

US-IALE Newsletter

Winter 2014

Winter 2014

Volume 29/1

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US-IALE 2014 Annual Symposium

Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check During Climate Change

May 18-22, 2014
Anchorage, Alaska

This is exciting: the first annual US-IALE conference ever held in Alaska is approaching fast. Over the last two years, we have been hard at work to bring you all to Anchorage during May 18-22, 2014.

Hosting the conference in Alaska provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the most beautiful landscapes this continent has to offer; in addition, you will experience more cutting edge landscape ecology science. At the time of writing, we are still receiving abstracts and are getting ready for a review session to finalize the conference program. The planning committee remains busy; it consists of Falk Huettmann (Program Chair), Tracey Gotthardt and E. Jamie Trammell (local hosts), Brian Buma, John Morton, David Verbyla, Sanjay Pyare, Michael Goldstein and Andy Baltensperger (student representative).

Our schedule of 11 special symposia, peppered with great plenary speakers, 8 workshops and 6 excursion offerings should make for an attractive conference to attend. The conference venue is in the Pacific Rim (Anchorage, which offers a great travel hub), and we are hoping for good international turn-out. Specifi-

cally, we actively try to support students and offer a variety of travel and housing options for the conference. Some highlights of US-IALE 2014 are:

Four great plenary speakers—Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Michigan State University), Ray Troll (Salmon Landscapes, Juneau), Brian Czech (Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy), and Terry Bowyer (Idaho State University)

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Exit Glacier, which can be seen during a conference field trip.

Photo by Andrew Baltensperger

President's Message



Kurt Riitters, US-IALE President

Greetings everyone! Thanks to Emily Minor, we have yet another interesting and professional Newsletter with information about our Chapter. I hope you will find something that will prompt you to participate more fully in the Chapter. Perhaps you will volunteer to serve in the Chapter's committees and events, invite your non-member colleagues to become members, contribute a part of your wealth to the Chapter's activities, stand for election to an office, or contribute in some other way something which you feel would benefit the Chapter. As always, the officers and committee chairs invite you to offer comments and suggestions on any aspect of the Chapter's business. Thank you all for contributing to this great community!

I trust that you are planning to attend the 2014 Annual Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska. This

meeting will continue the US-IALE tradition of excellence with stimulating presentations in a refreshingly wide range of topics, interesting field trips, and substantial student member involvement. I would like to thank Falk Huettmann, Tracy Gotthardt, and Jamie Trammel, who are organizing this meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

Please note that we will be electing new officers and representatives soon. The voting will take place online (only) and well before the symposium so that the transition of officers may occur at the usual time in April. Please be sure that you have renewed your membership for 2014 so that you will receive the information about voting procedures. Membership renewal also ensures you will pay the discount registration rate for the Symposium.

In the previous Newsletter, I suggested that we all must develop compassion for different perspectives and humility for our own. I was personally tested by Robert Nelson's recent suggestion to create "charter forests" following the model of char-

ter schools ("Taking an Ax to Traditional Forest Management," Wall Street Journal, 01/01/2104). While local involvement in natural resource management is arguably essential, it is difficult to believe that laypeople know and care as much about their trees as they do about their children. As professional landscape ecologists we must be open to new possibilities; humble, but not too humble.

As you know, President-Elect Janet Franklin will become our new President in April. Janet: Best wishes for an effective and satisfying term! As this will be my last message as President, I would like to express my gratitude for the honor of representing our Chapter during the past two years. I would also like to thank the volunteers who serve as office-holders or on committees. I have been very impressed by the level of energy and dedication which individuals bring to their tasks, and by the obvious sense of community and goodwill which has been demonstrated many times. Thank you.

**Kurt Riitters
President, US-IALE**

Message from the Policy Committee

The newly-formed Policy Committee of US-IALE welcomes all members to participate in a special symposium at the Anchorage AK meeting, "Prioritizing Landscape Ecology's Contribution to Policy Development and Analysis." We will present the results of our survey of the membership and relevant agency personnel regarding emerging priorities for landscape ecology with policy implications. Our symposium presenters will provide a deeper reflection on the topics identified in the survey: land use change, urbanization, and climate change. The material and discussion generated for the symposium will be used by the symposium presenters to develop a "State of the Science" report for the AIBS publication BioScience. We hope that many of you will attend the symposium and contribute your thoughts to this topical discussion!



[US IALE on the Web](#)

Student News and Notes



Julie Ripplinger (left) and Karl Jarvis (right), student representatives. Karl is the one with the hat.

We have 4 events scheduled for graduate students at the 2014 US-IALE meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, plus some great opportunities.

The **Student-Mentor Lunch** will be held on **Monday, May 19 from noon to 1pm**. This event brings students and landscape ecology professionals to the table together (literally!), over lunch. There is no fee for this professional development opportunity, but registration is required for both students and mentors. Mentors will be arranged at tables according to their professional occupation (i.e. research faculty, teaching faculty, non-profit, government agency), and at the conference students' self-assign tables according to their desired future occupation. Remember to register for the Student-Mentor Lunch when registering for the conference. The **Student Social** will also be held on **Monday, May 19**. So **from 9pm to 11pm**, come to an Anchorage lo-

cal hotspot to meet your fellow student landscape ecologists! Complimentary appetizers and limited bar services will be offered courtesy of US-IALE. Check the official conference program for details. No registration is required for this event, and all students are welcome!

The **Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop** will be held on **Tuesday, May 20, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm**. This year's workshop, titled "Inquiry-Based Curriculum Development for Landscape Ecologists," will emphasize curriculum/syllabus development using inquiry- and project-based teaching methods. Course-development skills can be useful for developing university-level courses, workshops, and for educational outreach, so we anticipate this workshop being useful to all students regardless of future career goals. Space is limited, so be sure to register for the student workshop in advance.

The "**We'll Pick Up the Tab**" social was first instituted in 2009 at the US-IALE Snowbird, UT conference. Since then it's been a popular tradition at our conferences, and we're pleased to invite you to it this year in Anchorage. For this event, landscape ecology professionals are asked to pre-purchase drink tickets for

student drinks. At the social, students will receive drink coupons, compliments of participating landscape ecology professionals, then students find and introduce themselves (over the complimentary beverage!) to their generous benefactors. The "We'll Pick Up the Tab" social will be on **Tue May 20 from 6 to 7pm** before the Awards Banquet. This is a great way for current landscape ecology practitioners to meet students in an informal, relaxed setting.

Students wishing to **receive constructive feedback on your oral or poster presentation** from practicing landscape ecologists may request that their presentations be

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Need a roommate for the symposium?

Check the box during online registration to get emails for other registrants looking to share, or email Karl Jarvis at karljarvis@nau.edu

Message from the Ad-Hoc Communications Committee

The society is considering creating a permanent communications committee in order to expand its presence and visibility on the web (including social media), increase membership retention and recruitment, and attract sponsorship dollars. An ad-hoc committee is currently being assembled that will produce a report detailing the mandate and composition of a permanent committee. The report will be made available to all members of the Society for consideration. Please send any thoughts, ideas, or comments that you may have related to Society communications to Sara Gagne at sgagne@uncc.edu.

US-IALE Winter 2013 Awards Update

The Awards Committee is looking forward to announcing winners for some or all of the following awards at the 2014 annual banquet in Anchorage, Alaska. Please submit nominations to Pete August at pete@edc.uri.edu.

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 2013, the outstanding paper award was presented to McKenzie and Kennedy (2012) for their publication "Power laws reveal phase transitions in landscape controls of fire regimes" in *Nature Communications* (3:726). Honorable mention was awarded to Costanza et al. (2011) for "Multi-scale environmental heterogeneity as a predictor of plant species richness" in *Landscape Ecology* (26:851-864).

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 Virginia Dale (2013), Marie-Josée Fortin (2013), David Mladenoff (2012), and Lenore Fahrig (2011)

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 K. Bruce Jones (2013), the United States National Park Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program (2012), and Wes H. Jackson (2010).

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 Jingle Wu (2012) and 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 2013 meeting, Micah Hahn (University of Wisconsin-Madison), for "Roosting behavior and habitat selection of *Pteropus giganteus* reveals potential links to Nipah virus epidemiology", and honorable mention recipients Camille Beasley (University of Georgia) and Katherine Renwick (Colorado State University). Micah, Camille, and Katherine will be acknowledged at the banquet at the 2014 meeting in Anchorage.

US-IALE Sponsored Student Travel Awards

For the sixth year in a row, US-IALE is offering sponsored student travel awards. Up to ten awards for up to \$500 each will be offered for attendance at the 2014 meeting in Anchorage.

The 2013-2014 US-IALE Awards Committee
Todd Lookingbill (chair), Pete August,
Jeff Hollister, Betty Kreakie,
Steven Walters, & Jingle Wu

Further information about each award and a complete list of past award recipients can be found at

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



Message from the Membership Liaison



Anita Morzillo, Membership Liaison

Matt Viehdorfer (USIALE “web guy”) and I have implemented several upgrades to provide better web-based recordkeeping and services for USIALE and its members. Matt has overhauled the membership database structure to include individual ability to look up membership numbers, review membership payment history and status using individual log-in information, and recall usernames and passwords. This year, we will be incorporating automatic email reminders about membership expirations and renewals that will be generated and sent at the end of the membership year (now January-December). Starting with the 2014 USIALE annual symposium, members will be asked to enter their membership number in order to qualify for member-based registration rates. This will help the society maintain the revenue expected from members and non-members when reviewing budgets for the annual symposium, and is common practice for many other professional societies. Please do not hesitate to contact me at membership@usiale.org if you have questions.

Anita Morzillo
US-IALE Membership Liaison

US-IALE Executive Committee Call for Nominations

Dear US-IALE Members,

The by-laws of the US-IALE provide for annual elections to fill positions on the Executive Committee on a rotating basis. Executive Committee members are expected to participate in regular conference calls and to attend the annual meeting.

The following positions are up for election:

TREASURER: One position for a 2-year term. The Treasurer is responsible for handling the finances for the society. This position includes maintaining bank accounts, endowment and other funds for the society, receiving/acknowledging membership dues, and handling membership affairs with the International Association. The outgoing Treasurer is Michelle Steen-Adams.

COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE: Two positions each for a 2-year term. The Councillors shall perform duties as assigned by the Chair, may be appointed to fill duties of other officers who are unable to fill their term(s), and assist with the review of abstracts submitted for the annual meeting. The outgoing Councillors are Audrey Mayer and Jeff Hollister.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: One position for a 2-year term, shares responsibilities with current student representative. The Student Representatives are responsible for coordinating student-related activities and workshop at

the annual symposium, representing student concerns on the executive committee, and working to increase student membership. The outgoing Student Representative is Julie Ripplinger (2012-2014) and the continuing Student Representative is Karl Jarvis (2013-2015).

The other members of the Executive Committee not up for election this year are President: Janet Franklin, Secretary: Emily Minor, and a Councillor-at-Large: Sara Gagné.

Active US-IALE members are **encouraged** to volunteer for the above positions or to nominate other members. Although not required, nominations may be accompanied by a brief letter explaining the contribution(s) for which the nomination is made. Please return your nomination(s) by March 15, 2014 to:

Robert Scheller
US-IALE Nominating Committee Chair
rmschell@pdx.edu

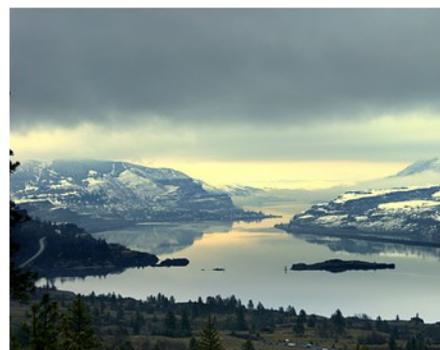
**Elections will be held
on-line this year.**

International Association for Landscape Ecology

World Congress 2015

Portland, Oregon

www.ialeworldcongress.org



The **International Association of Landscape Ecology World Congress**, together with the US chapter of IALE, will host a joint meeting in **Portland, Oregon** from **5th to 10th July, 2015**. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual **US-IALE** meeting.

Portland is easy to access with direct connections to Tokyo, Amsterdam, and most major U.S. and Canadian cities. Portland also offers excellent light rail and street car connections throughout the city. The region is widely recognized for its commitment to sustainability and progressive land use planning, which allows immediate access to outdoor recreation, and opportunities to engage with the rich cultural and historical dimensions of the Pacific Northwest landscape.

Our meeting theme is: *Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Approaches to Complex Challenges*. We hope to highlight research and activities that address globally relevant topics and that works across scales (what landscape ecologists have always done) and crosses borders (be they disciplinary, political, patch, or other).

Local Organizers: **Dr. Vivek Shandas**, (Portland State University) and **Dr. Anita Morzillo** (Oregon State University)

Program Committee: The Program Committee will be chaired by **Robert Scheller** (Portland State University) and includes **Hong He** (University of Missouri) and **Jennifer Allen** and **Geoffrey Duh** (Portland State University).

Venue: The Portland Hilton is located downtown with excellent access to the airport via light rail or bus.

Scientific Excursions: Portland has ready access to some of the most diverse and scenic landscapes in the Pacific Northwest and we will offer many informative field trips. Some examples: A tour of the Columbia River Gorge; assessment of urban growth boundaries, successes and challenges; managing growth along the Oregon coast and Willamette watershed; touring disturbance recovery at Mt. St. Helens; visiting the HJ Andrews LTER Site. Shorter excursions may include visits to Forest Park, Bonneville Dam, bicycling along the Willamette River, and others.

Join us on FACEBOOK for up-to-date information



Call for Symposium Proposals

International Association of Landscape Ecology

World Congress

July 5-10, 2015

Portland, Oregon

Our meeting theme is: *Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Approaches to Complex Challenges*. We hope to highlight research and activities that address globally relevant topics and that works across scales (what landscape ecologists have always done) and that crosses borders (be they disciplinary, political, patch, or other).

Submissions of symposia proposals for the IALE World Congress are now being accepted! Preliminary Proposals are due **May 1, 2014**. Final Proposals (with list of speakers) are due **August 15, 2014**

Preliminary proposals should include the following information: (1) Title, (2) Objective, including relevance to meeting theme (<200 words), and (3) Format (e.g., discussion, forum, clinic, debate, etc.)

Final Proposals should also include (4) Proposed schedule (e.g., list of speakers, order, and the length of each talk (including questions). **Please reserve 30% open space** for additional speakers from open sessions – our goal is to maximize the number of speaker in Invited Symposiums.

To submit your proposal, send the requested information to the Program Committee at the symposia email address: iale.worldcongress.program@gmail.com

Once the symposium is accepted, each speaker will be required to submit an abstract following the procedure for regular abstracts.

We will accept symposium proposals that include unfilled presentation slots. These slots will be filled with relevant presentations from the pool of regular submissions. The Program Committee will consult with the symposium organizer to identify appropriate talks. Please note in your submission if you are willing to accept presentations from the pool of regular submissions.

There is no standard format for symposia, leaving the structure of symposia to the discretion (and imagination) of symposia organizers.



IALE on the Web

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 symposium and to foster international exchange about advances in landscape ecology. Two travel awards will be presented by US-IALE for the 2014 symposium in Anchorage, Alaska. Winners are selected based primarily on high quality scientific endeavors that advance landscape ecology, but early career scientists with demonstrated financial need also receive high priority. 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 on the US-IALE website (<http://usiale.org/fst-award>).

We received six applications this year representing three countries: Austria, Brazil, and India. Special thanks to Nancy McIntyre (Texas Tech Univ.), Robert

Corry (Univ. of Guelph), Tammy Wilson (National Park Service), and Anne Kuhn (U.S. EPA) for taking the time to carefully review and rank all the applications.

During the symposium, we will be holding 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. All proceeds from sales directly fund the FSTA scholarships.

**Kathy Vigness-Raposa, Chair
Foreign Scholar Travel Award Committee**

BOOKS NEEDED!

Please consider donating books to the silent auction

Treasurer's Report



**Michelle Steen-Adams,
US-IALE Treasurer**

I am pleased to provide our Winter 2014 Treasurer's Report. Our finances declined somewhat over the past twelve months, yet continue to be stable. As of mid-January (January 23, 2014), our net worth is \$92,840. In comparison, our net worth was \$123,850 in January 2013. Our primary income sources in 2013 were membership dues (\$8,650), with some additional revenue provided by interest payments (\$550) and donations (\$1,170). While membership dues covered a large proportion of major expenses (IALE dues, travel awards, operating expenses, internet hosting and webmaster), major expenses exceeded membership income by 181%. Thus, for 2014, the regular membership rate moderately increased.

Our Austin, Texas meeting was a success with 255 registrants. Conference expenses exceeded income (\$128,000 vs. \$108,340, respectively), generating a net loss (\$19,660). The main contributor to the shortfall was fewer registrants than usual (e.g., 50 fewer registrants than 2012 (303 registrants)). US-IALE awarded \$10,500 for student travel to the 2013 meeting (Student Travel Award: \$4,500; Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA): \$6,000). In addition, \$600 was awarded for student presentations. The FSTA awards were offset by a generous grant to our chapter from IALE (\$4,280), as well as the FSTA book sale (\$900), which enabled our society to expand the number of awards.

Additional details of the 2013 budget will be reported at the 2014 meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Steen-Adams**

Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

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 conference website for more information: <http://www.usiale.org/anchorage2014/>.

Are you interested in becoming a student representative for IALE? We are looking for **nominees for the student representative** position for 2014-2016. You may nominate yourself or others. 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, and sit on IALE's executive committee. 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. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact us!

We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage!

Karl Jarvis and Julie Ripplinger
Student Representatives

Students—want to get more involved with US-IALE?

We are still looking for nominees for the student representative position for 2014–2016.

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. The student representatives also serve on the executive committee which allows you to meet many professionals in your field through participation in the executive committee and gives you insights into way a national scientific organization functions. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact Julie or Karl!

Julie Ripplinger: julie.ripplinger@asu.edu

Karl Jarvis: karljarvis@nau.edu

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

Send your suggestions to eminor@uic.edu

Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

Brenna Forester

Duke University

<http://brenna-forester.weebly.com/>



Brenna birding at Antelope Island State Park (in the Great Salt Lake, UT)

Tell us a bit about your educational background and how you ended up at your current institution.

I took a circuitous route to my current position at Duke University. I have two undergraduate degrees, one from Hiram College in biology and a second from The Evergreen State College in political economy. Both have greatly informed my understanding of science and conservation in a world dominated by anthropogenic global change. I took some time off from academia and worked as a biologist for the City of Bellingham, WA; this was exciting and varied work, including everything from pond bathymetry surveys to salmon smolt trapping to eelgrass monitoring. In 2012, I completed my M.Sc. at Western Washington University, where I worked with Andy Bunn (a paleoclimatologist) and Eric DeChaine (a phylogeographer). I have Andy to thank for steering me toward my current advisor, Dean Urban, when I was deciding on Ph.D. programs.

How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

I discovered landscape ecology while working on my master's degree. I was working with spatial and genetic data at a biogeographic scale and a deep-time frame. Specifically, I was using species distribution modeling and phylogeography to better understand how past (glacial/interglacial) climate fluctuations have generated current patterns of genetic variation in an alpine-arctic plant. The purpose was to improve our understanding of the vulnerability of species to climate change, and provide additional data upon which to base conservation decisions (such as conserving areas of high genetic di-

versity to build evolutionary resiliency). The continuum between biogeography/phylogeography and landscape ecology/landscape genetics became clear to me at that time, though it was only with my current Ph.D. research that I started working at the finer spatial/temporal scales that are characteristic of landscape ecology.

Tell us a bit about your current work & how landscape ecology fits into your research.

My dissertation research focuses on integrating genomic and spatial data to better understand how species are responding to contemporary global change. I am using genomic data from two species of terrestrial salamanders to investigate how local adaptation, habitat connectivity and gene flow interact to affect the ecology of these species in fragmented and warming habitats. My goal is to produce results that will help us better understand the capacity of species to adapt to changing conditions, and what actions will be most effective to conserve biodiversity under global change. "Landscape genomics" is a rapidly developing field, which makes it both an exciting and difficult area to work in. The focus on explicitly quantifying landscape effects on spatial genetic variation means that the conceptual and statistical tools of landscape ecology play a primary role in all landscape genetic/genomic analyses.

Which directions would you like to see landscape ecology go in the future, and what role would you like to play in that?

I think that the integration of landscape ecology with genetic/genomic data (landscape genetics/genomics) is at the leading edge of our field. Genomic data are increasingly accessible at reasonable cost in non-model species; these data provide unprecedented opportunities to investigate long-standing concepts in landscape ecology, such as source-sink dynamics and the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on species. There are many challenges associated with integrating landscape ecology and population genetics, especially in linking spatial and genetic data statistically. I hope to play a role in clarifying some of these statistical issues as well as showing the substantial value of genetic data for informing practical conservation decision-making.



***Plethodon welleri* (Weller's salamander), an endemic, high-elevation species of concern in the Southern Appalachian Mts that is one of Brenna's study species.**

Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

Alexander Watts

University of Toronto

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/alexander-watts/67/38b/48b>



Tell us a bit about your educational background and how you ended up at your current institution.

For my undergrad, I studied in the School of Environment at McGill University in the Environmental Health Domain. My Honours project was based on measuring primate infection risks, but we used a habitat disturbance gradient to compare parasite burdens. It wasn't until this project that I was introduced to the links between landscape ecology and infectious disease dynamics and I became fascinated with the burgeoning field of landscape epidemiology. I then chose to work with Shelley Alexander in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary for my Master's, focusing on urbanization and coyote disease ecology. In Calgary, I developed spatial methods, GIS skills, and spatial ecology theory. For my PhD I knew I wanted to explore more deeply the complex effects of landscape change on host-parasite interactions but also to advance my spatial statistical and landscape modeling approaches. So, working with Marie-Josée Fortin at the University of Toronto has been a perfect fit.

Tell us a bit about your current work.

For my PhD thesis, I am investigating the effect of landscape spatial heterogeneity on host-parasite dynamics. While space is an inherent part of disease transmission likelihood, I am measuring how fragmented or developed landscapes can inhibit or facilitate the spread and persistence of disease by influencing the dispersal and interactions of infected hosts. First, I am measuring how func-

tional connectivity of hosts influences local tick dispersal, and possibly Lyme disease, in Ontario. I am lucky to be collaborating with the Thousand Islands National Park in Canada, an island landscape sampled for ticks and hosts with strong prevalence of Lyme. In this case, I am linking island biogeography and graph theory with vector-borne disease transmission parameters. Next, with the Toronto Wildlife Centre, I focus on how urban landscapes can facilitate spatio-temporal clustering of disease, using network theory to link host traits and parasite transmission strategies urban land cover factors.

How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

In the last semester of my undergrad, I read a few papers on how land use change was changing disease transmission dynamics. I found these macro-scale ecological effects on disease fascinating. Landscape ecology then became the common thread in my work and I now consider the changing landscape mosaic an inherent factor in significant infectious diseases of animal and human health importance.

Which directions would you like to see landscape ecology go in the future, and what role would you like to play in that?

Technological advancement, software development, and even social media (crowd sourcing) will fine-tune landscape ecologists' data and remote sensing possibilities. I expect these advances will keep landscape ecology thriving. But from a theoretical perspective, I think that we are seeing some really great research in functional ecology, specifically species traits, genetics, and population/community processes. I think landscape genetics shows promise for rigorous measures of the mechanistic processes behind landscape structure, climate change, and species patterns. Personally, I would like to eventually add a stronger genetic component to my work to infer epidemiological processes from landscape and genetic data. Linking measures of genetic variation of both hosts and pathogens will provide insights towards prediction of disease spread, surveillance, and control. I consider landscape genetics a major frontier for both landscape ecology and public health initiatives.

See the Student Activities section of the [website](#) for information about the upcoming symposium

US-IALE 2014 Annual Symposium (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

—will each touch on the meeting theme, “*Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check During Climate Change*”, providing perspectives on landscape ecology and management with a truly Alaskan spin.

Eight workshops will be offered whose topics include: ‘Guidos’ Landscape Pattern and Connectivity Analysis; Land Cover Change and Biodiversity Modeling; How to Design Plausible and Useful Scenarios for Modeling Landscape Change; The Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Applications Program and NASA’s Carbon Monitoring Systems (CMS) Initiative; TACCIMO: A Web-based Tool for Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Management Options for Use Across the Continental U.S.; Landscape-Population Analysis: Linking Social Surveys to Environmental Data for Inquiry; Land Surface Phenology; and a STUDENT WORKSHOP: Inquiry-Based Curriculum Development for Landscape Ecologists.

Eleven symposia have been approved in which talks will focus on a variety of modern Landscape Ecology topics such as Vulnerability of Arctic and Boreal Ecosystems Under a Changing Climate; Prioritizing Landscape Ecology’s Contribution to Policy Development and Analysis; Soundscape Theory and Application: Current Direction and Future Trends for Investigating and Monitoring Acoustic Dynamics Across Heterogeneous Systems; North Pacific Temperate Rainforests in a Time of Change; Cascading Thresholds in Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS) and the Emergence of Wicked Problems; Impacts of Global Change: Linking Across Scales; The Sustainability of Wildlife Management in Alaska; Open Science for the Public Good: Applications of Open Access Datasets and Online Institutional Repositories in Landscape Ecological Modeling and Biodiversity Conservation; Breaking Landscapes Smartly, Can it be Done?; and Conservation in the Big Picture: Data and Analysis to inform the Future.

We will have six different field trips highlighting stunning Alaskan landscapes in May. They feature landscape diversity from the mountains to the sea, and include three half day field trips to visit the wider Anchorage region (Chugach Forest, Potters Marsh and adjacent Glaciers) and two full day field trips exploring south-central Alaska in more depth, including a wildlife and scenic cruise of Prince William Sound and Matanuska Glacier Ice Fall Trek. We will also offer a field trip to Mt. McKinley (Denali) in interior Alaska.

In addition, attendees are free to choose from over 300 scheduled oral and poster presentations; many of them with international co-authors. We are very excited about hosting all of you this May in Anchorage at the Sheraton Hotel for the 28th US-IALE Annual Symposium: ‘*Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check During Climate Change*’. Follow the links below for more information, to register, and to become a member of US-IALE.

Meeting Website: <http://usiale.org/anchorage2014/>

On-line Registration: <http://usiale.org/anchorage2014/registration>

US-IALE Membership (Become a member for discounted conference registration): <http://usiale.org/membership>

US-IALE 2014 Program Committee



Alaska Wilderness
Photo by Dave Bauer

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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***

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 and all members 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 Committee for more information.

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

[US-IALE Membership Information](#)