

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

**US-IALE Newsletter**

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*Spatial patterns and habitat of humpback whales  
(Megaptera novaeangliae) in the North Atlantic Ocean*

*Kathy Vigness-Reposa  
Best Student Presentation Award 2010*

Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are found in all oceans of the world, migrating between low latitude breeding and calving grounds in the winter and high latitude feeding grounds in the summer. In fact, humpback whales in the Pacific Ocean undertake the longest annual migration documented by any mammal, approximately 8300 km, traveling from feeding grounds off Antarctica to wintering grounds off Costa Rica. In the North Atlantic, calves follow their mothers to a specific feeding ground and continue to return to the same region year after year. Because they occur close to coasts and demonstrate a predictable distribution, humpback whales are particularly susceptible to disturbance

from human activities.

The distinct nature and spatial extent of the feeding grounds in the North Atlantic Ocean is confounded by the biased spatial distribution of survey effort. Because individuals display unique markings, the majority of surveys have targeted known areas of concentration to obtain an adequate number of photo-identifications.



*(Continued on page 8)*

**26th Annual US-IALE Symposium  
Portland Oregon  
April 3-7, 2011**

We look forward to seeing you at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual US-IALE Symposium in Portland, Oregon. The diverse and scenic landscapes, ecosystems, and economies of the Pacific Northwest offer an exciting backdrop for this year's theme of **"Sustainability in Dynamic Landscapes"**.

Plenary speakers this year will include David Hulse (University of Oregon), Robert Costanza (Portland State University), and Larry Robinson (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). Planned workshop topics include ecohydrology, landscape genetics, analysis of dy-

amic landscapes, and a student workshop focused on grant writing. We received approximately 400 abstracts, and look forward to a di-

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Portland Skyline with Mount Hood—Travel Portland/Larry Geddis—@2010*

## President's Message – Selling Landscape Ecology



Dean Urban  
US-IALE President  
2010-2012

How things change! A few months ago, we thought we had some momentum: climate change was real, and science was poised to inform useful policy solutions. And now, it seems, not so much.

In an era of wavering political will and austere budgets, it is perhaps timely to reassess my earlier stance (voiced in this space!) that we as landscape ecologists don't really need to advertise; we simply need to do useful work and we will be noticed and appreciated. So: I concede that we need to do more, we need to advertise. And so: this is

my request for help in this. I would like for US-IALE to assemble a *collection of case studies—success stories*—to help communicate what landscape ecology has to offer, that show that what we do is useful and effective. With this note I am soliciting your nominations for a set of annotated case studies that illustrate what we do.

The rules are simple. Provide to me ([deanu@duke.edu](mailto:deanu@duke.edu)) your nomination for success stories in landscape ecology. An effective success story would include:

- a statement of a hard problem in ecology, environmental management or land use;
- an explanation of a “landscape perspective” applied to this problem;
- empirical evidence that this perspective altered human or institutional behavior or a decision-making process;

- evidence that this change in behavior resulted in an improved outcome—environmental, economic, or social (ideally, all three!);
- a reference (citation, PDF, URL) to more fully document the case.

I will collate and package these success stories, and make them available via our website. I know these will be valuable as a teaching resource. I hope they will also be useful as a way to engage a broader audience in academia, governmental and nongovernmental agencies involved in landscape management, and the general public. With an astonishing proportion of our new Congress publically denying the role of science in environmental policy, we cannot assume that simply doing our jobs will be sufficient. We will need to sell landscape ecology.

Dean Urban  
President, US-IALE  
Duke University

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## Accepting Nominations!

The Nominations Chair is currently accepting nominations for three officer positions in US-IALE: Secretary, one Councilor-at-Large, and the Student Representative. Each position is a two year term to begin at the US-IALE meeting held in Portland this spring. Self nominations or nominations of others are welcome. If interested in nominating an individual or yourself, please contact Christopher Lepczyk at [lepczyk@hawaii.edu](mailto:lepczyk@hawaii.edu) by **February 28, 2011**.

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## Landscape Ecology Embraces the Social Network

Social networking emerged as the ascendant internet technology of 2010, with sites such as Facebook and Twitter developing into mainstream communication tools. Following in the footsteps of other scientific organizations such as the American Geophysical Union and the Ecological Society of America, US-IALE has established a Facebook page. Tabitha Graves, one of our student representatives, has been doing a great job of updating the page with information about the 2011 annual meeting and other topics of interest to landscape ecologists. If you are a Facebook user, we invite you to check out the page and provide your own contributions along with feedback on how we can make the page more useful and effective. To find the US-IALE page, type “US-IALE” in the Search box at the top of your Facebook screen. Then click on

the “Like” button at the top of the page to join our online community. You can post information on the wall, upload photographs of the landscapes where you work, or initiate a discussion on a relevant topic. Non-Facebook users can also browse the content on the page through the following URL: <http://www.facebook.com/usiale>. Please share your ideas on how we can use Facebook and other internet tools to enhance communication and collaboration both within the landscape ecology community and to the broader public.

Mike Wimberly  
Councillor-at-Large

## 2011 Annual Meeting (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

verse program of symposia and volunteered presentations.

We also have a wonderful collection of local landscape ecologists who are offering a number of exciting field trips. Half-day fieldtrips include tours of Portland parks and gardens (including an old growth grove), a walking tour of Portland, and a tour of an active urban stream restoration project. Full-day fieldtrips include a comparison of urban ecology in Portland versus Vancouver, Washington as related to the local Urban Long Term Research Area project, a tour of the Columbia River Gorge (including the Bonneville Dam and hike to Wachlella Falls), a tour of several local wineries and discussion about climate and urbanization effects on vintners, a Mt. Hood Alpine Adventure (includes snowshoeing), and a tour to the Oregon Coast (including a visit to the historic Tillamook Burn site, coastal dunes, wetlands, a salt marsh, and local forests.

The student representatives Tabitha and Jessica have been busy preparing several activities for students. We invite non-students to register for the “We’ll pick up the tab” event planned for the pre-banquet social when you register for the conference. Students and non-students enjoyed the inaugural year of this event in Snowbird, and we will continue what we hope becomes a regular tradition.

Plan to enjoy Portland’s sights and a fun mix of food and beverages. The local planning committee knows the city well, and can point you in

the right direction for whatever activities you seek during your visit.

On-line registration is available! **Presenters (primary authors on abstracts) will need to register by February 1.** Non-presenters, please review registration deadlines to avoid late fees. We are encouraging early conference registration, and especially lodging reservations so we can determine if additional hotel rooms are necessary.

For more information about the conference program and activities, venue and to register, go to <http://www.usiale.org/portland2011/>. The “Contact Information” tab contains a contact list and email addresses to help answer your questions.

See you at Portland!

**Robert Scheller and Anita Morzillo**  
Local Hosts  
**Rebecca Kennedy,**  
Program Chair



Skidmore District, Downtown—Travel Portland/David Falconer—@2010

An exciting array of half-day and full day fieldtrips are planned to explore Portland and the surrounding landscape!

## There is still time to sponsor this year's US-IALE conference in Portland!

US-IALE needs your support. It takes a great deal of time and effort to hold the annual conference and this year's Portland meeting is no exception. By sponsoring a US-IALE conference, you will help pay for meeting rooms, fund student travel, and help with logistics. This year's conference organizers would be grateful if you or your organization could sponsor this year's conference. Please take some time to look at sponsorship options by following this link:

<http://www.usiale.org/portland2011/index.php?id=howtoSponsor>. Contact the meeting organizer, Cindy Delaney ([cindy@delaneymeetingevent.com](mailto:cindy@delaneymeetingevent.com)), to arrange your sponsorship today!

Your sponsorship goes a long way in ensuring a vibrant, stimulating and not-to-be missed meeting.

Please consider helping.

# Landscape recovery pattern assessment after the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake in China

Le Yang, Janet Silbernagel, Annemarie Schneider, John Harrington  
 Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin at Madison

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a catastrophic earthquake occurred in China at Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province. It caused tremendous damage to natural resources and greatly impacted the habitats of giant pandas and many other endangered species. Soon after, funding and resources poured in to rebuild impacted urban areas. Many districts in the impacted cities were rebuilt and restored less than a year after the earthquake (Figure 1).

In contrast, the surrounding undeveloped landscapes received less immediate attention, despite extensive landslides and loss of vegetation (Figure 2). To what extent have these areas recovered through natural re-growth? To answer this question, we conducted an assessment of landscape recovery in the most impacted areas (Map 1), in cooperation with partners Dr. Xu Weihua and others at the State Key Lab of Regional Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, to see how and where previously vegetated areas recovered during the year after the earthquake.



Map 1: Study Area

We applied remote sensing change detection in combination with spatial analysis tools in GIS. The former was used to generate recovery maps from Landsat TM 5 satellite images of September 2007, July 2008 and June 2009; the latter was used to compare the resulting recovery map to underlying physiographic conditions to identify patterns of recovery. Diagram 1 shows the logic model of the assessment.



In the recovery map, the landscape was classified into four classes, based on the pattern of NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) values in the three years. The four classifications are defined as follows:

- **“Recovered”**: area was impacted during the earthquake and shows trend of recovery. NDVI value was more than 0.3 in 2007, below 0 in 2009, and more than 0.3 in 2009.
- **“Impacted no recovery”**: area impacted during the earthquake and did not show trend of recovery. NDVI value was greater than 0.3 in 2007 and was smaller than 0.1 in both 2008 and 2009.
- **“Not impacted”**: area was not severely impacted in the earthquake. NDVI values were more than 0.2 and remain approximately the same in the three years.
- **“Unclassified”**: features including water, clouds, ice that are not considered in the study. The NDVI values with a different pattern from the three classes mentioned above.



Figure 1: Rebuilt City Center of Pengzhou City.  
 (Photo by Le Yang in August 2009)



Figure 2: Example of landscape damage in Longxi-Hongkou Natural Reserve.  
 (Photo by Le Yang in August 2009)

Map 2 shows identified areas of each recovery class. More than 18% of the area was recovered while 7% was not recovered.

The level of recovery was spatially related to elevation, seismic intensity and slope steepness. Areas with elevation lower than 3000m, seismic intensity below 9 and slope steepness below 45% recovered better than any other impacted areas.

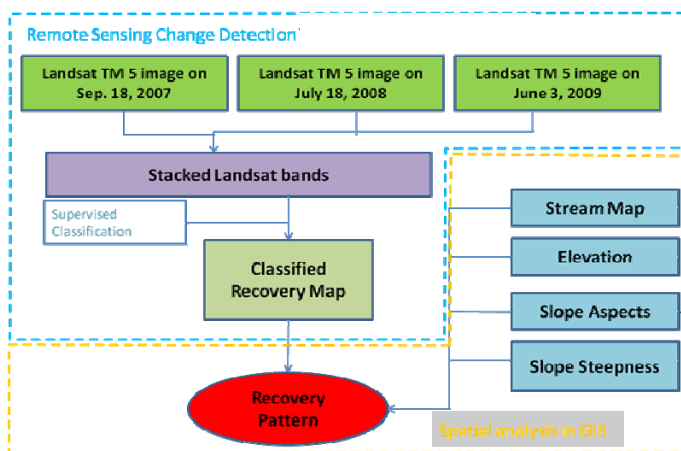


Diagram 1: Landscape recovery assessment logic model:

## Student News and Notes

We have 4 events scheduled for students at the 2011 US-IALE meeting in Portland, Oregon, plus some great opportunities.

The **NASA-MSU professional development workshop** will be held on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. This year's workshop, titled "Grant-writing: Tips from experience researchers" will feature Barbara Bond of Oregon State University, Sally Duncan of the Institute of Natural Resources, and Josh Lawler of University of Washington. Grant-writing skills can make or break your career. Whether you are just beginning your graduate program or are a recent graduate this 2 hour workshop will help you refine your grant-writing skills. Instructors will cover differences in writing for a research paper versus a grant application, techniques to make your grant STAND OUT, writing to the grant, and other tips for successful grant-writing. We will practice writing a strong first paragraph, so bring your laptop, a grant application you'd like to work on, and your ideas! Some refreshments provided.

The **student-mentor lunch** will be held on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1. This event brings students and landscape ecology professionals together to discuss professional development issues in a small group setting. Both students and professionals sign up in advance for this event through the conference registration process and indicate their current work (professionals) or prioritize their desired future occupation (students) from these categories: academic, government, state or county agency, non-profit organization, or business. We will try to match students and professionals according to their professional aspirations. This event is free, but registration is mandatory.

The **student social** will be held Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9pm to 11pm. Come meet your fellow student landscape ecologists! Complimentary

appetizers and limited bar services will be offered courtesy of US-IALE. All students welcome!

To foster interaction between students and professional landscape ecologists, we're asking non-students to **Pick Up the Tab** for student drinks at the pre-banquet evening social, Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 pm. As a student, you get a free drink by finding the person at the social and introducing yourself. This way you can meet current practitioners in an informal, relaxed setting.

You can **get feedback on your presentation or poster** from landscape ecologists by requesting that your poster or presentation be evaluated. This is separate from the **Student Presentation Award Program**, for which students can register only once per degree program and for which you should enroll only when you have completed research results. To participate in either program, check the box during online registration. See the Student Activities and Awards sections of the website for more information.

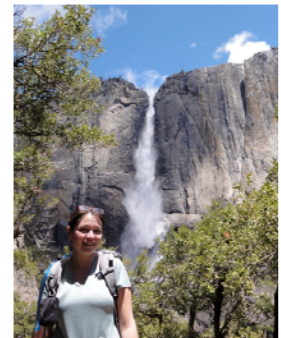
We are still looking for nominees for the student representative position for 2010-2012. Have you considered becoming a student representative? Being a member of the executive committee allows you to meet many professionals in your field and gives you insights into way a national scientific organization functions. US-IALE's student activities are coordinated by two student representatives, who have overlapping two-year terms, with 1 position replaced each year to ensure continuity. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact us!

We look forward to seeing you in Portland!

**Tabitha Graves**  
**Jessica Price**  
**Student Representatives**



*Tabitha Graves,  
Student Representative*



*Jessica Price  
Student Representative*

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

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



## *INTERIM REPORT to the US-IALE Board from the Exploratory Taskforce on Public Policy*

Members of the Policy Taskforce are interested in having your feedback on our interim recommendations in advance of our final report at the April 2011 annual meeting.

Please contact Taskforce Chair, Joan Nassauer ([nassauer@umich.edu](mailto:nassauer@umich.edu)) or any taskforce member before **February 18** so that we can fully consider all your feedback as we develop our final report.

In March 2010, US-IALE formed an Exploratory Taskforce on Public Policy to make recommendations to the Board about whether and how US-IALE could expand its purview to a Public Policy Committee. Taskforce members are: John Wiens, Fred Swanson, Jack Liu, Virginia Dale, Tom Crow, and Joan Nassauer, Taskforce Chair. The Taskforce had conference call meetings in July and August of 2010, and we worked with feedback from the US-IALE Board in December 2010. We examined how US-IALE might:

Facilitate the transfer of landscape ecology knowledge to public policy decision makers.

Work effectively within US-IALE's relatively small size and limited resources.

Avoid unnecessary duplication of ongoing efforts and complement organizations with related goals.

Appropriately draw on the knowledge of US-IALE members who are in government positions, as well as other landscape ecologists.

Our preliminary recommendations follow. We will refine and augment these recommendations with feedback from members during January 2011, and present our final report at the April 2011 annual meeting.

### *Preliminary Recommendations*

**US-IALE will facilitate the use of landscape ecology knowledge. It will not take policy positions.** The Taskforce recommends that, given the size of US-IALE, the scope of a possible policy committee should be limited to *advocating for landscape ecology knowledge to be used by policy makers* rather than taking policy positions. This approach will help US-IALE be a nimble policy player in a way that is consistent with the size of our organization. It will allow US-IALE to focus on its own areas of expertise, operate effectively with limited resources, and appropriately draw on the knowledge of all US-IALE members, including those who hold government positions. Examples of US-IALE expertise include: (1) identifying the appropriate scale for science that addresses various landscape issues, (2) identifying data and models that include all

pertinent aspects of a landscape question, (3) employing interdisciplinary approaches to environmental science, and (4) including stakeholders in environmental decision making.

**US-IALE should work vigorously to increase use of landscape ecology knowledge in policy and practice.** A "landscape approach" increasingly is being recommended by state and federal agencies, but policymakers and agency decisionmakers are only somewhat aware of the landscape ecology body of knowledge and of landscape ecology experts whom they could ask for help. US-IALE should implement three objectives:

**1. Transfer landscape ecology knowledge** so that decision makers and the interested public understand how to use it in practice. Information about appropriate scales, tools, techniques, disciplines, and issues should be explained and communicated in ways that build on US-IALE strengths. Having landscape ecologists participate in person to transfer knowledge to decision makers is one such approach. Ideally, the content of information conveyed by US-IALE will be broadly applicable to issues related to landscapes in many places, at many scales, and in different policy contexts. At the same time, US-IALE may want to provide knowledge that is specifically relevant to local issues in order to advance more broadly applicable methods.

**2. Build systematic awareness** of landscape ecology knowledge and approaches among policy makers.

**Connect decision makers with landscape ecologists** who can use landscape ecology knowledge and approaches to help them frame effective questions or potential solutions to issues.

**A standing US-IALE Policy Committee should be established as an interface between landscape ecology experts and policy makers.** The President will appoint a Committee Chair and 3-5 additional members, representative of a range of public policy experiences at local to national scales. Committee members should serve 3 year terms, with one or two new members appointed each year. This standing committee should implement the objectives

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *Note from Editor-In-Chief of LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY*

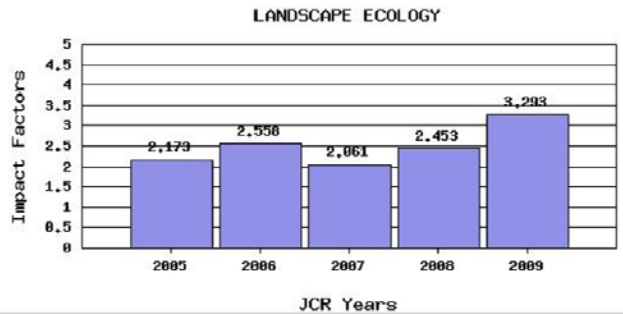
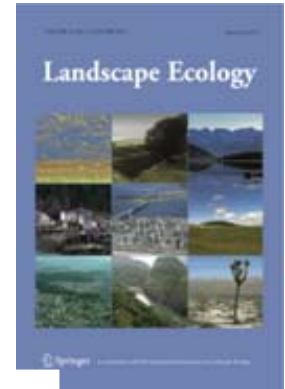
### 2009 Journal Impact Factor of *Landscape Ecology*

The journal impact factor (JIF) of *Landscape Ecology* has continued to increase, and the 2009 JIF of our journal was 3.293. The estimated JIF for 2010 is still higher. Although landscape ecologists are well aware of the limitations of any “metrics,” it is important for our journal to continue to rise in JIF so that it attracts the best papers in related fields.

### Welcome review papers on specific topics in landscape ecology

*Landscape Ecology* has published only a few reviews in the past 5 years. As our field covers

an enormous range of topics, I would like to encourage you to write (mini)reviews or perspectives for our journal. Reviews or perspectives on any key concepts, theories, and methods in  
*(Continued on page 10)*



## *Interim Report (continued)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

above. To implement these objectives, the Taskforce suggests that the Policy Committee:

- Scope opportunity and demand for landscape ecology knowledge in policy.
- Develop a protocol and process for (1) identifying when a white paper, issue, or breakthrough deserves treatment by the committee, and (2) selecting the right people for translating landscape ecology knowledge into an appropriate knowledge transfer vehicle.
- Be open to opportunities for synergy with other organizations on particular policy topics.
- Work closely with policy staff in a selected larger scientific organization or organizations to scope issues, communication strategies, and training to effectively communicate on policy issues. We suggest US-IALE approach ESA and/or AIBS (especially since US-IALE is a member of AIBS) about US-IALE partnering on policy with their staff.
- Develop a plan for maintaining IALE knowledge transfer vehicles into the future.
- Consider assembling and maintaining a dynamic, searchable list of research expertise of US-IALE members who are willing to offer their expertise to policy makers.
- Consider the ESA Rapid Response Team (RRT) approach as

a model for making expertise available to policy makers.

- Use annual meetings as a time to catalyze landscape ecology knowledge around policy issues. This effort might take the form of an annual symposium sponsored by the Policy Committee. Early symposia might focus on articulation of the “landscape ecology” approach to landscape issues raised by policy in general or a particular policy concern. This approach would include a call for examples from the membership, and these examples would be part of the symposium and accessible as part of the US-IALE website.
- Use annual meetings to offer education sessions or workshops to prepare landscape ecologists to effectively communicate on policy issues. This effort could be training before or after the regular annual meeting, based on demand. It could work with local examples and include local affected parties as participants in the workshop and field trips when appropriate.
- Consider packaging landscape ecology knowledge in easily digestible brochures, a web page, and similar communication devices that emphasize direct implications for action.

Consider contacting senior decision-makers in the federal government to invite them to use the US-IALE Policy Committee if their programs require input from landscape ecologists. The list of agencies might include: EPA, National Park Service, USGS, BLM, NOAA, NRCS, US Forest Service, and FHWA. In addition, leadership of relevant Congressional Committees (e.g., Environment, Agriculture, and Public Works) might be given the same invitation.



Kathy Vigness-Reposa  
2010 US-IALE Best  
Student Presentation

## Humpback whales (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

For my dissertation work, I focused on humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean. I analyzed the spatial pattern of summer humpback whale sightings and survey effort in three feeding grounds of the North Atlantic Ocean using point pattern processes. Controlling for the spatial pattern of effort, sightings were clustered, with peaks at radial distances of 300 km, 600 km, and 1500 km. Fine-scale clustering at distances of 300 km and 600 km is compatible with the current hypothesis of multiple populations consisting of the Gulf of Maine, eastern Canada, western Greenland, and Iceland. Broad-scale clustering at distances of 1500 km may represent a division between the western and eastern North Atlantic populations. These results provide spatial bounds to the feeding grounds of humpback whales and emphasize their distinct nature as management units.

I also conducted a broad-scale study of the environmental factors that influenced the summer distributions of humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean over the past several decades. Summer sightings of humpback whales in the Gulf of Maine, eastern Canada, and Iceland were analyzed with temporally dynamic environmental variables and spatially static geographic

variables to predict habitat preferences. Twelve models were created based on *a priori* ecological hypotheses and results from previous studies of individual feeding grounds and tested in the three feeding grounds and at the ocean-basin-scale. The variability explained by the ocean-basin-scale model was 17% as compared to the regional models that explained 33% to 38% of the variation in whale sightings, emphasizing the importance of the feeding ground as a management unit. In all three regions and at the ocean-basin scale, sea surface temperature ranked as one of the top two variables that described the most amount of variability in the distribution of sightings. Animals were consistently found in cool water temperatures, suggesting that shifts in distribution may occur if global climate change causes water temperatures to increase.



Sea surface temperatures ranked as one of the top two variables that described variability in the distribution of whale sightings.

## Foreign Scholar Travel Award

The purpose of the FSTA is to provide support for landscape ecologists from foreign countries to attend the annual US-IALE conference, and to foster international exchange about advances in landscape ecology. We received 15 applications this year representing 12 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hungary, Israel, South Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, and Thailand. We are in the final stages of awarding 2 scholarships for US \$1,200 to help defray the cost of foreign travel. Applicants are selected based primarily on the scientific merit and application of their work to landscape ecology, financial need, and demonstration of how attending the annual US-IALE conference will provide a significant professional opportunity for developing their expertise in landscape ecology.

We'd like to thank Sam Riffell (Mississippi State Univ.), Nancy McIntyre (Texas Tech Univ.), Robert Corry (Univ. of Guelph), John Bisonnette (Utah State Univ.), and Martin Simard (Université Laval, Quebec) for taking the time to carefully review all the applications. Winners will be announced at the annual conference in Portland, Oregon.

We will be holding the annual Silent Book and Software Auction at the upcoming conference in Portland. This year we are expanding our merchandise to include LET IT GO paraphernalia (Landscape Ecology's Tacky International Travel Garage (sale) Opportunity). More details will follow through the LISTSERV, but start scouring your offices, homes, and co-workers storage sheds for connected fragments of sustainable schtick that need to be let go. Proceeds from all sales directly fund the FSTA scholarships, so consider donating a book or two or souvenirs from your local region! If you would like to join the FSTA committee, please email [ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us). Volunteers are never turned away!

Deahn Donner and Kathy Vigness-Raposa  
Co-chairs



## US-IALE Winter 2011 Awards Update

Although the nomination period has closed, the Awards Committee is looking forward to announcing winners for the following awards at the 2011 annual banquet in Portland, Oregon.

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>.

### 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 2010, the outstanding paper award was presented to Smith et al. (2009) for their publication "Confronting collinearity: comparing methods for disentangling the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation" in *Landscape Ecology* (24:1271-1285).

### 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 Jianguo "Jingle" Wu (2010), Joan Iverson Nassauer (2010), and Herman H. "Hank" Shugart, Jr. (2009).

### Distinguished Landscape Practitioner

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

### Distinguished Service Award

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

### Best Student Presentation

The intent of this award is to recognize the best presentation (oral or poster) given by a student at the previous annual meeting. The award includes a \$300 cash award, a waiver of one future meeting registration fee, and one complimentary attendance on a fieldtrip or at a workshop of the awardee's choice at a future annual meeting. Waiver of registration and fieldtrip or workshop fees may be applied to one of the next two subsequent US-IALE annual meetings. We congratulate the winner from the 2010 meeting, Kathleen J. Vigness-Raposa (University of Rhode Island), for "Habitat of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the North Atlantic Ocean." Kathleen will be acknowledged at the banquet at the 2011 meeting in Portland.

### US-IALE Sponsored Student Travel Awards

For the third year in a row, US-IALE is offering sponsored student travel awards. Approximately ten \$500 travel awards will be offered for attendance at the 2011 meeting in Portland.



*Anita Morzillo, Chair of the Awards Committee, announcing 2010 Awardees.*

This years winners will be announced in Portland in April.

**The 2010-2011 US-IALE Awards Committee**  
**Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Todd Lookingbill, Steven Walters, & Anita Morzillo (chair)**

## NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards

### Winter 2011 Update

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are being offered for the 14th consecutive year to students who are presenting at the 2011 annual meeting. Approximately 20 awards will be given for the selected students to cover expenses associated with attending the symposium. These special awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). The selected students will have opportunities to meet with some leading landscape ecologists at a special dinner gathering, learn the latest developments in landscape ecology at the symposium, and build professional networks with other symposium attendees.

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

## Meeting Site Selection Committee



*Austin, TX—site of the 2012 US-IALE annual symposium. (Austin from Congress Bridge—at night.)*

I became the new Chair of the Site selection Committee in 2010. The other committee members currently are Jennifer Miller (University of Texas – Austin and member of the organizing committee for the 2013 US-IALE meeting in Austin), Pete August (University of Rhode Island, past president of US-IALE and co-host of the 2012 US-IALE meeting in Newport, RI), and Matt Baker (University of Maryland – Baltimore County and past Chair of this committee).

Our Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee (EC) on proposals for future meeting locations and hosts. As you all know by now the 2011 meeting is in Portland, OR, hosted by Anita Morzillo (Oregon State University), Rob Scheller (Portland State University), and Rebecca Kennedy (USDA Forest Service), and we hope to see you there! The 2012 meeting in Newport, RI will be hosted by Jeff Hollister and Anne Kuhn-Hines at the US EPA Research Lab in Narragansett, RI and Pete August (URI). We know that these will be great meetings.

This Fall, my committee recommended to the EC that a proposal to hold the 2013 meeting in Austin, TX, be accepted. The EC enthusiastically approved the offer! The Austin meeting is being organized by Tim Keitt and Kenneth Young (program chairs), both at University of Texas at Austin; Roy Rich (local host) – Roy Rich is a research associate at the University of Minnesota, currently residing in Austin; and Wendy Gordon (local host) – Wendy is with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Additional members of

organizational committee are Jennifer Miller (UT), Sarah Dooling (UT), Rob Coulson (Rice University), and Mike Huston (Texas State University).

The US-IALE web site will have information about these upcoming meetings as it becomes available.

We also recommended to the EC that US-IALE sign a contract with Delaney Meeting and Event Management (DMEM, Cindy Delaney, President), who has organized the logistics for several of our recent meetings. The EC agreed to sign a 3-year contract with Cindy who had already committed to organizing the 2011, 2012 and 2013 meetings. As someone who worked with DMEM when I was the local host of the 2006 meeting in San Diego, I am very excited about this agreement because working with Cindy made hosting the meeting feasible, and even fun! This brings me to my final and most important point...

We are actively seeking proposals from the membership for meetings in 2014 and 2015! We traditionally try to achieve geographical balance by having meetings in eastern and western North America, but the most important component of a successful meeting is a committed and enthusiastic local organizing committee. So please contact me or anyone on my committee, either by email or in person at the Portland meeting, if you have ideas or aspirations about hosting a future meeting.

**Janet Franklin, Chair**

**Planning ahead—the Site Selection Committee is soliciting proposals for the 2014 and 2015 US-IALE annual symposiums**

## Note from Editor (continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*  
landscape ecology are welcome. They can also be on the use and misuse of statistical and modeling methods. Depending on the content of the subject, the reviews can be relatively short (mini-reviews of several printed pages) or longer (fully developed reviews of up to 15 printed pages). More information on the format of reviews and perspectives can be found at the jour-

nal's web site (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/0921-2973>).

Most Cited Papers Published in Landscape Ecology between 2008 and 2009 are included herein:

**Jianguo (Jingle) Wu**  
**Editor-in-Chief, Landscape Ecology**  
**School of Life Sciences & Global Institute of Sustainability**  
**Arizona State University**

***Top 10 most cited papers published in Landscape Ecology in 2008  
(ISI Web of Science as of January 12, 2011)***

	<p>Title: Modeling population connectivity by ocean currents, a graph-theoretic approach for marine conservation  Author(s): Trembl EA, Halpin PN, Urban DL, et al.  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Pages: 19-36 Supplement: Suppl. 1 Published: 2008  Times Cited: 24</p>
	<p>Title: On the accuracy of landscape pattern analysis using remote sensing data  Author(s): Shao GF, Wu JG  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 5 Pages: 505-511 Published: MAY 2008  Times Cited: 23</p>
	<p>Title: Effects of landscape complexity on the ecological effectiveness of agri-environment schemes  Author(s): Concepcion ED, Diaz M, Baquero RA  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 2 Pages: 135-148 Published: FEB 2008  Times Cited: 20</p>
	<p>Title: Design in science: extending the landscape ecology paradigm  Author(s): Nassauer JI, Opdam P  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 6 Pages: 633-644 Published: JUL 2008  Times Cited: 19</p>
	<p>Title: Connectivity measures: a review  Author(s): Kindlmann P, Burel F  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 8 Pages: 879-890 Published: OCT 2008  Times Cited: 18</p>
	<p>Title: A standardized procedure for surveillance and monitoring European habitats and provision of spatial data  Author(s): Bunce RGH, Metzger MJ, Jongman RHG, et al.  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 1 Pages: 11-25 Published: JAN 2008  Times Cited: 16</p>
	<p>Title: The use of gradient analysis studies in advancing our understanding of the ecology of urbanizing landscapes: current status and future directions  Author(s): McDonnell MJ, Hahs AK  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 10 Pages: 1143-1155 Published: DEC 2008  Times Cited: 15</p>
	<p>Title: Do corridors promote dispersal in grassland butterflies and other insects?  Author(s): Ockinger E, Smith HG  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 1 Pages: 27-40 Published: JAN 2008  Times Cited: 14</p>
	<p>Title: Accessible habitat: an improved measure of the effects of habitat loss and roads on wildlife populations  Author(s): Eigenbrod F, Hecnar SJ, Fahrig L  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 2 Pages: 159-168 Published: FEB 2008  Times Cited: 13</p>
	<p>Title: Habitat suitability modelling to correlate gene flow with landscape connectivity  Author(s): Wang YH, Yang KC, Bridgman CL, et al.  Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 23 Issue: 8 Pages: 989-1000 Published: OCT 2008  Times Cited: 12</p>

***Top 10 most cited papers published in Landscape Ecology in 2009  
(ISI Web of Science as of January 12, 2011)***

	<p>Title: Identifying future research needs in landscape genetics: where to from here?          Author(s): Balkenhol N, Gugerli F, Cushman SA, et al.          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 4 Pages: 455-463 Published: APR 2009          Times Cited: 20</p>
	<p>Title: Beyond the least-cost path: evaluating corridor redundancy using a graph-theoretic approach          Author(s): Pinto N, Keitt TH          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 2 Pages: 253-266 Published: FEB 2009          Times Cited: 11</p>
	<p>Title: Landscape services as a bridge between landscape ecology and sustainable development          Author(s): Termorshuizen JW, Opdam P          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 8 Pages: 1037-1052 Published: OCT 2009          Times Cited: 10</p>
	<p>Title: Logging pattern and landscape changes over the last century at the boreal and deciduous forest transition in Eastern Canada          Author(s): Boucher Y, Arseneault D, Sirois L, et al.          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 2 Pages: 171-184 Published: FEB 2009</p>
	<p>Title: The scientific basis for the design of landscape sustainability: A conceptual framework for translational landscape research and practice of designed landscapes and the six Es of landscape sustainability          Author(s): Musacchio LR          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 8 Pages: 993-1013 Published: OCT 2009</p>
	<p>Title: The impact of thematic resolution on the patch-mosaic model of natural landscapes          Author(s): Castilla G, Larkin K, Linke J, et al.          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 1 Pages: 15-23 Published: JAN 2009          Times Cited: 9</p>
	<p>Title: Surface metrics: an alternative to patch metrics for the quantification of landscape structure          Author(s): McGarigal K, Tagil S, Cushman SA          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 3 Pages: 433-450 Published: MAR 2009          Times Cited: 8</p>
	<p>Title: Landscape ecology as a foundation for sustainable conservation          Author(s): Wiens JA          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 8 Pages: 1053-1065 Published: OCT 2009          Times Cited: 7</p>
	<p>Title: Landscape phenology: an integrative approach to seasonal vegetation dynamics          Author(s): Liang L, Schwartz M          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 4 Pages: 465-472 Published: APR 2009          Times Cited: 7</p>
	<p>Title: A comparison of metrics predicting landscape connectivity for a highly interactive species along an urban gradient in Colorado, USA          Author(s): Magle SB, Theobald DM, Crooks KR          Source: LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY Volume: 24 Issue: 2 Pages: 267-280 Published: FEB 2009          Times Cited: 7</p>

## Wenchuan Earthquake (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

This results show general trends of landscape recovery. It helps us understand the dynamic changes of vegetation in the study area and serves as a baseline for many research projects as well as a reference for natural reserve management. With the physiographic pattern of no-recovery areas, it is easier to prioritize effective restoration strategies in these areas and thereby ensure landscape recovery of the whole area. The application of change detection can supplement ongoing field surveys and monitoring for sensitive nature reserve areas, especially those with frequent natural disturbances such as Sichuan. Moreover, this methodology can be used to assess landscape recovery following earthquakes and natural disasters in other parts of the world.

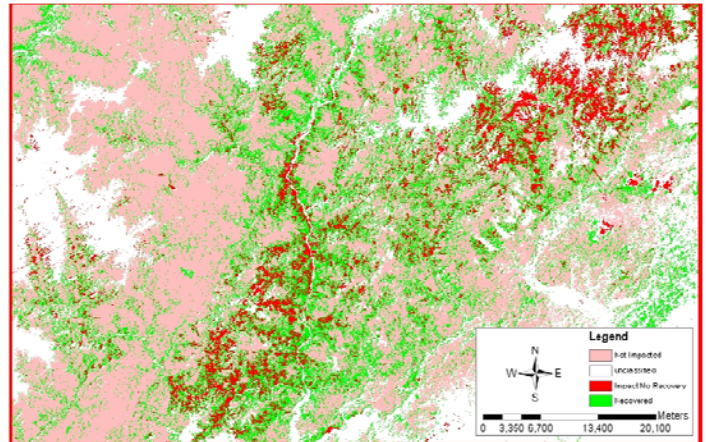


Figure 5: Recovery Map with Class Report

Classes	Not impact	Not recovered	Recovered	Unclassified
Percentage	43.31%	7.17%	18.53%	30.97%

## US-IALE 2012 Annual Meeting to be held in Newport, RI

In the last ~25 years the annual meeting of US-IALE has been held all over the country, but never in New England. That is changing! We are pleased to announce that the 2012 annual meeting of US-IALE will be held the week of April 8, 2012 in Newport, RI at the Newport Marriott Hotel. The Newport and southern New England landscapes have a long history of intensive human use, are intimately tied with coastal and marine systems, have a rich maritime history, and are in the middle of one of the most densely populated urban corridors (DC to Boston) in North America. This provides the opportunity to showcase the role that landscape ecology has in informing environmental decisions across a diversity of ecosystems (land and sea) and across scales of governance (i.e. local to federal). Our conference program will emphasize how the science and practice of landscape ecology is used in environmental protection and management. Additionally, Newport, RI will serve as an excellent starting point for visiting many exciting ecological and human settings, all within 100 miles of the conference venue. Some of these include whale watching in Cape Cod Bay, exploring Block Island, touring historical Newport, and learning about the rich human and ecological history of southern New England. We are excited to share these with you and look forward to welcoming all of you in 2012 to New England.

**Local Hosts:**

**Anne Kuhn (US EPA, Atlantic Ecology Division)**  
**Pete August (University of Rhode Island)**

**Program Chair:**

**Jeff Hollister (US EPA, Atlantic Ecology Division)**

Classes	Not impact
Percentage	43.31%



Photo courtesy of [Alexy V. Sergeev](#)

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## *Membership Committee Report*

The IALE Membership committee did not formally meet this term but several changes in committee membership have happened (regular turn-over's). However, the committee was very busy compiling, reviewing and providing the new list of members for the online database.

Secondly, clarifications, work-flows and updates have been clarified during this term with US-IALE stakeholders. Coordination with the Secretary and the Web Master continue in order to facilitate seamless membership functionality.

The committee has a couple planned important planning meetings. If you are interested in becoming involved, the

membership committee plans for a meeting during early winter 2011, and for another one 'in person' committee meeting at the US-IALE conference in Portland. Feel free to join and for providing input and suggestions. We are always open for questions, inquiries or suggestions regarding membership updates. The key is that US-IALE has a healthy base to work from.

**Falk Huettmann**  
**Membership Committee Chair**

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## *Treasurer's Report*

I am pleased to provide my first report as your new Treasurer. Our finances continue to be very stable. Our net worth has increased from approximately \$127,000 at the end of 2009 to \$129,000 at the end of 2010. Our Athens, Georgia meeting was funded entirely through UGA, therefore, our annual income was only from the book auction at the symposium for the Foreign Scholar Travel Award fund (\$1900), donations, and membership fees. Memberships continue to cover operating expenses. Additional details about our income and expenses for 2010 will be provided at the 2011 meeting in Portland, Oregon.

**Robert Scheller**  
**Treasurer**

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## *Benefits of Membership*

Through membership, in addition to discounts for annual meetings, we have a very active student group who strive to engage the next generation of landscape ecologists. The [US-IALE website](#) and [FACEBOOK](#) is a focal venue for students to keep in touch.

The bi-annual newsletter keeps you up to date with the organization's current happenings, new efforts the organization is engaged in and timely articles with a landscape ecology focus. Indeed, as a member if you have an article you would like to see in the Newsletter, contact the current Editor.

The Newsletter will continue to expand to include important news for members as well as job announcements, meeting announcements, etc.

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.

Our meetings continue to expand and offer state-of-the-science access for meeting participants. We continue our commitment to enhance student resources. 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](#)**

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## *Current US IALE Officers*

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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-LALE Membership?*

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



[US LALE on the Web](#)



[IALE on the Web](#)