, engaged in deep scientific discourse that lasted into the wee hours of the morning.

This year's **NASA-MSU Student Workshop** for professional development ("From Application to Employment: Starting a Career in Landscape Ecology") was focused on beginning a career in landscape ecology. A panel of three professionals that included Betty Kreakie (US EPA), Anita Morzillo (Oregon State University) and Kathy Vigness-Raposa (Marine Acoustics) shared their experiences in the job market and tips for preparing CVs/resumes, interviewing, and applications. Following individual presentations from the panelists about the nuances of the career paths of their respective sectors, student participants were engaged in a panel discussion and informal breakout sessions. In addition to getting their questions about career pathways answered directly from the panelists, after the workshop participants received a compilation of career-related resources gleaned from the discussion and feedback forms. Students excitedly reported that the workshop was valuable to them. They also expressed appreciation for the engaging speakers and the diverse, insightful and candid perspectives they offered. Suggestions for improvement included adding panelists from other career tracks (e.g., liberal arts colleges, teaching positions, non-profit groups). Your student representatives also compiled a list of potential topics for future workshops including time management strategies and grant writing tips. If you have more ideas about what you'd like to see, please email us!

Students who took advantage of the **Student Presentation Feedback Program** received constructive critiques of both poster and oral presentations. Students giving oral presentations requested feedback from audience members at the beginning of their talks and provided reviewers with a form. Students with posters placed feedback forms next to their posters. We welcome suggestions for improving this system for next year. A big "thank you" goes out to everyone who provided critiques for the student presenters!

This meeting also saw the election of our **new student representative for 2012-14, Julie Ripplinger**. Julie is currently pursuing a PhD in the School of Life Sciences the Arizona State University and focuses on spatio-temporal vegetation dynamics and ecological resilience, especially in anthropogenic landscapes. Specifically, her PhD research aims to better understand the coupling of urban development with biophysical and vegetation dynamics. Julie has been an actively involved student member of US-IALE since 2009 and is excited to serve as a student representative to continue the association's tradition of nurturing young scientists in the discipline of landscape ecology. We would



like to extend a tremendous **thanks to Jessica Price, our outgoing student representative**, for her hard work during the last two years. Her dedication to US-IALE's student members has expanded the role of students in US-IALE and created new opportunities for them to participate in and benefit from the organization!

For the coming year, our goals are to continue these student activities and increase US-IALE's web presence, including the US-IALE website and our Facebook page. We welcome your wall posts about landscape ecology events, happenings, and findings! We will continue to populate the student section of the member's only portion of the US-IALE website with past conference materials, structured information on student awards, discussion forums, and a forum for finding roommates at the conference. If you have any suggestions for additional material for the student section, we'd like to hear from you.



The student social event at the Star Bar

— Your student representatives,

Molly Van Appledorn (2011 – 2013)

mvanapp@umbc.edu

Julie Ripplinger (2012 – 2014)

julie.ripplinger@asu.edu

Meeting in Newport, RI (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

"*Informing Decisions in a Changing World.*" Dr. Scott Nixon¹ (University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography) gave an entertaining talk entitled "*Could Verrazano See His Toes? Changing Watersheds and Water.*" Nixon discussed the history of land use in the Narragansett Bay watershed and how this has contributed to major changes in biogeochemistry and ecology of the Bay. Dr. J. Morgan Grove (US Forest Service) spoke on "*Socio-spatial Approaches to Urban Ecology and Decision Making.*" He presented details of his work integrating sociology and ecology in the East Coast urban centers of Baltimore, MD and New York, NY. Last, Dr. Mark Anderson (The Nature Conservancy) delivered an address on "*Conserving the Stage: Towards Resilient Conservation in Changing Landscapes,*" in which he made a very strong case for the importance of the protecting the key physical underpinnings of natural habitats. His mantra - *protect the stage (habitat substrates), not just the actors (specific species)* - reflects the need to develop conservation networks that will be effective in radically changing climates.

The workshop offerings for this year's meeting ranged from a job hunting workshop for students to all day intensive hands on training in the statistical package R. Scores of participants took advantage of these technical sessions and by all accounts the sessions were a big hit. Details of each workshop are on the meeting website (<http://www.usiale.org/newport2012>). These sessions would not have been possible without the dedication of the workshop conveners.

The three field trip offerings featured different aspects of the Rhode Island landscape. Participants on the Conanicut Island farm tour explored two successful working farms that have become local models for sustainable agricultural practices. Other participants visited the Sakonnet landscape on the eastern shore of Rhode Island. Visits to Quicksand Pond and Goosewing Beach showcased the work of The Nature Conservancy and local conservation organizations in protecting coastal ecosystems. Finally, a group of early-bird landscape ecologists met at 5 AM to catch the ferry for an all-day excursion Block Island located 10 miles off the southern coast of Rhode Island. Block Island has been designated one of The Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places on the planet. The field trips were organized and led by a wonderful group of local ecologists and environmentalists: Don and Heather Minto (Watson Farm), Martha Neale (Windmist Farm), Ken Ayers (RI DEM Agriculture

Chief); Chris Littlefield (TNC, Block Island), Charlotte Her- ring (TNC, Block Island), Scott Comings (TNC, Block Is- land); John Berg (TNC Sakonnet Landscape) and Terry Sullivan (Director, TNC RI).

Numerous awards were granted to recognize out- standing student presentations and to provide travel grants for students and foreign scholars: NASA-MSU Pro- fessional Enhancement Award; the Student Presentation Awards Program; the US-IALE and University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute sponsored Travel Awards; and the US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award. The US-IALE Awards committee had a full slate of award recipients this year and they are reviewed in the newsletter contribution by committee Chair Anita Morzillo.

US-IALE gratefully recognizes the generous sup- port from a number of conference sponsors: NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program, National Park Service, the University of Minnesota's College of De- sign and Department of Landscape Architecture, the Uni- versity of Rhode Island Coastal Institute, the USDA Forest Service's Northern Research Station, the USDA Institute for Applied Ecosystem Studies, and the Prudence Island NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Finally, the success of the meeting can be attrib- uted to the excellent planning, hard work, and commitment by the local conference organization team of Kathy Vigness-Raposa, YQ Wang, Betty Kreakie, Kristen Hy- chka, Sarah Haas, Justice Mensah, Cindy Delaney, and Meg Boera. We thank them all!

— Jeff Hollister, Peter August, and Anne Kuhn, July 2012



Conference attendees at the Welcome Social (left) and the poster session (top and bottom right)

¹Sadly, this was Dr. Nixon's last public lecture. He unexpectedly passed away a month following the US-IALE meetings. The ecology community lost a great scholar and mentor.

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](#)

Membership Liaison (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

related to annual payments due, such as annual membership payment to IALE. Ultimately, there was no strong reason not to make the change. This small change should help alleviate confusion about when membership fees are due, and it moves the deadline closer to the annual conference dates. Renewal of memberships after January 1, but paid in the first couple months of the year to take advantage of the member rate for conference registration, will result in a retroactive membership "start date" of January 1 of that year.

During the next several months, Matt Viehdorfer and I will be working together to help me become knowledgeable about the current management database structure so that I can answer your questions quickly and efficiently. We also hope that in the near future the US-IALE website will allow for individuals to check their membership status and membership ID number on-line automatically. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and we appreciate your patience during this transitional period.

— Anita Morzillo

***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](#)