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# SOCIETY ACTIONS

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## Minutes of the ESA Governing Board Meeting

2–3 August 2002, Tucson,  
Arizona

The 2–3 August meeting of the ESA Governing Board was attended by Pamela Matson (President), Ann Bartuska (President-Elect), Jill Baron (Secretary), James Clark (Vice President for Science), Timothy Schowalter (Vice President for Public Affairs), William Schlesinger (Vice President for Finance), Carol Brewer (Vice President for Education and Human Resources), Jim Gosz (Member-at-Large), Julie Denslow (Member-at-Large), Sharon Collinge (Member-at-Large), and Executive Director Katherine McCarter. Managing Editor David Baldwin, Associate Managing Editor David Gooding, *Bulletin* Editor-in-Chief Allan Solomon, *Frontiers* Editor-in-Chief Sue Silver, Director for Public Affairs Nadine Lynn, Education Director Jason Taylor, Meeting Manager Ellen Cardwell, and Financial Manager Elizabeth Biggs were present for parts of the meeting. Incoming Vice President for Public Affairs Alison Power, and incoming Members-at-Large Ed Johnson and Oswaldo Sala attended as nonvoting participants. The meeting was called to order by President Matson at 7:15 pm on Friday, 2 August 2002, and adjourned at 5:30 pm on Saturday, 2 August 2002.

### I. ROLL CALL

A. *The Governing Board unanimously adopted the Agenda, and added discussion of the position of SBI/Science Director to new busi-ness.*

B. *Ratification of votes taken via e-mail since November 2001:*

The Governing Board unanimously ratified the minutes from the 17–19 May 2002 meeting that were previously voted on via e-mail.

### II. REPORTS

A. *President Matson reported on the tremendous progress that has been made this past year in ESA: Frontiers, and development of the Needs Assessment.*

B. *Report of the Executive Director and Staff*

Executive Director McCarter presented a set of written reports to the Governing Board summarizing the activities of ESA staff. Highlights of staff reports include the following:

1) *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* is preparing to launch its first issue in 2003. Editor-in-Chief Sue Silver and Assistant Editor Julian Smith are working out of offices in Silver Spring, Maryland. An Advisory Board and Editorial Board have been established, and papers are coming in for the first few issues.

2) ESA membership for 2001 was 7833, of which 1328 were international.

3) ESA's Board of Professional Certification evaluated 88 applications at their May meeting. Certifications were given for 11 associate ecologists, 19 ecologists, and 52 senior ecologists.

4) The SBI and Scientific Program Office reported on their current

focus areas and their strong success over the past 10 years. Biologically reactive nitrogen, aquatic ecosystems, rangelands, invasive species, climate change, ecosystem services, the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification, and support of the ecological community, including members, agencies, and a new effort to support women in global change science, are all current activities.

5) The Public Affairs Office has been actively helping members meet with their congressmen, sending out action alerts, sending out statements on issues, keeping members informed on important legislative topics, and keeping the press informed on important ecological results.

6) The Education Office, which was elevated to Office status within ESA HQ, has been awarded a new SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology, Education, Development, and Sustainability) grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. They are also an active part of the BEN network (BioSciences Education Network).

7) Submissions to ESA journals are nearly 10% greater in 2002 than in 2001, while acceptance rates were 24.1% for *Ecology* and *Monographs*, and 37.7% for *Ecological Applications* (inclusive of Invited Features). There is no longer a journal backlog for *Ecology* and *Ecological Applications*. Online submission and review of manuscripts is expected to be available beginning January 2003.

8) Meetings continue to draw more participants, and Meeting Manager Ellen Cardwell is working closely with Program Chairs to make the meet-

ing more enjoyable, less stressful, and more successful. The Madison Annual Meeting had 3,010 registrants. As of the 2 August Governing Board meeting, preregistration for the Tucson Annual Meeting was 3,200. Future meetings include the Benthic Fisheries Symposium in Tampa, Florida (11–14 November 2002); 88th ESA Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia (3–8 August 2003); Invasive Plants Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (3–7 November 2003); 89th ESA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon (2–6 August 2004), 90th ESA Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada (7–12 August 2005); and 91st ESA Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee (6–11 August 2006). Tom Swetnam (University of Arizona) will be program chair for Savannah and Portland.

9) Nancy Huntly is developing an endowment for ESA in honor of Jay Anderson.

#### *D. Report of the Vice President for Finance.*

Elizabeth Biggs, Financial Manager, and Katherine McCarter reported that ESA revenues during 2001–2002 were greater than expenses, due to institutional journal subscriptions and registration income from Madison and the Nitrogen Meeting. Expenses were kept at or lower than budgeted amounts through careful management of cash flow in the Washington Office. Once again, restricted funds managed by ESA are behaving similarly to the rest of the U.S. financial markets and have not recovered from the recent recession.

### **III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

#### *A. Fiscal Year 2002–2003 ESA Budget*

1) Approval of the proposed budget. Vice President Schlesinger presented the FY 2002–2003 budget proposal to be presented to ESA Council. The proposed budget reflects an approximate 4% increase in overall expenses compared with actual expenses from 2001–2002. This is largely due

to expenses for *Frontiers* (which are covered by the Publication Fund). The new budget includes a \$50,000 repayment to the unrestricted funds. The Governing Board approved the budget to go forward for Council approval.

The Board wishes to thank Vice President Schlesinger for six years of hard labor as Vice President for Finance. His careful oversight of the Society's finances contributed greatly to the fiscal health we now enjoy.

2) Committee Funds. The Governing Board voted to provide \$5,600 each for four committee meetings during the coming year. Committee meetings that will be supported include Education and Human Resources, Sustainable Biosphere Initiative, Research, and Public Affairs. There was a discussion to merge SBI/Science, and Research Committees, but no action. This action will be taken up again pending the results of the "Needs Assessment" committee.

3) The Governing Board approved \$10,000 (a doubling from previous years) for Long-Range Planning grants for sections and chapters to undertake long-range planning efforts to benefit the Society. Proposals can request up to \$2500. The Vice Presidents of Science, Public Affairs, and Education and Human Resources, and Ed Johnson, as Member-at-Large, will serve on the review committee. An announcement for the proposals will come out in early fall, with October submission deadlines.

*B. President Matson led a discussion of the Society's proposal to develop an assessment of priorities, needs, and opportunities in ecology.*

The objective of the assessment will be to identify and articulate the challenges, needs, and opportunities for ecology in the next decade, in order that ecological knowledge can be increased and disseminated, and can make strong contributions to sustaining Earth's life support systems (including species and ecosystems and the goods and services they provide). The

Governing Board discussed the composition of the committee that will conduct the assessment and possible funding sources. The Board wanted representation of ecologists from academic homes, agencies, and NGOs, in addition to international participation for makeup of the committee. There was discussion about ESA convening a meeting of presidents of ecological societies of the Americas to foster relations, and include them in the assessment.

#### *C. Aldo Leopold Leadership Program Update*

President-Elect Bartuska reported that the Packard Foundation has committed to seed money for the renewed Leopold Program. A proposal will be submitted by Fall 2002 from Colorado State University (Diana Wall, P.I.) for the renewal. Goals for the next program will include core training of Fellows, enhancement of training for existing Fellows, including curriculum development for Fellows' classes, and outreach, such as training offered at ESA meetings and by other societies. In addition, some funds will be available for posttraining projects or activities proposed by Fellows.

*D. Paul Zedler, Program Chair, and Ellen Cardwell, ESA Meetings Manager, announced that the number of registrants for the Tucson joint meeting of ESA with the Society for Ecological Restoration was the largest in ESA history.*

The meetings reflected substantial changes over past meeting formats, including separate poster sessions, extended lunch hours, and many features added in response to suggestions made by members via the postmeeting questionnaire and during sessions with graduate students.

*E. The Historical Records Committee (under the oversight of the Secretary) assembles and maintains the history portion of the ESA web site, supervises the collection and preservation of records to be deposited in Society archives, and addresses poli-*

*cies regarding notifying the Society about deaths of its members and resolutions of respect.*

The current chair, Frank Golley, is planning to step down. There was a discussion about how to invigorate this committee in a digital age, and what kind of committee membership would help this committee best serve the ESA. Suggestions made to Secretary Baron for membership included a number of eminent ecologists, professional archivists, or librarians (to advise the Society on what records will be important to historians in future years), and participation by the Education and Human Resources Committee. Video tapes were discussed as an exciting way to interview and archive eminent ecologists. Secretary Baron is to follow up on the ideas and report to the Board in November.

*F. Allen Solomon was asked if he would remain in his position as Editor-in-Chief of the ESA Bulletin as it goes through transition from print to electronic media, and he agreed.*

The 2002–2003 year will be experimental, with materials posted online quarterly and archived annually so that the ESA's first journal does not disappear. The Board emphasized the need for ESA members to volunteer services to keep current features active (such as "Ecology 101," or "Tech Tools"). The transition to an electronic version will be made with some fanfare, with an announcement to all ESA members.

*G. Translation of ESA materials into Spanish, possibly French and Chinese*

Options discussed included (a) entering into an agreement with a Latin American publishing house for translation and printing; (b) inclusion of the cost for translation into budgets for future *Issues in Ecology*; (c) obtaining funding from grants for translation of past *Issues*; making translated versions available online, since shipping is expensive. An ad hoc committee including Ed Johnson, Oswaldo

Sala, Rodolfo Dirzo, and Julie Denslow was asked to come up with a business plan for translating past *Issues* to present in November. This committee will work under the aegis of Vice President for Public Affairs Power, with liaison with Publications Committee Chair Reichman.

*H. Steve Chaplin, Future Meetings Chair, presented a proposal to reorganize the Future Meetings and Program Committees into one committee with responsibility for both.*

The proposal was well received by the Governing Board, and after discussion and suggestions, the Board asked Steve Chaplin and the Program Committee to submit a final proposal for the November Governing Board meeting. The planned change will require a Bylaws change, so it will be circulated for 90 days notice before a vote by ESA Council. Paul Ringold, who will be the local host for the Portland meeting, agreed to serve as Program Chair for the Montreal meeting.

#### *I. New Business*

1) Vice President Schowalter presented a proposal from Lisa Graumlich for an ESA position paper on wildland fire. After discussion, the Governing Board recommended further development of the idea, with perhaps a discussion including Vice President for Public Affairs Schowalter and Vice President Elect for Public Affairs Power. The Governing Board recognized a need for an ESA position quickly on the issue of fire while it is topical, in addition to a position paper. Ideas included a two-page statement developed from papers by Allen and Swetnam currently in press, reviewed by the Governing Board, and disseminated by the Public Affairs Office.

2) With the resignation of SBI/Science Director Mary Barber, and the rethinking of science priorities via the Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning process, the Governing Board discussed the need to carefully select a new Director who would have the

expertise and flexibility needed to implement any new science objectives. The Governing Board also noted that next year is an appropriate time to re-think the role of the SBI office within ESA.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Baron, Secretary*

## **Minutes of the ESA Council Meeting**

### **4 August 2002, Tucson, Arizona**

The ESA Council Meeting was attended by Council Members or their representatives: Kay Gross (Awards Committee), Steve Chaplin (Future Meetings Committee), Rick Boyce (Rocky Mountain Chapter), Ray Dueser (Western Chapter), Niki Nicholas (Southeastern Chapter), Michael J. Mappin (Education Section), Louis Gross (Theoretical Ecology Section), Craig Osenberg (Aquatic Section), Deborah Goldberg (Vegetation Section), Dave Breshears (Rangeland Ecology Section), Alexander Gershenson (Agroecology Section), Alison Brody (Plant Population Biology Section), Rob Jackson (Physiological Ecology Section), Jack Williams (Paleoecology Section), Jayne Belnap (Soil Ecology Section), Jacoby Carter (Asian Ecology Section and International Affairs Section), Faith Kearns (Student Ecology Section), and Rick Wetzler (International Affairs Section). Editors-in-Chief David Schimel (*Ecological Applications*), Don Strong (*Ecology and Ecological Monographs*), Sue Silver (*Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*), Allan Solomon (*Bulletin*), and Managing Editor David Baldwin were present. Members of the Governing Board included: President Pamela Matson, President-elect Ann Bartuska, Vice President for Finance Bill Schlesinger, Vice President for Science Jim Clark, Vice President for Education and Human Resources Carol Brewer, Secretary Jill Baron, Members-at-Large Jim Gosz, Julie Denslow, and Sharon Collinge, Members-at-Large-elect Oswaldo Sala

and Ed Johnson, and Executive Director Katherine McCarter. ESA Washington Office staff members included Public Affairs Director Nadine Lymn, SBI Acting Director Lori Hiding, Director of Finance Elizabeth Biggs, and Director of Education Jason Taylor.

## **I. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

*A. President Matson reported that ESA is in excellent condition, both financially and organizationally.*

New initiatives, including the new magazine *Frontiers*, funding for a Congressional Fellow, and the Assessment and Strategic Planning Effort Needs Assessment about to be launched were mentioned as among the many ESA successes. Matson thanked the Washington staff for their support and promotion of ESA efforts.

## **II. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF**

*A. Executive Director McCarter and staff presented a set of written reports to the Council summarizing the activities of ESA staff over the past year, including the many accomplishments of the Sustainable Biosphere Initiative (SBI/Science Office), the Public Affairs Office, and the Publications Office in Ithaca.*

Executive Director McCarter highlighted ESA initiatives and accomplishments, including: *Frontiers*; the health of the journals and plans for the *Bulletin* to go online in January; the establishment of a full-time Office of Education, with Jason Taylor as Director; continued streamlining of electronic dues, meeting registration, and subscription transactions, and an ESA operating budget with revenues substantially over expenses.

McCarter also announced the availability of Long-range Planning Funds of up to \$2500 for sections and chapters that propose to use it for activities that enhance the goals of the Society.

## **III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

*A. Written reports were distributed to Council from the Vice President for Public Affairs Schowalter and the Vice President for Science Clark.*

Highlights included the paper on research directions for the ESA written by the Research Committee in 2002. Vice President for Education and Human Resources Brewer's written report announced the recipients of ESA awards and highlighted the many education and diversity activities occurring at the meetings.

*B. Vice President for Finance Schlesinger reported on the positive cash flow to the ESA over the 2001–2002 budget year.*

The positive balance stemmed mainly from greater than expected revenues from the Madison Annual Meeting and the International Conference on Nitrogen in Washington, as well as careful management of ESA operations. Restricted and endowment funds managed by Townley Capital Management, Inc. and J. Bush, Inc. continue to reflect the dismal stock market of the past year. The ESA portfolio now includes 12.6% of stock in socially responsible mutual funds.

## **IV. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET**

Vice President Schlesinger presented the proposed operating budget for 2002–2003, which includes \$50,000 continued repayment of unrestricted funds. Assumptions include a loss of ~2% in the number of members who subscribe to journals, an increase in the subscription revenues derived from institutions, significant revenues from grants from the Mellon and Packard Foundations for support of the new magazine *Frontiers*, a 4% increase in overall expenses for salaries and office space for the new magazine, and a savings accrued from elimination

of printing and mailing costs associated with the *Bulletin* and *NewSource*. A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

## **V. DUES FOR CHAPTERS AND SECTIONS**

Dues have been \$2.00/year for many years, and some sections and chapters requested an increase. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to increase Chapter and Section dues to \$3.00/year. The motion passed with a vote of 19 for and 2 against, with no abstentions.

## **VI. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ESA PUBLICATION FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Editor-in-Chief Silver presented the format and layout of the new magazine, whose first issue will be launched in February 2003. All ESA members will receive a copy of *Frontiers* as part of their membership. Silver formally requested papers from Council members that meet the rigorous criteria for the new magazine.

## **VI. FUTURE MEETINGS COMMITTEE**

Future Meetings Committee Chair Chaplin announced the locations of future Annual Meetings: Savannah, Georgia in 2003; Portland, Oregon in 2004; Montreal, Canada in 2005; and Memphis, Tennessee in 2006. He also introduced the idea of restructuring and combining the Program and Future Meeting Committees, for which a proposal will be submitted to the Governing Board in November 2002.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Secretary Baron introduced the idea of developing 5-year charters for each section and chapter. The charter will set goals and objectives to be accomplished, and at the end of each 5-year interval, will be reviewed and renewed.

## VIII. RECOGNITION OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS LEAVING THE BOARD

President Matson thanked outgoing Vice President for Public Affairs Schowalter, Vice President for Finance Schlesinger, and Members-at-Large Jim Gosz and Julie Denslow for their contributions to the Governing Board.

## IX. STATEMENT OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Incoming President Bartuska expressed her gratitude to the past presidents, past members of the ESA Governing Board, and the ESA staff, especially Executive Director Katherine McCarter, for putting the Society on a solid financial footing and moving the Society forward. Bartuska discussed her interest in strengthening the role of non-academic (federal, state, and NGO) ecologists in the Society and ecological affairs over the coming year, and in enhancing Society efforts in the policy arena.

## X. SECTION AND CHAPTER DISCUSSION

Secretary Baron led a discussion of the role of sections and chapters in the ESA. Sections and chapters are important parts of ESA in that they provide a community for interaction with colleagues in specific topic areas. Presentations of highly successful activities were given by Nichole Barger of the Rocky Mountain Chapter on the annual Front Range Student Ecology Symposium, by Rob Jackson on the goals and activities of the Physiological Ecology Section, by Michael Mappin on the Education Section, and by Jack Williams on the Paleocology Section. Editor-in-Chief Schimel (*Ecological Applications*) requested the names of people who were willing to serve as associate editors for the journal, and requests were also made for sections and chapters to nominate their deserving colleagues for awards. Sections and chapters were asked to

prepare a 5-year charter to be incorporated into section bylaws by next year, and renewed every 5 years. A number of services provided for ESA sections and chapters by the Society were mentioned, including the availability of long-range planning funds, website maintenance, provision of a home server for section and chapter websites, development of standard portals to sections and chapters from the ESA Home Page, software for website development, and advice.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Baron, Secretary*

## Minutes of the ESA Governing Board Meeting

### 9 August 2002, Tucson, Arizona

The 2–3 August meeting of the ESA Governing Board was attended by Ann Bartuska (President), Pamela Matson (Past-President), Bill Schlesinger (President-Elect), Jill Baron (Secretary), Alison Power (Vice President for Public Affairs), Norm Christensen (Vice President for Finance), Carol Brewer (Vice President for Education and Human Resources), Ed Johnson (Member-at-Large), Oswaldo Sala (Member-at-Large), Sharon Collinge (Member-at-Large), and Executive Director Katherine McCarter. Managing Editor David Baldwin, *Bulletin* Editor-in-Chief Allan Solomon, and Director for Public Affairs Nadine Lynn were also present. Meeting Coordinator Ellen Cardwell and Assistant Editor–*Frontiers* Julian Smith were present for parts of the meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Bartuska at 8:30 am on Friday, 9 August 2002, and adjourned at 10:30 am.

After a brief welcome, the remainder of the meeting was given over to feedback from the current meeting in Tucson and suggestions for next year's meeting in Savannah.

## I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

*A. Annual Meeting format changes for next year*

It was generally agreed that this year's Annual Meeting format was highly successful, with the exception of the large number of symposia and the location of the Awards Ceremony and Past President's Forum on the agenda. Next year, the plenary session with awards and the Past President's Address will be moved to the beginning of the meeting. Suggestions were made for the opening 2-hour plenary session in Savannah:

- 1) State of the Society presented by the President
- 2) Awards
- 3) Formal appreciation given to meeting organizers
- 4) Past President's address
- 5) Keynote speaker (which in alternate years could be the MacArthur Award winner)

Although no final decision was made regarding the format for a Past President's Address, some members of ESA were strongly supportive of maintaining it out of tradition. One option would be as described above. Another option could also include a Past President's Symposium.

The Director of USGS will be invited to the Annual Meeting in Savannah; there is interest in inviting several agency heads to Portland to discuss public lands management. A tie-in with the Lewis and Clark celebration may be possible.

Another recommendation arose from the Society's desire to increase international collaborations. Member-at-Large Sala recommended, and is taking the lead, to have a "Summit of Ecology in the Americas" by inviting the Presidents of all North and South American ecological societies to a 1-day conference. The goals and timing of such an event will be developed by Dr. Sala.

### *B. Follow-up from Council Meeting*

There was some discussion that Council members would like substantial issues to discuss, judging from the heated debate centered around dues increases. Secretary Baron will send Council members summaries of services provided to them by the ESA Office and in turn will remind them of their obligations to develop 5-year charters. Executive Director McCarter will send out items for Council vote, including proposals for new sections and chapters.

### *C. Follow-up from Graduate Student Breakfast*

The breakfast next year should begin with a 5-minute overview from the President. Suggestions from students included the following:

1) More information should be put on the ESA website, such as how to find interdisciplinary information, job, and career specifics.

2) Preprints should be made available online.

3) The Student Section could develop a "How-to guide for navigating the Annual Meeting," including how to organize one's time, what to expect from one's advisor, and how to choose among competing activities.

### *D. Follow-up from the Past President's Forum*

The Past President volunteered to take on a more active development role, particularly with foundations. There was discussion as to how to connect ESA more with international communities, including a possible Secretariat or World Federation of Ecological Societies. The President-Elect and Secretary are asked to attend Past President Forum luncheons in the future.

### *E. Other items*

Improving the state of the Millennium Fund will be a priority for Vice President for Finance Christensen.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Baron, Secretary*

## **Minutes of the ESA Governing Board Meeting**

**22–23 November 2002,  
Washington, D.C.**

The ESA Governing Board November meeting was attended by Pamela Matson (Past President), Bill Schlesinger (President-Elect), Jill Baron (Secretary), Alison Power (Vice President for Public Affairs), Norm Christensen (Vice President for Finance), Carol Brewer (Vice President for Education and Human Resources), Ed Johnson (Member-at-Large), Oswaldo Sala (Member-at-Large), Sharon Collinge (Member-at-Large), and Katherine McCarter (Executive Director). Managing Editor David Baldwin, Public Affairs Director Nadine Lynn, Director of Education Jason Taylor, Director of Finance Elizabeth Biggs, and *Frontiers* Editor-in-Chief Sue Silver were also in attendance. Michael Freedman, auditor with Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman, attended Friday night. Margaret Palmer, Chairwoman of the Ecological Visions Committee, joined the Board Saturday afternoon. The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Schlesinger at 7:00 pm on Friday, 22 November and adjourned at 5:00 pm, 23 November.

### **I. ROLL CALL**

*A. The Board unanimously adopted the agenda.*

### **II. RATIFICATION OF VOTES TAKEN VIA E-MAIL SINCE LAST MEETING**

*A. Approved the nomination of Jeremy James, University of California–Davis, and Kiona Ogle, Duke University, for the Shreve Award honoring desert research.*

*B. Approved the nomination of Antonio Magione, National University of San Luis, Argentina, and Michael J. Lowes, University of Natal, South Africa, for the Whittaker Travel Fellowship for outstanding international ecologists.*

*C. Recommended that the ESA Council establish three new Sections.*

The sections would be Biogeosciences, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and Urban Ecology. Requested that staff initiate a vote on these new groups.

*D. Recommended that the ESA Council approve a bylaws change to establish a new Mexico Chapter.*

*E. Recommended that the ESA Council discontinue the Quebec Chapter.*

### **III. REPORTS**

#### *A. Report of the President*

Although President Bartuska was not able to attend, she passed on the message that her goals this year are to make the Ecological Society of America a more visible resource for policy, and to keep the Board open to opportunities to increase visibility by issuing statements and sponsoring meetings.

#### *B. Meeting with Michael Freedman, auditor*

Mr. Freedman presented the independent auditors' report on ESA finances to the Governing Board. The cover letter to the Board states that the financial statements of ESA present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ecological Society of America, Inc. as of 30 June 2002, and its change in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The report is on file in ESA's Washington headquarters. Mr. Freedman commended ESA for raising dues last year (the first time in 7 years) and noted that some boards have policies to raise dues depending on rates of inflation every few years, or by cumulative cost of inflation. If ESA wishes to do that, we would need to propose a bylaws change.

The Board extends special thanks to Executive Director McCarter and Finance Director Biggs for a perfect audit and no management letters from the auditors for the past two years.

### C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

Executive Director McCarter presented a set of written reports to the Governing Board summarizing the activities of ESA staff. Highlights of staff reports include the following:

1) *Science Director Position.* Lori Hiding is serving as Interim Director for Science until a new Director joins the staff. Candidates were interviewed for this position in September and an offer was made to the top candidate, who, regrettably, opted not to come. The search was reopened and candidates are being interviewed.

**UPDATE:** On 6 January 2003, Clifford Duke joined ESA's staff as Director of Science.

2) *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment* is nearing its opening publication date. Andrew Dobson has joined the International Advisory Board. Chris Emery and Jacqueline Byrd have joined the *Frontiers* staff as Editorial Assistant and Advertising and Marketing Manager, respectively.

3) *Finances and Membership.* Finances are discussed in the REPORTS section. ESA membership increased from 2001 (7833) to 2002 (7844). Individual subscriptions to ESA's journals declined, as anticipated, presumably as members gained online access to journals through their institutions. Institutional and online subscriptions increased, and in 2002 about 25% of members received online journals. Section and chapter membership declined for the third year in a row, with the exception of the Rocky Mountain Chapter and Rangeland Ecology and Agroecology Sections.

Moe Zaw-Aung has joined the ESA Washington staff as Webmaster.

4) *Science Program Office.* Margaret Palmer has agreed to chair the new ESA 18-month-long assessment and strategic planning effort. A number of agencies have committed funding for the Assessment.

A successful symposium, "Effects of Fishing Activities on Benthic Habitats: Linking Geology, Biology, Socioeconomics, and Management," co-sponsored by ESA, USGS, NOAA, and AFS, was held 11–15 November 2002.

Follow-up on the 2001 International Nitrogen Conference included a workshop at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Other Science Program activities included management of the National Parks Ecological Fellowship Program, participation in Sustainable Resources Roundtables, working with UCS on regional climate change effects reports (the Great Lakes report is out for review), and coordinating historical range of variation assessments for the U.S. Forest Service. Working with NSF, ESA supported the development of a CD to promote the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON).

5) *Public Affairs Office.* Nadine Lymn and Adrienne Froelich (AIBS) launched the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) to address federal agency funding for non-medical life science. An announcement of ESA's 2003–2004 Congressional Science Fellowship has been distributed to the ecological community.

6) *Education.* A proposal has been submitted to NSF to sponsor students from underrepresented groups to attend ESA Annual Meetings. SEEDS and BEN (BioScience Education Network) projects are proceeding, with BEN receiving NSF funding through 2004. SEEDS and ESA were presented at career conferences in Boston, Sacramento, Bismarck, Tulsa, and elsewhere.

7) *Publications Office.* Plans for conversion to electronic processing of manuscripts are moving along. Plans for moving the Ithaca office to new quarters are also moving along. ESA's *Bulletin* had its last hard-copy issue and will henceforth be published online.

8) *Meetings.* The 2002 ESA Annual Meeting in Tucson had 3,756 registrants and was the largest ESA meeting ever. Planning for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia,

is well underway. An Invasive Weeds conference, co-sponsored by ESA, will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 3–7 November 2003.

### D. Report of the Vice President for Finance

The status of ESA fund accounts and first-quarter financials were presented by Finance Director Biggs and Executive Director McCarter. Vice President Christensen presented some initial thoughts on the allocation of ESA endowment income. Christensen will seek advice from the Finance Committee on ESA's investment strategy, how best to position ourselves for recovery, and how best to manage and spend out of the endowment. The Board discussed the idea of adding a section to the ESA web site that describes why ESA members should give to ESA.

### E. Frontiers in Ecology

There will be a launch celebration at the AAAS meeting in Denver, 13–17 February 2003, and a similar fête in Washington, D.C. on 6 February.

## IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Meeting of the Ecological Societies of America Proposal

Member-at-Large Sala proposed that ESA host a meeting of the presidents of ecological societies of North, South, and Central American countries (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico) and ESA's president on Friday before the start of the 2003 Annual Meeting. The purpose is to explore possibilities for collaboration. The Board approved the proposal and agreed to fund travel and one night's lodging for five international presidents and one night's lodging for ESA's president. A suggested agenda is to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and purposes of the societies in the morning and to develop a document on future collaborative activities in the afternoon. Publicity should include posters of Society Presidents (similar to last year's Ecologists posters), an announcement in the flyer for Millennium Funds, and posting on ESA's web site.

## B. Issues in Ecology: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

The subcommittee submitted four recommendations to the Board regarding future development, review, and funding for the *Issues in Ecology* series. The Board approved the three related to editorial board composition and responsibilities, and professional venues for manuscripts in addition to *Issues*. The Board added substitute wording related to funding specific *Issues* out of operating funds if funding strategies are not in place, but not allocating funds a priori for *Issues*. Other Board recommendations:

1) An education-oriented person should be a member of the editorial board.

2) Translation of *Issues* into Spanish must be considered in funding strategies.

3) ESA Education Staff should consider making good curriculum outlines for *Issues* (similar to the Climate Reports), and should link these to learning web sites, such as NSF's TIEE.

## C. Position Papers: Process Review

A 16-step process to guide ESA Position Papers from conception to publication was presented to the Governing Board. The Board approved this behemoth with the following exceptions:

Step 3: Following approval of a proposal for a position paper, the lead author and committee have 2 months in which to submit a detailed outline to the Board.

Step 6: The committee is expected to write a draft of the position paper within 8 months once the outline is approved.

Steps 8 and 9 were combined into 8a and 8b; 8b was changed to read: "The monitor provides the draft to ESA headquarters for posting on the ESA web site in the Members Only page for the purpose of obtaining comments. There will be a call for interested ESA members to review the document."

Steps 7, 8a, 8b, and 9 should all occur at the same time.

Steps 9–16 must be renumbered.

The Governing Board discussed potential problems of stalled position papers. Because some papers could become obsolete but the importance of others will not diminish with time, each case should be determined individually. Very timely statements should be submitted as Resolutions. Comments on drafts from ESA members are invited but must be thoughtfully documented; the monitor will distill them. Monitors who rotate off the board will take their monitoring responsibilities with them. This topic should be revisited often.

## D. Position Paper Updates

Biodiversity and GMO position papers are in draft stage. A proposal for a Fire Ecology Position paper was discussed with some comments that will be relayed by Vice President for Public Affairs Power to John Keeley, originator of the proposal.

*E. A proposal was submitted to the Board to combine the Future Meetings and Program Committees.*

The Board approved, noting that this new committee will report to the Vice President for Science and will meet during the Annual Meeting. Should an additional midyear meeting be necessary, the committee will need to request Governing Board approval. This first year is an exception: the committee is authorized to meet before the Savannah meeting in order to organize. The Board approved use of revenues from the Tucson meeting for this purpose. Establishing the new committee will require a change in the bylaws; this process will be initiated as soon as possible.

*F. The Board appointed Paul Ringold to serve as Program Chair for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Montreal.*

*G. The Board appointed Paul Ringold and Allen Solomon as local hosts for the 2004 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.*

## H. Diversity in Ecology Luncheon

The Governing Board agreed that, in future, the Diversity in Ecology lun-

cheon at Annual Meetings should be a ticketed event (to keep track of participants), but costs will be minimized to maximize student participation. Brown bag or box lunch options will replace the catered lunch of previous years.

## I. Symposia Policy

The Board received and approved a policy statement regarding symposia at Annual Meetings. It proposes a limit of no more than 24 symposia per year. Proposals will be selected competitively, based on quality and relevance to the meeting theme. Criteria for symposia will no longer include endorsement from a section or chapter. Sections and chapters, officers, and other entities are not entitled to symposia. (Note: this requires removing endorsement language from the ESA web site pertaining to symposia).

## J. Ecological Visions Committee

Margaret Palmer reported the list of committee members and updated the Board on support received from agencies. The first meeting is scheduled for 6–8 January in Washington, D.C.

*K. Covers for Ecology, Ecological Monographs, and Ecological Applications*

Managing Editor David Baldwin indicated that the Editors-in-Chief of ESA journals feel that the time has come to change the covers for these journals. Baldwin and the EiCs proposed to use a cover design that was NOT selected for *Frontiers*. The Board approved this plan, but strongly advised holding off making the change until at least 6 months after the debut of *Frontiers*.

## L. Historical Records Committee

Secretary Baron reported that Buck Sanford, University of Denver, has agreed to chair this committee. Patty Sprott and Steven Brown have agreed to be committee members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jill S. Baron, Secretary*

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**Volume 6 Issue 2, December 2002**

**EDITORIAL**

*In Memory of Mavericks.* Lance Gunderson, Carl Folke, Michelle Lee, and C. S. Holling

**SYNTHESIS**

*The Value of Tropical Forest to Local Communities: Complications, Caveats, and Cautions.* Douglas Sheil and Sven Wunder  
*Ecological States and the Resilience of Coral Reefs.* Tim McClanahan, Nicholas Polunin, and Terry Done

**REPORTS**

*Extinction Risk in Successional Landscapes Subject to Catastrophic Disturbances.* David Boughton and Urmila Malvadkar  
*A Generic, Computer-assisted Method for Rapid Vegetation Classification and Survey: Tropical and Temperate Case Studies.*  
Andrew Gillison

*Are Long Fire-free Periods Needed to Maintain the Endangered, Fire-recruiting Shrub *Arctostaphylos morroensis* (Ericaceae)?* Dennis Odion and Claudia Tyler

*Long-Term Fire Regime Estimated from Soil Charcoal in Coastal Temperate Rain Forests.* Ken Lertzman, Daniel Gavin, Douglas Hallett, Linda Brubaker, Dana Lepofsky, and Rolf Mathewes

*Assessing Biodiversity from Space: an Example from the Western Ghats, India.* Kamaljit Bawa, Joseph Rose, K. N. Ganeshaiah, Narayani Barve, M.C. Kiran, and R. Umashaanker

*Landscape Connectivity as a Function of Scale and Organism Vagility in a Real Forested Landscape.* Robert G. D'Eon, Susan M. Glenn, Ian Parfitt, and Marie-Josée Fortin

*Cost-effective Sampling Design Applied to Large-scale Monitoring of Boreal Birds.* Matthew Carlson and Fiona Schmiegelow  
*Assumptions about Ecological Scale and Nature Knowing Best Hiding in Environmental Decisions.* R. Bruce Hull, David P. Robertson, David Richert, Erin Seekamp, and Gregory J. Buhyoff

*The Influence of the Academic Conservation Biology Literature on Endangered Species Recovery Planning.*

John Stinchcombe, Leonie C. Moyle, Brian R. Hudgens, Philip L. Bloch, Sathya Chinnadurai, and William F. Morris  
*From Satellite Imagery to Peatland Vegetation Diversity: How Reliable Are Habitat Maps?* Monique Poulin, Denis Careau, Line Rochefort, and André Desrochers

**INSIGHT**

*Use of Landscape-level River Signatures in Conservation Planning: a South African Case Study.* Dirk Roux, Ferdy de Moor, Jim Cambray, and Helen Barber-James

*Fragmentation: Is the Message Clear?* John A. Bissonette and Ilse Storch

*The Managed Recession of Lake Okeechobee, Florida: Integrating Science and Natural Resource Management.* Alan Steinman, Karl Havens, and Lewis Hornung

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Russell, E. 2001. *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring.* Review by Michelle Steen-Adams

Röling, N. G., and M. A. E. Wagemakers, editors. 1998. *Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture: Participatory Learning and Adaptive Management in Times of Environmental Uncertainty.* Reviewed by Kristen Blann

Dieckmann, U., J. A. J. Metz, M. W. Sabelis, and K. Sigmund, editors. *Adaptive Dynamics of Infectious Diseases: In Pursuit of Virulence Management.* Cambridge Studies in Adaptive Dynamics. Reviewed by Pim Martens

**DISCUSSION**

*Invasive Species:* Short papers and responses by Martin Nuñez and Pradyumna Amatya and Nicole McCoy

*Grazing Communities and Keystone Herbivores:* Short papers and responses by Jeff W. Higdon, Robert D. Davic, Gary Jones, and Brian Walker

*Producers and Consumers of Research:* Short papers and responses by Wayne Tyson and Philip Hoffman

*Priorities for Priorities: Where to Locate the First FLONAs?* William E. Magnusson

*Socioeconomic Concerns:* Natasha Grist

*Reflections on Integration, Interaction, and Community:* Jana Sebelova

# Awards

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## **E. LUCY BRAUN AWARD**

### **Timothy L. Dickson**

E. Lucy Braun was an eminent plant ecologist and the first woman president of the Ecological Society of America. Besides describing and mapping the deciduous forest regions of eastern North America, Lucy Braun served as a dedicated teacher and role model to her students. To honor her, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding poster presentation at the Society's Annual Meeting.

The 2002 winner of the E. Lucy Braun Award is Timothy L. Dickson for his poster "Constraints on plant diversity at high productivity: isolating the role of light limitation," based on his current doctoral research at the University of Kansas under the supervision of Bryan Foster. The Braun Award judges were impressed with the novelty of Tim's experiment, in which he manipulated both soil nutrients and light to address the important and difficult question of why the diversity of plants initially increases and then declines as the productivity of sites increases from low to high levels. The experiment was well designed, the analysis was complete and logical, and the presentation was understandable. Moreover, Tim provided thoughtful and clear answers to questions that the judges posed to him. Tim received his B.A. in 1999 from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

*Braun Award Selection Committee: Karen Clancy (Chair), Judith Bronstein, Paul Marino, Cynthia Paszkowski, Christopher Sacchi, William Tonn, J. Alan Yeakley*



Photo by Paul Frankson.

## **MURRAY F. BUELL AWARD**

### **Jacqueline E. Mohan**

Murray F. Buell ascribed great importance to the participation of students at meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor his dedication to the Ecological Society of America and to the younger generation of ecologists, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding oral paper presented at the Society's Annual Meeting.

The winner of the Murray F. Buell Award in 2002 is Jacqueline E. Mohan for her paper, "Do evolutionary legacies impact ecosystem functioning? Genetic variation in decomposition responses to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>," which is based on her doctoral research at Duke University under the supervision of James S. Clark and William H. Schlesinger. The Buell judges noted that Jackie tested a new concept using an outstanding experimental design that involved both laboratory and field tests. She examined how four levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, representing Pleistocene through future atmospheric conditions, affected the tissue chemistry and decomposition of red maple foliage from different families, populations, and provenances. Jackie presented the ideas very clearly and considered alternative hypotheses. She did a good job of drawing out the broader conclusions and implications of her work. Jackie gave a very good presentation; she was confident and clear in her delivery and in responding to questions from the audience. Jackie received her M.E.M. from Duke in 1993 and her B.S. from the University of Chicago in 1991. She joined Fakhri Bazzaz's laboratory at Harvard as a postdoctoral associate in October 2002.

*Buell Award Selection Committee: Karen Clancy (Chair), Judith Bronstein, Paul Marino, Cynthia Paszkowski, Christopher Sacchi, William Tonn, J. Alan Yeakley*