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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. For further details, see www.ialeworldcongress.org.

A World Congress occurs every four years and brings together a large international community of practitioners, researchers, and businesses to address problems ranging from local to global in scale. Landscape ecologists from public, private, and non-profit sectors will address a broad range of environmental challenges and their potential

(Continued on page 10)

President’s Message

Our annual symposium is always a big focus of US-IALE activities throughout the year. As everyone knows by now, 2015 is special because, for the first time since 1999, US-IALE will be hosting the IALE World Congress in Portland, OR (July 5-10, 2015) (see article in newsletter) (http://www.ialeworldcongress.org/). The program chair and local hosts, Rob Scheller and Vivek Shandas (Portland State University), and Anita Morzillo (University of Connecticut), are putting together a fantastic program packed with symposia, owing to an overwhelming response to the call

(Continued on page 9)
It is with great sadness that I report the loss this past year of a talented and dedicated young landscape ecologist, Dr. Sam Riffel. Sam, an associate professor of wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture at Mississippi State University, passed away August 11, 2015. He was loved and respected by his colleagues, and an exemplary mentor to students. An article in memoriam is being prepared for Landscape Ecology, but in our newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to remember Sam’s important contributions to our chapter, US-IALE.

Sam Riffell was the first to propose that we should have student representatives on the US-IALE Executive Committee. He served as our first student representative from 1997 to 1999. Louis Iverson, who was President of US-IALE at that time, recalls that Sam “…did an outstanding job of carving out the brand new territory of responsibilities leading to the present very strong student presence at meetings and in association business.”

We pride ourselves that US-IALE is a society that is very “student-centric,” and is especially supportive of student participation in our annual meeting. Students are the next generation of landscape ecologists -- they represent the future of our discipline. Sam established this student-oriented focus at US-IALE, and for that we owe him a great deal.

Sam also was Chair of our Foreign Scholar Travel Awards Committee, leading it for eight years, from 2001 to 2009. This committee identifies foreign scholars to receive travel grants so that they can attend our annual meeting. Promot-

(Continued on page 6)
Student News and Notes

We are looking forward to hosting students from all over the world at the IALE meeting in Portland, Oregon! We have 4 events scheduled for graduate students plus some great opportunities.

The Student-Mentor Lunch will be held on Wednesday, July 8th from noon to 1:30pm. This event brings students and landscape ecology professionals together to discuss professional development issues in a small group setting. Both students and professionals register 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 (Continued on page 11)

Need a roommate for the symposium?
Check the box during online registration to get email addresses for other registrants looking to share!

(Continued on page 11)

Call for NASA-MSU Award Applications

With support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU), NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards (up to $700 each) are given to students, postdocs, and junior researchers (e.g., assistant professors) to cover expenses associated with attending the World Congress of IALE (International Association for Landscape Ecology) in Portland, Oregon, during July 5-10, 2015.

The application package includes a cover letter, application form, abstract (as it was submitted to the IALE Congress), resume/CV, and budget. Applications are judged based on the merits of the applicants' abstracts, financial needs, and professional backgrounds and goals.

Presentations (oral or poster) should focus on telecoupling (environmental and socioeconomic interactions over distances, such as human and animal migration, species dispersal, species invasion, disease spread, sound/noise transmission, spread of pollutants and wastes, trade of goods and products, flows of ecosystem services, environmental and hydrological flows, foreign investment, technology transfer, water transfer, and tourism). Topics may include applications of the telecoupling framework to address issues across landscapes or coupled human and natural systems (e.g., cross-scale and cross-border dynamics, pattern, process, structure, function, and sustainability). For more information about telecoupling, please see http://csis.msu.edu/telecoupling.

Applicants from around the world (except former award recipients) are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is March 1, 2015.

More information (including the application form) about the NASA-MSU Program is available at the web site (http://csis.msu.edu/news/2015_nasa_msu_award). Questions can be directed to:
Dr. Jianguo (Jack) Liu, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI 48824, USA. Email: liuji@msu.edu
The Awards Committee is looking forward to announcing the recipients of the US-IALE Student Travel Awards and the Best Student Presentation Awards at a special luncheon hosted by US-IALE President Janet Franklin at the 2015 World Congress in Portland, Oregon. Additional US-IALE Distinguished Awards will not be presented this year due to the overlap of the Chapter Annual Meeting and the World Congress. All nominations for Distinguished Awards will be fully considered next year.

**Best Student Presentation**

The intent of this award is to recognize the best presentation (oral or poster) given by a student at the annual meeting. The prize includes a $300 cash award and a waiver of one future meeting registration fee. Waiver of registration may be applied to one of the next two subsequent US-IALE annual meetings. Students may sign-up to compete in the Best Student Presentation competition during the registration process.

**US-IALE Sponsored Student Travel Awards**

US-IALE is sponsoring up to ten (10) travel awards, valued at up to $500 each, to support students to attend the 2015 IALE World Congress in Portland, Oregon. Application instructions can be found at [http://www.ialeworldcongress.org/awards.html](http://www.ialeworldcongress.org/awards.html).

—The 2015 US-IALE Awards Committee, Todd Lookingbill (chair), Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Steven Walters, Betty Kreakie, & Jingle Wu

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**US-IALE Winter 2015 Awards Update**

Further information about each award and a complete list of past award recipients can be found at [http://www.usiale.org/awards](http://www.usiale.org/awards)

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**US-IALE Executive Committee Call for Nominations**

Dear US-IALE Members,

The by-laws of 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:

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

The President-Elect becomes the President after one year, and is President for two years. A primary goal for the President-elect should be to prepare for a smooth transition to the office of President, and to provide continuity for the leadership of the Society. The President leads the society. The President is responsible for keeping track of all Society functions, including overseeing the activities of each member of the Executive Committee and appointing ad hoc committees as necessary. Coordinating communications among the members of the Executive Committee is perhaps the most important function of the President, including conducting executive committee meetings, representing US-IALE at conferences, and providing the overall vision. The current President is Janet Franklin.

**SECRETARY:**

One position for a 2-year term. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining records and preparing newsletters for the society. The outgoing Secretary is Emily Minor.

(Continued on page 12)
# Most Cited Papers in Landscape Ecology

The following list contains the twelve most highly cited papers published in *Landscape Ecology* between 2011-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORS</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TIMES CITED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zeller, KA; McGarigal, K; Whiteley, AR</td>
<td>Estimating landscape resistance to movement: a review</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vila, M; Ibanez, I</td>
<td>Plant invasions in the landscape</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pijanowski, BC; Farina, A; Gage, SH.; Dumyahn, SL; Krause, BL</td>
<td>What is soundscape ecology? An introduction and overview of an emerging new science</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu, J</td>
<td>Landscape sustainability science: ecosystem services and human well-being in changing landscapes</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laita, A.; Kotiaho, J. S.; Monkkonen, M.</td>
<td>Graph-theoretic connectivity measures: what do they tell us about connectivity?</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton, Daniel H.; Branch, Lyn C.; Sunquist, Melvin E.</td>
<td>The influence of landscape, patch, and within-patch factors on species presence and abundance: a review of focal patch studies</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsch, WJ; Bernal, B; Nahlik, AM; Mander, Ü; Zhang, L; Anderson, CJ; Jørgensen, SE; Brix, H</td>
<td>Wetlands, carbon, and climate change</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acevedo, P; Ángel Farfán, M; Luz Márquez, A; Delibes-Mateos, M; Real, R; Mario Vargas, J</td>
<td>Past, present and future of wild ungulates in relation to changes in land use</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cushman, Samuel A.; Shirk, Andrew; Landguth, Erin L.</td>
<td>Separating the effects of habitat area, fragmentation and matrix resistance on genetic differentiation in complex landscapes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barber, JR; Burdett, CL.; Reed, SE; Warner, KA; Formichella, C; Crooks, KR; Theobald, DM; Fristrup, KM</td>
<td>Anthropogenic noise exposure in protected natural areas: estimating the scale of ecological consequences</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu, J</td>
<td>Key concepts and research topics in landscape ecology revisited: 30 years after the Allerton Park workshop</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leblond, M; Frair, J; Fortin, D; Dussault, C; Ouellet, J; Courtois, R</td>
<td>Assessing the influence of resource covariates at multiple spatial scales: an application to forest-dwelling caribou faced with intensive human activity</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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. Since this year’s US-IALE symposium is concurrent with the IALE World Congress, IALE International has provided additional funds to support up to twenty (yes, 20!!) travel awards to be presented at the 2015 symposium in Portland, OR. 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/fsta-award).

We received 59 applications this year representing 23 countries: Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ghana, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and Uganda. Special thanks to Deahn Donner (U.S. Forest Service), Nancy McIntyre (Texas Tech Univ.), Robert Corry (Univ. of Guelph), Tammy Wilson (National Park Service), and Anne Kuhn (U.S. EPA) of the FSTA Committee, along with insight from IALE International chapter chairs of Africa and Iran, for taking the time to carefully review and rank the applications. Travel award winners will be presented at the opening plenary. Please be sure to give them a warm US-IALE welcome throughout the symposium!

During the symposium, we will also 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

Dr. Sam Riffel (cont.)

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Dr. Sam Riffel (cont.)

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Treasurer’s Report

I am happy to provide our Winter 2015 Treasurer’s Report. Since this time last year, our finances have improved. As of January 26, 2015, our net worth is $161,350 compared to $92,840 in January 2014. Membership dues were our primary source of income in 2014 ($13,205); interest payments ($470) and donations ($315) provided some additional revenue. While membership dues covered a large proportion of major expenses (IALE dues, travel awards, operating expenses, internet hosting and webmaster), major expenses exceeded income by about $1,500.

Fortunately, the 2014 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska was a success and resulted in $10,900 in net income. US-IALE awarded $8,600 for travel to the meeting (Student Travel Award: $5,000; Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA): $3,600). In addition, $450 was awarded for student presentations. The FSTA awards were offset by a grant to our chapter from IALE ($2,800), as well as the FSTA book sale ($610).

For 2015, I expect US-IALE will do well financially. IALE has provided US-IALE with an extremely generous gift of €20,000 to support Foreign Scholar Travel Awards and an additional €20,000 loan to help with conference expenses. High attendance is expected for the 2015 IALE World Congress. So, it seems likely that US-IALE will be able to repay the €20,000 loan to IALE and recoup some of the revenue lost in recent years. Additional details of the 2015 budget will be reported at the meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,
—Todd Hawbaker
US-IALE Treasurer

Report from the Ad-hoc Communications Committee

During its December meeting, the Executive Committee approved the following amendment to US-IALE’s by-laws to create a permanent Communications Committee. The next step in the approval process is a vote by the general membership. Please keep an eye out for an email in April, at the same time as the elections, inviting you to vote. Contact me at sgagne@uncc.edu if you have any comments or questions.

—Sara Gagné, Councillor-at-Large

ARTICLE 24. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The aim of this Committee is to coordinate and facilitate the communication of US-IALE activities and to promote an understanding of and appreciation for landscape ecology. The Committee serves a diverse audience that includes its current and future members, the broader academic community, educators, policy- and decision-makers, business and industry, and the general public. The Committee is responsible for the communication of all aspects of US-IALE business and activities and as such will work closely with the other committees and positions of the society, particularly the Secretary, the Webmaster, the Membership Liaison, the Student Representatives, the Sponsorship Committee, the Awards Committee, and the Policy Committee. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the US-IALE President will appoint a Communications Committee Chair and 3-5 additional members. Committee members will serve staggered 3-year terms, with one or two new members appointed each year.
Save the Date!
2016 US-IALE Meeting
April 2 – April 8, 2016
Asheville, North Carolina

Following the 2014 US-IALE meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, and the 9th IALE World Congress in 2015 in Portland, Oregon, the Eastern Forest Threat Center (POC Bill Hargrove, hnw@geobabble.org) will host the 2016 US-IALE meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

Asheville has many attractive features, both cultural and natural, and is a popular vacation and retirement destination. The area is one of the most biologically diverse and natural regions in the eastern United States. Yet attendees can also enjoy many fine restaurants and bars, serving the finest foods, along with world-class, locally-made craft beers and wines. Asheville architecture ranges from Victorian to Arts and Crafts, from Art Deco to Modern design, and Asheville is still endearingly called the "Paris of the South." Famous examples include George Washington Vanderbilt’s Biltmore Estate, the largest private home in the United States, and the Grove Park Inn. The creative energy of a progressive social climate and an active arts community, centered in the River Arts District, advises visitors to “Keep Asheville Weird.”

Theme: The theme of the meeting will simply be “Landscape Change.” With this simple zen-like theme, we strive to capture the defining characteristic and the inherent nature of our modern world in the anthropocene epoch.
President’s Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

for symposia from other countries. The Foreign Scholar Travel Award committee is working extra long hours to select awardees and for that we are grateful to Kathy Vigness-Raposa (Chair of FSTA) and her committee! I hope that all IALE chapters and regions of the world will be represented in Portland!

During our elections this Spring we will ask you to vote on an amendment to our by-laws to formally establish a Communications Committee (drafted by Sara Gagné, Chair of the ad hoc committee). The goal is to improve communication of our chapter by enhancing content of the web site, and by greater use of social media and other outlets. We need to get the word out that landscape ecology will solve all of the world’s problems! Well maybe not all of them, but some of the most important ones. In the ‘state of the science’ report that our policy committee is preparing (led by Chair Audrey Meyer) it is noted that landscape ecologists are contributing policy-relevant research in three areas of pressing need identified by our members: 1) land use/land cover change (LULCC), 2) urbanization as a specific form of LULCC, and 3) climate change impact assessment and adaptation.

Speaking of elections, this year we will once again hold elections separate from the meeting in order that they can occur at about the same time every year (April). So look for that email inviting you to vote on-line. Positions that need to be filled are President-Elect, Councilor-at-large, and Secretary. Please send your nominations (including self nominations!) to Rob Scheller, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

As a reminder to everyone, our 2016 US-IALE chapter meeting will be in beautiful Asheville, NC, and we will be back to our regular schedule with an early April meeting (3-7 April, 2016). Spring in Asheville! (See the article in this newsletter about the 2016 meeting.) And if you are interested in organizing and hosting a future meeting, please contact the Chair of the Site Selection Committee, Helene Wagner.

If you have ideas about how US-IALE could better serve its members, please let me know (janet.franklin@asu.edu).

—Janet Franklin
US-IALE President

Join us on FACEBOOK for up-to-date information
http://www.facebook.com/usiale
9th IALE World Congress (cont.)

solutions. The World Congress will highlight challenges and opportunities for understanding complex natural and social processes that affect and are affected by changes in ecosystems and landscapes. Participants at the World Congress will engage in presentations, discussions, fieldtrips, panels, and networking sessions, and learn about the differences and similarities of projects occurring around the globe. Through these activities, the World Congress will offer numerous opportunities for participants to develop international collaborations that link local solutions to global challenges.

Portland has easy airport access to most major U.S. and Canadian cities. The World Congress will be held at the Portland Hilton, located downtown with excellent access to the airport via light rail or bus.

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 work across scales (what landscape ecologists have always done) and cross borders (be they disciplinary, political, patch, or other).

The Local Hosts are Dr. Vivek Shandas, (Portland State University) and Dr. Anita Morzillo (University of Connecticut). The Program Committee is chaired by Robert Scheller (Portland State University) and includes Hong He (University of Missouri) and Jennifer Allen and Geoffrey Duh (Portland State University).

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.

— Program Chairs/Local Hosts

STUDENTS
See the Student Activities section of the website for information about the upcoming symposium
Are you interested in becoming a student representative for US–IALE?

We are seeking nominees for the student representative position for 2015–2017. Student representatives are voting members and the voice of the student membership on the US–IALE 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. The student representatives also coordinate the student activities at the annual meetings and prepare articles and announcements for the US–IALE Newsletter. Each student representative serves a two–year term, with one position replaced each year to ensure continuity. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact us!

Whalen Dillon — wwdillon@ncsu.edu
Karl Jarvis — karljarvis@nau.edu
Call for Nominations (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE:

One position for a 2-year term. The Councillor performs duties as assigned by the Chair, may be appointed to fill duties of other officers who are unable to fill their term(s), and assists with the review of abstracts submitted for the annual meeting. The outgoing Councillor is Sara Gagné.

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 Karl Jarvis (2013-2015) and the continuing Student Representative is Whalen Dillon (2014-2016).

The other members of the Executive Committee not up for election this year are Treasurer Todd Hawbaker, and Councillors-at-Large: Helene Wagner and Yolanda Wiersma.

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 1, 2015 to:

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

Elections will be held on-line.

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
Current US-IALE Officers

Janet Franklin  
**Present, 2014-2016**  
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning  
Arizona State University  
975 S. Myrtle Ave. / P.O. Box 875302  
Tempe, AZ 85287-5302  
janet.franklin@asu.edu

Emily Minor  
**Secretary, 2013-2015**  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Institute for Environmental Science and Policy  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
3346 SES, M/C 066  
845 W. Taylor Ave  
Chicago, IL 60607  
eminor@uic.edu

Todd Hawbaker  
**Treasurer, 2014-16**  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Geosciences and Environmental Change Science Center  
PO Box 25046, DFC, MS 980  
Lakewood, CO 80225  
tjhawbaker@usgs.gov

Sara Gagné  
**Councillor-at-Large, 2013-2015**  
Department of Geography and Earth Sciences  
University of North Carolina Charlotte  
9201 University City Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001  
sgagne@uncc.edu

Karl Jarvis  
**Student Representative, 2013-2015**  
School of Forestry  
Northern Arizona University  
200 E Pine Knoll Dr  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011  
karljarvis@nau.edu

Helene Wagner  
**Councillor-at-Large, 2014-2016**  
Department of Biology  
University of Toronto at Mississauga  
3359 Mississauga Road  
William G. Davis Building, Rm 3056  
Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6  
Canada  
helene.wagner@utoronto.ca

Whalen Dillon  
**Student Representative, 2014-2016**  
Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources  
3120 Jordan Hall, Campus Box 8008  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, NC  
wwdillon@ncsu.edu

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

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

Send your suggestions to eminor@uic.edu