

# US-IALE Newsletter

## Summer 2011

Summer 2011

Volume 26/2

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## *US-IALE 2011 celebrated our 26th annual meeting in Portland, Oregon*

The 2011 Symposium of the US Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology was held in beautiful downtown Portland, Oregon. Mother Nature was cooperative for the most part, allowing for viewing of flowering cherry and magnolia trees and only intermittent rain. There were a total of ~425 attendees from 43 US states plus the District of Columbia, and 5 Canadian provinces plus the Yukon Territory. Beyond the US and Canada, a total of 14 countries were represented. Almost one-third of the attendees were students, who participated in special student workshops and attended the student social (See Student news, page 5). Overall, conference attendees presented on a wide range of topics in the poster and concurrent oral sessions.

Before the meeting began, three workshops were held on the Portland State University campus. These included Landscape Genetics (led by Rodney Dyer, Melanie Murphy, and Helene Wagner), Eco-hydrology (led by Rick Koehler and Molly Van Appledorn), and Dynamic Landscapes (led by Charlene Nielsen). In addition, a student workshop focused on grant writing (led by the US-IALE student representatives and panelists Sally Duncan, Barbara Bond, and Joshua Lawler).

The meeting officially was kicked off with a Welcome Social on Sunday evening and a panoramic view of the city on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hilton. An insightful

and inspiring plenary delivered by David Hulse, Philip H. Knight Professor from the University of Oregon, greeted Monday morning's registrants. In addition to concurrent sessions, Monday also held the Student Mentor Lunch, the Poster Session and Social, the NASA-MSU Dinner, and Student Social.



**Local hosts and program chair for Portland meeting**

Tuesday morning began with a plenary talk by Robert Costanza, University Professor of Sustainability and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University. Following concurrent sessions on Tuesday morning, the afternoon was filled with half-day field trips around the Portland area. Field trips included a walking tour of downtown, a self-guided hike of Washington Park and rose garden, and a hike in an old-growth forest remnant within Forest Park. The day ended with a cocktail reception that included the "We'll pick up the Tab" event, and conference banquet. Following dinner, Jeff Hollister presented an excellent preview of the 2012 meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. Other highlights

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Highlights of Special Symposia

Each year, conference attendees organize special symposia around particular topics of interest. This year, there were 10 special symposia at the US-IALE Annual Symposium in Portland, OR. Three of them are highlighted on the following pages.

### Climate Change – Impacts and Effects on Vegetation

Organizers: William Hargrove<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Potter<sup>2</sup>, and Forrest Hoffman<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina State University

<sup>3</sup> Oak Ridge National Laboratory

A special symposium showcasing the latest research and projected impacts of climatic changes on future vegetation was held during the 26th Annual Symposium in Portland, OR. Thirteen presenters representing a range of disciplines and federal, state, university, and non-governmental organizations convened on April 4 for the symposium, "Climate Change--Impacts and Effects on Vegetation," which emphasized practical assessment and management and resulted in a substantial synthesis of recent thinking on the topic of climatic change. Research ecologist William Hargrove of the USDA Forest Service's Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC), EFETAC cooperating scientist and North Carolina State University research assistant professor Kevin Potter, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory computational climate scientist Forrest Hoffman organized and chaired the special symposium.

The thirteen presentations in the full-day symposium were well-attended, often with standing room only. Steve McNulty set the stage for the day of presentations by couching the classes of climate change knowledge in terms of "known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns." Dominique Bachelet entreated participants to ecologically embrace the statistical ensemble method used by our climate colleagues. Jeff Hicke convincingly suggested functional links between climate and insect outbreaks in the western United States. Joe Spruce demon-

strated that the MODIS sensor can be used to suggest the same links between climate and forest disturbance over even larger regions. Louis Iverson, Nick Crookston, and (much more recently) William Hargrove were all present to compare methods and results for predicting tree range changes under various forecasts of future climatic shifts. Heather Lintz showed creative ways that the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data set can be used to indicate climatic shifts in tree ranges. Forrest Hoffman reported on new statistical methods for detecting climatic shifts within earth system model results. Jim Westervelt showed methods for anticipating climate-induced biome shifts within U.S. military installations. Kevin Potter presented minimum required movement maps, and assessed the risk of genetic degradation in forest trees due to climatic changes. Dick Waring rounded up the special symposium with his career-long perspective on the utility of modeling and remote sensing for predicting forest disturbances. Video recordings of the symposium presentations will soon be available on the Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc>). For more information, contact William Hargrove at [whargrove@fs.fed.us](mailto:whargrove@fs.fed.us) or (828) 257-4846.

**William Hargrove**



Historic walking tour half-day field trip

Photo from Tabitha Graves

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## **Modeling and Managing Dynamic Landscapes: Getting the Most Bang for your Buck**

*Organizers: Theresa Burcsu<sup>1</sup>, Simon Bisrat<sup>1</sup>, Treg Christopher<sup>1</sup>, Megan Creutzburg<sup>1</sup>, and Stephanie Hart<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University*

<sup>2</sup> *University of Washington*

A Special Symposium that highlighted work from the Inter-agency Landscape Assessment Project (ILAP) from the two-year project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was organized by ILAP modeling analysts. The symposium provided an in-depth look at project goals, modules, and initial results. The ILAP study area spans four states: Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico, and includes all forested and arid lands spanning multiple ownerships and management objectives. Several main questions form the foundation of ILAP: What are the current conditions of forest fuels, and how will they trend in the future? What are the current conditions of selected wildlife habitats, and how will they trend in the future? Will management activities create economic benefits, and is it possible that

management activities can pay for themselves? What watersheds are the best candidates for focusing restoration efforts designed to reduce wildfire risk, improve wildlife habitat, and create economic benefits?

Methods for examining effects from potential climate change are being developed and tested in central Oregon and eastern Arizona. Results from the project are forthcoming; however, preliminary results have informed deliberations over legislation on land use zoning and the purchase of land for a new State Forest in central Oregon. Initial results have also informed land management planning on national forests in northeastern Washington and the Blue Mountains of Oregon.

**Theresa Burcsu**

**The Interagency Landscape Assessment Project (ILAP)** encompasses a breadth and depth that other similar broad-scale projects usually do not have the resources to do: ILAP (i) integrates fuels, wildlife, economics, and climate change, (ii) by design, will have fast turnaround time (with a Congressionally mandated endpoint), (iii) meshes expert-opinion and quantitative model frameworks, (iv) provides packaged products throughout the project life cycle from the initial stages (e.g., spatial data sets describing land management for the four-state study area) through the project end (e.g., decision support framework), and (v) includes products from both applied science and original research.

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## **Human Influence on Connectivity and Population Structure in Rivers**

*Organizer: Aimee H. Fullerton, NOAA Fisheries*

*Northwest Fisheries Science Center and University of Washington*

The symposium, *Human Influence on Connectivity and Population Structure in Rivers*, convened 11 scientists having diverse disciplinary backgrounds (hydrology, landscape genetics, stream ecology) to speak on projects from the USA, France, Hungary, Spain, and India. Many thanks to US-IALE for selecting participant Tibor Erös (Balaton Limnological Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), as one of two recipients of the Foreign Scholar Travel Award. Topics ranged from salamanders to fish, and from natural processes connecting habitats in dendritic river networks to the variety of ways that lotic systems have been altered by human activities. The speakers repeatedly demonstrated clear connections between upland and aquatic systems and the ways they are managed; this common thread underscores the need to consider rivers as part of the landscape. The session facilitated many engaging discussions among participants, including the consideration of collaborating on a synthesis paper.

**Aimee Fullerton**

# ***US-IALE 2012 Annual Symposium: Informing Decisions in a Changing World***

***April 8-12, 2012  
Newport, RI***



**Jeff Hollister (top) and Pete August (bottom), program chair and local host of the 2012 symposium**

At long last the US-IALE Annual Symposium will be held in New England! The core planning committee has been hard at work already and has made progress on putting together a great program for our meeting, which will be held the week of April 8, 2012 in Newport, RI at the Newport Marriott Hotel. We are excited to share Rhode Island with you all and feel the location has much to offer. The landscapes of southern New England will provide 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 and Southern New England have much to offer:

- **History:** Newport was founded in 1639 and is home to the oldest tavern in the United States.
- **Architecture:** The Newport Man-

sions represent a wide array of architectural styles

- **Food:** From great fried seafood to fantastic fine dining, Newport is home to 100's of restaurants, most of which are within a short walk from the conference hotel
- **Field Trips:** We are still working out the details on these but the possibilities are many, including exploring Block Island, touring historical Newport, cruising Narragansett Bay, Visiting Cape Cod National Seashore and many others.

We are excited to spend time with you in Southern New England and look forward to welcoming all of you in 2012 to Newport, Rhode Island.

**Jeff Hollister, Program Chair 2012**

## **US-IALE 2012—Newport, RI**

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

**Program Chair:** Jeff Hollister (US EPA, Atlantic Ecology Division)

**Planning Committee:** Kristen Hychka (US EPA, Atlantic Ecology Division), Betsy Kreakie (US EPA, Atlantic Ecology Division), Kathy Vigness-Raposa (Marine Acoustics, Inc.), Y.Q. Wang (University of Rhode Island)

## President's Message

### Frontiers in landscape ecology: where are we going?

It's full summer here in the southeast—in fact, lingering 10 degrees above normal—and as I carry buckets of water from my rain barrels to my garden I find myself thinking about water resources, climate change, and landscape ecology. In 2002 we experienced the worst drought ever recorded in the southeast; in 2007 we had a worse one. A couple years later we had a similar drought in terms of evaporative demand and rainfall deficit—but it wasn't declared a drought because we had adapted to the previous ones and our conservative water use kept the reservoirs at higher levels. Still, we were parched and I watched as trees and shrubs around my neighborhood died (apparently, nobody thought to water them because we were not in a declared drought).

The same thing is happening again this summer: it's been hotter than normal, we're several inches below normal precipitation, and yet we entered "moderate drought" conditions only yesterday. This underscores the complicated relationship between natural systems and human systems. Natural systems respond to the balance of evaporative demand and precipitation as mediated by water storage in the soil: when the balance goes too negative, plants die. Human systems respond to water availability at the tap, which, where I live, reflects storage in reservoirs as affected by the natural water balance as well as regulatory policies and the behavior of individual citizens. In the wake of our last major drought, my town instituted tiered water rates and raised usage fees substantially, lead-

ing to reduced water use even as our population—hence overall water demand—continues to increase. My university installed low-flow plumbing fixtures campus-wide in response to a state-mandated reduction in institutional water use. At the same time, individuals responded in various ways. Many simply reduced their water use (shorter showers, turn off the tap while brushing teeth); many, like



Dean Urban  
US-IALE President

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Student News and Notes

Student participation at the 2011 US-IALE annual meeting in Portland, OR was among the highest ever, with more than 150 students in attendance. Student activities that focused on networking and professional development included the student-mentor lunch, the "Pick up the tab" social, and the student workshop. The annual student social provided an opportunity for students to relax and enjoy a spectacular view of the Portland skyline with their colleagues. We appreciate those of you who provided feedback on these activities via the online survey and look forward to improving these activities at next year's meeting!

More than 150 students and landscape ecology professionals participated in the annual **student-mentor lunch**. Students were matched with mentors in academia, government, or a non-profit agency based on their future career plans. We received generally positive feedback from student participants and will be working to improve the experience for next year based on student par-

ticipant suggestions. For example, we will focus on recruiting more mentors to lower the student-to-mentor ratio and improve the matching process so that more students are matched with mentors in their field of interest.

You may remember the "**Pick up the tab**" social from the 2009 US-IALE annual meeting in Snowbird, Utah. Landscape ecology professionals (non-students) purchased - or "picked up the tab" - for student drinks at the pre-banquet evening social by purchasing tickets for random distribution to attending students. Each ticket had the name of the purchaser, and students had to find this person at the social and introduce themselves. This was a fun way for students to meet current landscape ecology professionals and learn more about landscape ecology in an informal, relaxed setting. Many thanks to all of the landscape ecology professionals who picked up the tab and made this event a huge success!

At this year's **professional development workshop** "Grant-writing: Tips from Experienced Researchers" Barbara Bond (Oregon State University), Sally Duncan

*(Continued on page 12)*

## US-IALE 2011 Awards Update

Big congratulations to the following 2011 Award winners, announced at the annual banquet held on April 5<sup>th</sup> in Portland.

### Student Travel Awards

Nine students were selected to receive \$500 for travel to the US-IALE conference. These awards were made available by US-IALE.

Jacqueline Dewar, University of Arizona  
 Brenna Forester, Western Washington University  
 Kristin Marshall, Colorado State University  
 Pinki Mondal, University of Florida  
 Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis, University of Toronto  
 Kim Ness, University of Wisconsin  
 Diana Raper, Oregon State University  
 Tomáš Václavík, University of North Carolina - Charlotte  
 Jennifer Weaver, University of Toronto



### Award for Best Student Presentation

This award includes a \$300 cash award, a waiver of one future meeting registration fee, and one complimentary attendance on a fieldtrip or at a workshop of the awardee's choice at a future annual meeting. Waiver of registration and fieldtrip or workshop fees may be applied to one of the next two subsequent US-IALE annual meetings.

At the conference banquet of the 2011 US-IALE annual meeting in Portland, the Award for Best Student Presentation recipient for 2010, Kathleen J. Vigness-Raposa (University of Rhode Island) was acknowledged for her oral presentation "*Habitat of humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) in the North Atlantic Ocean.*"

Also at the annual meeting in Portland, 17 students registered to have their presentations considered for the award for best student presentation. These presentations were evaluated by a total of 22 judges. The Awards committee is pleased to announce the winners, who will be acknowledged at the banquet at the 2012 annual meeting in Newport:

*Award for Best Student Presentation:*

**Mao-Ning Tuanmu**, Michigan State University  
*Can the Giant Panda survive climate change?*  
 (oral presentation)

*Award for Best Student Presentation – Honorable Mention:*

**Kristin Marshall**, Colorado State University  
*Wolves, elk, and willows: landscape configurations on Yellowstone's Northern Range*  
 (oral presentation)

Many thanks to all the student participants and especially to the judges who are an essential component of the student award program: Pete August, Ashton Drew, Sarah Goslee, Sandra Haire, Colleen Hatfield, Geoff Henebry, George Hess, Jeff Hollister, Falk Huettmann, Kristen Hychka, Meg Krawchuk, Todd Lookingbill, Kevin Matteson, Carol Miller, Emily Minor, Janet Silbernagel, Brian Sturtevant, Kathleen Vigness-Raposa, Steven Walters, Eric White, John Young, and Patrick Zollner.

## US-IALE 2011 Awards Update

### Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

The committee reviews nominations for papers published during the past 2 years that make an outstanding contribution to the literature of the field of landscape ecology. Two papers were selected to receive awards for 2010:

*Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology:*

**Gilbert-Norton, L., R. Wilson, J.R. Stevens, and K.H. Beard.** 2010. A meta-analytic review of corridor effectiveness. *Conservation Biology* 24:660-668.

*Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology, Honorable Mention:*

**McGarigal, K., S. Tagil, and S.A. Cushman.** 2009. Surface metrics: an alternative to patch metrics for the quantification of landscape structure. *Landscape Ecology* 24:433-450.

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### Distinguished Landscape Ecologist

The Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award recognizes individuals whose long-term scientific contribution has helped to define the field of landscape ecology, and is based on nominations received from the US-IALE membership. This year we honor **Lenore Fahrig**, a Professor in the Geomatics and Landscape Ecology Research Laboratory and Department of Biology at Carleton University, Ontario. Lenore has made significant contributions to several key research areas including fragmentation and landscape pattern analysis, habitat fragmentation, and behavioral landscape ecology, and is a pioneer in integrating theoretical and experimental approaches of corridor-based landscape modeling. She has been recognized as author and co-author, respectively, of the 2005 and 2010 Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology.



*Lenore Fahrig and  
Dean Urban*

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

---The 2011-2012 US-IALE Awards Committee

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

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### Note from Nominating Committee

Stay tuned for an election. We are working to finalize the nominees for President Elect and anticipate having an online election this summer.

Be sure to vote!

**Chris Lepczyk**  
Head of Nominating Committee

## NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Michigan State University. This was the 14th consecutive year of the program, which to-date has supported approximately 300 students. The selected students 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. Twenty-two students, listed in the table on the right, were selected to receive awards this year.

**Jack Liu and Anita Morzillo, Chair and Co-chair of NASA-MSU Awards Committee**

The 2011 NASA-MSU Awards Committee consists of Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Chair), Anita Morzillo (Co-Chair), Garik Gutman (NASA), Sue Faivor (MSU), and Shuxin Li (MSU).

Name	Institution
Hawthorne Beyer	University of Toronto
Shekhar Biswas	University of Toronto
Van Butsic	University of Wisconsin
Michael Calkins	Oregon State University
Mark Chynoweth	University of Hawaii
Amy Davis	University of North Carolina - Charlotte
Robbie Greene	University of Wisconsin
Jacob Griffin	University of Wisconsin
R. Dean Hardy	University of Georgia
Nyeema Harris	North Carolina State University
Jessica Hightower	University of Central Florida
Marta Jarzyna	Michigan State University
Valeriy Kovalsky	South Dakota State University
Kimberly Meitzen	University of South Carolina
Alemayehu Midekisa	South Dakota State University
Jessica O'Connell	Oklahoma State University
Lin Shi	Knox College
Rosina Soler Esteban	Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas
Rebecca Steinberg	Yale University
Marcela Suarez-Rubio	University of Maryland
Nyssa van Vierssen Trip	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Hillary White	Utah State University



NASA-MSU Award winners with Dean Urban and Jack Liu



## ***Foreign Scholar Travel Award***

The 2011 recipients of the US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA) were **Yoni Gavish** from Israeli, and **Tibor Erös** from Hungary. Yoni's research used spider community data to explore whether a stratified analysis approach at the local-scale can reduce masking of large-scale pattern by local-scale differences. Tibor's research explored network thinking in riverscape conservation by using graph theoretic techniques to examine the topological importance of segments in maintaining riverscape connectivity.

FSTA would especially like to thank Louis Iverson for his continued donations of extra books submitted to the journal *Landscape Ecology* for review. Other contributors of books and softwares were the University of California Press, Island Press, John Hopkins University Press, Sinauer Associates Incorporated, Springer Publishing, and Clark Labs (ISRISI Taiga/Land Change Modeler software). Fifty donated items generated \$1,258. All proceeds from the Silent Book Auction go toward the 2012 Foreign Scholar Travel Awards.

Submitted on behalf of the review committee and Co-Chair, Kathy Vigness-Raposa,

**Deahn Donner, FSTA Committee Chair**

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 of advances in landscape ecology. Foreign Scholars are selected based on several criteria: original and outstanding research in landscape ecology, financial need, and the contribution the award would make to their professional development. Applications are reviewed and ranked by a 7-member review panel. The competition is stiff, and we are receiving more applications each year. If you would like more information on the program, or you would like to become a member of the review committee, please email Deahn at [ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddonnerwright@fs.fed.us)

## ***Call for Papers About Spatial Ecology***

The International Journal of Geographical Information Science has announced a call for papers for the Second Special Issue on Spatial Ecology

Following the success of the first special issue on spatial ecology published April 2011, a second special issue is being planned. The special issue will be edited by Shawn Laffan (UNSW), Andrew Skidmore (Twente) and Janet Franklin (ASU). As with the first special issue, we are seeking the submission of papers from ecological and related environmental studies, as well as more technical articles including topics such as spatial data infrastructure relevant to ecological applications. We are especially interested in special and new ways of thinking about, and processing, spatial ecological data.

A condition of submission and acceptance will be that papers must pass the normal IJGIS review process. In addition, authors of accepted papers will be asked to link and cross-reference other papers from the special issue.

You are encouraged to submit relevant and high quality manuscripts for this special issue. The deadline for submission of papers is 01 December 2011.

When you wish to submit your special issue paper online to the International Journal of GIS <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijgis>, please choose 'Special Issue Paper' from the Manuscript Types field. For more information please contact the special issue editor Dr Shawn Laffan, UNSW, Australia. email: [shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au)

## Membership Committee Report

We strongly believe that members (including students) and membership issues are at the core of our organization. As a result, the US-IALE Membership Committee is undergoing a transformation. While details are still being discussed, the new committee will likely involve a Membership Secretary who may be part of the US-IALE Executive Committee. We will also further improve the US-IALE web portal where members can update their membership status and personal information and make payments online. These changes involve a professional webmaster linked with outreach, the treasurer, the IALE parent organization, and others.

We believe that these changes will make membership issues better heard in the day-to-day decision-making processes of US-IALE and present a more professional on-line image. We hope that the process of restructuring the US-IALE Membership Committee, including the search for and election of a US-IALE Membership Secretary, will be completed in the next year. In the meantime, we are more than happy to receive feedback and suggestions from you. Thanks to all for your ideas and collaboration.

**Falk Huettmann,  
Interim Chair US IALE Membership Committee**

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## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that our finances continued to be relatively stable in 2010 and our net worth has increased. Our total income and expenses decreased in 2010 because the Athens meeting was conducted external to our organization. Our operating expenses in 2010 were slightly lower than 2009 at \$9251, due to lower web hosting costs (\$4536). However, we incurred a modest expense (\$270) for membership database merging. Operating expenses continue to be covered by membership fees. Our primary sources of income in 2010 were member dues, donations, and income from our annual conference. Although there was no income from the 2010 meeting, DMEM paid us our profits from the 2009 conference and reimbursed us for 2008 and 2009 advanced deposits. In addition, a \$2500 loan we made to the South American Chapter of IALE in support of their 2009 meeting in Brazil was paid back. Our net income for 2010 was \$31,944 and we have a balance of \$129,588 as of April 1, 2011. I am projecting a flat budget for 2011.

**Robert Scheller, Treasurer**

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## 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](#) 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. 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 current Editor.

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

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

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

**[US-IALE Membership Information](#)**



**Forest Park half-day field trip**

*Photo from Kim With*



**Mt. Hood field trip**

*Photo from Louis Iverson*



**Nancy McIntyre, tree hugger**

*Photo from Janet Franklin*

**Rogue Public House—2012 meeting local committee**

*Photo from Pete August*

## Meeting in Portland, Oregon (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

of the banquet included presentation of the student travel and Foreign Scholar awards, and awards for Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology, Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology – Honorable Mention, Award for Best Student Presentation from the 2010 meeting, and Distinguished Landscape Ecologist. Award recipients are listed on the resources-awards tab of the society webpage and on pages 6-7 of this newsletter .

Wednesday morning began with a plenary talk by Dr. Larry Robinson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management, and Deputy Administrator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Concurrent sessions filled the rest of the day, and many attendees explored Portland nightlife that evening.

Thursday was devoted to all-day fieldtrips including a trip to the Oregon coast, an alpine adventure to Mt. Hood, and an ULTRA trip that compared the socio-ecological dynamics in Portland and neighboring Vancouver, WA. Approximately 35 people participated in the fieldtrips.

We especially want to thank our numerous sponsors for their sig-

nificant contributions that made this year's meeting a great success. Through their contributions, we were able to keep the registration fees reasonable and included bonuses such as the banquet, several additional meals, and refreshment breaks. The 2011 meeting sponsors included the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program and Michigan State University, US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Salford Systems, Sinauer Associates, Inc., Springer, US Forest Service - Northern Research Station, USGS Rocky Mountain Geographic Science Center, and the Water Resources Graduate Program at Oregon State University.

The conference was a big success due to the talents and efforts of many people. However, recognition and appreciation are particularly deserving for **Rebecca Kennedy, Program Chair, and Cindy Delaney of Delaney Meeting and Event Management, LLC.**

**Anita Morzillo and Robert Scheller, Local Hosts**



## ***Student News and Notes (continued)***

*(Continued from page 5)*

(Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon), and Joshua Lawler (University of Washington) each presented tips for authoring successful grant applications. They elaborated on the 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. Participating students practiced writing a strong first paragraph for a grant application they were currently working on with help from the presenters. Participant feedback included, "Great presenters and activity. I liked the balance between being talked at and getting to collaborate with peers," and "Great tips! I really liked the paragraph breakdown." Slide shows and handouts from the workshop will be placed on the student section of the members-only portion of the US-IALE website.

We continued our efforts to provide students and young professionals with an opportunity to learn from their experiences giving a poster or oral presentation at the US-IALE meeting without being formally judged for best presentation. Students signed up for the **Student Presentation Feedback Program** during the online conference registration process, and were given presentation feedback forms in their registration packets. Students giving oral presentations requested feedback from audience members at the beginning of their talk and provided reviewers with a form. Students with posters placed feedback forms next to their posters. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on this activity; we will be working to improve this system for next year.

The **student social** was held on the top floor of the conference Hotel, providing a spectacular view of Portland's nighttime skyline and a great opportunity for students to unwind and socialize in an informal setting. Attendance was up from last year, and we hope to attract even more students at the upcoming meeting in Rhode Island.

This meeting also saw the election of our **new student representative for 2011-12, Molly Van Appledorn**. Molly is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Geography and Environmental Systems at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and focuses on understanding interactions between environmental heterogeneity and ecosystem processes, particularly with regard to water resources. Molly has been an active and enthusiastic member of US-IALE for four years and is excited to serve as a student representative to continue the association's tradition of nurturing young scientists in the discipline of landscape ecology. We would like to extend a tremendous **thanks to Tabitha Graves, our outgoing student representative**, for her hard work during the last two years. Her dedication to US-IALE's student members has expanded the role of students in US-IALE and created new opportunities for them to participate in and benefit from the organization!

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

We heard from several students that they were impressed and pleased by the many travel awards available to attend the conference, the approachability of many top-level researchers, the large number of meals included with the price of registration, and the warmth and general atmosphere of the US-IALE meeting. We thank the conference hosts, program chair, and the Executive Committee for their assistance, support and planning efforts! We hope you are already looking forward to the 2012 US-IALE meeting in Newport, Rhode Island.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions!

**Jessica Price ([jmprice2@wisc.edu](mailto:jmprice2@wisc.edu)) and Molly Van Appledorn ([mvanapp@umbc.edu](mailto:mvanapp@umbc.edu)), Student Representatives**



***Molly van Appledorn (left) and Jessica Price (right)***

## ***President's Message (continued)***

*(Continued from page 5)*

me, invested in rain barrels; some simply decided that green lawns are over-rated.

This issue, of course, is playing out more broadly than the southeastern US and it is not an issue that will go away any time soon. Understanding this issue well enough to plan for sustainable water resources under the combined pressures of climatic warming, increased climatic variability, and increased water demand from growing populations concentrated in cities will require a multidisciplinary approach that includes natural scientists (ecologists, hydrologists) and social scientists (economists, policy analysts) collaborating to address facets of the issue including meeting human demands for water while maintaining ecological baseflows for freshwater ecosystems, infrastructural design for resilient water supplies, policy frameworks for water

allocations, and human perceptions of changing landscapes. In short, the issue invites the nexus of disciplines that defines landscape ecology.

The advent of cross-cutting funding programs such as NSF's Coupled Natural & Human Systems initiative speaks to a growing recognition that solutions to these problems will not be found in narrowly focused, disciplinary research. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the solution space for complicated, real-world issues is familiar territory for landscape ecologists. Our discipline offers expertise in the many facets of this issue, from human perceptions of landscapes, to ecological implications of hydrologic change, to land use planning for a more resilient and sustainable future. Balancing supply and demand for water invokes questions about the location and scale of drivers and responses—and spatial heterogeneity and scale are the hallmarks of our

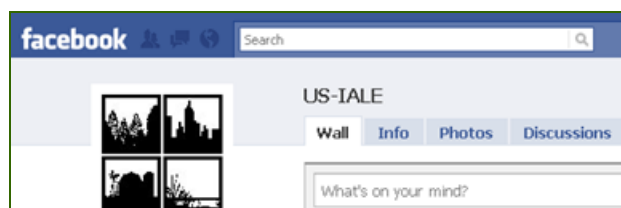
field. Importantly, we also have a culture of active collaboration across disciplines.

This column is the first in a series in which I will consider the application areas where I think landscape ecology can contribute substantially to compelling and complicated issues facing society today. My intention is simply to point to the horizons. I do not mean to imply that we all should adopt these as our own personal research agendas. Rather, I invite us to consider where the most challenging issues lie, and how our own work fits into these large themes. Let's locate ourselves intellectually and programmatically, and be mindful about the work we do.

**Dean Urban  
President, US-IALE**

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Have a question for  
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# 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**

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