

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports to Council **Ecological Society of America, August 2005**

I. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year has been another highly successful one for the Ecological Society of America. We see our membership steadily increasing, our financial picture strong, and our annual meetings producing record attendance and programs that garner interest not only from scientists, but also from the media.

Our Society has moved forward on many fronts this past year. One new initiative has been the establishment of Rapid Response Teams that allow ESA to play a strong and relevant role in policy discussions. Our publications continue to be among the best in the field and *Frontiers*, in its third year, received its first ISI rating—12 out of 107 journals. The SEEDS initiative has grown and involves ever more students and ESA members as it seeks to support and encourage the interest of underrepresented students in the field of ecology. We have refocused our Science Programs to better advance ESA priorities and to develop a new sustainability science agenda.

ESA continues to become more international in its activities. Our collaboration with INTECOL for the Annual Meeting in Montreal, a gathering of Presidents of ecological societies worldwide during the Annual Meeting, the planning of a themed meeting in Mexico early in 2006, translation of the “Visions” issue of *Frontiers* into Chinese, and our ongoing support of the Federation of the Americas all attest to this fact.

The following staff reports accent these accomplishments—and many more. I am proud to be the Executive Director of such a fine organization and to work with such a professional and dedicated staff. We look forward to continuing our progress as a Society and to bringing the expertise of the membership and the staff to bear on the challenges ahead.

Submitted by:
Katherine McCarter

FINANCES/ MEMBERSHIP/ SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

ESA continues to grow! The number of ESA members grew from 8116 members in 2003 to 8718 members in 2004 and we have already passed that figure for 2005. We expect to end our 2005 membership year with over 9000 members.

ESA upgraded our membership database for the 2005 membership and subscription year. Members are now able to renew their membership online and update mailing address and other information in real time.

We anticipate ending the 2004–2005 fiscal year with a positive bottom line. The meeting in Portland was well attended, library subscriptions are holding up despite budget problems for many institutions, and

expenses have been kept within normal variances.

Membership and subscriptions for the calendar year 2004 were:

Total membership: 8718
Domestic: 7372
Foreign: 1346

By class:

Regular: 5961
Student: 1907
Developing countries: 291
Life members: 227
Emeritus: 332

Subscriptions:

Ecology total: 5768
Members: 3747
Institutions: 2019
Other: 2

Ecological Applications total: 3317
Members: 2066
Institutions: 1248
Other: 3

Ecological Monographs total: 2795
Members: 1480
Institutions: 1312
Other: 3

Chapter membership:

Rocky Mountain: 278
Southeastern: 486
Mid-Atlantic: 392
Western: 554
Mexico: 52

Section membership

Asian: 92
Applied: 639
Aquatic: 898
International Affairs: 98
Paleoecology: 145
Physiological ecology: 477
Vegetation: 453
Education: 385

Long-term studies: 243
Statistical ecology: 270
Soil ecology: 288
Theoretical ecology: 262
Plant population ecology: 330
Agroecology: 200
Rangeland ecology: 207
Student: 271
TEK: 88
Biogeosciences: 327
Urban ecology: 209

Membership affiliation:

Academic: 66%
Government: 12%
Nonprofit: 4%
Consultant: 6%
Other/left blank: 12%

Ethnicity:

White: 75%
Asian: 4 %
Hispanic: 3%
African American: <1%
Native American: <1%
Other/ left blank: 18%

Gender:

Male: 59%
Female: 28%
Left blank: 13%

Administrative staff:

Elizabeth Biggs, CFO, Director of Administration;
Rachel Dellon, Manager Membership Services;
Amy Canonico, Membership Database Coordinator;
Thet Oo, Associate Director, Information Systems;
Zaw Aung, Webmaster; Min Tun, Financial Assistant.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Biggs

FRONTIERS

Frontiers is now in its third year of publication; the journal continues to receive positive feedback, and

there have been a number of exciting developments.

Impact factor

In June 2005, *Frontiers* received its first impact factor—the journal is ranked 12th out of 107 journals in the Ecology category, with an impact factor of 3.362.

Readership survey

A readership survey was carried out in November and December of 2004. A total of 1559 responses were received. In answer to the question “How interesting do you find each section/feature of *Frontiers*?” (Scale: 5 = very interesting; 3 = slightly interesting; 1 = not interesting), the percentage of readers scoring 4 or 5 (interesting to very interesting) was as follows:

Reviews: 89%; Research Communications: 84%; Dispatches: 77%; Pathways to Scientific Teaching: 61%; Forums: 61%; Laws of Nature: 52%; Finishing Lines: 45%; Write Back: 42%; Websight: 36%.

Please contact Sue Silver (suesilver@esa.org) for a full report of the results.

Special issues

February 2005 saw the publication of the first *Frontiers* Special Issue, “Visions for an Ecologically Sustainable Future.” The underlying concept was to show how efforts to solve serious environmental and social problems could benefit from ecological science, and to link the priority actions identified by the Eco-Visions Project with advances in areas such as emerging diseases, fisheries, freshwater, agriculture, and invasive species. In view of the enthusiastic feedback that this issue received, it was decided to make it open access. Permission was also given to translate the text into Chinese.

Articles for a second Special Issue, focusing entirely on ecological and environmental issues in China, and written by Chinese scientists, are currently in peer review. This issue is tentatively scheduled for Febru-

ary 2006.

Articles

As in previous years, journal staff have been actively commissioning articles at conferences and elsewhere, so article numbers reported below are a mixture of solicited and unsolicited.

Articles commissioned as of 14 July 2005

Articles agreed (with deadline dates): 41

Articles in negotiation: 14

Received articles July 2004–July 2005

Total articles received: 103

Articles accepted: 47 (62.67%)

Articles rejected: 28 (37.33%)

Articles withdrawn: 3

Articles currently in peer review: 25

Conferences

As in previous years, journal staff attended a number of conferences, commissioning articles, giving away sample issues, and raising the profile of *Frontiers* and ESA with different audiences. Conferences included the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, the Entomological Society, the Wetlands Society, the Special Libraries Association, and the Council of Science Editors, as well as the First National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration.

Finances

Late in 2004, *Frontiers* received the second installments of funding from The Andrew W. Mellon and David and Lucile Packard Foundations. We still have a shortfall of \$500,000 as compared to the original figures used in the business plan. In the spring of 2005, Executive Director Katherine McCarter and *Frontiers* Editor-in-Chief Sue Silver therefore visited a number of federal agencies, requesting financial contributions. All the agencies expressed their willingness to help in some way, though in some cases not until the next fis-

cal year. A total of roughly \$240,000 has been promised so far, with two agencies still considering proposals.

Negotiations are ongoing with Charlesworth China, a company that specializes in marketing western journals in China, to provide online access and possibly print copies, of both *Frontiers* and the other ESA journals, to over 800 university and other institutional libraries.

Paper

Following a lengthy search for a good-quality, reasonably priced, recycled paper that could be supplied in the relatively small quantities required, the August 2005 issue will be the first to be printed on a new 100% recycled, 10% postconsumer, processed chlorine-free paper.

Frontiers staff:

Sue Silver, Director; Ken Ferguson, Assistant Editor; Sika Dunyoh, Marketing and Advertising Associate.

In May 2005, Assistant Editor Chris Emery left *Frontiers* to return to college for a degree in journalism. The position has been converted to that of Editorial Assistant and Ellen Arnstein has recently taken up the post. Ellen has a degree in Biology from Le Moyne College, Syracuse, and has done a number of publishing internships, including one at *Frontiers* last year.

Submitted by:

Sue Silver

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS OFFICE

The Science Programs Office continues its strong efforts in support of the ESA membership, the scientific community, and public agency scientists and decision makers. Following a Science Office Program Review at the October 2004 Governing Board meeting, these activities have been refocused into

three broad categories: advancing Visions initiatives, maintaining responsiveness to the ecological science community, and developing a new sustainability science agenda. These efforts, in collaboration with those of ESA's Education, Public Affairs, and Publications programs, maintain ESA's reputation as a source of reliable knowledge in ecological science.

In a parallel effort to strengthen the ability of ESA leadership to provide advice and support to developing and ongoing Science Office projects, a bylaw revision to combine and reform the ESA SBI and Research Committees into a single Science Committee has been submitted to the ESA Council for approval at the 2005 meeting. We appreciate the continuing support of the Society and the direct involvement of Society members in Science activities, and we welcome your advice, ideas, and energy.

Advancing Visions initiatives

Advancing Visions initiatives includes providing the scientific underpinnings for ESA public awareness and rapid response projects, leading international outreach, and promoting standardization of data collection, documentation, and sharing.

Ecological Visions Committee

Science supported ESA's Ecological Visions Committee, chaired by Margaret Palmer, from its first meeting in January 2003 through the publication of the Committee report, *Ecological Science and Sustainability for a Crowded Planet: 21st Century Vision and Action Plan for the Ecological Society of America*, released in May 2004, and the publication of a special issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, "Visions for an Ecologically Sustainable Future" in February 2005. Although the formal efforts of the Committee have been completed, Science staff continue to be involved in implementing the Visions recommendations to support international outreach and data-sharing activities. Science is also contributing to ongoing staff and Governing Board discussions about a public education campaign.

Issues in Ecology

The Science Office continues to provide staff support to the *Issues in Ecology* series under the leadership of Editor Bill Murdoch. Two new *Issues* on climate change are under consideration, one focusing on impacts on terrestrial communities and one on marine communities.

Ecology in an Era of Globalization

The Science Office is playing a major role in helping plan and raise funds for ESA's *Ecology in an Era of Globalization* meeting in Merida, Mexico in January 2006. Cosponsors to date include the InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research, United Nations Environment Programme, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, and National Research Initiative), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and local partners including the Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán, A.C. (CICY) and the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. We are also discussing assistance for this meeting with the Ford Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and other foundations and NGOs. Additional information, including calls for papers and workshop proposals, is available at <www.esa.org/mexico>.

Society Summit on Data Sharing and Archiving Policies

Science Office staff organized a 3-day "summit" meeting, 27–29 September 2004, in Washington, of the leadership of 12 major professional societies involved in ecology, evolution, and organismal biology, with the goal of developing a policy statement on data sharing and archiving, and a roadmap for implementation by the societies. ESA was formally represented by Bill Michener and David Baldwin. Participants agreed on a vision statement, a set of goals, and specific near-term strategies that they will recommend for adoption by their respective societies. The strategies include formation of a Joint Working Group to further advance the vision statement and work to accomplish

the group's goals. The Science Office will continue to provide logistical support to the group and are leading an NSF proposal to provide support for future activities. An article describing the Society Summit was published in the January 2005 *ESA Bulletin*, and a related ESA editorial policy, "The editors and publisher of this journal expect authors to make the data underlying published articles available," was announced in the first 2005 issues of *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, and *Ecological Applications*.

Maintaining responsiveness to the ecological science community

This category of activities includes a wide range of projects that help maintain ESA's reputation as a source of scientific expertise and offer ESA members the opportunity to provide input to environmental management decisions. Some activities overlap with the scope of Visions initiatives; for example, the ESA Vegetation Panel's VegBank database links to the promotion of data sharing under advancing Visions initiatives.

Embassy Science Fellows

The Science Office works with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service to manage their participation in the U.S. Department of State's Embassy Science Fellows Program, which places U.S. government scientists at embassies overseas to provide expertise, advice, and assistance on science- and technology-related issues.

ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification

Science supports the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification, which is charged with facilitating and supporting the development, implementation, and use of a standardized vegetation classification for the United States; guiding professional ecologists in defining and adopting standards for vegetation sampling and analysis; collaborating with partner organizations to maintain scientific credibility of the classification through a peer review system; and promoting and facilitating international collaboration. The Panel is in

the process of revising the manuscript of its "Guidelines for Describing Associations and Alliances of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification" for publication in *Ecological Monographs*. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Vegetation Subcommittee is working to create a federal standard based on the Guidelines.

The Panel conducted a workshop at the 2004 ESA Annual Meeting, and has continued to develop and refine of the VegBank database (www.vegbank.org) and develop of a peer review system for plot data and vegetation types. The Panel continues to serve as a forum for discussion of issues related to the implementation of the developing national classification. For more information on the Panel activities, see the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification Report to Council or visit www.esa.org/vegweb/. Other upcoming activities include a workshop on the Canadian National Vegetation Classification system for the 2005 ESA Annual Meeting, and revising a Memorandum of Understanding that guides collaboration on related activities by ESA, FGDC, The Nature Conservancy/NatureServe, and the National Biological Information Infrastructure.

Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems: Linking Science and Management

The proceedings of the conference *Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems: Linking Science and Management*, held 3–7 November 2003, were published in *Weed Technology* in 2004, and a review article by D'Antonio, Jackson, Horvitz, and Hedberg was published in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* in December 2004. Science staff led ESA efforts in this conference, which was co-organized with the Weed Science Society of America.

National Agricultural Air Quality Workshop

The Science Office is working with a team led by Dr. Viney Aneja of North Carolina State University and Dr. William Schlesinger of Duke University to develop the national *Workshop on Agricultural Air*

Quality: State of the Science, which will be held 5–8 June 2006 at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland. This workshop, supported by USDA and NSF, will focus on improving agricultural air quality inventories and recommend technological and methodological changes in current modeling and measurement practices. It will be the first such venue where truly multidisciplinary teams of experts will share their knowledge, present new research, and help shape the future of the agricultural practices and agricultural air quality analysis framework for the United States. Further information is available at www.esa.org/airworkshop.

National Parks Ecological Research Fellowship Program

The National Parks Ecological Research (NPER) Fellowship Program is a partnership of ESA, the National Park Foundation (NPF), and the National Park Service and is funded through a grant from the Mellon Foundation. The program encourages and supports outstanding postdoctoral research in ecological sciences related to the flora of U.S. National Parks, Monuments, Seashores, and other sites administered by the National Park System. The Science Office supports the advertising, application, and review process, while NPF supports the financial management of the fellowships.

The Review Committee, chaired by Kay Gross, met at Point Reyes National Seashore in November 2004 to select new fellows and hear presentations from the current fellows regarding their research. The Committee recommended 2-year fellowship awards to Natalie Cleavett and Shannon Murphy, both of Cornell University; Peter Kennedy, of UC Berkeley; and Jeremy Long, of the Georgia Institute of Technology. The Committee also recommended an additional year of funding for the existing 1-year fellowship of Nicole Barger, of the University of Colorado. Information and application materials for the 2005 NPER Fellowships (due 1 October 2005) are available at www.esa.org/nper/.

Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop and Plan

The Science Office continues its efforts supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the revised *National Plan for Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algae*, first issued in 1993. Under a cooperative agreement, Office staff helped organize and participated in a workshop in Charleston, South Carolina, 21–25 March 2004. The workshop, attended by approximately 50 invitees, reviewed progress made in the last decade toward achieving the goals of the 1993 plan and set the stage for issuing a revised plan. Rhonda Kranz is working with a steering committee chaired by Don Anderson of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and John Ramsdell of NOAA's Charleston, South Carolina laboratory, to finalize the revised plan for publication. Cliff Duke serves on the steering committee.

Peer review support

The Science Office is managing the scientific peer review of a set of eight assessments of the historic range of variation of Rocky Mountain Ecosystems for the U.S. Forest Service's Region 2. Duncan Patten chairs the review and each report is reviewed by Patten and four other reviewers. Four reports (Medicine Bow National Forest, Big Horn National Forest, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, and Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests) have been reviewed and reports submitted to the Forest Service. One other report has been completed and the review is in progress, and three additional reports are being completed by the authors and will be reviewed in the future. The Science Office also facilitated a peer review of a conservation assessment for the Gunnison Sage Grouse in October 2004, for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Plant Conservation Alliance

ESA continues as a Cooperator with the Plant Conservation Alliance, a cooperative program of a number of Federal agencies, which seeks to address problems related to native plant conservation and restoration.

Science represents ESA at Alliance meetings, which are held every 2 months in the Washington area.

Sustainable Resources Roundtables

Science staff represent ESA on the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (SRR) <sustainable-rangelands.cnr.colostate.edu/> and the Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable (SWRR) <water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/swrr/>, which are developing sets of indicators for rangelands and water resources, respectively. Cliff Duke serves on the SRR, whose most recent meeting on 20–21 April was devoted to developing a workshop on indicator implementation, which was held in Ardmore, Oklahoma, 23–26 May. Invited participants from federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations were briefed on the current status of rangelands indicator development and will work to develop an implementation plan to collect the monitoring data necessary to support the indicators.

Over the last several months Rhonda Kranz has participated in three public meetings of the SWRR. As a member of the Steering Committee and the Indicator Development Working Group she took part in a set of retreats in which a small group, drawing from the 400 indicators identified over the 2-year SWRR effort, proposed a core set of overarching sustainability indicators. Most recently, SWRR held a meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan which 80 people attended to discuss sustainability research needs. The meeting, organized by experts from the social, economic, industrial, and ecological communities, focused on identifying key research needs that promote water sustainability and support sustainability indicators. A report of the meeting findings is available. The draft set of core indicators was also discussed and revised. A follow-up meeting was held in June to finalize the list of core indicators. These will be included in a Roundtable Report to be released in October 2005.

Developing a new Sustainability Science Agenda

This effort is intended to develop a series of activities to examine and articulate the intellectual founda-

tions for a new sustainability science. It will begin formally with a special session, *"Ecological Sustainability in a World of Constant Change: Developing a New Research Agenda for ESA,"* organized by Vice President for Science Gus Shaver, President-Elect Nancy Grimm, and Science Director Cliff Duke at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Follow-on efforts under consideration include stand-alone workshops, a symposium at the 2006 meeting in Memphis, and publications.

Annual Meeting activities

Science is organizing or participating in a number of activities at the 2005 Annual Meeting. These include meetings of the newly formed Science Committee, the Vegetation Panel, and the *Issues in Ecology* Editorial Board. Science Director Duke will co-chair the special session noted in the previous paragraph. The National Parks Ecological Research Fellowships Review Committee will host a reception for current Fellows and guests.

Other activities in the scientific community

Science staff also participate in the scientific community in ways that help communicate ESA capabilities to the community and in turn inform the efforts of staff in the projects and activities summarized above. For example, Rhonda Kranz works on the Biodiversity Project, and serves on the Board of the D.C. Environmentors Project. Cliff Duke serves on the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake-Potomac Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) and is a member of the national SETAC annual meeting committee for 2005. He also served as a judge for the 2004 and 2005 Secretary of Defense Annual Environmental Awards and was a reviewer for this year's EPA's National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3 Awards). Cliff is also a member of EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Science Committee

Pending approval of the Council for the proposed

merger of the SBI and Research Committees into a single Science Committee, the Science Office welcomes those who have agreed to serve on this committee: Gus Shaver, Chair (Marine Biological Laboratory), Laurie Drinkwater (Cornell University), Susan Harrison (UC-Davis), Mathew Leibold (University of Texas), Mary Power (UC-Berkeley), Phil Robertson (Michigan State University), Ricardo Rozzi (University of North Texas), and Michael Slimak (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Staff:

Cliff Duke, Director; Rhonda Kranz, Program Manager; Devon Rothschild, Program Assistant

Submitted by:

Cliff Duke

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Over the past year, ESA public affairs activities focused on conveying ecological information and resources to the media and to Congress, working with the broad scientific community to foster support for science, publicizing the Society's activities, and outreach to ESA members.

Highlights

- 1) Launched ESA's newly established Rapid Response Teams providing timely scientific input to pending legislation, especially Endangered Species Act amendments.
- 2) Met and facilitated meetings with over 20 congressional and Executive Branch offices on issues important to the ecological community.
- 3) Developed and distributed Society statements on proposed regulatory changes.
- 4) Co-sponsored three public briefings.
- 5) On behalf of the USGS Coalition, organized an educational field trip for 20 congressional staff.

Policy

Thanks to the newly formed teams of ESA member experts and to the efforts of the Society's Policy

Analyst, Laura Lipps, the Society was able to play an active role in numerous environmental policy issues over the last year.

- Meetings with congressional and Executive Branch offices: Over the year, PAO staff, Rapid Response Team experts, Public Affairs Committee members, and Governing Board members, met with over 20 congressional and Executive Branch offices, including discussions with representatives of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and National Science Foundation. A sampling of meetings:

- ✓ ESA Rapid Response Team members Stanley Temple, Virginia Dale, and John Wiens led a series of Public Affairs Office-initiated “dialogues” with House and Senate staff working on endangered species legislation.
- ✓ Lymn and Lipps participated in a USGS Coalition meeting with White House OMB officials to discuss the role and science contributions of the U.S. Geological Survey.
- ✓ Lymn participated in discussions with Senate staff regarding science funding outlook under the new leadership and structure of congressional appropriations committees.

- Statements: Working with ESA’s President Jerry Melillo and with members of various ESA RRTs, PAO developed and distributed several ESA statements throughout the year. Of particular note these included:

- ✓ Written testimony on the fiscal year 2006 budgets of seven federal agencies (DOE, NOAA, NASA, NSF, EPA, FS, USGS)
- ✓ Letters from ESA’s President on the Forest Service Planning Rule, the National Marine Fisheries Service Columbia River Basin Salmon, and

Proposed Changes to the Forest Service Roadless Rule

- ✓ Endorsement of a “Pollinators” stamp.

- Input to congressional legislation

- ✓ This year, ESA had numerous congressional requests for feedback on pending legislation, a direct result of the Society’s RRT efforts. Senate and House staff on both sides of the aisle contacted ESA to ask for input on various possible amendments to the Endangered Species Act. Public Affairs staff enlisted the help of various RRT members, as well as Public Affairs Committee members, to respond.

- ESA again this year participated in the annual Coalition for National Science Funding Capitol Hill Exhibition and Reception. The event featured over 30 exhibitors—including ESA member Mark Bush of Florida Institute of Technology—and showcased research made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation. A record 380 congressional staff, Members of Congress, White House, and NSF officials attended the event. Staff and a Congressman from the House Science Committee were particularly interested in the ESA exhibit which featured Bush’s work on climate in the field and in the classroom.

- Nadine Lymn, Director of Public Affairs, together with Adrienne Sponberg of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), continued to co-chair the Biological Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) working to raise awareness among the White House and Congress about the state of funding for the nonmedical biological sciences. Throughout the year, BESC organized a special federal briefing for members of the biological community, met with congressional appropriations staff, and met with the White House’s Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources.

- ESA participated in the 10th Annual

Congressional Visits Day. Public Affairs staff and three ESA members, from Pennsylvania (Anika McKessey and David Bowne) and West Virginia (Gera Jochum), met with six congressional offices to encourage support for science funding overall and for ecological research specifically.

- PAO continued to track and report on the status of legislation, federal science appropriations, and environmental policy activities in the national and international arena through its bi-weekly Policy News. In March, Lymn teamed up with staff from AIBS to write a chapter for the annual publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, *AAAS Report XXX: Research & Development FY 2006*. The ESA/AIBS chapter analyzed the nonmedical biological science elements of the President's fiscal year 2006 budget.

Press

- Press preparations for the 2005 Annual Meeting have included press releases highlighting symposia and oral sessions and working with university and agency public information officers to generate additional publicity for the meeting. Drinkard has worked with a translation firm to have several of the releases translated into French-Canadian to reach out to members of the Montreal press.
- Coverage of the ESA Annual Meeting held in Portland, Oregon generated over 30 stories. Among the news outlets covering the conference were: *Science Now* and *Science Magazine*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, AP, BBC, and *The Oregonian*. (ESA does not have a media clipping service; there was more coverage than we are able to track).
- PAO staff continued to build on its media contacts this year and issued over a dozen press releases highlighting Society journal articles and the Annual Meeting. Drinkard also participated in the National Association of Science Writers Meeting as well as the

AAAS meeting.

- The media's growing awareness of the Society as a scientific resource was reflected in the steady influx of reporter-initiated calls throughout the year. Inquiries came from both the popular (NPR) and scientific (Nature) press and covered a wide range of topics from pollinators to tsunamis.

Several ESA press releases were especially popular with the press including:

- ✓ *Where the sage-grouse roam* and *Scientists issue statement on scientific peer review* (600 hits in one month)
- ✓ *Almost good enough to eat* and *Mystery on the Hudson* and *Highlights* in the June 2005 issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (over 700 hits in one month)
- ✓ Highlights from the April issue of *Ecology* (over 1300 in one month).
- A recent sampling of ESA "in the news" includes:
 - ✓ *Kodiak Daily Mirror*, Alaska - Magazine published controversial crab article <<http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=1649>>
 - ✓ *Financial Times*, London—Cod off North America "has fallen by 96%"
 - ✓ CNN—Scientists: Cod Stocks down 96% since 1850's.
 - ✓ Xinhua online China View—Research shows U.S. exports nitrogen pollution beyond borders.
 - ✓ The Sault Tribe News - Ethnobotanists merge past, present and future: Ecology students visit Mary Murray culture camp on Sugar

Island

- ✓ *Denver Post*—Soil Fertility's fall from grace.

Scientific American, *ScienceNow*, and *Science Magazine*, NPR, Innovations Report (Germany), Associated Press, and Reuters also published stories.

Outreach

- Lymn, together with colleague Adrienne Sponberg (formerly with AIBS, now with ASLO), developed and gave two Policy Training Workshops designed to equip biological scientists with tools to participate in public policy. The first Policy Workshop took place at the request of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS), and the second at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. In each case, Lymn and Sponberg worked with about 20 scientists to coach them in methods to influence policy, concluding with simulated congressional visits. Lymn, Lipps, and Sponberg will be giving a similar Policy Workshop at the ESA Meeting in Montreal.
- Drinkard produced the Society's eighth *Annual Report*, distributed to the membership in January. The report covers all aspects of the Society, including finances; the Public Affairs Program and Publications Offices; and chapters and sections. In addition to providing an overview of Society activities for ESA members, the report is useful for meetings with potential funding sources and with others who are interested in the Society.
- ESA organized or co-sponsored three briefings and one congressional field trip this year:
 - ✓ An invasive species briefing, with a congressional and administration audience of 100.
 - ✓ A briefing on mercury and wildlife, with

an audience of 25 congressional staff.

- ✓ A briefing on ESA's position paper on genetically engineered organisms, with an audience of 25 Environmental Protection Agency staff via audio–video conference.
- ✓ A field trip for 20 congressional staff showcasing U.S. Geological Survey research on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and featuring both posters and an interactive trip on a Skipjack.

Staff

The Public Affairs Office is staffed by: Nadine Lymn, Director of Public Affairs; Annie Drinkard, Public Affairs Officer; and Laura Lipps, Policy Analyst.

Submitted by:
Nadine Lymn

EDUCATION OFFICE

This year has been a productive one for the ESA education office, which develops and manages programs that seek to increase the diversity of ecology-related professions and improve the quality of ecology education at all levels. In 2003/2004 we continued to expand on our main education projects including EcoEdNet (Ecology Education Network), Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology (TIEE), and SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability), as well as remaining active in education and policy activities occurring both nationally and in the D.C. area. The Education office staff also engages in many outreach activities such as dissemination of education materials through our web site and mail.

Staff update

In early January, Jeramie Strickland joined the Education Office as a student coordinator. Among other duties, Jeramie will help maintain contact with both

current and former SEEDS students. Jeramie is from Chicago and recently completed a Bachelor's of Science degree from Delaware State University. Prior to joining ESA he interned with Michigan State University, Purdue University, Delaware State University, and the USDA.

Felixcia Mendoza, a recent graduate from Howard University, began work as an education intern in March. Felixcia will continue working with the Education Office and SEEDS throughout the summer. Following her internship with ESA she will begin working on her M.S. degree at Louisiana State University.

ESA member activities

Education staff helped with a variety of member-initiated activities, which include:

- Helping the Education Section produce a survey focusing on ecology in the undergraduate curriculum. The survey results are currently being analyzed.
- Working with board members towards planning a public information campaign as outlined in the Ecological Visions report.
- Assisting the Women and Minorities in Ecology (WAMIE) Committee to complete a follow-up to the 1993 WAMIE report.
- Developing a "Profiles of Ecologists" survey with the Education and Human Resource Committee (EHRC).
- Coordinating the 2004 EHRC meeting.
- Meeting with the Environmental Justice task force to help them implement their long-range planning grant.

Collaborations

Taylor collaborated with education staff at the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Botanical Society of America (BSA) to conduct a

survey on the effects of impacts of the National Research Council's report, BIO 2010: Transforming Undergraduate Research for Future Research Biologists. The survey results are currently being analyzed.

ESA continues to participate in the Diversity in Biological Sciences (DIBS) coalition, composed of organizations with interest in promoting diversity in biology research, education, and careers.

SEEDS Program

Campus Ecology Chapters

In late fall, a call for new SEEDS Campus Ecology Chapters was disseminated to minority and majority serving institutions across the country. Currently 29 schools are part of the SEEDS chapter network. SEEDS staff visited numerous Chapter schools (Bethune Cookman College, Dillard University, Johnson C. Smith University, Florida Memorial College, Livingstone College, North Carolina A&T State University, University of Texas-El Paso) in order to build relationships and promote application deadlines. An RFP was disseminated for Special Project Awards and the following projects received funding:

- Bethune Cookman College. Project B.L.E.A.C.H. II – BCC Led Exercise to Advance Coral Health – an expedition to research and educate fisherman on the ecological danger of chlorine bleach fishing.
- College of Menominee Nations. Faculty and student trip to attend the "Greening of the Campus" Conference.
- Livingstone College. Establishing a Teaching Greenhouse to Conduct Research. University of Texas at El Paso. Using the Rio Bosque Wetlands as a field laboratory to encourage volunteering, monitoring, and outreach.
- Haskell Indian Nations University. Native American Pathways: Research and Careers in Ecology, Environmental Issues, and Conservation to introduce Native American college students to career and research opportunities in the fields of ecology, environmental science, and conservation.

Field trips

Hoffman organized a SEEDS Field Trip, 18–21 November, to Lafayette, Louisiana, highlighting the research of the United States Geological Survey's National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC). Attendees included 19 students from 14 schools across the country, two faculty, and three SEEDS staff. Ecologists from the NWRC exposed students to the research being conducted at several sites in south Louisiana, including a prairie, marsh, and swamp. The research foci varied from prairie succession, to wildlife management (nutria), to swamp sedimentation.

From 12–18 June, a field trip was sponsored to the University of Michigan's Biological Station in Pellston, Michigan. Field trip attendees included 18 students from 12 schools across the country, three SEEDS faculty, and four SEEDS staff. Faculty and students from the University of Michigan's Biological Station exposed students to the research being conducted at several sites in northern Michigan. Research highlights included small mammals, limnology, ethnobotany, and biogeochemistry.

The 2005 fall field trip will take place 10–13 November at the Sevilleta Long-Term Ecological Research site. Applications will be disseminated in August.

ESA Annual Meeting

Twenty-nine students and 18 faculty members were supported to attend the 2004 Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Three additional faculty members attended with their own support. Several events were planned specifically for SEEDS participants and mentors including a student orientation and outing to downtown Portland, a faculty meeting, a mentors' orientation, a mixer and dinner, a mentors' breakfast, and a participants' workshop. SEEDS participants also took part in EHRC activities such as the Education Mosaic Mixer and Diversity Luncheon. An "Introduction to SEEDS" workshop was held to provide ESA members with information on the program and how to become involved. Students were

paired with a meeting mentor in their interest area and a SEEDS alumni mentor. Alumni mentors are former SEEDS students who are in or recently finished graduate school. The mentors provided support for the students during the meetings. Mentors helped students network with other ESA members, guided students through all of the options of sessions to attend, and provided academic and career advice.

The SEEDS Program is sponsoring 35 students, 6 SEEDS alumni, and 20 faculty members through travel awards for the 2005 ESA Annual Meeting.

Fellowships

In early January, Melissa Jurgenson-Armstrong organized a professional development workshop at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas for the 2004-2005 SEEDS undergraduate research fellows. Jurgenson-Armstrong, Strickland, all five fellows, and three of their mentors attended the meeting. The aim of this workshop was to provide professional development directed at helping fellows plan and carry out their independent ecological research project. The 2004-2005 fellows will be presenting their research at the ESA Annual Meeting in Montreal.

In the spring, five new fellows were selected for the 2005–2006 cohort. Their fellowship will kick off at the 2005 ESA Annual Meeting.

Advisory Board

The SEEDS Advisory Board met in early March and discussed program assessment, funding opportunities, and future collaborations. The Board will meet again at the ESA Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Digital education projects

Volume 3 of Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology (TIEE) was published online (tiee.ecoed.net) in early April; a cd version is also available. It demonstrates a high level of ongoing support by scientists and educators for TIEE and includes three new Long

Term Ecological Research (LTER) Data Sets from the Temperate Lakes, Arctic, and Konza LTER sites, a *Frontiers* issue concerning fire ecology, and four new Experiments.

As part of TIEE's evaluation effort, a "research team" was selected through a competitive application process. This team consists of ecology faculty from diverse institutions, who will seek to better understand the effectiveness of TIEE in a wide range of settings and classrooms. These faculty will receive mentoring on basic tools for classroom evaluation, research, and other facets of "scientific teaching." A workshop will be held at the 2005 ESA meeting to identify common goals and outcomes and to plan the study. They will then use some of the TIEE resources in one course during the 2005–2006 academic year and study the effects of TIEE on student learning, while communicating with each other electronically throughout the year. The team will share their findings in a poster session at the 2006 ESA Annual Meeting and contribute to the collective wisdom about inquiry-based, student-active ecology teaching.

In early April the Bioscience Education Network (BEN) collaborative submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Cycle 3 National Science Digital Library (NSDL) funding to continue and enhance the project.

Meetings

Education staff attended, exhibited, and presented at a number of scientific, minority, and education meetings. Workshops focusing on careers in ecology were conducted at the following conferences: Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS), American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) meetings. Hoffman attended a meeting focusing on promoting biology to American Indian teachers, sponsored by the American Physiological Society, and participated in a

Global Science Literacy meeting in Costa Rica in the spring. Strickland served as a judge at the 13th Annual EnvironMentors Research Fair in early May. Forty-three District of Columbia high school students presented their environmental-science-related research projects to a team of judges at the fair. Strickland also attended the Environmental Career Event in late April at the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center. During this event he exhibited and disseminated information and resource materials to more than 100 elementary and high school students. Taylor helped organize the "science bowl" at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) meeting and attended the NASA Earth Explorer Institute at Goddard Space Flight Center. Taylor also attended the AAAS annual meeting and presented a workshop on the Bioscience Education Network along with other BEN partners. Taylor participated in three week-long meetings of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) design consortium as co-chair of the K–12 education subcommittee.

Staff

The Education staff consists of Jason Taylor, Education Director; Katherine Hoffman, Education Program Manager; Melissa Jurgenson-Armstrong, Regional Coordinator; and Jeramie Strickland, Student Coordinator, as well as a number of interns.

Submitted by:
Jason Taylor

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Submissions and Production (see Table 1 for summary)

Calendar year 2004 brought another marked increase in submissions to ESA journals relative to the previous year. Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2004, the Publications Office logged in 1,786 manuscripts, a 10.2% increase compared to 2003, and a new all-time record. Of the manuscripts received last year, 1229 were submitted to *Ecology/Ecological Monographs* (a 3.4% increase relative to the previous

year), and 557 were submitted to *Ecological Applications* (a 28.9% increase). The data for submissions since 1987 are presented graphically in Fig. 1.

Based on the submissions so far in 2005 (through 30 June; 984 total), submissions in the present year are up 11.3% over 2004. Submissions to *Ecology* account for the lion's share of this year's increase (704 submissions in 2005, as of 30 June). If the trend continues through the year, *Ecology* will receive 14.6% more submissions in 2005 than in 2004!

The acceptance rates (percentage of decisions made during 2003) were 22.4% for *Ecology/Ecological Monographs* and 25.1% for *Ecological Applications* (see Fig. 2). The numbers indicate that ESA's journals are among the most selective journals publishing papers related to ecology. The sharp decline in the acceptance rate for *Ecological Applications* is largely due to fewer decisions being made for Invited Features and Special Issues during 2004 than in 2003.

The continuing decline in the average length of *Ecology* articles (see Fig. 3) reflects the ongoing effort to encourage authors to submit more concise papers for publication and to promote the use of *Ecological Archives*.

The three print journals published 6462 pages in 2004, including a 322-page supplement to *Ecological Applications* ("The Large-Scale Atmosphere–Biosphere Experiment in the Amazon"), 4.9% more than in 2003 (see Fig. 4).

The page budget was increased in 1999 in an effort to decrease the backlog of papers awaiting publication (thereby decreasing the time between acceptance and publication). The manuscript histories published as footnotes for each published paper indicate that papers are now appearing in an increasingly timely manner. The Governing Board has recently approved another increase in the page budget for *Ecological Applications*.

During 2004 the *Bulletin* published 213 pages, es-

entially the same as in 2003. Our ability to include color images has added to the visual appeal of the *Bulletin*.

Overall, the journals remain healthy. The large volume of submissions, the high circulations, and the consistently high impact factors for ESA journal articles (according to the ISI Science Citation Reports) reflect the esteem with which the profession views ESA publications.

Time to publication

We have made dramatic progress over the past few years in decreasing the time to publication (as is evident from the manuscript histories printed as footnotes to each published paper). The backlog of accepted papers awaiting publication is essentially a thing of the past, thanks primarily to the increased page budget adopted several years ago. There have also been pay-offs resulting from the efforts to encourage authors to submit more concise papers as Reports (*Ecology*) and Communications (*Ecological Applications*), as well as the increasing use of *Ecological Archives* for digital publication of information not integral to accepted papers. Shorter papers can be reviewed, revised, and copy-edited more quickly than the standard articles of the past. In addition, we can publish more of them in a given issue, while still keeping within the page budget. It is increasingly common to see papers published in as short a time as 5–6 months following submission.

Ecological Archives

We have continued to promote the publication of appendices and supplemental materials in ESA's Electronic Data Archive, *Ecological Archives*. During 2004, 174 of the papers published in ESA journals had one or more digital appendices and/or supplements published in *Ecological Archives* (and linked to the online versions of the published papers). Data Archive Manager Jane Bain has done a superb job of keeping up with the accelerated pace of files to be posted. The default is that all appendices and supplementary mate-

rial referred to as being “available” in published papers are posted in digital form in *Ecological Archives* and are not printed. ESA is one of the leaders in the biological sciences in the use of digital archiving in conjunction with its publications.

Online submission and peer review

We successfully implemented a new totally web-based system for manuscript submission and peer review on 1 January 2004. The entire staff, and Publications Coordinator Anne Marie Whelan in particular, have worked very hard to make the system work to the best advantage of our authors, editors, and reviewers. In late June–early July 2005, we suffered a serious setback when our server crashed, but we are happy to report that only 24 hours of data were lost. We regret that we were essentially out of commission for 8.5 days, and we are taking steps to make sure that we have filled in the chinks in our armor. A new

server is scheduled for installation in the weeks before the Annual Meeting.

Staff

David Baldwin, Managing Editor, Jane Bain (Data Archive Manager and Features Editor), Gail Blake (Copy Editor), David Gooding (Associate Managing Editor), Dooley Kiefer (Copy Editor), Rachel Lodder (Copy Editor), Regina Przygocki (Graphics/Production Editor), Jane Shaw (Office Manager), Margaret Shepard (Technical Editor), Nancy Sorrells (Copy Editor), Heather Carlo (Office Assistant), Linda Stoddard (Editorial Assistant), and Anne Marie Whelan (Publications Coordinator). Freelance copy editors Ellen Cotter, Jennifer Dotson, Nancy Istock, and Anita Seaberg.

Submitted by:
J. David Baldwin

Table 1

Summary Statistics

Statistic	2003	2004	Percentage change, 2003–2004
MSS submitted, <i>Ecology/Monographs</i>	1,189	1,229	+3.4
MSS submitted, <i>Applications</i>	432	557	+28.9
Total MSS submitted	1,621	1,786	+10.2
Acceptance rate (%), <i>Ecology/Monographs</i>	24.5	22.4	---
Acceptance rate (%), <i>Applications</i>	38.6	25.1	---
Pages published, <i>Ecology</i>	3,430	3,470	+1.2
Pages published, <i>Monographs</i>	664	702	+5.7
Pages published, <i>Applications</i>	1,838	1,968	+7.1
Pages published, Supplement	228	322	---
Total pages published, journals	6,160	6,462	+4.9
Pages published, <i>Bulletin</i>	212	213	+0.5
Papers with <i>Ecological Archives</i> postings	126	174	+38.1

Figure 1

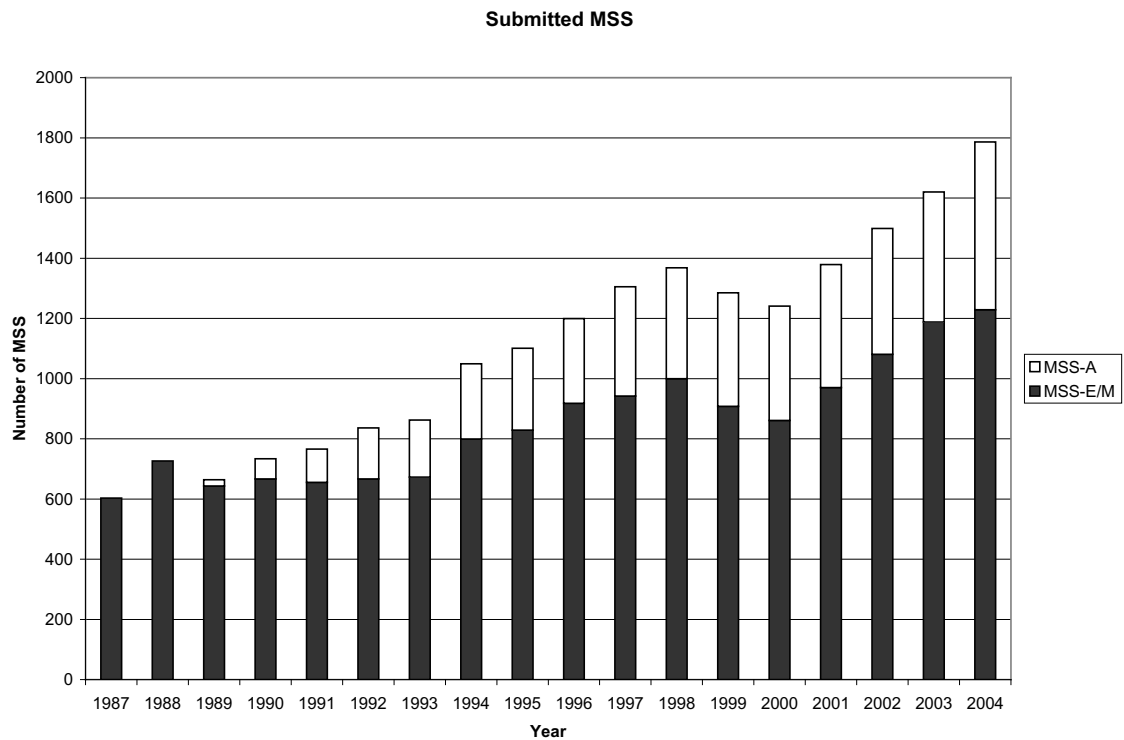


Figure 2

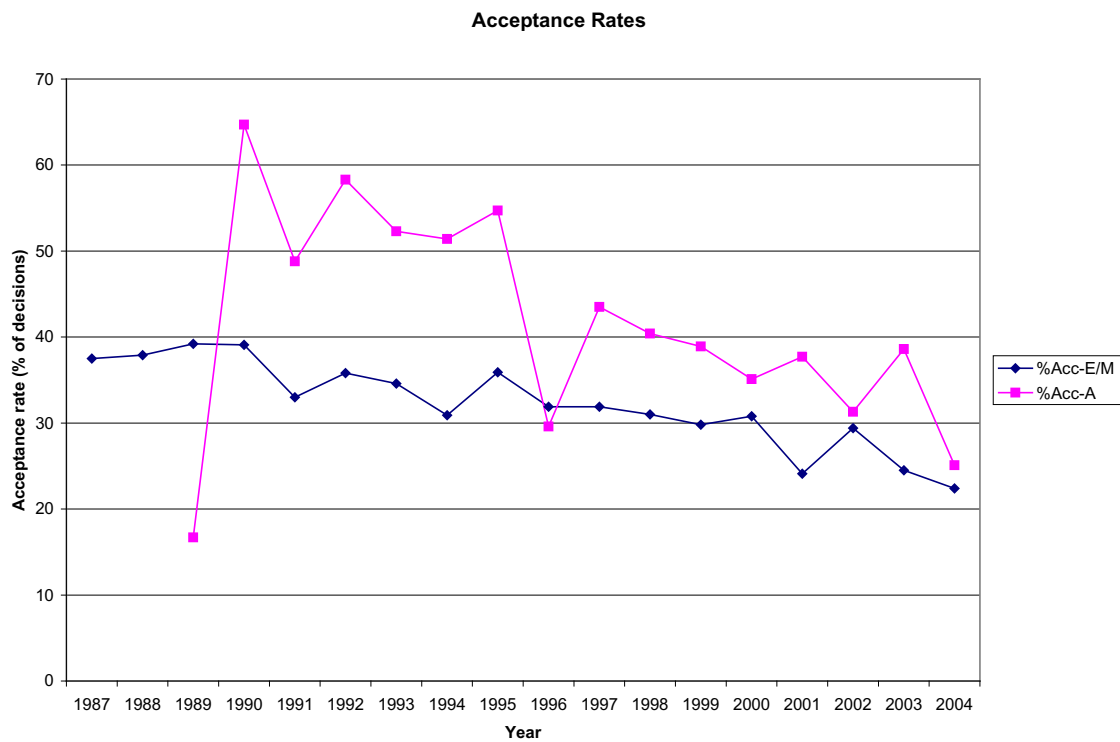


Figure 3

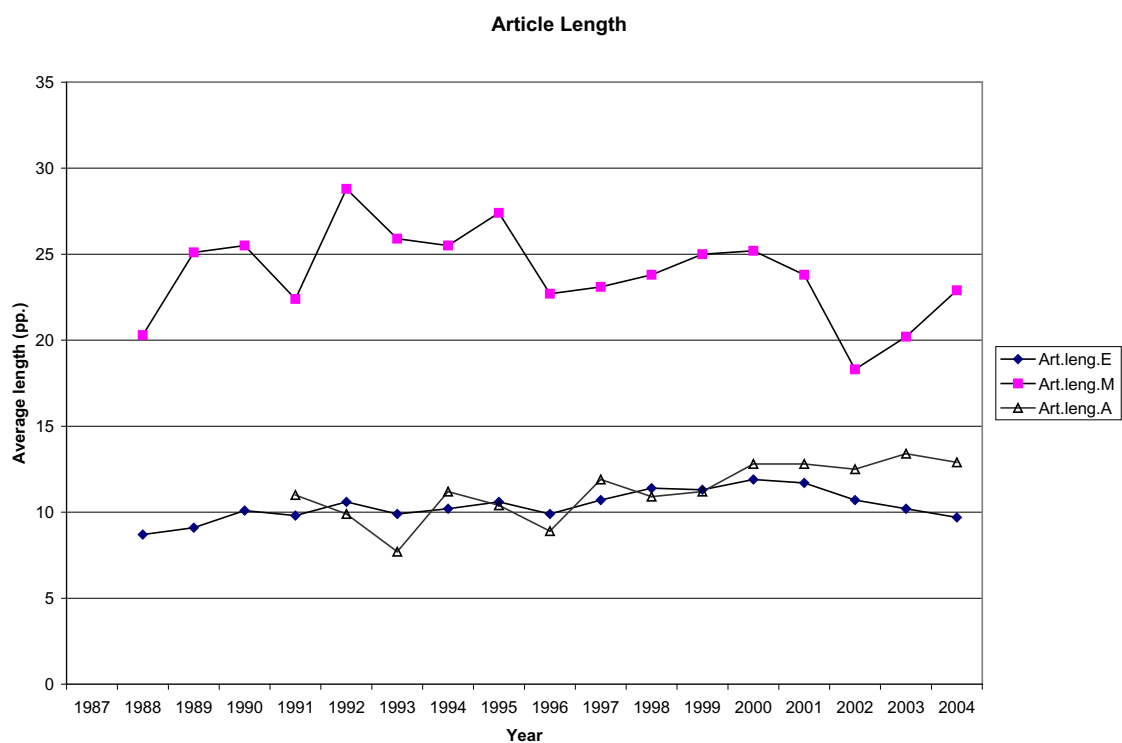
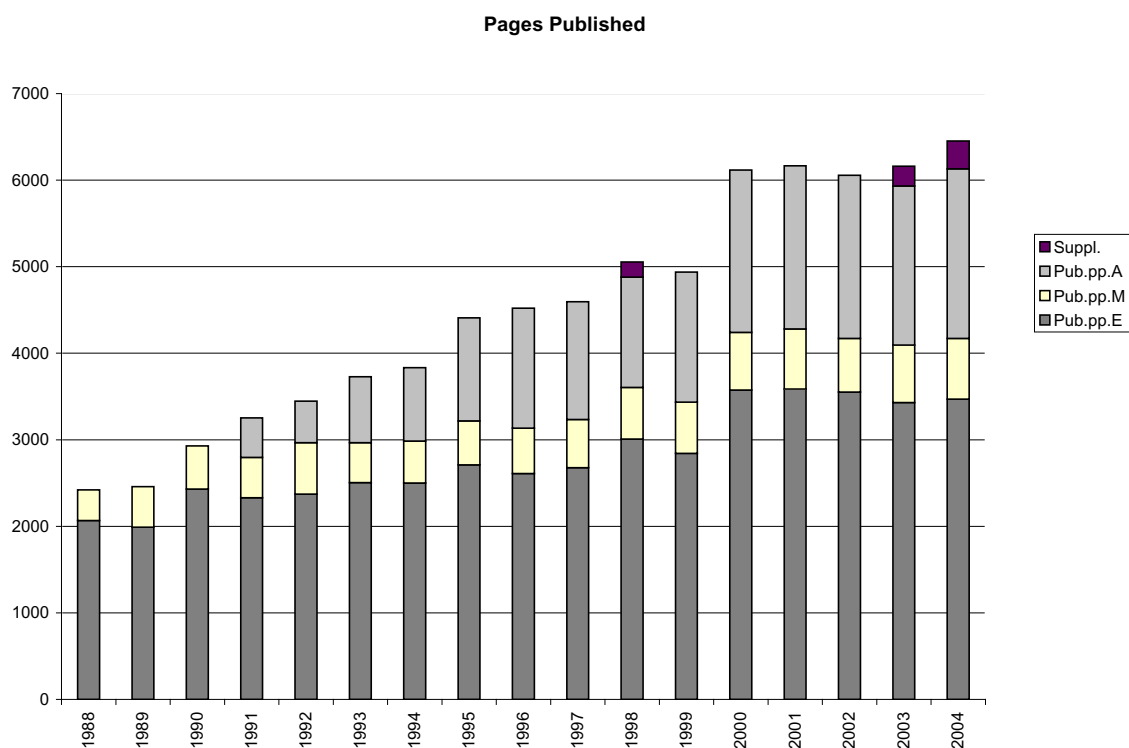


Figure 4



MEETINGS

Overview

Even with the larger Annual Meetings experienced by ESA, the continuity and consistency of those staff undertaking ESA meeting functions, combined with greater coordination and efficiency using a “team” approach to planning, enables our Society to execute increasingly large and complex meetings skillfully, economically, and innovatively.

Our string of successful meetings is emulated by other organizations. During the past year, several nationwide publications for meeting professionals have given prominent coverage to aspects of ESA meetings, especially activities that promote energy conservation and greening; interface with local ecologists, and make imaginative use of natural and historic sites.

HQ meeting planning is coordinated closely and regularly with the work of ESA’s Meetings Committee, the Program Chair and Local Host Committee, the staff expertise of the local Convention and Visitors Bureau and Convention Center, as well as a number of individuals and organizations in the destination location. Due to this synergy of energy, knowledge, and skill, ESA is able to accomplish a great deal, without the expense of outsourcing meeting functions to destination management or consulting firms.

Familiarity with the attendees’ preferences and patterns enables us to better plan, anticipate, and innovate. Being able to track registration and session statistics over a number of years allows ESA HQ to examine patterns and trends and better advise Program Chairs and Local Hosts.

In addition, with the benefit of the high degree of honest feedback from post-meeting evaluations, and continued improvements in technology, we are able institute changes and experiment with new ways to provide a quality meeting experience.

With every year and every meeting we run, we discover things that we can do to make the experience

better for the attendees, the volunteer leadership, and the staff. The constant evolution of ESA’s meeting functions are a “work in progress.”

89th Annual Meeting—1–6 August 2004—Portland, Oregon

Careful analysis of the Post-Meeting Evaluation from the Portland meeting underscored the overall satisfaction with Portland as a meeting location (32% of meeting attendees responded to the electronic survey).

Of those who responded to the evaluation, the following aspects received the most frequent positive comments:

- Having almost all meeting functions and activities under one roof.
- Portland’s light rail system – especially free or very low-cost access from the airport to downtown.
- Program organization and integration.
- Contributed papers and organized oral talks on a 15-minute presentation, 5-minute question schedule.
- Organized Oral Sessions.
- Abstract Kiosks; eliminating printed Abstract books
- Tables for incidental seating/networking within the Oregon Convention Center.
- Opening Mixer—food didn’t run out.
- Extended time, location and amounts of free coffee/tea service.
- Longer lunch breaks.
- Social at the World Forestry Center.
- Curbside coffee/pastries for field trips.
- Good student representation.
- Portland’s amenity value—Starbucks coffee, microbreweries, good restaurants, scenery, reputation for “greening and recycling.”
- Portland State University residence hall lodging.
- Meeting tote bags.

The aspects that were more negatively evaluated:

- Some hotels located nearest the Oregon

Convention Center were poor value and generally unsavory.

- Abstract Submission fee process; fee not refunded or deducted off registration.
- Poster aisles were too narrow and congested to make for ease of viewing.
- Lunch break options outside of Oregon Convention Center hard to find; inside Convention Center, expensive.
- Taxonomic organization/unclear basis of organization of contributed paper and poster sessions.
- Program scheduling conflicts.
- Too many concurrent sessions.
- Monday Plenary makes meeting “longer.” Put the “free afternoon” later in the week.
- Keynote speaker.
- Greater international focus in papers and programs
- Alternative food options for “vegans.”
- A minority objected to the 15:5 scheduling, longer lunch breaks, evening activities, and wanted the meeting to be shorter.
- Walking distance inside the Oregon Convention Center from one side to another was formidable.
- Problems with POVA Passkey system for lodging reservations.
- Distance to dormitory lodging, especially at Lewis and Clark, value provided for dorm rates, dormitory shuttling schedule and frequency.
- Having to pay individually for wireless Internet access within the Oregon Convention Center.
- Affordability —of meeting, of field trips, of beer, of food in general.
- Meeting theme—Lewis and Clark—offensive and limiting.

While 95.5% of the respondents to the evaluation felt that ESA should meet in Portland again at some future time, many of those felt that ESA should be rotating meeting destinations over a series of years and continuously evaluating new potential destinations.

90th ESA Annual Meeting, held jointly with

INTECOL—7–12 August 2005—Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The report by Program Chair Paul Ringold lists the specific statistics for this joint meeting and we will not repeat them here.

Significant innovations at this meeting are:

- ESA HQ used E-IMIS, a real-time system for meeting registrations (including workshops, field trips, and ticketed events), also linked to ESA’s IMIS Database.
- The Exhibit/Poster Hall will be configured in “villages” not only to reflect the theme and make finding contact between attendees easier, but moreover, to better integrate exhibitors, posters with spacious aisles and access, beverage and food service, abstract kiosks, and incidental seating. The configuration of the Exhibit Hall also includes grab and go lunch distribution, a job mart “interview” space, eminent ecologists profiles and SEEDS fellows profiles.
- Attendees may post voluntary requests for “poster presentations” during the second hour of the lunch break.
- Recruitment of bilingual student volunteers.
- The popular closing “wrap up” breakfast has been moved to a later “brunch” slot and additional sponsorship has been generated.
- Complimentary Wireless cloud in most meeting spaces in the Convention Centre.
- Increased number of activities for and involving graduate and undergraduate students.
- Half-day “Special Sessions” for policy, land/water management, NEON, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ecology technology talks.

From the first, planning for the Joint ESA–INTECOL has presented a number of unique opportunities and challenges for ESA.

The French Canadian location:

- Montreal is a cosmopolitan and highly appealing meeting destination; virtually unmatched in North America. However, Montreal is more urban, with more big-city prices, costs, and complexities than many ESA Annual Meeting second-tier destinations, but also has more direct flights, more adjacent lodging, and many more eateries.
- All rates, prices, costs are provided to us in Canadian dollars. Accounting for the ever-variable exchange rate, less favorable to the United States than when we initially decided to meet in Montreal, has imposed budgetary challenges.
- Transborder shipping, taxes, NAFTA, customs and immigration have ramifications, or at the very least, require more advance preparation for meeting attendees, exhibitors, suppliers, and staff.
- French is the predominant language in Montreal; thus agreements, contracts and negotiations have upon occasion required translation. Additionally, our meeting vendors have had to apply for work permits, and have had to subcontract with bilingual local firms.

Meeting jointly with INTECOL

- Montreal is expected to be a large meeting. A standard ESA Annual Meeting usually generates 2800 abstracts. This year's meeting has generated nearly 3,500, many of which are from overseas authors. In addition, an increased number of proposals for symposia, workshops and organized oral sessions were submitted. This meeting may well end up

being 25% larger overall than any previous meeting.

- The approximate 25% increase in the number of abstracts and proposals has resulted in more rigorous review of the scientific program and much more intense and more concentrated work on the part of the Program Chairs, assistant, and the Meeting Planner. The increase also translates into scheduling more concurrent meeting rooms, additional audio-visual setups, the need for more student projectionists, and the expense of more poster boards and more meeting rooms at the Convention Centre.
- This year's scientific program is replete with international studies and case examples, multicontinent research, and presentations by leading international ecologists in a large number of disciplines. The expansion of aquatic ecology, avian, and landscape ecology sessions, for example, and endorsements by a very wide diversity of groups and agencies is particularly significant.
- Attention has been paid to make almost all scientific sessions of interest to attendees from both ESA and INTECOL; however, we have provided a range of scientific sessions of specific interest for INTECOL attendees concurrently with the Opening Plenary, which is almost exclusively for ESA attendees.

Working with an activist Local Host Committee

- On their own initiative, and also by invitation from the Program Chairs, the Montreal Local Committee has taken an active role in meeting review and planning. They have pressed for more "greening" and "environmental" initiatives including a voluntary "carbon exchange." In addition to developing their own bilingual web site, the Montreal Local Committee has been involved in selection of local caterers, entertainment and other vendors, the location

of the Thursday evening social, and a range of requests to orchestrate a fully-integrated bilingual (English/French) meeting.

Mexico Themed Meeting—8–12 January 2006—Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

The Mexico meeting is unlike any mid-sized meeting ESA has previously attempted. Not only selecting a meeting location in Mexico, and learning how to handle language, monetary, logistical, customs, and cultural differences, and working to fully integrate ecologists from Mexico, South, and Latin America with counterparts from the United States, but also creating a meeting such as this on our own initiative, rather than partnering with another society which already has generated a base of underwriting, provides ESA with tremendous opportunity combined with some risk.

ESA—both staff and Co-Chairs—have assumed full responsibility for designing the meeting content, identifying invited speakers, generating sponsorship and financial support, recruiting a program and local host committee, calling for and evaluating abstracts, and undertaking the multitude of tasks that are an implicit part of running a meeting from scratch.

It is anticipated that this meeting will attract between 300 and 500 registrants. Registration fees have been reduced for attendees from Latin America.

The meeting Theme, *Ecology in an Era of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Scientists in the Americas*, has three specific sub-themes: invasive species, human migration, and production.

- After evaluating three potential locations in Mexico, Merida in central Yucatan was selected because of its culture, history and attractions, scientific institutions, modern airport and ease of access by air, as well as affordability, excellent core hotels and cuisine. The Merida location demonstrates

examples of all three of the sub-themes.

- A meeting web site, sections of which are English and Spanish, has been developed and posted, and thus far, preliminary interest has been high.
- The Local Host committee, consisting primarily of ecologists from CICY and the University of the Yucatan, are writing a bilingual local natural history and organizing a number of overnight, one-day, and shorter scientific field trips.
- Co-Chairs Jose Sahrkan and Jeff Herrick are fleshing out the Program Outline and are inviting major theme and subtheme Plenary speakers; Former Secretary of the US Department of the Interior Bruce Babbitt is the keynote speaker.

91st ESA Annual Meeting—Memphis, Tennessee—6–11 August 2006

The program chair for this meeting is Kiyoko Miyanishi, and the local host chair is Scott Franklin. The logo for the 2006 ESA Annual Meeting in Memphis as well as a theme statement—Icons and Upstarts in Ecology—and Call for Symposia and Organized Oral proposals have been developed and posted on the Memphis Meeting web site.

- Hotel contracts and arrangements with the Cook Convention Center are, however, well underway. The Cook Convention Center has recently undergone expansion adding several meeting rooms and a fine new concert hall seating 2,700. Arrangements for dormitory lodging at the University of Memphis cannot be made until a year prior to the actual meeting dates.
- The Memphis Annual Meeting will feature an “ESA musicians” Evening Session in place of the usual “Authors and Poets” Evening Session.

92nd ESA Annual Meeting held jointly with the Society for Ecological Restoration—5–10 August 2007—San Jose, California

Kerry Woods has agreed to serve as the Program Chair for this Annual Meeting, and the Governing Board has approved Rachel O'Malley of San Jose State as the Local Host Chair. Because of the strong interest in restoration at both San Jose State and in the Santa Clara Water District, this seemed like an ideal meeting at which to again meet jointly with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), as ESA did with SER in Tucson in 2002. Both Boards have approved holding this meeting jointly. Work has been proceeding on review and approval of hotel contracts and a contract with the McEnery Convention Center.

93rd ESA Annual Meeting—3–8 August 2008—Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Lou Gross has agreed to serve as the Program Chair for this Annual Meeting and Gretchen Meyer has agreed to serve as the Local Host Chair. Both have received Governing Board approval. One of the extremely attractive features of Milwaukee as a meeting destination is that the Midwest Express Convention Center, the hotels and dorms, and the location for the proposed ESA Social in the wonderful Public Museum are all in a compact area and easily walkable distances. Lake Michigan, a network of running and cycling trails, and the new Milwaukee Art Museum make this a very appealing location for this meeting.

Milwaukee has made a major investment of public funds in interactive museums, educational learning centers, and a new Planetarium. The Program Chair has already begun looking at a theme emphasizing educational outreach.

Future meetings

Steve Chaplin, co-chair of the Meetings Committee, is reporting to the Governing Board at this meeting, recommending the selection of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the location for the 2009 ESA 94th

Annual Meeting and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the 2010 ESA 95th Annual Meeting.

Governance meetings

HQ Meetings Staff continue to make arrangements for all Board, Committee, and special meetings that occur throughout the year in the Washington, D.C., area.

Staff:

Ellen R. Cardwell, Meetings Manager; Patricia Crocker, Meetings Associate/Registrar.

II. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Awards Committee

The ESA Awards subcommittees met virtually during the fall and winter to select a slate of awardees to be recognized at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Montreal. Dr. Judith L. Bronstein and her committees did an outstanding job this year. The following individuals were recommended and approved for ESA awards:

Eminent Ecologist Award	Lawrence Slobodkin
Distinguished Service Citation	Jim MacMahon
Corporate Award	Bon Appétit Management Company
Mercer Award	Daniel Bolnick and colleagues
Cooper Award	Daniel Gavin and colleagues
Odum Education Award	James Porter
Sustainability Science Award	Thomas Dietz, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul Stern
Honorary Member	Erkki Haukioja

Braun Award

Pedro Flombaum

Buell Award

Cynthia Hays

“Profiles of Ecologists” Project

Following in the tradition established in 2002, a diverse set of ecologists plus the 2005 award winners were invited to contribute biographical sketches for the “*Profiles of Ecologists*” Project. The posters will be on display throughout the duration of the Annual Meeting. Each features the story of how an ecologist entered his/her career in ecology, and presents their views on communicating ecology to diverse audiences. The posters will be added to the “Profiles” link on the ESA web site at <http://www.esa.org/education/whatdoecologistsdo.htm> to inspire and motivate both current and future ecologists to excel in the field.

Education and Human Resources at the Annual Meeting

Education and Human Resources are well represented at the Annual Meeting in Montreal in 2005. Eleven workshops, one special session, two contributed paper sessions and a poster session, two symposia, and several organized discussions were scheduled featuring education and environmental justice topics.

Education Mosaic Mixer

The SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability) program will have high visibility at the Montreal meeting. The theme for the mixer at the meeting is “Celebrating SEEDS.” The SEEDS Program has celebrated many accomplishments since the program received renewed funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in July 2002. The goal of SEEDS is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the ecology profession by promoting ecology opportunities for students and their faculty. The expansion of SEEDS continues and SEEDS is flourishing as the interest of talented students has continued to grow every year.

Diversity luncheon

The theme of the luncheon this year is “Looking at Ecology through Diverse Lenses.” Dr. Robin Kimerer is the featured speaker at the Diversity Luncheon this year. The title of her presentation will be “Advancing Ecology: Why Culture Matters.” Dr. Kimerer is a Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology and Associate Chairman at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe, and received the 2005 John Burroughs Medal for the outstanding natural history book. She serves on the SEEDS advisory board and is Chair of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge section of the ESA.

Education and Human Resources Committee Meeting

Representatives of the EHRC met in Washington, D.C., in October 2004. This year, EHRC engaged in several important initiatives for the ESA. First, we received and reviewed the committee report on the progress of the ESA on issues related to recruitment and participation of groups who are underrepresented in the field of ecology from the “Women and Minorities in Ecology 2” Committee. Second, we completed a survey to evaluate the “Status of Ecology in the Undergraduate Curriculum.” The data from this survey are being analyzed and a report is expected by the end of the year. Third, the committee led the development and implementation of the “Profiles of Ecologists” survey, a decadal survey of ESA members. The survey is currently active and will close on 15 August 2005. Preliminary results of the survey will be available by the end of the year, and a full report is expected in the Spring of 2006. Finally, the committee has continued activities begun last year to develop leaders in ecological education within the membership of the ESA.

Submitted by:
Carol Brewer

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Vice President for Public Affairs has three primary areas of oversight: the Public Affairs Committee (PAC), the International Relations Committee (IRC), and liaisons to related societies, such as AAAS, AIBS, AWCI, and NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges). The PAC works with the Public Affairs Office (PAO) to coordinate all aspects of communication with and outreach to the public. The PAC and PAO have worked to increase ESA's visibility in Washington and outreach to other audiences during the year.

Public Affairs Committee

A primary role of the PAC is to provide assistance and guidance to the PAO in representing ecological science to various public entities, including legislators and their staffs, governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and news media. In addition, the PAC reviews and makes recommendations about ESA Position Papers to the Governing Board. This year the PAC also assisted the PAO in developing ESA's Environmental Policy Priorities for FY 2005, which were subsequently approved by the Governing Board.

The PAC met during the Annual Meeting in Portland in August 2004 and in Washington in March 2005. We also communicated by conference calls to provide interim progress reports and coordination of PAC projects. As part of Congressional Visits Day activities, PAC and PAO members visited several House and Senate staffers, as well as individual congressional delegates, to urge support for increasing agency research budgets, particularly NSF, USDA, and USGS.

Our Public Plenary speaker in Portland is Dr. Cristian Samper, Director of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Consistent with the theme of the meeting, Dr. Samper will give a presentation: "Forests in the Clouds: Ecology and Conservation of Montane Forests in the Andes." To enhance communication between ecologists and policy makers, the PAC and PAO

have hosted key members of the Congressional staff as visitors to the ESA Annual Meeting for the past two years. In 2004, we brought Amy Carroll, Professional Staff Member of the House Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, to the Annual Meeting in Portland. The program in Portland was very successful, and Amy expressed great satisfaction with the visit. She participated in a field trip, attended the Public Plenary and opening mixer, and met with a number of ESA officers and members in individual meetings. As a Congressional staffer, we believe that Amy has the potential to serve as a very useful contact for issues that are important to ESA members. At the 2005 Annual Meeting in Montreal, the PAC and PAO will be hosting Kelly Law, Legislative Assistant to the Honourable Bryon Wilfert, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment of Canada. We view this as an important step to introduce Canadian policy makers to the activities of ESA and the expertise of its members.

Position papers

Several ESA position papers are currently in progress. The position paper on GMOs with Allison Snow as lead author was published in *Ecological Applications* this year (*Ecological Applications* 15(2):377–404). The position paper on invasive species, chaired by David Lodge, is in the review process and is currently up on the ESA web site for comments from ESA members. Jon Keeley is chairing a committee developing a position paper on fire management and policy, and this paper is in the early stages of the review process. In addition, an ESA Position Statement on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning was drafted by a committee chaired by David Hooper and is also currently being reviewed. The PAC has also proposed a new position paper on ecosystem services.

International Relations Committee

A primary role of the IRC is to consider ways in which we can encourage foreign ecologists to participate in ESA. The IRC evaluates and makes recommendations to the Board for reduced fees for international library subscriptions and international memberships.

Public Affairs Committee members are: Alison Power (Chair), Ann Kinzig, Christy Johnson, Jack Liu, David Lodge, Robert Manson, Evan Notman, Tom Sisk, Patti Bonito; *ex officio* James LaBaugh, Chair, Metro D.C. Chapter

Submitted by:
Alison Powers

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR SCIENCE

One major activity of the ESA Science Office in 2004–2005 was a general review of Science Office aims and activities, conducted at the Fall 2004 meeting of the ESA Governing Board. The purpose of the review was to help focus and consolidate the diverse Science Office programs, to set priorities for the next 3 years, and to educate new members of the Governing Board about Science Office activities and its mode of operation.

As a result of this review the Science Office activities were reorganized into three major categories:

1) Implementation of the recommendations of the ESA “Visions” Committee. Highest priority activities for immediate action include the development of “Rapid Response” teams with expertise on critical environmental issues, and the development of a program for education of the general public (in cooperation with the Education and the Public Affairs Offices). The Science Office is also involved in International Outreach including the preparation for the upcoming meeting in Mexico in January 2006, in the development of follow-on workshops implementing Visions recommendations, and in the development of *Issues in Ecology* papers.

2) Maintain responsiveness to the ESA membership and to the broader ecological science community: These activities include organization of peer reviews, conferences, agency studies, and plans; examples include a workshop on Agricultural Air Quality, assistance with the development of the VegBank vegetation plots database, collaboration with a variety of so-

cieties and NGOs in development of data storage and access protocols for the ecological community, and exploration of a program for Federal scientists communications training.

3) Begin development of a new Sustainability Science agenda for ESA. The general aim here is to develop a new series of activities to examine and articulate the intellectual foundations for a new sustainability science. The first step in this process is a special session to be held at the 2005 Montreal meeting, at which the ESA membership will have an opportunity for input. This will be followed by a symposium at the 2006 Memphis meeting, leading ultimately to a proposed summary paper in *Issues in Ecology* and, perhaps, a book.

In support of these activities the Governing Board also recommended a reorganization and consolidation of the existing Research and SBI committees into a single Science Committee. The SBI Project Office will be formally renamed the ESA Science Office, with a new and more succinct mission statement. These changes have been recommended by the Governing Board and submitted for approval by the ESA Council at the Montreal meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Gaius R. Shaver,
Vice President for Science

III. REPORTS OF EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

THE BULLETIN OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

I have now had three issues of the *Bulletin* to get my sea legs after taking over from the able leadership of Al Solomon in October. I have had two immediate goals: how to take advantage of the electronic nature of the *Bulletin*, and to develop a niche for the *Bulletin* with respect to the other ESA journals.

My thoughts at this point are to deal with topics not covered by other ESA journals. The *Bulletin* will continue its coverage of the past with the following

additions or modifications.

We have added a *Photo Gallery* with brief writeups on papers that were recently published or will soon be published in the Society's journals. In the *Commentary*, I would like to start reprinting articles of general interest from other sources. For example, in the July issue we reprinted an article from *EOS*, the newspaper of the American Geophysical Union, on a meeting session on "Environmental Sensor Networks." In the *Departments*, we have changed the name of "Technological Tools" to "Emerging Technologies" to expand the topic beyond computers. This new Department is now edited by D. W. Inouye and S. Scheiner. We have also added "Ecological Education K–12" in addition to "Ecology 101." Ecology 101 is directed at college and university education, while Ecological Education K–12, as the name implies, covers an important area that ESA has, until now, not covered as well. I think this Department, edited by S. Barker and C. W. Anderson, could develop into a useful source for ecological education, particularly since the *Bulletin* is free online. There are several other additions still in the development stages. I would also like to thank David Gooding and Regina Przygocki, who have helped me in innumerable ways in my first year.

Submitted by:

E. A. Johnson, Editor-in-Chief

ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

This year represents my fourth year, and the renewal of my appointment, following the Publications Committee review. I greatly appreciate the kind and insightful words of the committee and will strive to live up to the Society's expectations. This has also been a very good year for the journal. We have a number of new Associate Editors, representing a diverse array of fields and types of institutions. A number of internationally based editors joined the board, testifying to the broad international recognition of the journal. Operationally, the web-based system is working better and better and the overall response is very positive. The system saves me 10–15 hours a week of clerical work compared to the old approach and frees me to invest far more time

in my editorial duties and in tasks such as working on special features and issues, with the authors of the "Issues" and position papers, and with the Associate Editors. Intellectually, the journal is growing. We have a steady trickle of interesting human dimensions papers (I call your attention to a paper on the ecological basis of food taboos in the Amazon), and a growing stream of marine papers. About 15% of submissions (20% in some months) are marine/fisheries papers, and we are becoming a significant outlet for a range of marine topics, including fisheries ecology, marine reserves, marine conservation, and basic marine ecology. We have a steady number of methods papers, and two features related to that will be appearing, one on methods for nitrogen cycle studies, and one on "new" or post-frequentist statistical approaches for model selection, spatial statistics, unreplicable studies, and other previously intractable areas. I still reject many methods papers as being too specific, and our standard for methodological research is, I believe, very high. While a number of topic areas are growing (and few are shrinking), we have not seen significant growth in disease ecology, a topic I had hoped would flourish, although with Tom Hobbs and Rick Ostfeld's editorial help, we publish a small number of intriguing works. Urban ecology is also steady, but I expect with John Marzluff joining the board to increase this as well. The journal's formal and anecdotal performance metrics continue to be strong, and our penetration into management agencies, NGOs, and the private sector is still expanding, based on submissions and other types of inquiry for material.

Submitted by:

David Schimel, Editor-in-Chief

ISSUES IN ECOLOGY

The Board developed a new mission statement that should help authors focus their manuscripts appropriately:

The mission of Issues in Ecology is to summarize in clear, nontechnical language, the status of scientific knowledge in areas of ecology and to point out the implications of that informa-

tion for environmental policy and management.

We have developed effective coordination with the Editor-in-Chief of *Ecological Applications*, where papers laying out the scientific basis for *Issues* papers should appear. The issue “Impacts of Atmospheric Pollution on Aquatic Ecosystems” has now been published. We have received a manuscript (“Fundamental Principles of Infectious Disease Ecology”) for the remaining *Issues* paper commissioned by the previous Editor-in-Chief (Professor David Tilman) and another on conservation issues related to neotropical migratory birds. Both sets of authors are currently revising their manuscript in light of comments from the board. Charges have been developed and authors invited for two new papers on the ecological effects of climate change.

There is a pressing need to develop new funding sources.

Submitted by:
W. Murdoch, Editor-in-Chief

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee consists of the Chairs of nine active subcommittees. Each subcommittee is responsible for making recommendations for its own award(s). The compositions of the subcommittees and the recipients of the respective awards for 2004–2005 were:

Student Awards (Murray F. Buell and E. Lucy Braun Awards) Subcommittee

Christopher Sacchi (Chair), J. Alan Yeakley, Paul Marino, and Nancy Eyster-Smith.

Recipients from the 2004 ESA Annual Meeting:

Buell (best student presentation): Cynthia Hays, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Braun (best student poster): Pedro Flombaum, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Cooper Award Subcommittee

Stephen T. Jackson (chair), Laura Hyatt, Sara Hotchkiss, Miles Silman, Scott Collins, and David Peterson.

Recipients:

Daniel G. Gavin, Linda B. Brubaker, and Kenneth P. Lertzman for their 2003 paper, “Holocene fire history of a coastal temperate rain forest based on soil charcoal radiocarbon dates” (*Ecology* 84:186–201).

Corporate Award Subcommittee

Kate Lajtha (Chair), Scott Stoleson, Joan Ehrefeld, Greg Aplet, and Laura Huenneke

Recipient:

Bon Appétit Management Company (BAMCO).

Eminent Ecologist Award and Distinguished Service Citation Subcommittee

Paul Dayton (Chair), Kay Gross, Nelson Hairston, Jr., Robert Holt, Peter Groffman, Carla D’Antonio.

Recipients:

Eminent Ecologist – Larry Slobodkin, SUNY Stony Brook.

Distinguished Service Citation – Jim MacMahon, Utah State University.

Honorary Member Award Subcommittee

Sandy Tartowski (chair), Michael Auerbach, Richard Ostfeld, Denise Dearing, Janet Lanza, Deborah Clark, Steven Hamburg, Jayne Belnap.

Recipient:

Erkki Haukioja, University of Turku, Finland

MacArthur Award Subcommittee

Robert K. Colwell (Chair), Carla D’Antonio, Judy Meyer, Ann Kinzig, James Reichman, William Murdoch, and Steve Carpenter

Recipient:

No award was made in 2005. May Berenbaum, the 2004 winner, presented the MacArthur Award lecture at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Mercer Award Subcommittee

Steve Heard (Chair), Sally Holbrook, James Morris, Jean Richardson, Andy Sih, Ellen Simms, and Jay Stachowicz.

Recipients:

Daniel Bolnick, Richard Svanback, James Fordyce, Louie Yang, Jeremy Davis, Darrin Hulsey, and Matthew Forister for their 2003 paper, "The ecology of individuals: Incidence and implications of individual specialization" (*American Naturalist* **161**:1–28).

Odum Education Award Subcommittee

Linda Wallace (Chair), Alan Berkowitz, Margaret Carriero, Charlene D'Avanzo, Peter Feinsinger, and Margaret Lowman

Recipient:

James Porter, University of Georgia

Sustainability Science Award Subcommittee

Terry Chapin (chair), Kathy Cottingham, Gary Kofinas, and Matthew Wilson.

Recipients:

Thomas Dietz, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul Stern, for their 2003 paper, "The struggle to govern the commons" (*Science* **302**:1907–1912).

Submitted by:

Judith L. Bronstein, Chair

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATION**

The Board of Professional Certification (BPC) continues to welcome the membership of the Ecological Society Of America (ESA) to become aware of and to support the benefits of professional certification. Kevin Erwin completed his term as chair of the BPC at the annual ESA meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Gary W. Barrett was appointed chair of the BPC for 2004–2005.

Our Evening Session at the Portland meeting entitled "Ethics and Ecologists," chaired by Erwin, Barrett and Jeff Klopatek, was well attended and very successful. Feature speakers were Paul Ehrlich, Kevin McKelvey, and Sharon Friedman. A business meeting was held on 4 August following the Evening Session. The budget for 2004–2005 will be \$5600; Katherine McCarter, Executive Director, has approved an additional \$1000 to purchase and develop a display board outlining activities of the BPC. Emeritus classification for professional certification was discussed but later not approved by the ESA Governing Board. Barrett thanked Kevin Erwin and Susan Bicknell for completing their elected terms as members of the BPC. Rebecca Sharitz and William Michener were elected by the ESA membership as new members of the BPC beginning 1 January 2005. Carolyn Hunsaker, Gareth Redfield, Reed Noss, and Wayne Polley are on the ballot (2 to be elected) for 2006.

The BPC met at ESA Headquarters on 3 June 2005 to review new applications for professional certification. Total of applications was 74 for 2005. This included 16 associate ecologists, 27 ecologists, and 31 senior ecologists; the Board requested additional information for 11 applications before a final decision was made. The ESA as of 1 January 2005 had 8718 members of which 386 (4.4 percent) are certified. The BPC has and will continue efforts to increase this percentage — an extremely low percentage compared to numerous other professional societies.

Other business discussed at the 3 June 2005 meeting included the following:

- Katherine McCarter, Executive Director, welcomed the BPC. She noted the display budget (\$1000) is drawn from the 2004–2005 fiscal year. The \$5600 annual budget is to be used for the 3 June 2005 meeting and the Annual Meeting in Montreal. Chair-Elect Diane Wickland and Board member David Breshears agreed to work with Amy Canonico to accomplish this important task.

- The theme for the BPC sponsored Evening Session to be presented at the ESA annual meeting in Montreal, Canada, 7–12 August, will be “Quick Response to Natural Disasters.” Panelists will be Debra Peters, Kevin Erwin, and M. Sanjayan. This ticketed event (\$6) will be held on Wednesday evening, 10 August. Chair Barrett expressed concern that doubling the cost of the ticket will keep graduate students and young ecologists from attending this session. The BPC expressed thanks to Ellen Cardwell for her continued support of this event.
- William Michener was elected to serve as Chair-Elect effective following the ESA Annual Meeting in Montreal.
- The BPC agreed that a Newsletter for Professional Ecologists will be prepared and forwarded to certified ecologists following the Annual Meeting. Terms of certification for new applicants will be from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2010. The PBC express special thanks to Amy Canonico, ESA staff specialist, for her efforts in support of all Board activities.

Board members:

Gary W. Barrett, Chair, Diane Wickland, Chair-Elect, David D. Breshears, Patricia A. Flebbe, Jeffrey Klopatek, William K. Michener, Rebecca R. Sharitz

Submitted by:
Gary Barrett, Chair

HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for supervising the collection and preservation of records to be deposited in the Society Archives. These records include important documents, papers of the officers, and other appropriate memorabilia. The Committee also coordinates the solicitation, and approves the publication in the *ESA Bulletin*, of Resolutions of Respect and obituaries of deceased members.

During calendar year 2004, the Committee coordinated Resolutions of Respect that marked the passing of three very influential ecologists: Prof. Frank A. Pitelka, Dr. Stanley I. Auerbach, and Prof. Ramon Margalef. A report on activities involving the ESA archives stored at the University of Georgia follow this report.

During 2005, the Committee is to develop a set of guidelines to direct the collection and archiving of the electronic historic records now being provided by the Society’s officers and other contributors. Planning of that effort will take place at the Historical Records Committee meeting to be held during the 2005 meeting of ESA at Montreal.

Additional agenda items include meeting the need to keep the historical records on the ESA web site current, and review and identification of Resolutions of Respect that should have been written (but were not) in the recent past for appropriate individuals. Interested non-committee ESA members will be welcome at the Historical Records Committee meeting on Thursday, 11 August, 7:00–8:00 am in Meeting Room 512 C Level 5, Palais de Congrès de Montréal.

Finally, the Committee commends the efforts of Dr. R. L. “Buck” Sanford, who stepped down as Chair of the Historical Records Committee in 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen M. Solomon, Chair

**The Ecological Society of America Archive,
University of Georgia Libraries, Athens GA
1 July 2004–30 June 2005**

During FY 2005 we received five new ESA accessions:

ESA 04-020: A. M. Ellison Files, 2001–2004 (1 box)
ESA 04-021: E. J. Heske Files, 1998–1999 (1 box)
ESA 04-040: ESA Managing Editor’s Files(16 boxes)
ESA 05-002: Katherine C. Ewel Paper, 1997–2000 (1 box)
ESA 05-007: Richard B. Root Presidential Papers, 1979–1987 (1 box)

As he has done in the past, Mr. Gilbert Head transferred these collections to acid-neutral storage containers for preservation purposes and assigned the control numbers shown above. The materials were then placed in secure storage facilities within the Library, pending transfer to the ESA Archive in the Libraries' Repository.

During the year we were pleased to receive three reference queries regarding the ESA. Although they involved the pre-World War II component of the collections, where holdings are fragmentary, materials of value were found for users.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment during the year was placing the collections back in numerical order. During major library renovations several years ago it was necessary to move the bulk of the ESA Archive to the University Records security area of the Libraries Repository. During the course of this move, the boxes were shelved in random order, making it extremely difficult and laborious to locate specific records. We have now been able to put all boxes back into correct order in their own range of shelves in the facility.

Of related ecological interest, the Manuscripts section of the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library received significant collections from the home and office of the late Dr. Eugene Odum. It is hoped that these can be organized in the near future. Finding aids for Dr. Odum's earlier papers, which are deposited in the University of Georgia Archives, were placed on the University Archives web site for the convenience of researchers: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/archives/uga97-045.html> and <http://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/archives/uga01-019.html>.

In our redesigned web page for University Archives, <http://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/archives/index.html>, we have created a new section, Learned Society and Non-University Research Collections. We hope to add a page regarding the ESA Archive to this section in the coming year.

Steven Brown
Head, University Archives and Records Management
Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library
University of Georgia Libraries
Athens, GA 30602
E-mail: sabrown@uga.edu
(706) 542-7123

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

Status of the 2005 Montréal ESA-INTECOL Meeting

This is the largest meeting that ESA has developed. Here is a comparison of the size of the Montréal meeting to the Portland meeting, which was the largest up to that time

	Portland	Montréal	Increase from Portland (%)
Total abstracts accepted	2,722	3361	23%
Abstracts submitted by category:			
Symposia	195	198	2%
Organized oral session	298	499	67%
Contributed oral session	1,326	1767	33%
Poster	915	1126	23%
Number of sessions:			
Symposia	24	24	0%
Contributed orals	142	169	19%
Organized orals	36	53	47%
Special sessions	5	15	200%
Workshops	21	36	71%
Evening sessions	21	20	−5%
Ticketed events	10	9	−10%
Field trips and tours	18	12	−33%
SEEDS	9	10	11%

Table 1. Size of the Montréal Meeting compared to the Portland Meeting. These numbers are based on mid-July reports for both meetings.

Highlights

1) Contributed Oral Sessions

A) Comments from general meeting participants and presidors were ~ 80% in favor of keeping contributed oral sessions in the 15+5 format (as compared to the previous 12 + 3 format). See Fig. 1. Therefore, we decided to maintain this timing.

B) Comments identified numerous opportunities to improve the management of

these sessions. Therefore we have developed support materials for presidors and scheduled three brief presidor orientation sessions.

2) Review process for 68 Symposium and 35 Organized Oral Session Proposals

A) Simplify review format.

B) Add review of organized oral session proposals.

C) Single round of review with Board oversight on decisions and process invited.

3) Attempt to make poster sessions more attractive by providing presenters with an opportunity to schedule appointments with those interested in their work.

4) Abstract Cancellation Fee process has been simplified for our participants

A) Old process—all presenters paid an abstract submission fee.

B) New process—all presenters provide account to charge if they withdraw after the withdrawal deadline.

5) Local Host Committee

A) Organized 12 field trips.

B) Developed their own guide to the region and made it available via a web page linked to ESA's.

C) Identified opportunities to offset emissions of carbon dioxide arising from travel to Montréal.

D) Participated in review process.

Symposium review process

We received 68 proposals for 24 Symposium slots; this number of slots has been specified by the Governing Board. These 68 proposals exceeded the previous record of 60 for the 2004 meeting in Portland; the record before Portland was 52 for the 2003 meeting in Savannah. Clearly people are attracted to the backbone of the Annual Meeting. As in the past, the implication for the Society is that the review criteria must be appropriate and clear and the review process must be fair and balanced. Reviews were requested from ESA section and chapter chairs, co-chairs of the current and previous local host committee, the current program chairs and the assistant program chair, Ellen Cardwell, next year's ESA program chair, and INTECOL representatives. Most reviewers examined half of the proposals. The average proposal was reviewed by 17 reviewers. This is a time-consuming process, but the large number of reviews ensures that a breadth of expertise is brought to bear in evaluating the proposals, in providing guidance for improving accepted proposals, and in making decisions on the most appropriate outlet (symposium, organized oral session, workshop, special session, or rejection) for each proposal.

A summary of our decisions on Symposium proposals is shown in Table 2.

OOS review process and issues

Organized Oral Sessions differ from symposia in that a perfect Symposium proposal has broad appeal, and some evidence of integration or synergy between the talks; ideally it has a beginning, a middle, and an end; it is not a collection of case studies on a single topic. Organized Oral Sessions were first used at the 2003 Savannah Meeting, where there were five such sessions. The hope in organizing these sessions was that they would attract more mid-career scientists to the meeting. The growth in the number of these sessions, simultaneously with an increasing number of submissions for contributed oral presentations, suggests that Organized Oral Sessions have added to our meeting rather than merely shifted participation among a constant number of participants.

We received 35 proposals for Organized Oral Sessions. By transferring well-reviewed and appropriately structured proposals from other classes of applications we have organized a meeting with 53 Organized Oral Sessions. The Meetings Committee is evaluating the size of the meeting, including the number of Organized Oral Sessions.

We established review criteria and a review process for Organized Oral Sessions. Reviews were requested from members of the current and previous local host committee, the current program chairs and the assistant program chair, Ellen Cardwell, next year's ESA program chair, Cliff Duke, members of the Science Program Steering Committee, INTECOL representatives, and a handful of other colleagues with a history of ESA activity. The average proposal was reviewed by 12 reviewers. This is a time-consuming process, but the large number of reviews ensures that the breadth of expertise is brought to bear in evaluating the proposals, in providing guidance for improving accepted proposals, and in making decisions on the most appropriate outlet (symposium, organized oral session, workshop, special session, or rejection) for each proposal.

			Originally Proposed Class		
			OOS	Symposium	Total
Decision	OOS	Count	28	29	57
		% within Originally Proposed Class	80%	43%	55%
	Reject	Count	1	2	3
		% within Originally Proposed Class	3%	3%	3%
	Special Session	Count	0	5	5
		% within Originally Proposed Class	0%	7%	5%
	Symposium	Count	1	23	24
		% within Originally Proposed Class	3%	34%	23%
	Supp Session -- Not Special Sessions	Count	5	9	14
		% within Originally Proposed Class	14%	13%	14%
	Total	Count	35	68	103
		% within Originally Proposed Class	100%	100%	100%

Table 2. List of Symposium and Organized Oral Session proposals provided and offers made by the ESA and INTECOL program chairs.

A summary of our decisions on Organized Oral Session proposals is shown in Table 2.

General review issues

Organized Oral Session and Symposium Proposals were on the same submission and review schedule to facilitate our decision making and exchanges between the two classes of sessions.

Partnership with INTECOL

The operational partnership with INTECOL has been excellent. INTECOL reviewers added a con-

structive perspective to the reviews of the Symposium and Organized Oral Session proposals. In accordance with direction from the ESA board, our evaluation of proposals, the construction of sessions, and the evaluation of individual abstracts were independent of their affiliation with either ESA or INTECOL. It is noteworthy that international participation is evident in a large number of the sessions.

ESA 2006 Meeting in Memphis

Plans for the 2006 Meeting are well underway. Program Chair Kiyoko Miyanishi has developed the call which will be posted on the ESA web site before the 2005 Annual Meeting.

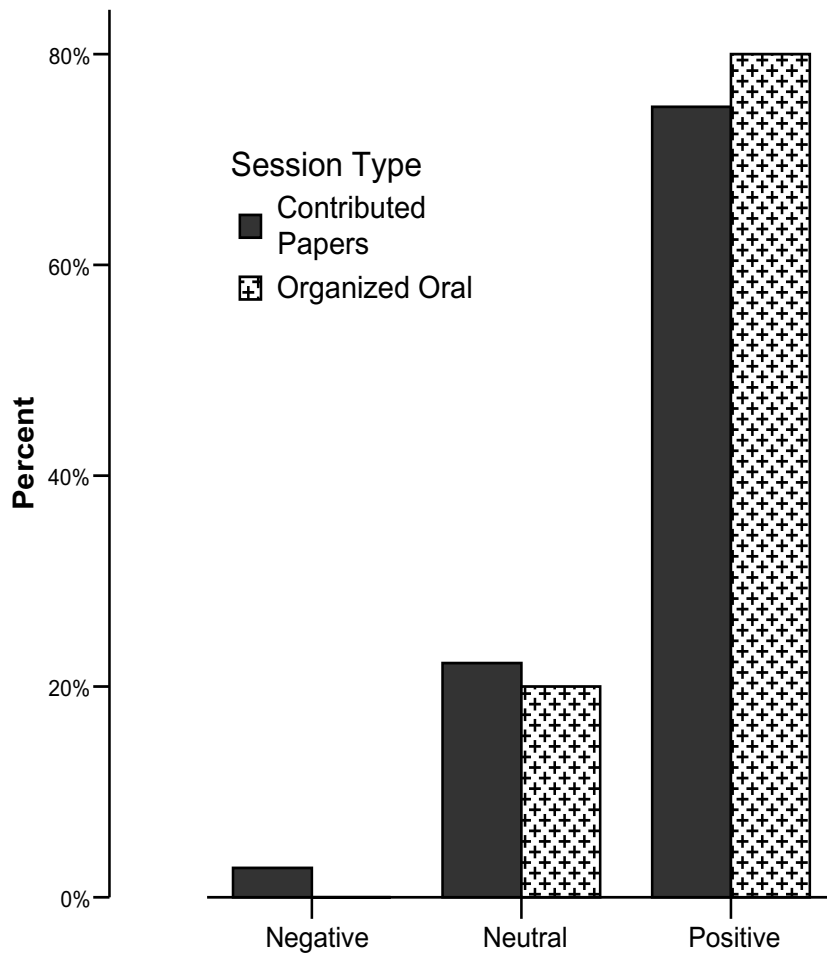


Fig. 1. Response of 2004 ESA Meeting Presiders ($n = 140$) to the question: “How was the audience/speaker/presider response to the new 15 + 5 minute time slots?”

Meetings Committee

The meetings committee is co-chaired by Steve Chaplin and Paul Ringold for the current Annual Meeting. It is composed of all future, current, and immediate past program chairs and local hosts. It has been an excellent forum to transfer lessons and issues learned from one meeting to the next, and to discuss new ideas. After reorganization in 2003, the committee operated in this format for the first time in 2004.

Issues on the current agenda for the Committee in-

clude:

- 1) Management of Organized Oral Sessions and their development
- 2) Limits to the overall size, length, and elements of the meeting
- 3) Increasing the role of sections and chapters in shaping the Annual Meeting
- 4) Specifications of future meetings sites.
- 5) Transfer of lessons from the current and past program chairs and local hosts to future program chairs and local hosts.
- 6) New session ideas including a “Recent advances in ...” session to be presented by leading ecologists. These sessions will synthesize the state of

knowledge and direction of a particular hot research field.

For the 2009 and 2010 meetings, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, respectively, have been recommended as potential sites. Program chairs for the 2007 and 2008 Annual Meetings have been selected. Kerry Woods will serve for the 2007 meeting in San Jose and Lou Gross for the 2008 meeting in Milwaukee.

Personnel notes and acknowledgments

It is once again difficult to overstate our gratitude for the work and guidance provided by Ellen Cardwell in developing the Annual Meeting and in ensuring that all of the details are well managed. David Grow has completed his third year of work in providing a great deal of support to the Society as the Assistant Program Chair. This role will be filled next year by Ms. Devon Rothschild, who will be housed in ESA's Washington, D.C., offices.

Submitted by:

Paul L Ringold and Steve Chaplin, Co-Chairs

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

Professional Ethics and Appeals Committee Members for the committee were selected shortly after the August 2004 Annual Meeting: Ralph Boerner, Nathaniel Hitt, Kate LeJeune, Deborah Potter, and Kristina Stinson. The committee reviewed one appeal of certification and forwarded their review to the ESA Council for a final decision.

Committee member Deborah Potter led the review process after committee chair Patricia Flebbe recused herself for conflict of interest.

Submitted By:

Patricia A. Flebbe, Chair

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Publications Committee commissioned a review of the Editor-in-Chief of *Ecological Application*, and it was submitted to the Governing Board.

The Committee recommended to the Governing Board that ESA adopt a data registry associated with the Society. The Governing Board discussed the idea and tabled action until their August meeting. The Board is considering implementing the registry for authors of articles in the ESA journals. In the mean time, a registry was developed that is specific for ESA but federated with a larger registry used by a number of other ecological organizations. A presentation will be made at the August Board meeting in hopes of having the registry formally adopted.

The Publications Committee continued to monitor issues pertaining to data access, especially as it relates to the journals of the Society. Assistance was provided to the Headquarters staff and Board members as they addressed journal pricing issues pertaining to electronic and paper access for libraries. This continues to be a rapidly changing phenomenon.

Committee Members: Emily Bernhardt, John Briggs, Aaron Ellison, Susan Harrison, Laura Huenneke, Nancy Huntly, Steve Jackson, Alan Knapp, Robert Peet, David Roberts, Sam Scheiner

Submitted by:

Jim Reichman, Chair

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (see Report of the Vice President for Public Affairs)

RESEARCH COMMITTEE (see Report of the Vice President for Science)

V. REPORTS OF SECTIONS

AGROECOLOGY SECTION

The Agroecology Section of ESA is a relatively new section within this Society, started in 2000, but

has been active and successful in its symposium contributions at national meetings. Many of its members are previous or simultaneous members of the Applied Ecology Section. It has a growing membership (approximately doubling over 5 years) representing a wide range of ecologists interested in agro ecosystems, their components, processes, and problems.

Mixer and business meeting at the ESA Annual Meeting, Montréal, Canada

The Agroecology, Applied Ecology, Rangelands, and Long-Term Studies Sections are planning a joint mixer for the 90th ESA Annual Meeting in Montréal, Canada, 7–12 August 2005. The mixer will be held on Wednesday, 10 August from 6:30–8:00 pm. This follows the Agroecology poster pub session and an afternoon organized papers session sponsored by our chapter on Wednesday, 10 August (see description below). The Agroecology Section will hold its brownbag lunch and business meeting on Tuesday, 9 August 2005. We will review the past years' business and accomplishments, discuss the future direction of the section, and gather suggestions for agroecology field trips at the 2006 (Memphis) and 2007 (San Jose) meetings. The chair, in preparation for proposals at the business meeting, is currently researching other items. These include revamping our ailing e-mail list, plans for launching a Section web page (Chair Gliessman reported his efforts on this project in 2002, but there does not seem to be any progress to date), and the possibility of changing the officer and election process. Each of these is aimed at providing better communication and continuity in the section; for example, having overlap between the chair elect and the current chair for information exchange. Our section has in its treasury ~\$1400 after food and drink expenses for the upcoming mixer.

Organized Oral Session 35: "Mutualism, competition, and invasion —Applying ecological theory to agriculture" (organized by past-Chair Laurie Drinkwater, Jude Maul, Deborah Letourneau, and Katie Monsen).

Ecological theory emerging from natural systems ecology provides a rich knowledge base for managed ecosystem design, regulation, and stewardship. This synthetic symposium shows how species interaction theory may guide the management of small-scale interactions that can have large-scale spatial, temporal, and biological impacts on production systems and the environment. The topics that will be addressed should be of broad interest to ESA and INTECOL members, because they delve into very basic and long standing questions in ecology—e.g., the nature of competition and mutualism—and at the same time address areas of intense current interest, including belowground microbial ecology and evolution, invasion ecology, and agricultural sustainability. This session was designed to have a tighter theme than some of our previous Agroecology Section symposia, but one that addresses issues of broad interest to the diverse scholarship of the Section and Society.

Elections

Results of the e-mail elections in August 2004 for officers for 2004–2006 are as follows:

Chair: Deborah K. Letourneau, Ph.D, Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, California 95064. Fax: (831) 459-4015, E-mail: letour@ucsc.edu

Vice Chair: Timothy Crews, Ph.D, Environmental Studies and Agroecology, Prescott College, 220 Grove Ave., Prescott, AZ 86301. (928) 350-2215, Fax: (928) 776-5137, email: tcrews@prescott.edu

Secretary: Marc Los Huertos, Ph.D, Environmental Studies, University of California, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. (831) 459-4926 voice, (831) 251-8926 cellular, <<http://people.ucsc.edu/~marcos/>>

Submitted by:
Deborah K. Letourneau, Chair

APPLIED ECOLOGY SECTION

The Applied Ecology Section of ESA is the second largest and the third oldest of the active sections within this Society. The section was established in 1971 and has a twofold purpose: (1) to facilitate communication of the application of ecological principles to the solution of practical environmental problems, and (2) to encourage liaisons with specialists in policy, administration, planning, health, agriculture, and natural resource management who use ecological principles in resolutions of their problems.

Mixer and Business Meeting, ESA Annual Meeting, Montréal, Canada

The Applied, Agroecology, Rangelands, and Long-Term Studies Sections are planning a joint mixer for the 90th ESA Annual Meeting in Montréal, Canada. The mixer will be held on Wednesday, 10 August 2005 from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The Applied Ecology Section will hold its brownbag lunch and business meeting on Tuesday, 9 August from 11:30 am–1:00 pm. We will review the past years' business and accomplishments, as well as discuss the future direction of the Section.

Elections

Results of the elections of officers for 2004–2006 are as follows:

Co-Chair: Deborah Ulinski Potter, Ph.D, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region EAP-WSA, 333 Broadway Blvd., S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87102-3498. (505) 842-3143, Fax: (505) 842-3152, E-mail: dapotter@fs.fed.us or ulinski@unm.edu and

Co-Chair: Martin A. Spetich, Ph.D, Research Forester, SRS 4106, Arkansas Forestry Sciences Laboratory, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, P.O. Box 1270 (regular mail), 100 Reserve Street (shipping address), Hot Springs, Arkansas 71902.

(501) 623-1180, Ext. 105, Fax: (501) 623-0186, E-mail: mspetich@fs.fed.us

Vice Chair: Becky Kay Kerns, Ph.D, Research Ecologist, Managing Disturbance Regimes Program, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 9733. (541) 750-7497 (office); 541-758-7760 (Fax), E-mail: bkerns@fs.fed.us or Becky.Kerns@orst.edu

Secretary: Neal T. Butt, 8204 Rancho Seguro NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Work phone: (505) 768-2660, Home phone: (505) 898-6072, Fax: (505) 768-2617, E-mail: Nbutt@cabq.gov City of Albuquerque

Student Travel Award

Four students have been selected to receive scholarships to present their research at ESA's Annual Meeting in Montreal. The amount of each award and the name and address of each student are listed below. Susan Tilley's award comes from the Applied Ecology Section's long-range planning grant that was awarded on 21 December 2004. The other awards come from the Section's overall funds.

- Susan Tilley, Department of Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland: \$450,
- Elise Buisson, Université P. Cézanne, \$450,
- Serge Eric Attignon Laboratory of Applied Ecology, Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-calavy: \$350, Barbara Pamela Graff, University of Buenos Aires: \$350

Long-Range Planning Grant

The Applied Ecology Section received a long-range planning grant from the ESA Governing Board to help implement ESA's Long Range Plan. The award was for \$1000, to be used for student scholarships, webmaster training, and the business mixer at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Submitted by:
Deborah Ulinski Potter, Ph.D and Martin A. Spetich, Ph.D, Co-Chairs

ASIAN ECOLOGY SECTION

Fostering international collaboration, particularly with Asian ecologists and ecological societies of America and Asia, is a major goal of the Asian Ecology Section (AES). Here, I proudly report five major achievements that AES fulfilled in 2004–2005.

1) Co-organized “the First Symposium of Plant Ecology Frontiers” in Guilin, China in June 2005 with the Plant Ecology Section of the Chinese Society of Botany. About 100 Chinese plant ecologists attended the 2-day symposium. The presentations covered a wide range of current research topics.

2) Participated in a tsunami relief effort in Southeast Asia. The 2004 December disaster in Southeast Asia connected peoples’ hearts all over the world. AES encouraged members to participate in tsunami relief. Dr. Wei Fang and her colleagues and graduate students in the Department of Ecology and Evolution of SUNY at Stony Brook collected 150 ecological books that were sent to the universities affected by the tsunami. AES also helped Dr. Frank Chang, a Senior Geographer with the South Florida Water Management District, travel to Banda Aceh as a GISCorps volunteer in February 2005. He visited many UN and government agencies, the Syiah Kuala University, and NGOs for a field assessment of GIS needs. He made several donations to the faculty and students affected by the tsunami on behalf of AES and Sino-Ecologists Association Oversea.

3) Organized an ESA 2005 symposium on “Ecological Impacts of Asia on Global Sustainability at Multiple Scales” in Montreal. With large populations and rapid economic growth, Asia is a critical battleground for environmental conservation. This symposium, coordinated by Drs. Young Choi and Shili Miao and approved by ESA for the 2005 Annual Meeting, provides a forum for assessing the ecological impacts of Asian population and economy on the global environment. The symposium invites leading ecologists from China, Korea, and the USA to address critical issues such as loss of biodiversity, increased desertification, fossil fuel consumption, carbon cycling, and

their policy implications, as well as sustainable grassland management.

4) Organized a panel discussion on “the collaboration between ESA and Asian ecologists and ecological societies: opportunities, challenges, and perspectives,” in Montreal. Dr. Sun-Kee Hong, the secretary of the East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies (EAFES) and the Ecological Society of Korea (ESK), talk about “ESK and EAFES: History and Action.” Dr. Rusong Wang, the president of the Ecological Society of China, will briefly address the needs and status for the collaboration. A discussion will follow their presentations.

5) Collaborated with the Ecological Society of China and Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas for a joint project that translates the special issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* and the EcoVision Report into Chinese. This issue and the report are important ESA documents that need to be communicated to Chinese people in general and Chinese ecologists in particular. AES expects that the Chinese versions of these documents will generate great impacts in China on research, policy, and strategic plan development, and decision-making about global sustainability and global ecology. The translation will be published and distributed in China and made available on the ESA web site.

In addition, AES increased its membership with diverse backgrounds, and updated its web site and published its newsletters regularly.

Submitted by:
ShiLi Miao, Chair

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION

1) A Global Perspective on Pastoralism:
International Affairs Symposium at the 2004
ESA Meeting

Last year’s International Affairs Symposium brought together ecologists and social scientists working on five different continents to discuss the great-

est challenges to achieving ecological sustainability in pastoralist societies. Many of the symposium contributors were not regular attendees of ESA meetings, and were impressed that such an applied and interdisciplinary symposium topic was being addressed. Presentations ranged from a tour of rangeland restoration projects around the world, to innovative analyses of pastoralist/wildlife conflicts in East Africa, to the consequences of Soviet and post-Soviet government policy on steppe ecosystems in Kazakhstan. A synthesis talk brought together the salient recommendations of the panel of participants, and is now being developed into a manuscript for publication. If you would like more information, contact Lizzie King <egking@uc-davis.edu>.

2) International Affairs activities planned for the 2005 ESA Annual Meeting

a) Symposium: From the Gulf of Mexico to the Caspian Sea: Linking Ecological Processes and Environmental Impacts across Scales. This exciting symposium is being organized by Sandy Tartowski, and should have broad appeal among ESA and INTECOL members.

b) Workshop: Command Spanish: Survival Spanish for the NON-native researcher. The workshop is based on the same program used to train police, EMT workers, and others who need Spanish to do their job but don't have time to take a full-blown Spanish class. The focus will be on the fluency one would need to travel to, survive in, and get across a few important concepts about your work in a Spanish-speaking country. The workshop will be on Saturday and Sunday and is number 5 on the list.

c) The business meeting will be held during the mixer, by gathering in one part of the room for a little while. We will have elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary at the business meeting.

d) Evening Session: An Ecologist's Guide to the Galaxy. Once everyone is loosened up after the mixer, we'll take on an unusual but very fun topic in an evening session: Life beyond Earth!!!

3) Symposium for the 2006 ESA Meeting: African Lakes Ecology and alternate proposals. The symposium on African Lakes Ecology will explore issues of tropical and wetlands ecology, invasive species (e.g., water hyacinth), biodiversity conservation (cichlid fish, etc.) and transnational natural resource management in the context of the Lake Victoria basin, and possibly other African lakes. If you would like more information, if you are interested in helping develop or participating in this symposium, or if you would like to recommend speakers, please contact Onensimus Otieno <ootieno@oakwood.edu>.

Submitted by:
Jacoby Carter, Chair

LONG TERM STUDIES SECTION

The LTSS met at the ESA meeting in Portland, Oregon. The minutes of the meeting are on the LTSS web site <<http://www.esa.org/longterm>>. John Porter established and maintained a Post-Nuke web site for LTSS in 2004–2005. One of the suggested activities of LTSS was to implement a web-based registry of ecological data sets to facilitate discovery and sharing of existing data in the ecological community. After testing and implementation in the Organization of Biological Field Stations and the UC Natural Reserve System, and elsewhere, the ecological data registry was posted on the LTSS web site. Other services for the LTSS members on the web site includes forums, ability to post news items, a calendar, etc.

Members of the LTSS met with others at the LTER network office in early February to discuss implementation of the ecological data registry that had been developed by NCEAS, KNB, and others. Led by Jim Reichman of the ESA Publications Committee, a discussion was held about including the data registry as part of the publication process in ESA journals. We understand this discussion is ongoing.

An annual business meeting will be held in Montreal and will include elections. Request for nominations were e-mailed to the membership in June for a vote at the Annual Meeting. A joint mixer with the Rangeland

Section of ESA is planned for the Montreal meeting.

Submitted by:
Mark R. Stromberg, Chair

PALEOECOLOGY SECTION

The Paleoecology Section held its annual business meeting during the 2004 ESA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Bryan Shuman chaired the meeting, and Bob Booth acted as secretary in Beth Lynch's absence. Elections for the 2004–2005 officers were held. Bob Booth moved from vice-chair to chair, Sara Hotchkiss was elected vice-chair, Jason McLachlan was elected secretary, and Jason Lynch will continue to chair the Deevey Award Committee.

The Section voted to sponsor a 2005 symposium proposal by Jason McLachlan and Jack Williams entitled "Species range dynamics: past, present, and future," which will bring together perspectives on the dynamics of species ranges from multiple subdisciplines, including paleoecology, macroecology, and molecular ecology. The symposium nicely complements the theme of next year's meeting, and will be linked with an evening session focused on methodological approaches and future collaborative research areas.

The Annual Meeting in Portland was a huge success, and the paleoecology oral and poster sessions were well attended and promoted a great deal of discussion. The Section also sponsored a very successful symposium entitled "Cultural and Environmental Controls on Past Fire Regimes in Inhabited Woodlands," which brought together paleoecological perspectives on fire regime changes and impacts in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere.

Jason McLachlan, who recently completed his Ph.D in the Biology Department of Duke University, was awarded the 2004 Edward S. Deevey Award for Outstanding Student Presentation in Paleoecology. His presentation was entitled "The importance of small populations in the postglacial dynamics of eastern forests,"

and was coauthored by James S. Clark and Paul S. Manos. Jason and his coauthors used patterns of genetic variation in modern tree populations and fossil pollen data to reconstruct temporal and spatial patterns of postglacial migration in eastern North America. Philp Higuera received honorable mention for his presentation entitled, "When does a charcoal spike represent a fire? Insights from a simple statistical model."

Our e-mail newsletter continues to reach over 200 members.

Submitted by:
Robert Booth

PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY SECTION

New Chairman

Stan Smith took over as Chair of the Section on 1 January 2005. Stan is a Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Gretchen North continues as Secretary of the Section until the end of this year. We are in the process of starting a Call for Nominations and will announce an election for a new Secretary at the annual business meeting in Montreal.

Student Awards

Last year, Maggie Prater won the 2004 Billings Award for her talk, "Evapotranspiration and energy balance of postfire and native sagebrush communities in the Great Basin Desert," with Evan DeLucia as co-author. Maggie's work was conducted through the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Illinois. Tracy Gartner won the 2004 Best Poster Award for her poster "Arrangement of litter types can influence mass and N dynamics in mixed-species litter decomposition experiments" with Zoe Cardon as co-author. Tracy's work was conducted at the University of Connecticut. Honorable mentions were Will Cornwell (Stanford University) for the Billings Award and Catarina Moura (Duke University) for the Poster Award.

This year's competition

We currently have 26 entrants for the Billings and Best Poster Award competitions, and a healthy number of section members (> 25) who have volunteered to be judges this year.

Continuing Section prize support

The Section has again received commitments to support the Billings Award in the form of a \$500 contribution by the New Phytologist Trust, and Elsevier (Academic Press) will make available a free book of the student's choice (from an AP list of books <\$100) to the winners and honorable mentions of the Billings and Best Poster awards.

Support for the Section web site

The Section was awarded funds from ESA to improve the Section's web site with regard to pedagogy. Russ Monson, as Past Chair of the Section, and Rob Jackson, as current Section Web Guru, teamed for a proposal that was awarded and provided funds for Rob to hire a staff person to contribute to the web site course and teaching sections. Since the funds were only recently awarded, we will update specific changes that were made to the web site in next year's annual report.

Booth at the Annual Meeting

The Section will again maintain a booth at the Montreal meeting in order to consolidate the student awards programs at ESA. The booth will have boxes with ballots and judging information, and will display winning posters shown from the previous year. This enables us to highlight the research that students are doing in the Section, and helps alleviate judging confusion over the Billings, Best Poster, Braun, and Buell Awards.

Annual Meeting Symposia

In 2004, the Section sponsored a symposium organized by Bill Bowman (University of Colorado, Boulder) entitled "Functional Significance of Mountain Biodiversity". The symposium was supported by

the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (<http://www.unibas.ch/gmba/index.html>), a program within DIVERSITAS and GCTE, and included talks by Richard Bardgett, Steve Schmidt, Christian Rixen, Christian Körner, Bill Bowman, Molly Smith, and Rüdiger Kaufmann.

This summer, the Section is sponsoring two Organized Oral Sessions. One OOS, organized by Howard Neufeld (Appalachian State University) and Nancy Grulke (U.S. Forest Service) is entitled "Understanding the Impacts of Oxidative Stress in Plants: From Genes to Ecosystems," and will be held on Monday, 8 August. The second OOS, organized by Stan Wulfschleger (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Rob Jackson (Duke University), and Todd Dawson (University of California, Berkeley) is entitled "Sensors and Sensor Networks in Ecology," and will be held on Wednesday afternoon.

Submitted by:
Stanley D. Smith, Chair and Gretchen North,
Secretary.

In the fall of 2004 the Physiological Ecology Section was awarded \$1500 to help improve its Section web site with particular emphasis on adding additional course syllabi to its education component. The web page provides a clearinghouse of information for Section members. It currently receives 125,000 hits per year. In surveys of Section members in 2003–2004 by past-President Russ Monson, there was nearly universal praise for the web site and its utility to those teaching in the area of physiological ecology and global change biology.

Specifically, we used the \$1500 to support the part-time salary of a staff member at Duke University to greatly expand the listings of course syllabi, lectures, and notes. Those listings in general ecology (field and lecture), physiological ecology, ecosystem ecology, and global change ecology now contain >80 courses that ESA members can use as they create or update their own courses.

The funds were also used to create and update other areas of the web page.

These include updates to the Diversity Enhancement page, listings of equipment manufacturers relevant to physiological ecology, and journal listings. We also created two new pages of links dedicated to Ethics and Professional Conduct and to Writing Resources.

The jobs page is also continuously updated. The 2004–2005 listings contained hundreds of faculty, postdoc, grad student, and staff positions listed by members. The new 2005–2006 listings were initiated as well.

Submitted by:
Russell Monson, President,
and Rob Jackson, Webmaster

PLANT POPULATION ECOLOGY

This year we continued to support students with travel awards for the Annual Meeting, updated our web site, and initiated an online discussion forum. Below we summarize these and other activities and decisions.

Student Travel Awards to the 2005 ESA Meetings

The Plant Population Ecology Section awarded three student travel awards to the 2005 ESA Meetings in Montréal, Canada (\$300 each). Funds for the awards come, in part, from our Section's Silent Auction at the ESA meetings each year. We will recognize these students recognize at the Section's Business and Social Mixer on the evening of 8 August in Montréal. The award recipients are:

- Kristin Anton, Portland State University: "Pollinator preference and pollen transfer efficiency affect formation of hybrids within the *Piriqueta caroliniana* plant complex."

- Richard Lankau, University of California at Davis: "Genetic variation in defensive traits of *Brassica nigra* interacts with generalist and specialist herbivores to alter competition between plant species."
- Lori Spindler, University of Pennsylvania: "The role of oxidative damage in plant senescence."

Updating the Section's web site

Since the late 1990s, our Section has used its web site to promote collaboration and communication among plant population ecologists. This year Gordon Fox (University of South Florida), the original author of our web site, undertook the time-consuming but much needed task of updating it. Among the improvements he made are to:

- a) Modernize the site's look by implementing new software (a "content management system"), which facilitates future expansion, extension, and maintenance.
- b) Integrate the member directory with the site so that it can now be maintained and kept reasonably up to date.
- c) Include the ability to let registered users post event notices, grant announcements, job ads, and the like.

Online forum

Jonathon Silvertown and Gordon Fox have initiated and are now putting the finishing touches on a moderated online discussion forum for current topics in ecology (with an emphasis on plant population ecology). The trial version of the forum is now online at our web site: <<http://pltecol.cas.usf.edu/index.pl/test8>>. There are seven moderators listed there, and one topic ready for discussion. Several comments have already been posted on our initial topic, and the idea seems workable. We intend to announce this trial at the Section meeting in Montreal, and utilize feedback from members to fine-tune the system. After that we will solicit more topics and discussion. We are optimistic that this idea will be popular and useful.

Silent auction of crafts at the 2005 (Montreal) ESA Meetings

Our section will host our Ninth Annual Silent Auction of Crafts booth at the ESA Meetings. The bulk of the proceeds from the Booth are used to fund Student Travel Awards to the ESA Meetings. Items in the auction are donated by Section members or other individuals interested in supporting the Section, and all those attending the meeting are invited to bid on these one-of-a-kind items.

Sponsored symposium at 2005 ESA Meeting

The Section endorsed an Organized Symposium proposal on "Dynamics of invasive plants: individuals to ecosystems," (Oral Session 25) organized by Tiffany Knight and John Drake. This group will meet in Montreal as an organized oral session.

Call For Symposium Proposals for the 2006 ESA Meeting

Each year, the Plant Population Ecology Section is allowed to sponsor one symposium proposal. At our Annual Business Meeting and Mixer, we will discuss ideas for symposium proposals. Because our section is only allowed to endorse one proposal, if there are multiple suggestions, we will have an open discussion on them (although sponsorship is not necessary for inclusion in the final program).

Business Meeting agenda for Montreal

The 2005 Business Meeting and Mixer of the Plant Population Ecology Section will be held on Monday, 8 August. Agenda items include:

Announce new chair (Chris Ivey) and take nominations for a new vice-chair.

- Present the student travel awards.
- Discuss the Section's web site.

- Introduce the Section's new web discussion board for current ideas in Ecology
- Invite symposium proposals for the 2006 ESA Meetings.
- Announcements and new items from the floor.

Current Officers of the Plant Population Ecology Section

Chair (2004–2005). Randy Mitchell: Department of Biology, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-3908. E-mail: rjm2@uakron.edu

Vice-Chair (2004–2005). Chris Ivey: Illinois Natural History Survey, Center for Biodiversity, 607 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820. E-mail: ively@uiuc.edu

Submitted by:
Randy Mitchell, Chair

RANGELAND SECTION

Revisit 2004 activities at ESA

The Rangeland Section was active at the 2004 ESA meeting. We sponsored a symposium that was well attended and we had a workshop/discussion following our mixer/business meeting.

2004 Symposium: Ecological Theory and Rangeland Sustainability: Local Strategies, Global Solutions. Co-organized by Elizabeth King, Jeffrey Herrick and Jacoby Carter

Rangeland degradation has become an environmental problem of enormous proportions worldwide, and is commonly the result of unsustainable livestock production. Degradation threatens not only the ecological integrity of grasslands, shrublands, and savannas, but also the social and economic viability of pastoralist communities that depend on them. Rangeland ecol-

ogy can provide much of the information necessary to assess, restore, and manage degraded rangeland, but implementing sustainable land use strategies will ultimately depend on integrating the ecological information with social, economic, and policy considerations.

In this well-attended symposium, participants discussed common challenges that arise in developing and implementing plans for sustainable rangeland use and broke these challenges down into categories of ecological, social, economic, and policy issues. They presented some important principles that can help promote the role of ecological information in resolving those issues, including the utility of models for understanding degradation, and the necessity of incorporating land restoration or rehabilitation into sustainable land use strategies. In terms of the social challenges, they focused on the importance of pastoralist education and participation in the ecological aspects of sustainable land management, both because of the importance of self-reliance to the long-term success of a project and also because traditional ecological knowledge may not always be adequate or relevant for lands that are degraded far beyond their historical condition. Economically, they explained how the ecological condition of rangelands can be directly linked to economic benefits for pastoralists, but also how perverse incentives can arise to disrupt that linkage.

Finally, the role of local, national, and international policy in the promotion of sustainable land use systems was discussed, comparing the effectiveness of grassroots and top-down approaches to rangeland management programs. Importantly, the participants urged greater involvement in policy advocacy by rangeland ecologists.

2004 Workshop/Discussion. Ranches, Ranchettes, Recreation and Conservation: Strategies for Increasing the Contribution of Science to Land Use Debates

The majority of this session was devoted to an informal discussion of the topic. Organized by Jeff Herick. Wednesday, August 4. Attendance was good, with about 25 very active participants discussing what

interactions scientists and policy makers need to deal with this very critical component of habitat fragmentation. The results of this workshop led very logically to the symposium and workshop that the Section is sponsoring for the 2005 ESA meetings.

2004 Business Meeting/Mixer

The mixer shared with the Soil Ecology Section was a great success. At the business meeting, a committee was established to work on funding for student awards for the best poster and the best oral presentation. The committee consisted of Sam Fuhlendorf, Jack Morgan, and Linda Wallace. The committee approached the Turner Foundation for a donation, without success. In discussions with Katherine McCarter, we found that most sections ask for donations from their members to establish a fund. If, after 3 years a sufficiently large fund does not exist, then the section is urged to make a one-time award and close the effort.

Other symposia and organized oral sessions sponsored by Section members at the 2004 meeting.

- Symposium: Ecohydrology: Towards an Ecologically Meaningful Water Budget. Co-organized by David Breshears and Osvaldo Sala. Tuesday, 3 August
- Organized Oral Session: Interannual climate variability: How temporal signatures can drive ecosystem processes. Co-organized by Linda Wallace and Jay Arnone. Tuesday, 3 August

Plans for ESA Rangeland Section at 2005 Meeting in Montreal

The Rangeland Section will again be busy at the ESA meeting in Montreal. Activities that are sponsored by the Rangeland Section or organized by members that represent our section are listed below.

- Special Session, Wednesday, 10 August 10, 1:30– 5:00 pm. Delivering on the promise of ecological science to improve land

management: ecological site descriptions. Organizers: Joel Brown and Jeff Herrick. Jointly sponsored by the Rangeland Ecology Section of ESA and the Society for Range Management. Ecological sites are groupings of soil and landform units that have similar potential to support plant communities and respond similarly to disturbances. For each site, a unique Ecological Site Description (ESD) is developed that includes: (1) a description of ecological processes affecting critical aspects of soil/vegetation relationships; (2) a synthesis of research results and management knowledge to predict site responses; and (3) a discussion of ecosystem services associated with potential stable states. This special session will bring together academic and agency research scientists and technical leaders from the major federal action agencies charged with the management of private and public lands. The primary objective is to provide ESA members with an opportunity to see how ESDs are currently being used to identify critical research questions and to organize, communicate, and apply research results, including vegetation classification systems. A second objective is to identify challenges in resolving key questions of site-scale behavior and in improving cross-scale linkages to extend information to landscapes and regions.

- Business meeting/mixer will be held 6:30–8:00 pm on Wednesday, 10 August. Finger foods and a cash bar will be available. We will be meeting jointly with the Agroecology, Applied Ecology, and Long Term Studies sections, prior to a short business meeting at the end of the mixer.
- Workshop/discussion will immediately follow the mixer. The topic will be: Delivering on the Promise of Ecological Science to Improve Land Management: Ecological Site Descriptions, An Informal Discussion. The workshop will be led by Linda Wallace and Sam Fuhlendorf, giving participants a chance to have longer interactions with many

of the speakers in the special session that took place earlier in the day. The workshop is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 10 August, 8:00–10:00 pm. Symposium 19: Spatial Nonlinearities and Cross-scale Interactions: Cascading effects in the Earth system Thursday, August 11, 1:30–5:00 pm. Organizers: Debra Peters (E-mail: debpeter@nmsu.edu), Brandon Bestelmeyer.

Ongoing activities: Web site development

Section web site <<http://www.ag.unr.edu/esa/>>
Rangeland forum web site (informal forum to post, describe and discuss observations, data, and results).
Section role: sponsor, lead contact: Bob Nowak <nowak@scs.unr.edu>

Requests for evening session and symposium proposals for the 2006 meeting in Memphis, Tennessee

The Ecological Society of America will be holding its 91st Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, 6–11 August 2006. The Calls for Symposium Proposals and Organized Oral Session Proposals, as well as information about the meeting, the theme, and the city of Memphis are included on the ESA meeting web site, <<http://www.esa.org/meetings/FutureAnnualMeetings.php>>

The deadline for submission of proposals for Symposia and Organized Oral Sessions will be announced shortly; usually it is 15 September. Following submission, all proposals will be peer reviewed and ranked prior to selection by the ESA Program Chair.

The Rangeland Section typically submits a proposal for a symposium, so the membership should be considering potential topics that would fit with the theme at the Memphis Meeting. Multiple topics can be proposed, but the Section can only sponsor one symposium.

Submitted by:
Linda Wallace, Chair

STATISTICAL ECOLOGY SECTION

The Statistical Ecology Section seeks to encourage research in statistical theory and methodology applied to ecological problems; to sponsor forums for presentation of advances in statistical ecology; and to facilitate communication between the disciplines of statistics and ecology so as to enhance statistical design and analysis in ecological research.

At the 2004 Annual Meeting the Section sponsored a full-day workshop, "An Overview of Structural Equation Modeling and Path Analysis," organized by Jim Grace. The workshop was a follow-up to a symposium the previous year. The workshop was very well attended. The participants were very pleased and felt that they had learned a lot about SEM.

The Section launched a new web site (<http://stat-ecol.evsc.virginia.edu/>) to provide a way to communicate with its members and to enhance interactions among statistical ecologists. The site allows for threaded discussions and the posting of papers and software. The Web Master is Masami Fujiwara of UC Santa Barbara.

The Section gives an award for best oral presentation by a student at the Annual Meeting, the E. C. Pielou Award. The award consists of a cash prize of \$200 plus a book by Dr. Pielou. No winner was declared for the presentations at the 2004 meeting.

Submitted by:
Samuel Scheiner, Chair

THEORETICAL ECOLOGY SECTION REPORT

The Section was formed in 1993 to (1) foster theoretical research in all areas of ecology; (2) sponsor meetings for the presentation of results; (3) foster communication and research collaboration between theoreticians and experimental/field ecologists; and (4) encourage the application of ecological theory to the resolution of societal problems.

Officers: Michael Neubert will be stepping down as Chair at the end of the Section's business meeting in Montreal. Priyanga Amarasekare (the current Vice-Chair) will take his place. The Section's Secretary, Gregg Hartvigsen, will also end his term after the Montreal meeting. Ottar Bjornstad has been elected Vice-Chair; Kim Cuddington will be the new Secretary.

Awards

The Theoretical Ecology Section awards the Alfred J. Lotka and Vito Volterra prizes for the best presentations given by students during the ESA Annual Meeting. The award is open to graduate or undergraduate student ESA members who, as sole or first author, present a talk or poster at the Annual Meeting on original research in theoretical ecology. All suitable approaches that yield theoretical insight to ecological phenomena are considered. Prizes are awarded on the basis of merit, originality, and clarity of presentation. The winners in 2004 were Allison Shaw (Brown University) for the best poster and Katia Koelle (University of Michigan) for the best talk.

Symposium

This year the Section is sponsoring a symposium, "Bridging the Gap between Theory and Empiricism in Ecology," organized by Priyanga Amarasekare. This symposium will explore a range of topics at the forefront of current ecological thinking—disease dynamics, invasion ecology, spatial dynamics, multi-species interactions—for all of which a tighter integration of theory and data is necessary, both from the basic scientific and more applied point of view. The goals of the symposium are to find ways in which existing theory could be made amenable to experimental verification, and to stimulate new theory that is rooted in biology and natural history.

Submitted by:
Michael Neubert, Chair

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE SECTION

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge section of ESA has experienced a good year in the development of our new Section. Our secretary reports a membership/mailling list of ~120 members. Section programs have been well attended and lively sessions. We have received strong feedback that the presence of the TEK section within the ESA organization has had a positive influence in diversifying the participation in ESA. A number of meeting participants, from a wide array of ecological fields, including tribal colleges, have commented that the existence of the TEK section has encouraged them to join ESA and contribute their energies to our shared mission. We feel that there is a good synergy with the successful activities of the SEEDS program, which has brought new faces and interests to the ESA meetings, who then find that the TEK Section engages their interest. We are looking forward to continuing the building of our membership and continuing to sponsor thought provoking programs.

Notable activities for the year include:

1) Annual Meeting activities in Portland

- Sponsored “Sense of Place” special session which attracted a large crowd to listen to native leaders from the Pacific Northwest. Our featured speakers included Chief Louis Pitt from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, David Hatch from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and the Elahie Alliance and Ed Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock).
- Evening session “Columbia River Natives Encounter Lewis and Clark” 2-hour discussion/slide show/basketry as a medium for discussion of environment and culture with Pat Courtney Gold .
- TEK contributed papers session with six presenters.
- TEK Business meeting and brown bag lunch
- The Sense of Place session yielded favorable

press coverage for ESA in a leading Native American newspaper .

2) Leadership Retreat /Long-Range Planning Grant

The TEK Section applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the Ecological Society to engage in the process of long-range strategic planning for the future of the Section. A planning retreat was held in advance of the ESA meeting, 30–31 July 2004 in Portland to more clearly define our shared goals and strategies for implementation.

The retreat was a much-needed opportunity to envision the activities on which we collectively want to spend our energies-including symposium planning, education, advocacy, outreach, workshops, publications. Eight Section members participated. Our discussions were productive and yielded a long list of goals and steps proposed to implement them. We identified key members who would serve as catalysts and facilitators for each of the major goals. Among the projects that received highest priority were:

- Development of partnerships with tribal environmental professionals
- Development of educational materials on TEK to be presented in a workshop at the ESA Annual Meeting and subsequently made available on the model of TIEE
- Development of annual symposium proposals
- Creation of linkages with other professional societies concerned with TEK issues, such as Conservation Biology, Ethnobiology
- Enhanced funding to bring more tribal people to ESA meetings
- Development of “position papers” relating TEK and ecological science
- Broadening the membership and leadership capacity of the Section beyond the original group

While the retreat successfully accomplished our fundamental goals, it is also important to recognize ways in which the process could be improved. Our original long-range planning grant proposal requested funding for a meeting at a time and location that the Section leadership determined would maximize participation and foster opportunities for partnerships with tribal professionals. However, the grant review panel allocated a lower sum and stipulated that the retreat be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Portland. As a result, many of the members were already committed to pre-meeting activities, including SEEDS programs, and were unable to participate in the retreat except for a few hours. The requirement for the meeting to be held with the ESA Annual Meeting also limited the participation of potential tribal partners. Thus, the retreat was less effective in broadening our leadership group than we had hoped. In the future, we would recommend that funding for the leadership retreats not be restricted to the very busy days adjacent to the Annual Meeting and in locations which are not most effective for the Section goals.

3) TEK will have a significant presence at the Montreal Annual Meeting including:

- Opening words by Haudenosaunee Leader Henry Lickers
- Special “Sense of Place: Indigenous Homelands of Eastern Canada” Session on Monday afternoon
- Evening discussion “ Ethical Issues and Intellectual Property Rights in tribal partnerships”
- TEK contributed papers session
- TEK Section meeting and luncheon
- There will also be an array of student-centered SEEDS activities, including students and mentors from Tribal Colleges.

4) Grant received from U.S. Forest Service

The TEK Section received a generous grant from the U.S. Forest Service , through the activities of ESA and Section member Kheryn Klubnikan. Those funds will be used to support development of symposium, workshop, and Section activities.

5) TEK Section web site online

Thanks to Mark Fulton for his efforts at successfully creating the Section web page.

Submitted by:
Robin Wall Kimmerer, Chair

URBAN ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY SECTION

The Section is currently attempting to build membership and overhaul the Section web site. The new web site will better facilitate networking among urban ecologists/graduate students/urban planners and highlight ESA events relevant to section members. We will use the business meeting in Montreal to unveil the new web site, recruit more volunteers for further work on the site, and set goals for the next year. At a minimum, our goals for the new year will include an urban ecology field trip at the 2006 Annual Meeting and a 25% increase in membership.

Submitted by:
Roarke Donnelly, Chair

VEGETATION SECTION

Business meeting, Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon

The annual business meeting of the Vegetation Section was held Monday, 2 August 2004 during the 89th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Portland, Oregon. At that meeting Scott Franklin became the section Vice-Chair. Approximately 50 in-

dividuals attended the business meeting and mixer.

Issues before the Section

Term limits: A proposed change in the Section By-laws was voted on and approved unanimously. The term of Chair-Elect and Chair will be changed from 1 year to 2 years. The purposes of changing the term of service of the Chair and Chair-Elect are to (1) provide additional continuity for Section business from one year to the next, (2) provide the Chair and Chair-Elect an extended opportunity to discuss and potentially enact changes, if voted on by the members, (3) afford a longer period of time to promote Section activities, and (4) provide greater continuity of representation on the ESA Council. Some sections (e.g., Aquatic Section, Applied Ecology Section) currently elect officers for 2-year terms.

Section Membership and Financial status: Dues from members contribute to an annual increase in the Section budget. Options for utilizing the surplus include allowing the budget to increase, spending additional funds for the business meeting, contributing to the Ton Damman award, supporting an intern to develop the web site further, or providing travel support.

The Ton Damman Award in Vegetation Science

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Loretta Johnson, an ecologist at Kansas State University, in 2003 the Vegetation Section of ESA announced the Ton Damman Award in Vegetation Science. This award is given to a graduate student or very recent post-graduate scientist for the best oral presentation in Vegetation Science at the ESA Annual Meeting. Students competing for the Damman Award must meet all the criteria for ESA's Buell Award. The Ton Damman Award recognizes the lifetime dedication of Ton Damman to the advancement of Vegetation Science. A candidate for this award need not be a member of the Vegetation Section, but does need to be senior author of the abstract and give the oral presentation at the Annual Meeting. Jason McLachlan was the 2004 recipient of the Ton Damman award for his presentation, co-authored by J. S. Clark and P. S. Manos, "The

importance of small populations in the postglacial dynamics of eastern forests" at the ESA meeting in Portland. The award will be presented to him at the annual business meeting in Montreal.

Vegetation Section web site

A web site (<http://www.uga.edu/srel/esavegsec/>) has been established for the Vegetation Section. The web site has information on the Section's mission, news and announcements, and activities. Students interested in the Ton Damman award can find information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

Submitted by,
Beverly Collins, Chair

VI. REPORTS OF CHAPTERS

MEXICO CHAPTER

The Mexico Chapter of the Ecological Society of America was established in April 2003. It held its first meeting on 6 August 2003. At this first gathering, the members agreed to pursue four activities. The corresponding advances are described as follows:

- a) Symposium: María Luisa Martínez, Robert Manson, and Patricia Balvanera organized the symposium entitled "The evolution of ecology in Mexico: research challenges and the role of Mexico-US collaboration" for the 2004 Annual Meeting. The symposium included seven presentations that discussed the history of ecology in Mexico, further describing current research in North America and presenting the future challenges posed by the state of the environment and ecology as a science in Mexico. The authors are currently working on publication of the ideas presented at the symposium. They will submit a manuscript to "*Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*."
- b) Directory: the Chapter directory is posted on the Mexico Chapter web page and includes 49

members, both from Mexico and elsewhere.

- c) Web site: Erick De la Barrera is the web master for the Chapter. The web page <<http://www.ibecmx.org/esa-mexico/>> includes the minutes of the first meeting, member directory, interesting links to other societies, and an internet forum for Chapter members. It also posts job opportunities in Mexico.
- d) Symposium in Mexico: While at the first meeting of the Chapter the idea of an event in Mexico was discussed, the 2004 Chapter symposium created the synergy that led to organizing a conference in Mexico. The "Ecology in an Era of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Scientists in the Americas" conference will take place in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, 8–12 January 2006. Several Chapter members are involved in organizing the event. The Chapter is recruiting volunteers to help translate abstracts from English into Spanish and vice versa, as well as to review proposals for student travel awards.
- e) Promotion of our Chapter. We developed a poster on the Mexican chapter. It can be used by any member who wants it, for example when they attend conferences. It was tried out last year at the Mexican Botanical Society Meetings (Oaxaca, October 2004). We hope this will help to promote our chapter widely.

The Mexico Chapter will gather at the 2005 ESA Meeting and select new officials. Coordination and synergy with the newly established Mexican Society for Ecology will be explored.

Submitted by:
Rodolfo Dirzo, Chair

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is into its third year, following its conversion from the Washington, D.C., Chapter. We now include ESA members from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland,

the District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Virginia plus some from outside the geographic area. Presently, in summer 2005, the membership has grown to over 330. As stated in our bylaws on the ESA web site, "the objective of the Chapter shall be to encourage education and research, to sponsor meetings for the discussion of ecological education and ecological research activities, and to promote communication among professional ecologists of the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States."

Following a very successful March 2004 Mid-Atlantic Ecology Conference at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was built around the topic of "Sustainable Landscapes," we repeated with a second conference this year at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, subtitled "Urban Landscapes." One of the primary objectives at both conferences was to provide a regional venue suitable for undergraduate and graduate students to present their work mixed in with contributed papers by senior ecologists. There were opportunities for both poster and platform presentations. This year the plenary talk was given by Charles Nilon, Associate Professor, University of Missouri, on "The Ecology of Nearby Nature" which supported the theme of urban ecology. The dinner speaker was Laura Hungerford, DVM, MPH, Ph.D, Professor and Interim Head at the University of Maryland, who spoke on "Epidemiology and Ecology: Synthesis in Method and Meaning." This was a thought-provoking talk on recognition of the importance of ecological data and interactions to the understanding of human disease and the occurrence of epidemics. The 2005 business meeting of the Chapter was held at this conference.

One of our conference planning goals is to make these meetings as low cost as possible in order to promote attendance by students and faculty from schools with low travel budgets. A second goal is to try to arrange the schedule on a Saturday so that many can attend from the region as a day trip, or with only one overnight stay being required. For those who wished to extend their participation, field trips are scheduled on Sunday following the conference day. In 2004,

Rich Pouyat arranged for visits to some of the Baltimore Ecosystem LTER sites as examples of urban ecological studies.

Juliette Winterer, Franklin and Marshall College, is completing her term as Section Chair and Dirk Vanderklein, Montclair State University, will assume that role for 2005–2006. We have tentatively scheduled the Spring 2006 meeting for northern New Jersey, and a natural community/ecosystem oriented conference theme is being developed. It will likely address the New Jersey Pine Barrens as a unit for study. Announcements will be made to chapter members in the Fall, and we encourage all ESA members who are in this region to join and be active! If you are not a chapter member and wish to be placed on this year's mailing list, please contact the new Chair at <vanderkleid@mail.montclair.edu>.

Submitted by:

Dean Cocking, Secretary/Treasurer

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

The Rocky Mountain Chapter continues work to revitalize and diversify our activities. The objectives of the Chapter are to encourage education and research and to sponsor meetings for the communication of ecological education and research activities of special interest to ecologists in the Rocky Mountain Region of North America. To that end, the Chapter continues to sponsor the Annual Front Range Student Ecology Symposium at Colorado State University. The 11th Symposium was held 5–6 April 2005, and our chapter provided \$500 of support. The theme for this year's symposium was: "How Does Global Change Influence the Way We Do Science?" A full description and schedule of events can be found at: <http://lamar.colorado-state.edu/~ecosym/_Home.html>

This year, six colleges and universities from Colorado and one Colorado high school resulted in 28 oral presentations and 30 posters. Student, faculty, and Federal scientist members of ESA participate each year and are thus on hand to "recruit" and to learn from our next generation of leaders in the field.

On that note, all leadership positions of the chapter will be open this year, and we will organize elections at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, 11 August 2005, 7:00–8:00 am. Continental breakfast will be served, and we will devote most of the meeting to the Rocky Mt. Ecological Observatory (ROMEO) and our development of a strategy to be part of the National Environmental Observation Network (NEON). That discussion will be led by Dr. Jill Baron, U.S. Geological Survey and the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University.

Submitted by:

Geneva Chong, Chair

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

The Southeastern Chapter held an informal brown bag lunch meeting at the ESA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Discussion at this meeting focused primarily on administration of two student awards: the Odum Award and the Quarterman-Keever Award. Committees for administering these awards were assigned. Joan Walker presented a plan that we hope will fund the Quarterman-Keever Award in the future. Various ideas for symposia to be developed for the 2006 ASB and ESA meetings were discussed.

The Southeastern Chapter held its annual meeting with the ASB in April in Florence, Alabama. At the business meeting Neil Billington (Troy University) was elected Vice Chair, and outgoing Chair Paul Schmalzer was thanked for his efforts during the last 3 years. Various ideas for symposia were again discussed. Due to recent changes in land use throughout the Southeast, it was decided to determine how a symposium might be organized around this issue.

The Quarterman-Keever Award was given for the first time at the 2005 ASB meeting. The recipients were Joy Hester, Davidson College for "Effects of relocation on movements and home ranges of eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*)," co-authored by Steven J. Price and Michael E. Dorcas, and Melinda D. Roberts, Appalachian State University for "The influence of water relations on the response of cutleaf cone-flow-

er to ozone,” co-authored by Howard Neufeld, Alan Davidson, and Arthur Chappelka. Recipients of the 2005 Odum Award were Chrissie McKenney, University of Southern Mississippi for “Nest site selection by gopher tortoises in south Mississippi,” co-authored by Carl Qualls, and Sarah Johnson, East Carolina University, for “The effects of competition on the threatened dune annual, *Amaranthus pumilus* Raf. (Amarantha-

ceae),” co-authored by Claudia Jolls.

Chapter newsletters have been published on the Chapter’s web site <<http://www.auburn.edu/seesa/>> and in the *ESA Bulletin*.

Submitted by:
James Luken, Chair



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