



**SER**  
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ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION

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# SERNews

The Newsletter of the Society for Ecological Restoration

Volume 25 No. 4 ISSN 1535-9859

## SER Delegation to the CBD Scientific Meeting

By Sasha Alexander, Society for Ecological Restoration

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has increasingly recognized the value of ecological restoration in protecting and maintaining biodiversity, and restoration is now explicit in its new Strategic Plan. On November 7-11, 2011, SER Board, Staff and Members were invited to participate in the scientific meeting (SBSTTA15) of the CBD to better inform the discussions on ecosystem restoration and contribute to their work in assisting the Parties to the Convention in meeting the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#).

In the opening plenary, SER Chair, Steve Whisenant, presented the SBSTTA Chair with SER's Special Recognition Award for the CBD's forward-looking biodiversity and restoration targets contained in their Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. In turn, Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, presented Steve with a token of their appreciation for SER's assistance on developing the ways and means to support ecosystem restoration.

The SER Chair also read a concise statement on the role of restoration in the CBD strategic plan just before the Parties began discussing their future workplan on ecosystem restoration: "Globally - conservation remains essential, yet insufficient to address the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services that



*Sasha Alexander, SER Program Director, speaking with Sarat Babu Gidda, CBD Secretariat. Photo courtesy of IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin. Photographer: Franz Dejon*

has already occurred. Ecological restoration addresses some of our most pressing challenges: land and water degradation, sustainable and equitable development, climate change and desertification. Ecological restoration is not a justification for degrading or damaging ecosystems! We should be clear about that." The entire statement is available [here](#).

SER co-hosted two side events on restoration. The first side event focused on the economic rationale for restoring our degraded ecosystems and launched a new brochure on [Investing in our Ecological Infrastructure](#). "A new eco-

*(continued on page 2)*

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*Steve Whisenant, Chair of SER, receiving a token of appreciation from Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary. Photo courtesy of IISD/ Earth Negotiations Bulletin. Photographer: Franz Dejon*

economic approach that prioritizes investment in our ecological infrastructure is gaining increasing attention, giving real substance to that often vague and misleading phrase, the ‘Green Economy’. Whether restoring a watershed to provide clean drinking water for large urban areas or restoring mangroves for fisheries and storm protection, societies and governments can save billions of dollars by helping nature do what it does best.” The second side event, entitled Challenges and Hopes for Ecosystem Restoration - featured restoration as an effective response option to human-induced pressures, reductions in agricultural productivity and natural catastrophes.

SER members participated in the week-long poster session on how ecosystem restoration would assist the CBD in meeting its objectives and maintaining a healthy planet for all. From the many excellent posters displayed, SER partner, the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) won the award for best poster. A copy of the MAP poster is available [here](#). In addition, the extended abstracts for the posters were published in the CBD Technical Series, which is available [here](#).

The final recommendation on ecosystem restoration requests the CBD Secretariat and relevant partners to initiate work to compile information on practical guidance or guidelines on:

- restoration of specific landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and their components, including identification of gaps and suggested means for addressing them;
- relevant tools and technologies, including positive and negative lessons learned and experiences used at multiple spatial scales and for specific ecosystems;
- the application of new and emerging technologies for ecosystem restoration; and
- the most used definitions of key terms, highlighting their links to the Targets in the Strategic Plan and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The CBD SBSTTA15 has provided a first glimpse of the impact of the new Strategic Plan, including its potential to substantively transform CBD work both in terms of new issues, such as ecosystem restoration, and new approaches, by accelerating the move towards bottom-up implementation and monitoring. SER looks forward to continuing our partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity as the Parties strive to meet the ambitious biodiversity targets for 2020.

# What a Year We've Had!

## View from the SER Staff and Leadership



From activities in Mexico to Montreal to Nigeria, from new staff to new board members, and from new chapters in Nepal to new chapters in North America, SER has seen more excitement surrounding ecological restoration this year than we've ever seen before! While our members have known for years that ecological restoration is a fundamental part of sustaining biodiversity on earth, the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico coupled with ongoing impacts of climate change has put the meaning and significance of restoration at the forefront of the public's mindset.

Our members and partners are turning to us as a source of knowledge and to connect with others in the field. Both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union on Conservation of Nature are asking the Society for global guidance on ecological restoration. Our staff and board of directors work hard to provide this knowledge and create valuable networks amongst our peers and members.

Highlights of this past year include the SER2011 World Conference, where over 1,000 delegates from 60 countries traveled to Merida, Mexico to participate in hundreds of impressive symposia, talks, and papers. SER2011 explored the theme *Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture* and culminated in a critical [Call to Action](#) from the 1,000 delegates. The 2011-2013 Board of Directors also took office during the conference, where they rallied around initiatives to grow the Society.

In addition to the world conference, we have enjoyed checking off a laundry list of accomplishments this year. With the support of staff, members of the board have continued program design for a practitioner's certification program, represented SER at international conventions, supported the formation of two new chapters (Nepal and Great Basin), initiated revisions on the [SER Primer on Ecological Restoration](#), informed initiatives on continental conservation, purchased a new membership database, written a strategic plan for 2012-2016 (be on the lookout for the public version!), developed a [Code of Ethics](#) for the Society, and produced a brochure on the economic rationale for environmental restoration. We are also proud to announce that in 2011 alone, six new titles were published under our [Island Press book series](#) on ecological restoration!

We're poised and ready for the development of our new website, which will be released in the spring of next year along with the new SER logo and brand. Planning for our 25th anniversary, which coincides with the [SER2013 World Conference](#) in Madison, Wisconsin has already begun, and we to look forward to more prospects in our current search for a [new Executive Director](#).

On behalf of staff and leadership, thank you to all of our members for a fantastic and productive 2011. It is your support that allows SER to promote ecological restoration each year. As 2011 comes to a close, consider [giving the gift of membership](#) or [making a contribution to our annual fund](#) to support our efforts to bring you valuable member benefits and keep costs low for our low income country and student members in 2012 and beyond.

Cheers to a restorative New Year!

Mary, Sasha, Levi, Caroline, Leah, & the SER Board



**SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION**

5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration

Madison, Wisconsin, USA | October 6-11, 2013

**It's official: the SER2013 website has been launched!**

Visit [www.ser2013.org](http://www.ser2013.org) for everything you need to know about the 5th World Conference on Ecological Restoration.

# Plants for Life: Restoring Indigenous Forest in Kenya

By Leah Bregman, Society for Ecological Restoration

Edited by Mark Nicholson, Plants for Life and James Aronson, SER Board Member

Brackenhurst Baptist International Centre (BBIC) is a 40 ha landholding 25km north of Nairobi, Kenya, hosting 25,000 visitors a year. In 2000 Mark Nicholson met with the directors of BBIC to raise the possibility of an ecological restoration initiative on their land. The meeting resulted in a first phase of 10 years to restore at least 20 ha of natural forest in a district that has lost over 99% of its native forest to exotic tree planta-



*Planting took place after invasives were removed in December 2011.*

tions, smallholder agriculture, horticulture and urban expansion. A Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization, Plants for Life International (PLI) was created to restore much of the Brackenhurst land to an indigenous forest of high native plant and animal biodiversity. Tree planting began in 2001 after clearing five acres of exotic plantations of cypress, eucalyptus and wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), which had resulted in the loss of most avian and insect biodiversity.

Ten years later, PLI has succeeded



*Plants for Life staffers gather for a sunny photo.*

in registering Brackenhurst's 20 ha as a botanic garden with Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Brackenhurst Botanic Garden and Indigenous Forest (BBGIF) has the largest cultivated in situ and ex situ plant biodiversity in East Africa. Some of the species are listed on the IUCN Red List. Due to increased erosion from eucalyptus plantations (grown in the area for tea drying), PLI is currently negotiating with a neighboring tea grower, Unilever, to replant steep valleys with indigenous forest to prevent dam siltation and to restore stream flow in previously perennial streams. As a result of Dr. Nicholson's dedication through Plants for Life International, BBGIF has become a center for East African upland plant biodiversity with over 80,000 plants propagated from over 1400 species. It is just about to sign an agreement with the Millennium Seed Bank (Kew, UK) to provide quality seed for other indigenous afforestation projects. It has become a model for indigenous reforestation projects in East Africa, and a major

environmental achievement for Kenya, whose limited indigenous forest is under severe pressure.

Following their ongoing accomplishments at Brackenhurst, PLI has recently been asked to advise on the indigenous reforestation of Karura forest outside Nairobi. PLI will help restore over 1000 ha of threatened urban forest, 80% of which is currently under exotic plantations.



*Invasive species are removed in the indigenous forest in December 2011.*

*Plants for Life is a proud member of SER. Their membership was made possible by a gift from James Aronson who chose to honor PLI's work and vision with an SER organizational membership. If you wish to gift a SER membership to a group, or individual, performing or supporting ecological restoration around the world, please contact Caroline Bronaugh at [caroline@ser.org](mailto:caroline@ser.org).*

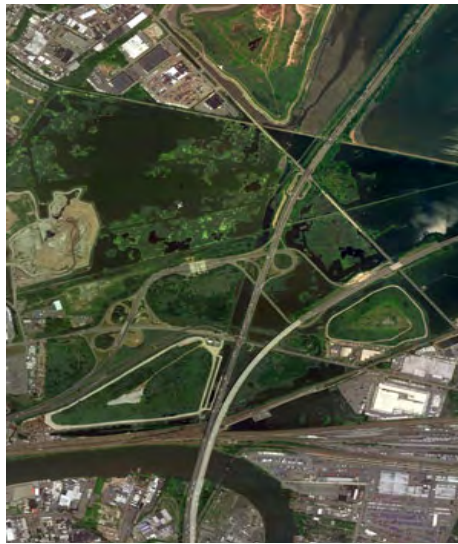
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# Members-in-the-News

## Restoration Provides Job Opportunities in the Gulf Coast

Former SER Board Member Keith Bowers spoke about the findings of a recent economic study in an article published by the Environmental Defense Fund earlier this month. The new study from Duke University sampled 140 firms linked to restoration projects undertaken or completed along the U.S. Gulf Coast. The report showed how a long-term investment in ecosystem restoration would create jobs and benefit at least 140 businesses with almost 400 employee locations in 37 states, including more than 260 in the Gulf Coast and nearly 60 in Florida.

The study was released two days before a House Hearing on the RESTORE Act which would dictate that 80% of the estimated \$5-21 billion in Clean Water Act fines from the BP oil spill go towards restoring the Gulf. As Bowers states, “coastal habitat restoration typically creates at least 3-4 times as many jobs as road infrastructure or oil and gas projects for every \$1 million invested. This study proves ecological restoration can be a real catalyst for job creation, economic vitality and ecosystem resiliency. Passing the RESTORE Act could help restore the fishing and tourism industries in Florida and the other Gulf Coast states.” [Click here](#) to read the full article.



*The landfill of Kearny, New Jersey was the site of Dr. Steven Handel's early restoration work.*

## Urban Habitat Restoration

The American Society of Landscape Architects recently featured SER 2011 award recipient Dr. Steven Handel in an article recounting a presentation he gave at the University of Virginia's Department of Landscape Architecture. During the presentation, Dr. Handel spoke to landscape architect students about his work in restoring urban habitat. Handel emphasized the importance of ongoing monitoring, adaptation, and stewardship in the creation of vital urban landscapes. Dr. Handel went on to reveal the two most important questions to ask when beginning any urban ecological restoration project: what is the ecological target for restoration and how can we rebuild the soil? According to Handel, everything else will follow. Read the full article online at <http://dirt.asla.org/2011/11/30/city-landscapes-urban-habitat>.

## Ted Turner to Receive BRIT's 2012 International Award of Excellence in Conservation

CNN founder and avid environmentalist Ted Turner will be honored with the 2012 International Award of Excellence in Conservation for his accomplishments in grassland restoration and biodiversity conservation. Turner is founder of the Turner Endangered Species Fund (TESF), one of SER's newest organizational members. TESF works on diverse ecological issues ranging from the conservation of individual species to broad scale ecosystem restoration. Among TESF's successful projects is an initiative to restore the American prairie ecosystem. Turner's western ranchland prairie ecosystems include a mixture of native and endangered species including 250,000 prairie dogs and 55,000 bison. To learn more about Turner's work and recent award, visit <http://brit.org/TedTurner2012IAoEC>.

## New Handbook on New Zealand Wetland Restoration Released

SER Member Beverly Clarkson discusses her newest book, *Wetland Restoration: A handbook for New Zealand Freshwater Systems*, in a short video interview recently posted by Landcare Research. Clarkson describes the wetlands of New Zealand as a special space where you find unique plants and animals in dire need of restoration

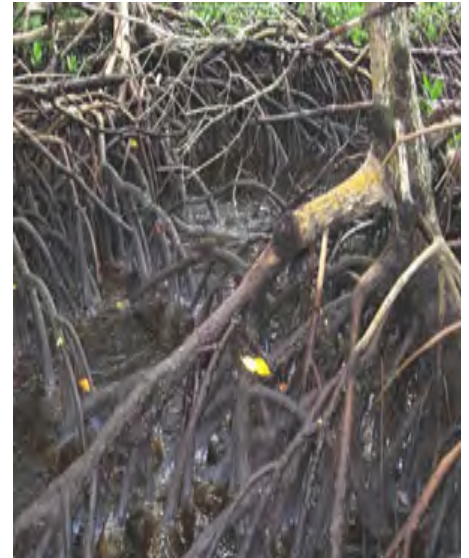
# Members-in-the-News

and attention. Watch the full video online at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2dDI\\_A-CEI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2dDI_A-CEI). You can also visit <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/biocons/wetlands/> for information on her book.

## Saving Mangroves on the Edge of Marco Island, Florida

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has been working with SER Member and certified mangrove restoration expert Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III. Lewis will work with the group to restore 225 acres of man-

grove habitat along State Road near Marco Island, Florida. The area, once a lush green stand of mangroves, is now a severely degraded landscape of leafless tree trunks. Largely the result of the construction off highway SR-90, the degradation has been decades in the making. The effort to restore the mangroves will be rolled out in three phases. Nearly \$150,000 of public funding is still needed to help secure a \$450,000 federal grant for the first phase of the project. For more information, visit <http://www.marcomangroves.com/>.



*The result of decades of degradation to mangrove habitat in Marco Island, Florida.*

## 10th Annual Mangrove Forest Ecology, Management and Restoration Training Workshop



The 10th Annual Mangrove Forest Ecology, Management and Restoration Training Workshop will take place March 1-2, 2012 at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood, Florida. The training site lies within an award winning, 500 ha mangrove restoration project designed by Roy R.

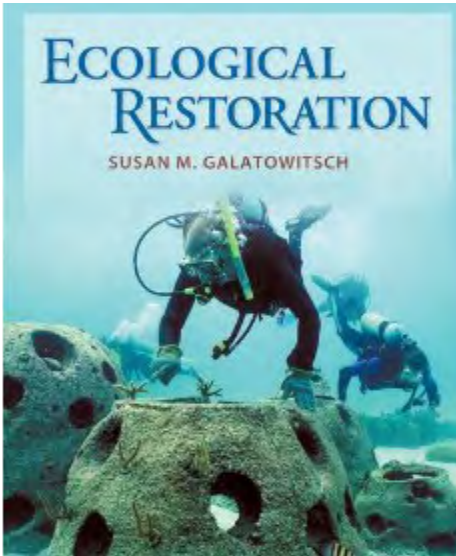
"Robin" Lewis III, who will also be teaching the course. In addition to teaching in Florida, Mr. Lewis has travelled the world to Cuba, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka teaching this valuable course on successful mangrove restoration.

The workshop includes an introduction to mangrove forest ecology, management options and problems, and restoration design issues. Students will evaluate case studies and embark on class field trips both into the 500 ha West Lake Park mangrove restoration project (now 22 years old) and into a new project that is just one year old, for compari-

son. Additionally, students will learn about cost figures typically associated with successful projects and hear why the Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR) method of mangrove restoration is recommended as the best approach to mangrove restoration at minimal cost.

Not including travel, lodging or food, the cost to attend is \$850. Individuals interested in attending this course must register by **January 1, 2012**. To learn more and register, visit <http://www.mangroverestoration.com/index.html> or contact Robin Lewis at [LESRRL3@aol.com](mailto:LESRRL3@aol.com).

# New Books & Articles



## Ecological Restoration

Susan M. Galatowitsch

In *Ecological Restoration*, Susan M. Galatowitsch provides a comprehensive overview of strategies used around the world to reverse human impacts on landscapes, ecosystems, and species. The book strengthens the connections between ecological concepts and real-world decision-making as students explore each topic while considering both research-based knowledge and lessons learned from 19 restoration projects. This is a must read for any restorationist; basic concepts from fields including ecology, conservation biology, earth and water sciences, environmental design, and public policy are explained and assessed. For more details, visit <http://www.sinauer.com/detail.php?id=6076>.

## National Parks with Benefits

Nigel Dudley, Liza Higgins-Zogib, Marc Hockings, Kathy MacKinnon, Trevor Sandwith and Sue Stolton

In this article from *Solutions Journal*, experts explore issues surrounding protected areas including the ecosys-

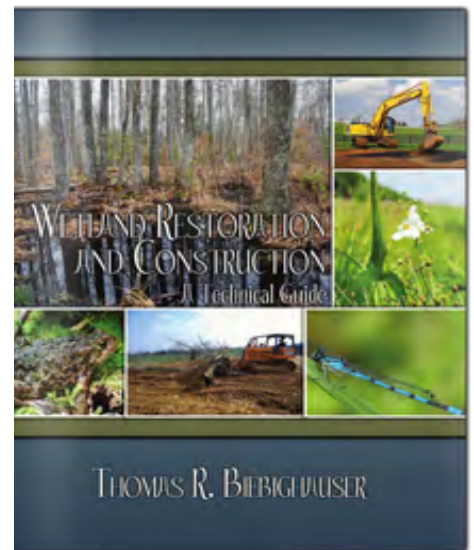
tem services they provide and their broader role in our economies as more than just a tourist destination. The world's protected areas currently cover over 12% of land surface in the form of national parks and nature reserves. In addition to their more recognized roles of biodiversity conservation and recreation, protected areas provide the largest single source of secure ecosystem services. Last year, signatory countries to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to increase total protected area coverage to 17% of land and freshwater and 10% of coastal waters. Well-designed, equitably managed protected areas could provide a powerful solution for maintaining ecosystem services, conserving biodiversity, and addressing the needs of human communities. To read the full article, visit <http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/node/1008>. SER members receive special members-only discounts on *Solutions Journal* subscriptions!

## Guidelines and Protocols for Monitoring Riparian Forest Restoration Projects

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

In their new handbook, the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute offers guidelines for monitoring riparian restoration projects and focuses on the ecological, rather than socioeconomic, dimensions of projects. Protocols are derived from the synthesis of a broad range of existing literature on the assessment of riparian fuels, vegetation, and wildlife habitat into a methodology that is efficient, objective and appropriate. Rather than creating new monitoring protocols, this publication com-

bines existing protocols to provide guidance for monitoring riparian projects within, but not limited to, New Mexico's Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). View the handbook online at [http://www.nmfwri.org/images/stories/pdfs/Collaborative\\_Forest\\_Restoration/Riparian\\_forest\\_monitoring\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.nmfwri.org/images/stories/pdfs/Collaborative_Forest_Restoration/Riparian_forest_monitoring_guidelines.pdf).



## Wetland Restoration and Construction: A Technical Guide

Thomas Biebighauser

In his first book ever, Thomas Biebighauser of the Wetland Trust reveals practices used to restore over 1,400 wetlands in 18 U.S. states and 2 Canadian provinces. The book explains how to build wetlands, repair failed wetlands, and transform degraded landscapes into self-sustaining wetland habitats. It is an incredible resource for practitioners; readers are given clear step-by-step instructions for a variety of projects. To purchase this book visit, <http://www.thewetlandtrust.org/wetlandrestorationbook.html>.

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# SER Chapter News

## SER Mid-Atlantic Holds Field Trip in the Chesapeake Bay

On a beautiful day in late October, a boatload of adventurous passengers set sail for a three-hour tour (yes, literally) out to Poplar Island. Located just off the Maryland coastline, about 30 miles south of Baltimore, Poplar Island has rebounded from the verge of extinction to become a national model for habitat restoration and the beneficial use of dredged material. After a short ride out to the island on the Terrapin, a 24-person tour boat, the group boarded a bus to view the many fascinating facets of the 1,000+ acre construction site, half of which is being restored as tidal wetlands and the other half as upland forests and meadows. Definitely worth a visit if you're in the area. For more information about the site, visit [www.nab.usace.army.mil/Projects/PoplarIsland/Intro.htm](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Projects/PoplarIsland/Intro.htm).

Meanwhile, preparations continue for SER-MA's upcoming 7th annual conference, in collaboration with the SER New England Chapter. Under the theme of "Restoration on the Edge," the event will be held at Brooklyn College in New York on Friday, March 23rd, with field trips the next day. Plans are also underway to offer a training workshop on the day before the conference itself. Registration for all of the above will open in mid-January, which is also the deadline for abstracts in response to the Call for Papers & Posters. Be sure to check the chapter's website for updates on the conference online at [www.ser.org/midatl](http://www.ser.org/midatl).



*Members of the SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter take a special field trip to Poplar Island.*

## SER Australasia's Inauguration

The SER Australasia Chapter (SERA) has officially been launched! The chapter held its inaugural AGM in August 2011 and elected board members from across Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia. Unlike the previous SER Australia Chapter that was in operation for the past 12 years, the SER Australasia Chapter grew to encompass all of Australasia. The newly expanded chapter now boasts members in 17 countries and provides restoration support throughout the entire Australasian region. After successfully launching a new chapter website this fall, SERA is now busy planning for its first conference, which will take place in November 2012 in Perth, Australia. The conference will provide a critical international forum for land managers, scientists and practitioners who work in biodiversity restoration.

Additionally, the chapter is pleased to report an exciting new opportunity that has arisen in Carbon and Ecological Restoration through the

Australian Government's Land Sector Package (AUD\$1.7billion). The major initiative of the package is the Biodiversity Fund (AUD\$946 million), which aims to support landholders to undertake projects that establish, restore, protect or manage biodiverse carbon stores. The opportunity is great because the carbon cycle is the first ecosystem service with a market based mechanism to fund the restoration of cleared lands. Be sure to visit the [SERA website](http://sera.org) or contact [sera@bgpa.wa.gov.au](mailto:sera@bgpa.wa.gov.au) to connect with SERA and learn about their exciting new developments.

## British Columbia Hosts Special Session at Local Conference

SER British Columbia (SER-BC) continues to raise their profile through involvement in local conferences. Just this month, the chapter co-sponsored the 2011 British Columbia Protected Area's Research Forum (BCPARF) Conference at the University of British Columbia. SER-BC was excited for the opportunity to work with BCPARF, a group that acts as a research forum to promote protected areas in the region. The theme of the 2011 BCPARF Conference was *Adapting to Change*. In addition to co-sponsoring the event, SER-BC also hosted a special session entitled *Restoration in Protected Areas*. The session was a roaring success with prominent speakers from SER-BC's chapter leadership including Eric Higgs, Jeff Ralph, Randy Moody, Mike Keefer, Scott Neilson, David Polster, Don Eastman, June Pretzer, and Rob



# SER Chapter News

Walker. You can read the abstracts from SER-BC's special session online at [http://www.ser.org/pdf/SER\\_BC\\_\\_Abstracts\\_ER\\_in\\_Protected\\_Areas\\_BCPARF.pdf](http://www.ser.org/pdf/SER_BC__Abstracts_ER_in_Protected_Areas_BCPARF.pdf).

The chapter is also heavily planning for *Beyond Borders 2012*, a joint conference between SER-BC, SER-NW and AFS. The conference will take place on May 15-18 next year in Victoria, Canada. For more information on their 2012 conference, visit <http://serbc.ca/>.

## SER Texas Announces 2012 Annual Conference

Save the Date! The SER Texas Chapter will hold their annual conference from November 2-4, 2012 at Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco, Texas. Conference attendees will embark on field trips to learn about restoration efforts implemented by groups like Texas Parks & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and the US Fish & Wildlife. The conference, which offers student scholarships, will be an exciting opportunity to contribute to ecological restoration through presentations, speakers and field trips in a unique location. Be sure to join them in the Estero Llano Grande State Park, a diverse 176 acre refuge with a large array of South Texas wildlife and varied landscape from shallow lakes, to woodlands, to thorn forest. Keep an eye on their [website](#) for future announcements!

## SER Nepal Teams Up with Local Groups

SER Nepal is always looking for new ways to get involved in local restoration projects. The chapter partnered with the Senior Citizens Society to start the Kalanki Chok Restoration Program to reverse



*SER Nepal engages senior citizens in local restoration efforts.*

adverse effects from high vehicle emissions and pollution at the Kalanki Chok, a key city exit point. Among other activities, the Kalanki Chok Restoration Program recently established a plantation at Kalanki Chok to help combat substantial amounts of pollution emitted in the area. SER Nepal is also partnering with Club-50 to launch a "Save the Kuleshwar" program to restore Samudaik Place of Kulaeshwor, Kathmandu. The goal is to mobilize senior citizens to help restore the area.

In another impressive effort, SER Nepal has undertaken a project located in the Bagmati River Corridor. The river corridor, an area

ranging from Balkhu Bridge, Sanepa to Kalopool, Teku, has been heavily polluted for over 10 years and was used as a dumping site for the Metropolitan City Office. The chapter teamed up with the Sahid Memorial Park, the Sanepa Department of Environment and Sanitation, and the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City Office to begin work on the corridor. To date they have planted over 100 bamboo trees and held a local planting day where local youth took part in the restoration of the corridor. Visit the [SER Nepal website](#) to stay in the loop as SER Nepal continues its local outreach and restoration initiatives well into 2012.

## SER Great Basin Launches Chapter Website

The SER Great Basin Chapter is excited to announce the launch of their new website! With the new year just around the corner, Great Basin is looking ahead to grow their membership base and activities and initiatives during their first year as an active SER chapter.

The chapter is currently recruiting individuals who would like to volunteer on one of the chapter's committee and help as SERGB starts to grow as a chapter. If you live in the Great Basin region and are interested in getting involved or joining the chapter, please contact any of the committee members listed on their [website](#) to receive more information. They are waiting to hear from you!

# SER Chapter News

## SER Northwest Looks Forward to 20th Anniversary!

The SER Northwest Chapter (SERNW) will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year (they are the oldest of all 13 SER chapters)! As the New Year rolls in, SERNW will continue planning for *Beyond Borders 2012*, their joint conference with SER-BC and ASF scheduled to take place on May 15-18 at the University of Victoria. The second call for symposia for the conference is due on January 20, 2012 and the first call for papers is due on April 1, 2012. Be sure to visit the [SERNW website](#) for more details on the conference or submitting proposals.

In addition to conference planning, SERNW recently launched *Restoration Highlights*, a publication aimed at bringing timely information on regional restoration activities and research to SERNW members. The chapter is currently accepting submissions to include in the publication. If you would like to submit a restoration update, student offering, or case study summary for *Restoration Highlights*, visit <http://www.ser.org/sernw/>.

## SER Europe Stays Busy with Conferences

Members of SER Europe recently participated in ReNo's International Conference on the restoration of damaged ecosystems in Northern regions. The conference was held from October 20 – 21 in Selfoss, Iceland and was attended by scien-



*SER Europe attended field trip excursions during ReNo's recent conference.*

tists, students and representatives from institutions responsible for ecosystem restoration and natural protection. The conference explored current issues threatening the area's ecosystems and identified the need for more comprehensive evaluation of restoration projects so that adaptive management and restoration methods could improve. The conference abstract book is available online at [http://www.ser.org/europe/pdf/RENO2011\\_proceedings.pdf](http://www.ser.org/europe/pdf/RENO2011_proceedings.pdf).

The chapter continues to plan for their 8th Conference on Ecological Restoration, which is scheduled to take place from September 9-14, 2012 in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic. The conference explores themes such as the practical use of near-natural restoration; restoration of various habitat types; reintroduction and reinforcement of endangered species; meta-population dynamics; novel ecosystems; and the socio-economic, cultural and legislative dimensions of ecological restoration among others. For more information relating to the conference including post-conference field trips, please visit <http://www.ecer2012.eu/>.



## SER Co-Sponsors EcoSummit

As a co-sponsor of EcoSummit 2012, SER is excited to announce the first conference ever linking the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL), and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER). On September 30 – October 5, the world's most respected minds in ecological science will gather at EcoSummit 2012 in Columbus, Ohio to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Come hear Nobel Prize laureate Elinor Ostrom, Pulitzer Prize winners E.O. Wilson and Jared Diamond, Kyoto Prize winner Simon Levin, Stockholm Water Prize laureates Sven Jorgensen and Bill Mitsch, and many others speak on a wide variety of ecological topics. [Click here](#) to register today and receive the special early bird rates!

Interested in submitting an abstract? Abstract submission for EcoSummit 2012 poster and oral presentations are now open and will close on January 20, 2012. [Click here](#) for more information.

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# Contribute to the SER Mission

As 2011 comes to a close, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the state of our world: Over 60 million hectares of primary forest have been lost since 2000; 35% of the world's mangroves have disappeared over the past 20 years; 25% of the Earth's land surface is now considered highly degraded with another 8% listed as moderately degraded; and every day species' extinctions are continuing at up to 1,000 times or more the natural rate. [Consider a year-end gift to the Society for Ecological Restoration to help us combat these statistics.](#)

At SER we are deeply proud of our efforts to push ecological restoration forward as a viable solution to biodiversity loss and degradation. This year alone, SER produced multiple publications to share best practices and advance the field of restoration including; Investing in our Ecological Infrastructure, 6 new titles in our Island Press book series and a Call to Action from the delegates of our 4th World Conference. We established two new chapters to promote grassroots restoration work in Nepal and in the Great Basin. Our world conference brought over 1000 delegates and experts in the restoration field to Merida, Mexico to explore sociocultural and economic aspects of ecological restoration.



2012 will bring many exciting challenges. We will develop a new website, giving members access to robust sets of tools and resources including an online member directory, news stories, and online publications. We will work with members in South Africa, the Southwest U.S. and Latin America to establish regional chapters. Planning will begin for the Society's 25th anniversary and 5th World Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in October 2012. We will continue to inform and help guide partners as they address urgent global biodiversity and climate issues.

**But we can't do it alone.** We rely on contributions and memberships to maintain our efforts to provide valuable tools and resources to our worldwide membership. Your support is crucial and a year-end gift can make a world of difference to our programming. All contributions, including membership in SER, are tax deductible. Help us restore the earth, click on the links below.

***Donate to Our Annual Fund***  
or  
***Give the Gift of Membership***

For questions regarding your contribution, please contact us at (202) 299-9518.