

to ecological phenomena are considered. Prizes are awarded on the basis of merit, originality, and clarity of presentation. The winner of the best talk in 2005 was Karen Abbot (University of Chicago). The poster award was not presented this year.

This year the Section is sponsoring an organized oral session, "The devil is in the detail: theory for empirical model systems," organized by Ottar Bjornstad and Priyanga Amarasekare. This session will explore the utility of the foundational models in understanding the ecological dynamics of specific systems, and discuss how important conceptual insights have been reached by embracing the "idiosyncrasies" of any particular system. The individual presentations detail these issues using case studies from behavior, biological control, epidemiology, and community ecology.

Submitted by:

Priyanga Amarasekare
Chair

URBAN ECOSYSTEM ECOLOGY SECTION

The Urban Ecosystem Ecology Section received a long-range planning grant in the amount of \$800 for web site development and communication among the board and the webmaster. The Section paid a private webmaster \$500 to develop the site and managed to keep all of the communication online.

As a result, we will not need the remaining \$300. The webmaster received permission from the Physiological Ecology Section to use their web site as a template and did a fine job getting our web site up and running. The new site efficiently communicates the goals of the Section, describes the Section activities, provides contact information for the board, lists venues for urban ecology publications, and provides links to urban ecological research sites, course syllabi, and academic programs. We hope the new board (to be elected at this year's business meeting) will continue to develop the Section by increasing membership, adding a job board and a member list to the web site,

and planning an urban ecology field trip for the 2007 meeting. The Section thanks the ESA Council for their financial assistance this year.

Submitted by:

Roarke Donnelly, Chair

V. REPORTS OF CHAPTERS

CANADA CHAPTER

The objectives of the Canada Chapter are to encourage education and research, to sponsor meetings for communicating ecological education and research activities, to facilitate access to ESA for graduate students, and to provide scientific information to those interested in the ecology of Canadian ecoregions.

The Canada Chapter is relatively new, and at the Annual Meeting in the summer of 2005 the first group of officers after the initial cohort was elected. They will serve a 2-year term, and new officers will be elected in the summer of 2007. The current officers are: Ken Lertzman, Simon Fraser University, Chair; Karen Yee, University of Calgary, Vice-Chair; and Beatrix Beisner, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), Secretary. We would like to express our great appreciation of the efforts of those involved in establishing the Canada Chapter of ESA, especially to our first Chair, Sina Adl of Dalhousie University

Over the past year, the Canada Chapter awarded two student prizes to Danielle Way and Patrick Vogan.

For the 2006 Annual Meeting the Chapter sponsored a symposium entitled, "The ecological consequences of genetic diversity." The symposium was co-organized by Marc Johnson and Randall Hughes.

In the past year a new society was formed in Canada that will be of major importance to Canadian ecologists and is relevant to the ESA more generally. The Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution/So-

ciété de l'Écologie et de l'Évolution (CSEE/SCEE) was inaugurated at its first general meeting in Montreal. Over 400 people attended the meeting. The major Canadian federal funding agency, NSERC, participated in order to promote discussion of the state of funding for ecological and evolutionary research in Canada. The new society hopes that in the future joint meetings with other ecological/evolutionary organizations, such as the ESA, can be held. The Canada Chapter of ESA was represented at the CSEE/SCEE meeting by Beatrix Beisner, who is also now a council member for the CSEE/SCEE. More information about the society can be found at their web site: <www.eco-evo.ca>

Submitted by:

Ken Lertzman
Chair

MEXICO CHAPTER

This has been an extremely busy year for the Mexico Chapter, which currently has 61 members from six countries and is growing steadily. Following the election of new Chapter officers at the ESA meeting in Mérida, Yucatán, in January 2006, the new officers set about updating the Chapter web page and the Chapter bylaws to insure continuity over time by (1) electing officers in a staggered fashion, and (2) making the chair-elect (formerly vice-chair) become the chair of the Chapter automatically after 2 years unless the chair seeks reelection. Modifications to Chapter bylaws were also streamlined by allowing electronic voting by members, as well as by reducing the time required for submitting suggested changes from 6 to 4 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Other Chapter activities included the following.

Publication of the results of the first Chapter-sponsored symposium: M. L. Martínez, R. H. Manson, P. Balvanera, R. Dirzo, J. Soberón, L. García-Barrios, M. Martínez-Ramos, P. Moreno-Casasola, L. Rosenzweig, and J. Sarukhán. 2006. The Evolution of Ecology In Mexico: Facing Challenges and Preparing

for the Future. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 4(5): 259–267.

Co-sponsoring a new symposium for the 2006 Annual Meeting entitled, “Integrating Ecosystem Services into the Policy Realm,” together with the ESA Public Affairs Committee and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Organizing a symposium entitled, “Strategies for Promoting Ecology Science in Decision Making in Mexico” at the first Annual Meeting of the newly formed Mexican Scientific Society of Ecology, to be held in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico in late November 2006. By inviting members of the ESA Public Affairs Committee to Mexico to discuss how ESA strategies for networking with decision makers and reporters in the United States could be adapted to the Mexican context, this is one of the first official collaborations between these two professional societies and should help strengthen the links between them.

Sponsoring an ESA Board proposal to reduce the registration costs for Latin American ecologists attending the ESA Annual Meeting as a mechanism for increasing their attendance and thus ESA links in this important region. This proposal was based on the fact that scientists and students from this region face the dual hurdles of higher travel costs and lower wages that often limit their ability to attend the ESA Annual Meeting.

In a similar initiative, it was decided that the \$250 in dues collected so far from Chapter members should be used to create 2-3 small travel grants to help Latin American students (especially those from Mexico) attend the 2006 ESA Annual Meeting.

The new Chapter officers would like to formally recognize and thank the original officers (Julia Carabias, Rodolfo Dirzo, and Renée González Montagut) for their strategic planning and hard work, which allowed the creation of the Chapter and the organization of its first symposium: “The Evolution of Ecology in Mexico” at the 2004 Annual Meeting.

Submitted by:

Robert H. Manson
Chair
Institute of Ecology–Xalapa

Luis E. Eguiarte
Chair-elect
Center for Ecosystem Investigation – UNAM

Alexandra Ponette
Secretary
Yale University

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

The current Chapter leadership consists of the following people:

Chair: Dirk Vanderklein, Montclair State University, New Jersey.

Chair-Elect: Karl Kleiner, York College, Pennsylvania.

Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Pedersen, Dickinson College, Pennsylvania.

Past Chair: Juliette Winterer, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

After the ESA Annual Meeting, the leadership will be as follows:

Chair:	Karl Kleiner
Chair-Elect:	To be determined
Secretary/Treasurer:	Brian Pedersen
Past Chair:	Dirk Vanderklein

Membership: Holding steady at around 390 members.

Current balance: \$10,862.24 (!)

Chapter activities

As a fairly new Chapter, we have been mainly directing our energies to presenting annual scientific meetings focused on regional issues. This year, our meeting was held all day at The School of Conser-

vation in northwestern New Jersey on 8 April. The School is affiliated with Montclair State University. Our meeting theme this year was “Ecology in the Field.” Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld of Rutgers University was our keynote speaker. Her talk addressed the dual themes of ecology in New Jersey and the importance of ecosystem engineers. Our evening speaker was Dr. William Thomas of Montclair State University, who presented the trials and tribulations of incorporating indigenous peoples into conservation work in Borneo. A total of about 100 people attended 22 oral sessions and 39 poster presentations. Most of the presenters were students. By all accounts, the meeting was a success. On 9 April, we had a field trip to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This field trip was led by Richard Evans, an ecologist with the National Park Service, who showed different ecosystems within the park and discussed the management issues associated with them.

In addition to organizing our annual meetings, the Chapter has begun to expand its activities. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to look into how we as a Chapter can contribute to the national organization’s “Regional Policy Initiatives.” We have started discussions to identify issues of regional importance. Based on these issues we will then identify members who can act as “experts.” We are still in the early stages, but it is my hope that we can develop this into a more prominent part of Chapter activities.

For the coming year we will continue to plan and hold a regional scientific meeting and further develop the “regional initiative response team.” We will also be holding an election for Chair-Elect.

Submitted by:

Dirk Vanderklein
Chair

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

The objectives of the Rocky Mountain Chapter are to encourage education and research and to sponsor meetings for the communication of ecologi-

cal education and research activities of special interest to ecologists in the Rocky Mountain Region of North America. The Chapter continues to sponsor the Annual Front Range Student Ecology Symposium at Colorado State University. The 12th symposium was held 8 March 2006, and our Chapter provided \$500 of support. Students from six universities in Colorado and Wyoming and one high school participated. A full description and schedule of events can be found at: http://lamar.colostate.edu/~ecosym/_Home.html

Following discussion on the National Environmental Observation Network (NEON) during our 2005 Annual Meeting in Montreal, we applied for and received a long-range planning grant to support a planning meeting for the Northern Rocky Mountain Ecological Observatory (NORMEO) held in Bozeman, Montana, 30–31 March 2006. Minutes for that meeting, a list of participants, and other information can be found at: <http://www.normeo.org/> Discussion at this and previous meetings provides a foundation for development of proposals to NEON when that RFP is released.

All leadership positions of the Chapter will be open this year, and we will hold elections at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, 10 August 2006. Continental breakfast will be served.

Submitted by:

Geneva Chong, Chair

SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

General

The Southeastern Chapter (SEC) held two meetings during the last year. The traditional Brown Bag Lunch occurred at the ESA meeting in Montreal, Canada. The business meeting was held at the Associ-

ation of Southeastern Biologists Meeting on 31 March 2006 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

Finances

All Chapter accounts have grown over the last year. The Chapter General Fund has \$5790, the Odum Award fund has \$10,136, and the Quarterman-Keever award fund has \$1597.

Activities

The Southeastern Chapter was involved in three major activities. The Odum Award and the Quarterman Keever Award were bestowed at the 31 March meeting of ASB. Symposia for the 2006 ESA meeting were discussed, submitted for review, and eventually two of these were accepted. These symposia included “Exchange Between Channel and Floodplain in Large Rivers,” and “Plant Clonal Growth: Ecological Implications.” Finally, fund-raising efforts for the Quarterman-Keever Award were discussed and implemented.

Elections

New officers were elected at the 2006 ASB meeting. The new officers are as follows: Frank Gillingham, Marshall University, was elected Chair and will serve from 2006 to 2008. Howie Neufeld, Appalachian State University, was elected Secretary/Treasurer and will serve from 2006 to 2008. Gary Wein and Diane DeSteven were elected as co-Chairs of the Odum Award.

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