

US-IALE Newsletter

Summer 2014

Summer 2014
Volume 29/2

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President's Message



Janet Franklin, US-IALE President

As president-elect I 'shadowed' our past president Kurt Riitters for the past year and I want every US-IALE member to know how lucky we are to have had him as our fearless leader for the last two years. He has tirelessly, committedly and effectively worked (often quietly and behind the scenes) for the chapter, the members, and

the discipline of landscape ecology. The founders of our regional chapter should be very proud. Kurt treats everyone with respect and patience, and we could all use more of that. He has been a pleasure to work with and learn from, and he has set the bar high for me. Now he gets to 'retire from office' and go back to turning out the amazing research in landscape ecology that we have come to expect from him. (I can only spell his name correctly without double

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2014 Annual Symposium *Anchorage, Alaska*

This year's U.S. IALE's Annual Symposium was held for the first time in the state of Alaska: May 18th – 22nd at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. The conference theme suited Alaska's land- and seascapes extremely well and was titled "*Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check During Climate Change*".

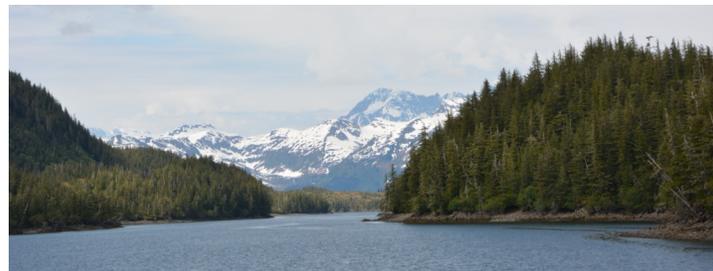


Photo by Jamie Trammell

The Alaskan weather kept the promise and followed climate change predictions (snow was widely gone for weeks already), allowing for great outdoor excursions!

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9th IALE World Congress

Portland, Oregon

July 5-10, 2015

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 ad-

dress a broad range of environmental challenges and their potential 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, field trips, 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 works across scales (what landscape ecologists have always done) and crosses 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



Portland and Mt Hood

Photo by Amateria1121 - Own work. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portland_and_Mt_Hood.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Portland_and_Mt_Hood.jpg

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Report from Ad-Hoc Communications Committee

Myself, Emily Minor, Anita Morzillo, Louis Iverson, Peter August, and Julie Ripplinger met during the 2014 Annual Symposium to discuss what an eventual permanent Communications Committee should focus on and who should be members. We decided that the permanent committee should be a catch-all for any communications-related issues facing US-IALE. That said, we deemed the most pressing issues to be website maintenance, membership recruitment and retention, and a consistent social media presence, in that order. We are beginning to address these issues over the summer. We will also be drafting a motion to create a permanent Communications Committee to be considered by the Executive Committee. Feel free to send any thoughts, ideas, or comments that you may have related to US-IALE communications to sgagne@uncc.edu.

— Sara Gagné, Councilor-at-Large and Chair, Ad-Hoc Communications Committee

Update from the Membership Liaison



Anita Morzillo
Membership Liaison

Matt Viehdorfer ("web guy") and I continue to work together to improve membership recordkeeping and access to information. All members can access their individual membership history by logging in to the 'members only' section of the US-IALE website. Upcoming developments include:

- Automatic reminders for membership renewal and lapse of membership. Watch for these around December 1st of each calendar year.
- Reciprocity with other IALE regional chapters for membership rates at regional chapter conferences.
- Linking membership database with US-IALE conference registration. Since at least 2012, ~25-30% of conference attendees who paid membership registration rates at the annual symposium were not current with their society membership. This is a loss of thousands of dollars in revenue for the society each year. Even with best intentions for inclusion, a revenue stream is necessary to maintain basic operations (e.g., webpage maintenance, parent organization dues, absorbing costs for less-than-anticipated conference attendance).

— Anita Morzillo
US-IALE Membership Liaison

Student News and Notes



Whalen Dillon (left) and Karl Jarvis (right),
student representatives.

Thanks to all that attended the 2014 US-IALE annual symposium in Anchorage, AK! We had a small but intrepid group of 83 students attend this year's symposium. Many of the attendees took advantage of networking and professional development activities, such as the coastal trail walk, student-mentor lunch, student social, student workshop, and more. We appreciate the feedback you provided via the online survey and look forward to incorporating your input into next year's meet-

ing. Please let us know at any point if you have any suggestions about how to help us make the most of conferences!

Based on student input from last year, we kicked off the conference this year with an informal activity to give students a chance to get acquainted while getting out and seeing a bit of town. We walked from the hotel along the beautiful Tony Knowles Coastal Trail for several miles. It was a great chance for us to see the ocean and local bird and plant life, and some participants even saw some moose. We got a chance to chat with conference participants from all over the continent, and some students planned after-conference trips together.

It can be hard for students to know which type of career best fits their interests and skills, so the **Student-Mentor**

Lunch provided a venue for students to meet over lunch with landscape professionals. These mentors represented a wide range of fields and career paths in academia, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Students had a chance to chat with some of the best landscape ecologists in the world over lunch, with a ratio of 1-4



US-IALE Student Representatives Julie Ripplinger and Karl Jarvis lead a student "meet and greet" walk/cycle on Anchorage's famous 11-mile coastal pathway.

Photo by Janet Franklin

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US-IALE 2014 Awards

Congratulations to the following 2014 Award winners, announced at the annual banquet held on May 20th in Anchorage, Alaska.



Dean Urban

Distinguished Landscape Ecologist

The Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award recognizes individuals whose long-term scientific contribution has helped to define the field of landscape ecology. The recipient of this year's award was **Dean Urban**, professor of environmental sciences and policy at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. Widely recognized for his expertise in developing new theories and models that shed light on how ecological processes work over larger time and space scales, Urban has published more than 100 scientific papers, including the landmark 1987 BioScience paper, "Landscape Ecology," that has been cited more than 1,000 times. His work on habitat connectivity and suitability has had far-reaching influence in conservation science, endangered species management, land-use planning and other critical fields. He has distinguished himself over his career by significantly advancing theoretical, analytical and computational approaches to landscape ecological questions.

Distinguished Service Award

The award for Distinguished Service recognizes individuals who have contributed to US-IALE in terms of time, energy and dedication that advanced the mission of US-IALE in an extraordinary manner. The recipient of this year's award was **Peter August**, professor of natural resources science at the University of Rhode Island. August served as president of the chapter from 2004 to 2006 and has chaired and served on numerous committees, including Site Selection, Foreign Travel Award, Strategic Planning, and Past Officers Advisory Committee. He remains active on the Awards Committee and Ad Hoc Communications Committee, and he served as co-host of the group's annual symposium in Newport in 2012. For nearly two decades, Pete has been one of the society's greatest advocates, helping make the society welcoming, professional, social, scientific, inclusive, intimate, and just better.



Peter August accepting the Distinguished Service award from Janet Franklin.
Photo by Audrey Mayer

Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology Award

The purpose of the Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology Award is to recognize papers published during the past two years that make an outstanding contribution to the field of landscape ecology. Papers are nominated by the US-IALE membership.

The recipients of the 2014 Outstanding Paper Award were **Forrest Hoffman, Jitendra Kumar, Richard Mills, and William Hargrove** for their paper "Representativeness-based sampling network design for the State of Alaska." Published in Landscape Ecology.

Two Honorable Mention recipients were selected this year:

Dennis Jongsomjit, Diana Stralberg, Thomas Gardali, Leonardo Salas, and John Wiens for their paper "Between a rock and a hard place: the impact of climate change and housing development on breeding birds in California." Published in Landscape Ecology.

Christopher Wright and Michael Wimberly for their paper "Recent land use change in the Western Corn Belt threatens grasslands and wetlands." Published in PNAS.

US-IALE 2014 Awards

Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award

The objective of the Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award is to recognize outstanding applications of the principles of landscape ecology to real-world problems. The recipient of this year's award was **Andrew Fall**, research consultant and adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University. Andrew has made novel contributions in the development and application of the landscape scale simulation modeling tool SELES (Spatially Explicit Landscape Event Simulator) to inform land management and policy at large spatial and temporal scales. He significantly advanced the idea of adaptive management through his iterative participatory modeling process, which continues to have sustained impacts on resource management in British Columbia, Quebec, and other locations around the world.

Best Student Presentation 2014

The objective of the Best Student Presentation Award is to recognize the best presentation given by a student at the annual meeting. We had 13 student entries in Anchorage with 14 judges graciously donating their time to evaluate the talks and posters. Honorable mention was awarded to **Binbin Li** (Duke University) for the presentation "Impacts and solutions of livestock grazing in protected areas for the Giant Panda". The winner of the Best Student Presentation from the 2014 meeting was **Amy Mui** (University of Toronto) for "Seasonal changes in core wetland connectivity for a threatened freshwater turtle in southern Ontario". The Committee would like to offer special thanks to this year's judges: Sheel Bansal, Nathan DeJager, Robert DeVelice, Sarah Gergel, Brett Goodwin, Eric Gustafson, Geoffrey Henebry, Adelaide Johnson, Myung-Bok Lee, Wendy Loya, Philippe Massicotte, Emily Minor, James Watling, and Alex Zvoleff.

Student Travel Awards

Ten Student Travel Awards were supported this year with funding provided by US-IALE and the Alaska Natural Heritage Program. These awards included up to \$500 for travel to the conference in Anchorage. The 2014 recipients were:

Woubet Alemu, South Dakota State University

Christopher Bobryk, University of Missouri-Columbia

Marinés de la Peña-Domene, University of Illinois-Chicago

Monica Dorning, University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Huan Gu, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Margaret Massie, Oregon State University

Amy Mui, University of Toronto

Sarah Schmid, University of Nevada-Reno

Ian Seiferling, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Douglas Shoemaker, North Carolina State University



Student Travel Awardees

Photo by Audrey Mayer

**Report submitted by the 2014 US-IALE Awards Committee
Todd Lookingbill (Chair), Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Betty Kreakie, Steven Walters & Jingle Wu**



NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program



The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). The program has supported more than 350 students from approximately 140 institutions worldwide since 1998 to present their research and interact with leading scientists and other attendees at meetings of US-IALE and IALE.

This is the 17th consecutive year of the program. The 15 awardees had opportunities to meet at a special dinner gathering, learn the latest developments in landscape ecology, present their research, build professional networks with other conference attendees, and collaborate on telecoupling.

NASA-MSU Awardees (Class of 2014)

Marufa Akther, Lakehead University, Canada

Caroline Curtis, University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Whalen Dillon, North Carolina State University

Lisa Green, Utah State University

Karl Jarvis, Northern Arizona University

Binbin Li, Duke University

Dorothy Maguire, McGill University, Canada

Alexis Maldonado, University of Central Florida

Katherine Renwick, Colorado State University

Danica Schaffer-Smith, Duke University

Eric Taber, Pennsylvania State University

Stephanie Tomscha, University of British Columbia, Canada

Michael Treglia, Texas A & M University

Hui Xu, University of Michigan

Hongbo Yang, Michigan State University

The 2014 NASA-MSU Awards Committee consists of Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Chair), Garik Gutman (NASA), Shannon Davis (MSU), and Shuxin Li (MSU).



NASA-MSU Awardees

Photo by Audrey Mayer

Foreign Scholar Travel Awards



Luciana Signorelli Faria Lima
Photo by Audrey Mayer

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. This year, US-IALE received a grant from IALE International, allowing us to support two additional travel awards, for a total of four foreign travel scholars (though one scholar could not make it at the last minute). The 2014 recipients of the USIALE Foreign Scholar Travel Awards (FSTA) were:

Luciana Signorelli Faria Lima, Brazil, Departamento de Ecologia, Universidade Federal de Goiás; Presentation: Factors affecting landscape occupancy for Hylidae tree frogs in the Brazilian Cerrado

Johannes Rüdissler, Austria, Institute of Ecology, University of Innsbruck; Presentation: Distance to nature – a feasible environmental indicator and its relation to bird species richness in Austria

Leandro Reverberi Tambosi, Brazil, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo; Presentation: Restoration optimization using a spatially explicit approach



Johannes Rüdissler
Photo by Audrey Mayer

In addition to support from US-IALE and IALE International, funds are raised at the annual meeting in our silent book and software auction. Many thanks to this year's contributors of donated items:

2 licenses for IDRISI Selva and Land Change Modeler software, Clark Labs

Books from Springer Publishing, Island Press, John Hopkins University Press, and Sinauer Associates

Books from Dan Kashian, Book Review Editor for Landscape Ecology



Leandro Reverberi Tambosi
Photo by Audrey Mayer

We are incredibly excited for the IALE World Congress in Portland next summer. IALE International is providing us with substantial support for foreign scholar travel awards. If you would like more information on the program, or you would like to become a member of the review committee, please email Kathy at kathy.vigness.raposa@gmail.com.

—Submitted on behalf of the FSTA review committee,
Kathy Vigness-Raposa, FSTA Committee Chair

BOOKS NEEDED!

Please consider donating books to the silent auction, which provides support for Foreign Scholar Travel awards.

The Silent Auction takes place each year at the US-IALE meeting.

New US-IALE Officers

The following officers were elected in spring 2014

Treasurer: Todd Hawbaker



Todd Hawbaker

I am excited to serve as US-IALE treasurer. I was first exposed to US-IALE as an undergrad at Iowa State University when my advisor encouraged me to attend the meeting in East Lansing, MI. It was a tough choice, but I skipped a spring-break ski trip to Colorado and went. That was a turning point in my life and an impor-

tant experience that convinced me that graduate school and a research career was the direction I wanted to go.

I finished my B.S. degree at Iowa State University in 1998. I then worked for a couple of years burning and restoring tall-grass prairie in Minnesota. From there, I went to the University of Wisconsin – Madison and received my M.S. degree in forestry in 2003 and Ph.D. degree in forestry in 2009. After graduate school, I joined the U.S. Geological Survey as a research ecologist and now work at the Geosciences and En-

vironmental Change Science Center in Denver, CO.

My current research combines remote sensing with statistical and process-based ecosystem simulation models to examine the impacts of ecosystem disturbances on carbon stocks and fluxes. I've actively participated in US-IALE meetings and have authored and coauthored several articles in *Landscape Ecology*. Currently, I manage several large research projects at the USGS and keep close track of my research budgets and funds.

Councillor-at-Large: Helene Wagner



Helene Wagner

I'm an Associate Professor at the Department of Biology, University of Toronto Mississauga, and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto. After getting my PhD at ETH Zurich, I worked with John Wiens and Bea Van Horne as a postdoctoral fellow at Colorado State University. I then returned to Switzerland for another postdoc position at WSL Swiss Federal Research Institute.

My research focuses on how human landscape alteration affects biodiversity patterns and

processes. I'm interested in functional connectivity of plant communities and the processes that shape community composition. Currently I'm developing tools for landscape genetics to test alternative models of potential functional connectivity with molecular data.

At University of Toronto, I teach undergraduate courses in Landscape Ecology and Biometrics, and every other year, I lead a local instance of the Distributed Graduate Seminar in Landscape Genetics. As a co-organizer of this web-based course, I really enjoy the interdisciplinary and international collaborative research with students and professionals. Beyond research and teaching, I'm developing a training program for graduate advisors

as part of my qualification towards an ILM Diploma in Executive Coaching and Mentoring.

Coming from Switzerland, I've been an IALE member since 1999, and a US-IALE member since starting my position in Canada in 2007. At the 1999 meeting, I received a NASA-MSU Professional Development Award and thus experienced first-hand what a great job US-IALE does at integrating young scientists into the community and providing opportunities for networking. In fact, the culture of IALE may be an important reason why I identify myself as a landscape ecologist, and I'm looking forward to 'giving back' to our community by serving US-IALE as a Councillor at large.

Councillor-at-Large: Yolanda Wiersma



Yolanda Wiersma

I am honoured to be elected as a member of the US-IALE executive. I've been a member of US-IALE since 2006. I have participated as a student, a symposium organizer and a student judge at the conference and am thrilled to have a chance to give something back to the Association.

I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Memorial University, in St. John's, Canada. Where's that? Many people in "mainland" Canada even are a bit vague on

that point, so don't feel bad. St. John's is the capital city (pop. 200,000) of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (pop. 500,000). Newfoundland is the big island on the east coast of Canada. We're on a rock in the middle of the North Atlantic and so we have awesome seabird colonies and spring visits by humpback whales. We are also known as the foggiest city in Canada, but we don't let that bother us and survive with a great arts and music scene.

Despite being somewhat isolated from the rest of North America, we are not such a backwater as you might think. Memorial is the biggest university in Atlantic Canada and has over 20,000 students. I have been on

faculty since 2006 and teach introductory Ecology, Landscape Ecology and Applications of GIS to Landscape Ecology and Conservation Biology. My location and the size of the province allows for some great collaborations with researchers in the provincial Wildlife and Forestry Departments as well as the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans. Some of my field sites have been as close to my office as a 10 minute drive, and we see moose there. I've had an active research lab and my current research projects focus on multi-scale predictive habitat modelling, and citizen science.

Student Representative: Whalen Dillon



Whalen Dillon

I am a PhD Student in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. Currently I am studying the landscape epidemiology of an emerging infectious disease in forests. I have two goals in this research: (1) contributing to advancement of epidemiological theory, and (2) promoting resiliency of ecosystem functions in natural and semi-natural landscapes by communicating with managers, stakeholders, and the

public.

My first US-IALE conference was the 2011 meeting in Portland, Oregon where I benefited from helpful feedback on my poster. I have been an active member since, and continued to benefit from opportunities provided by US-IALE, including workshops and the student-mentor lunch. As your student rep, I would like to continue advancing these opportunities and increase access and awareness to research, funding, workshops, and job opportunities. I would also like to foster communication and develop a vibrant online community for exchanging ideas on re-

search, science communication, and other member interests. We can do this by taking advantage of existing online social venues such as Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, and Facebook. My previous academic leadership experiences include organizing abstract review and scoring, and presentation scheduling for a graduate student research symposium, and holding positions of treasurer and planning committee member for graduate student organizations. I look forward to serving the US-IALE student membership during the next two years, so don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or ideas!

Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

Marinés de la Peña-Domene

University of Illinois at Chicago



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

In high school, I enrolled in a workshop called "Young Naturalists", where students were encouraged to read, listen to talks and watch documentaries about nature, but the most important parts we learned in the field. Experiencing nature by touching it is what has kept me fascinated with understanding it. I majored in Biology at University of Guadalajara, Mexico. For my undergraduate thesis, I tested species response to nutrient and water conditions in experimental plantations. I received a M.S. in Biology at the National University of Mexico (UNAM) under the direction of Dr. Cristina Martinez-Garza. My thesis evaluated seedling recruitment in an enrichment planting experiment in a fragmented tropical rainforest. I met my current advisor, Henry Howe, working on this project and I decided to pursue a PhD at UIC in Chicago.

Tell us a bit about your current work.

My focus is experimental restoration. I work in Los Tuxtlas Biological Reserve (Mexico), a biodiversity hotspot and a mosaic of tropical rainforest fragments and pastures cleared for cattle grazing. While extensive ecological research has been conducted in the region, few studies have attempted to offer solutions to existing conservation issues. I aim to understand how ecological processes can be harnessed to support the coexistence of human activities and conservation. My research goal is to restore ecosystem processes that maintain regeneration potential and biodiversity within the agricultural landscape. Ecological restoration in rural economies also reinforces other ecosystem services, including soil retention, carbon storage, and maintenance of hydrological systems. Restoring landscape connectivity allows animals to disperse

seeds and pollinate flowers among forest fragments, thus maintaining the plants that depend upon them.

How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

My career focus has been on evaluating seed rain and seedling recruitment of native species under experimental plantings, as a way to measure the ability of each planting type to promote regeneration. I am exploring different planting strategies like using rapidly maturing trees as magnets for over 100 fruit-eating birds, bats, and ground mammals to quickly increase seed rain. I assumed that connectivity in agricultural landscapes would also be regained, but collaborating with Dr. Emily Minor I became interested in evaluating this at a larger scale.

What place does landscape ecology have in your past and current work?

The work I have done in landscape ecology is quite recent. I am looking at how restoration plots functionally connect with surrounding secondary and primary forest for endemic (Red-listed vulnerable) tree species, *Ocotea uxpanapana*. For large seeded species dispersed by large animals like toucans, connectivity is essential to maintain viable populations and prevent their extinction. This is a clear example of how maintaining heterogeneous plantings, even in small plots, within grazing pastures will help to preserve many tropical rainforest species that are threaten by fragmentation. To assess how strategic mixed plantings can manipulate dispersal processes on a landscape scale, I started to look into landscape ecology.

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

Fragmentation and socioeconomic factors cannot be separated. To create viable long-term alternatives we need to have an integrated landscape perspective that favors conservation and positively influences the economies of low-income ranchers. In this sense, landscape ecology is quite relevant to my field of research. Not many studies look at restoration ecology with a landscape focus in the tropics. I believe that combining these two fields can bring about more practical and viable solutions to reduce the threats of fragmentation in the tropical forests.

Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

Eric Taber

Pennsylvania State University



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

After earning a B.A. in Biology and Geography from Colgate University in 2013, I entered the Department of Geography at Pennsylvania State University where I am currently a second year M.S. candidate. As an undergraduate, I pursued varied research experiences, conducting field work in Siberia on climate change, in Nepal on infrastructure development and in Costa Rica on plant physiology. I began to focus my interests with the study of infectious disease dynamics while a senior at Colgate University and since arriving at Penn State, I have continued investigating infectious disease within coupled human and natural systems.

Tell us a bit about your current work.

I am pursuing two separate but related research projects for my M.S. The first research project deals with the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, which can serve as a vector for dengue fever virus. *A. albopictus* range expansion in Pennsylvania along with imported cases of dengue fever among individuals that contracted the virus while traveling abroad may enable local outbreaks of dengue fever. My work is centered on *A. albopictus* occurrence and range expansion in Pennsylvania as well as the modeling of dengue fever virus transmission probabilities and combining these with imported cases of dengue fever to create a dengue fever risk index.

My second research project seeks to determine the extent to which protected areas (e.g. national parks) control malaria prevalence within nearby human populations throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Protected areas shape many biophysical and social factors related to malaria prevalence such as land-

use/land-cover, biodiversity, socioeconomic conditions, and human behavior. However, despite global exponential growth in the number and extent of protected areas, their role within malaria dynamics remains unclear. By quantifying the relationship between malaria prevalence and protected areas, my hope is that this work will guide proactive management decisions to address and reduce malaria prevalence within and surrounding protected areas.

How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

My advisor at Penn State, Dr. Erica Smithwick, is a landscape ecologist. After taking a course with her this spring on landscape ecology, I began to see the utility of a landscape ecology approach for addressing the type of research questions I am pursuing. And as I began developing my M.S. research proposals, it became clear that landscape ecology would aid me in my research on vector borne infectious disease dynamics.

What place does landscape ecology have in your past and current work?

Landscape ecology in the context of my research deals with the influence of landscape scale patterns on ecological processes and the links between biophysical and social system components. Broadly speaking, I study patterns of disease vector occurrence and how these patterns contribute to disease outbreak risk as well as patterns of protected area existence and management and how these patterns contribute to disease prevalence. In both cases, scale is an important consideration.

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

After attending the US-IALE Symposium in Anchorage in May, I have no doubt that the future of landscape ecology remains bright. In particular, I enjoyed hearing from researchers using landscape ecology to bridge the natural and social sciences. Landscape ecology is often applied to coupled human and natural systems; however, I believe there remains plenty of room for the discipline to expand in this direction and more broadly link the natural sciences with the social sciences. As a developing landscape ecologist, I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the discipline.

Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

students per mentor.

This year's ***Student Social*** was held at *Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse* (humpy is short for humpback salmon), a great nearby spot with excellent food and drinks. We had a great time getting to know each other in a more relaxed setting. We took advantage of daylight hours that were much longer than what most of us are used to, and we held the entire social outside under a beautiful Alaskan sky.

This year we offered a ***Student Workshop*** called "*Inquiry-Based Curriculum Development for Landscape Ecologists*," in which participants learned about inquiry-based instruction methods in a free half-day workshop. In addition to learning the basics of this student-centered, active approach to education, we learned about specific ways to implement them from panelists Todd Lookingbill, Falk Huettmann, and Tom Edwards. We had a great discussion with participants on the benefits and drawbacks of inquiry-based and lecture-based approaches to instruction. Resources from this workshop, including student input on the advantages and disadvantages of inquiry-based instruction, will be posted on the US-IALE website under [Student Resources](#). *Let us know which workshop topics you would like to see in the future!*

Our student-professional mixer, the "***We'll***

Pick up the Tab" ***Social***, provided an informal networking opportunity for students and landscape professionals. Professionals purchased drink tickets for students, which we randomly distributed to all the students at the social. To redeem the drink tickets, we asked students to find the professional who purchased their ticket and introduce themselves. Since initiated in 2009, this has been a popular event for helping students and professionals get to know each other. Thanks to the professionals that purchased tickets and the students who participated!

If you signed up for the ***Student Presentation Feedback Program***, you received constructive critiques of your poster or oral presentation. This feedback program offers students an opportunity to improve their research and presentations without the pressure of competing for a presentation award. We'd like to give a big *thank you* to everyone who provided critiques for the students!

This year we elected our ***new student representative for 2014-2016, Whalen Dillon***. Whalen is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. Whalen has been an active member of US-IALE since 2011 and he is looking forward to helping to facilitate communication with the student community and expanding

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Report from the US-IALE Policy Committee

The Policy Committee facilitated a well-attended symposium at the Anchorage AK conference, "Prioritizing Landscape Ecology's Contribution to Policy Development and Analysis." Six presenters offered their perspectives on the role that landscape ecology can play in developing policy for emerging issues, including land use change, climate change, and urbanization. An open discussion after the presentations offered lively debates on risk perception, the need for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary work, and better communication among scientists, policy makers, and the public. The presenters and committee members are now organizing the information from the presentations and discussion into a "State of the Science" report for the journal *BioScience*.

—Audrey Mayer, Chair of US-IALE Policy Committee

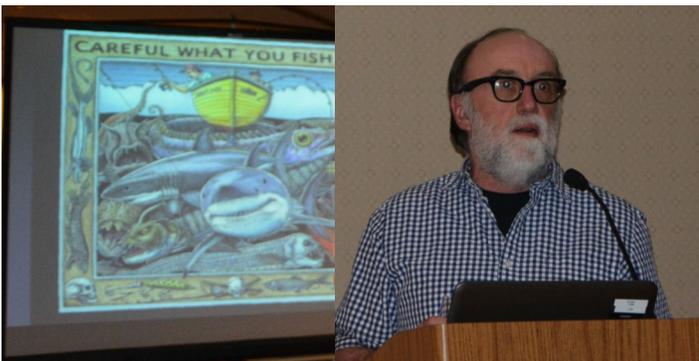
Meeting in Anchorage, AK (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Over 330 landscape ecologists from all over the United States and ten foreign countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico and Puerto Rico) attended the lively conference. The engaged participants, as well over 40 guests, were able to choose from hundreds of presentations, numerous special Symposia, eight workshop offerings, a fully packed poster session, and six field trips.

And, as it is tradition with US-IALE, we had quite strong student participation with over 80 students attending. There were a number of student-focused activities including a student/mentor lunch, a city bike tour, an evening student social held, and the popular "We'll Pick up the Tab" cocktail reception social, as well as the infamous NASA-MSU dinner for awardees.

The four plenary speakers were once again exceptional! Prof Jack Liu (Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University) covered in his very well-attended talk 'Telecoupling'. The next day was then started by Dr Brian Czech (Center for the Advancement of Steady State Economics; CASSE) featuring the relevance of ecological economics for landscapes. At the evening banquet, Ray Troll from Juneau provided a great entertainment indeed, featuring the many (artistic and cultural) aspects of Alaska's Salmon Landscapes. We concluded with Prof Terry Bowyer (University Idaho) providing his deep insights regarding aspatial predator-prey ratio models, including examples from his life-long Alaskan field research, and the limited interpretability of those models. Also of note was the nice session



Ray Troll, giving the keynote address at the Awards Banquet

Photos by Jamie Trammell



Opening reception (Eric Gustafson, Louis Iverson, Hong He, Nancy McIntyre).

Photos by Janet Franklin

kick-off talk by Prof Bodil Bluhm (SFOS, University of Alaska Fairbanks) featuring the seascape of the North Pole!

The workshop offerings for this year's meeting ranged from teaching landscape ecology (inquiry-based), to scenario analysis and GIS for social scientists, to open access and software packages (R, QGIS, GUIDO and IDRISI). A NASA workshop on remote sensing was also well attended and had much follow-up in subsequent sessions. More details of each workshop can be found on the meeting website (<http://usiale.org/anchorage2014/>). Any of these conference sessions would not have been possible without the dedication of the workshop conveners and the session chairs.

The excursions covered local highlights like Anchorage's scenic city and marshland, the Wildlife Conservation Center, hiking the Chugach Mountains, visiting the Matanuska Glacier, a Prince William Sound cruise as well as Denali State Park!

As an established tradition, numerous awards were handed out to recognize outstanding student presentations and to provide travel grants for students and foreign scholars: NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award; the Student Present-

(Continued on page 14)

Meeting in Anchorage, AK (cont.)

(Continued from page 13)

tation Awards Program; the US-IALE Foreign Scholar Travel Award. It's easy to understand that the US-IALE Awards committee had a full slate of award recipients this year and they are presented in the newsletter contribution. Janet Franklin, as the new president, organized these awards very well. The outgoing president, Kurt Ritters, was highly acclaimed for his great work over the years with US-IALE and this conference (a big thanks from all of us).

US-IALE gratefully recognizes the generous support from a number of conference sponsors (thanks to our fund raiser Brian Buma; details are found in the program, in the banquet slides, and online). Further, we wish to acknowledge the support by the National Park Service for the Arctic Impression Display (featuring the Arctic coastline in a unique artistic way for landscape ecologists).

Finally, the good success of this meeting must be attributed to the participants, nice planning, hard work and effort, and commitment by the local conference organization group of the program chair (Falk Huettmann) and the entire team (Local Organizers: Tracey Gotthardt, Jamie Trammell, Sarah Wandersee; Program committee: Michael Goldstein, John Morton, Brian Buma, Andy Baltensperger; and of course our great event managers, Meg Boera and Cindy Delaney, and the US-IALE webmaster, Matt Viehdorfer). We thank them all!

– Falk Huettmann, Tracey Gotthardt, Jamie Trammell and Sarah Wandersee, July 2014



A raft of sea otters (above) and a close up (right), seen on a field trip

Photos by Jamie Trammell



26-glacier cruise field trip, Prince William Sound

Photo by Janet Franklin



Geoff Henebry and Kurt Riitters on the 26-glacier cruise field trip, Prince William Sound

Photo by Janet Franklin

President's Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

checking because I have cited him so frequently, going all the way back to my pre-Endnote days).

Our annual symposium this year was, for many of us who attended, our first visit to Alaska, and perfect weather, outstanding field trips, and extended daylight hours that facilitating long, unhurried dinners all contributed to the very special feeling this meeting had. Other highlights for me included a plenary lecture by past president Jack Liu, a great banquet speech by artist Ray Troll, and awarding the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist award to past president Dean Urban. I should stop singling out events for fear of appearing to play favorites—see the meeting article in this issue for a complete summary of the highlights. There were many fantastic symposia—some of which I could not attend because they were at the same time as my own. But as I explained to some of my younger colleagues, at the first US IALE meeting I attended (Ft Collins, 1989) there were only two concurrent sessions—but I was still frustrated not to be able to be at both! At our small, friendly focused meetings I always want to see every talk, so no matter how many or few concurrent sessions there are I will always wish I could clone myself.

A big focus in the coming year will be the next meeting, as always, but this one is special. For the first time in 16 years, US-IALE will be hosting the IALE World Congress in green and sustainable Portland, OR (July 5-10, 2015) (see article in newsletter) (<http://www.ialeworldcongress.org/>). Of course the program chair and local hosts (Rob Scheller, Anita Morzillo, Vivek Shandas) will be leading the planning effort, but they can count on support from the Executive Committee, especially me. Also IALE (lead by Felix Keinast, President, and Tom Edwards, General Secretary) have offered extraordinary support for this conference aimed at broadening international participation especially by early-career landscape ecologists.

Our 2016 US IALE meeting will be in beautiful Asheville, NC (3-7 April, 2016) and we have a

potential location in the works for 2017. But if anyone is interested in hosting the meeting in 2018 or beyond, please get in touch with me or with the Site Selection Committee (chaired by Helene Wagner, our recently elected Councillor-at-large).

Another exciting development is that the Policy Committee has become a standing committee (because you all voted for that) and, currently ably led by Audrey Meyer, is actively working to implement the goals set out by the exploratory taskforce in in 2010—to facilitate the transfer of landscape ecology knowledge to public policy decision makers, drawing on the knowledge of US-IALE members, especially those who are in government positions, and working within the modest means of our chapter (not reinventing the wheel)! Audrey organized a symposium at the Anchorage meeting on this topic and is leading an effort to write an invited report from our chapter on the state of our science for the journal *BioScience*.

We also have been developing a Communications Committee, spearheaded by Sara Gagné. The purpose of this committee is to improve communication of our chapter goals via enhanced content of the web site, social media and other outlets. The target audience includes current membership, landscape ecologists who are not yet members, ecologists and other scientists who are not landscape ecologists but are interested in what we do, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the general public, K-12 educators, NGOs, government agencies, business and industry. Their significant goal for this year is to become a standing committee of our chapter, subject to your approval, and to get our message out!

I look forward to serving as your president for the next two years. 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**

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

Send your suggestions to eminor@uic.edu

Benefits of Membership

Membership offers discounts to annual meetings. Our annual meetings continue to expand and offer state-of-the-science access for meeting participants. We also have a very active student group who strives to engage the next generation of landscape ecologists. The [US-IALE website](#) and [FACEBOOK](#) are focal venues for students to keep in touch.

The bi-annual newsletter keeps you up to date with the organization's current happenings, new efforts in which the organization is engaged, and timely articles with a landscape ecology focus. The Newsletter will continue to expand to include important news for members as well as job announcements, meeting announcements, etc. As a

member, if you have an article you would like to see in the Newsletter, contact the US-IALE Secretary.

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

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

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

[US-IALE Membership Information](#)

World Congress (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

Robert Scheller (Portland State University) and includes Hong He (University of Missouri) and Jennifer Allen and Geoffrey Duh (Portland State University).

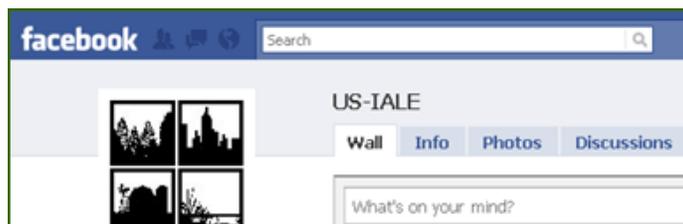
Portland has ready access to some of the most diverse and scenic landscapes in the Pacific Northwest and we will offer many informative field

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**

Join us on FACEBOOK for up-to-date information

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



Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 12)

opportunities for students. We would also like to extend a huge **thank you to Julie Ripplinger**, our outgoing student representative. She has been a great advocate for students and did an excellent job of helping students make the most of their experience with US-IALE. We wish Julie the best in her future endeavors!

This coming year we have the rare and exciting opportunity to host our international colleagues at the **IALE World Congress** in Portland, Oregon in July 2015. We look forward to supporting student activities and interacting with an even more diverse group of students from around the world. In addition to sending out conference news by email, we will be posting updates about Portland as well as about other events and news on the US-IALE [Facebook page](#). Check out our page and keep in touch!

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions.

Your US-IALE student representatives,

Whalen Dillon (2014-2016)

wwdillon <at> ncsu.edu

Karl Jarvis (2013 - 2015)

karljarvis <at> nau.edu



Cocktail Reception and "We'll Pick up the Tab" Social
Photos by Jamie Trammell

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

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

US-IALE's purpose is to

- foster landscape ecology in the United States
- provide a link among practitioners in landscape ecology within the United States as well as the international community
- promote interdisciplinary research and communication among scientists, planners, and other professionals concerned with landscape ecology

Who Would Benefit from US-IALE Membership?

Landscape Architects
Land and Nature Managers
Land Use Planners
GIS Specialists
Wildlife Biologists

Ecologists
Conservation Biologists
Biogeographers
Spatial Statisticians
Ecosystem Modelers



US IALE on the Web



IALE on the Web