SER NEWS

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

Newsletter of the Society for Ecological Restoration June 2013

The Founding of SER, In Brief

By John Stanley, WWW Restoration

SER founder John Stanley (right) and Theodore Sperry (left) at the first SER conference in Oakland, California, in 1989. ©*SER*

***Editor's Note**: In recognition of SER's 25th Anniversary, we asked founder John Stanley to summarize the events that led to our organization's birth. For greater detail on SER's founding, please see the full chronology on SER's website.*

In April 1987, during his keynote address to the 2nd Native Plant Revegetation Symposium in San Diego, California, William (Bill) R. Jordan III (founding editor of the journal *Restoration and Management Notes* later renamed *Ecological Restoration*) suggested the need for a restoration organization. Later during the symposium, organizer John Rieger sat down with Bill Jordan, John Stanley and other California restorationists to sketch out a plan for the new organization.

By July, John Rieger (Caltrans) had formed a steering committee comprised of himself, Steve Johnson (TNC of CA), Bill Jordan (UW, Madison - Arboretum), Anne Sands (Riparian Systems), and John Stanley (Harvey & Stanley Assoc., Inc.). Later that year the committee voted to (1) "*form a national organization with the goal of promoting the scientific investigation and execution of restoration*"; and (2) "*call the organization the Society for Ecological Restoration and Management (SERM)*".

Soon after the steering committee's vote, Bill Jordan's *Restoration and Management Notes* (Winter 1987) included a guest editorial by John Rieger titled "A National Restoration Association?" and an announcement of SERM's first annual meeting to be held in Oakland, California in January 1989.

SERM circulated a Charter Membership Drive Brochure at the January 1988 "Restoring the Earth" Conference held in Berkeley, California. That brochure listed the following goals and objectives for the new organization:

- To promote research into all areas (scientific, technical, social, political, economic and philosophical) related to the restoration, creation and subsequent management of biotic communities;
- To facilitate communication and the exchange of restoration technologies between restorationists thereby contributing to the refinement of successful restoration and sound management techniques;
- To promote wider awareness of the feasibility and value of restoration efforts.
- To solicit and promote funding for research in ecological restoration;
- To recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions towards the restoration and management of ecological communities;
- To contribute to the discussion of public policy in matters having to do with ecological restoration and management.

By the Spring of 1988, the Steering Committee transitioned to a SERM Pro-tem Board of Directors, adding 11 members to the original five: Edie Allen (San Diego State Univ.), Anthony Bradshaw (Univ. of Liverpool), John Cairns (VA Polytechnic Inst.), Andre Clewell (A.F. Clewell, Inc.), Don Falk (Center for Plant Conservation–The Arnold

Andre Clewell (2nd on the left), Dennis Martinez (end of table), Bill Jordan (4th on the right), Donald Falk (1st on the right) & others at SER's 1991 3rd Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. ©*SER*

SER founders (L-R)- William Jordan III, John Rieger, Anne Sands, and John Stanley at SERM's 1992 Annual Conference in Waterloo, Canada. ©*SER*

Arboretum), Mike Gilpin (Univ. of CA–La Jolla), Cat Hawkins (Olympic National Park), Daniel Janzen (Univ. of PA), Dave Mahler (Environmental Survey Consulting), Steve Packard (TNC of IL), and William Plass (American Soc. for Surface Mining and Reclamation).

That fall, Bill Jordan registered SERM with the State of Wisconsin; its official incorporation date is September 28, 1988. The Articles of Incorporation listed board members William Jordan III (Madison, Wisconsin), John Rieger (San Diego, California), Anne Sands (Mill Valley, California), and John Stanley (Alviso, California). While many Californians planted the seed for SER in 1987, the Board officially recognizes its founding place as Madison, Wisconsin in 1988.

Soon after incorporation, SERM held its first conference in Oakland, California in January 1989. There, the members of the nascent organization elected a new board, listed below.

- John Rieger of Caltrans (President)
- Ed Garbisch of Environmental Concern, Inc. (Vice-President)
- Edie Allen of San Diego State Univ. (Secretary)
- Dave Mahler of Environmental Survey Consulting (Treasurer)
- Daniel Janzen of Univ. of PA (Representative At-Large)
- William Jordan III of UW - Arboretum (Representative At-Large)
- Mary Kentula of Environmental Research Labs (Representative At-Large)
- Anthony Bradshaw of Univ. of Liverpool (International Region U.S.)
- Tom Bonnicksen of Texas A&M Univ. (Rocky Mountains and Great Plains)
- Andre Clewell of A.F. Clewell, Inc. (Southeast U.S.)
- Don Falk of Center for Plant Conservation (Northeast U.S.)
- Jean Matthews of Oregon State Univ. (Pacific Northwest U.S.)
- Steve Packard of TNC-IL (Midwest U.S.)
- John Stanley of Harvey and Stanley Assoc., Inc. (Western U.S.)

The Board dropped the word "management" from the name in June 1989, believing that management is an inherent component during and after restoration.

In my opinion, the diverse assemblage of aforementioned individuals – from consultants to agency staff, from NGO folks to academics and researchers – were all founders of SER. Each deserves credit for getting our organization off the ground. Although SER has achieved many of its original goals, there is still much work to be done.

John T. Stanley

Looking Back: Reflections on the Progress of Restoration

By William R. Jordan III, New Academy for Nature and Culture

William R. Jordan III
Photographer: Buffy Jordan

When our colleagues at SER invited me to write a few words about "how restoration got off the ground as a mainstream discipline," I found myself back where George Lubick and I were in 2004 when we undertook to write a short history of restoration and had to ask just what was this "restoration" we had in mind.

Restoration, broadly understood as attempting to reverse changes regarded as "damaging," is hardly a new idea. As Marcus Hall and, more recently, Stuart Allison have pointed out, that sort of activity dates back as far as we have, or can infer, anything about how humans have behaved in their habitat. People, like squirrels and chipmunks, obviously influence their environment in their own interests in ways that may be regarded as restorative – think of Aldo Leopold's "fat October squirrel, who, for reasons unknown to himself, is bent on planting acorns." As soon as that sort of activity becomes self-conscious, it might be called "restoration," and that sort of land management obviously pre-dates the creation of SER or any kind of land management that might be regarded as "getting off the ground" during the past few decades, or even centuries. At the same time, I think most of us would agree that something has "gotten off the ground" over the past few decades. So, just what was that? How has it shaped up? And what are prospects for its future?

I believe that what we are talking about here was what happened when a word – "restoration" – started to gain currency in conservation circles. The word came into this conversation, however, attached to what George and I see as a truly new form of land management, quite distinct from the soil conservation, tree-planting, forestry, range management and burning of vegetation that preceded and in some respects led up to it. As ecologist Fikret Berkes has pointed out, these activities were all "livelihood oriented," focused on features of the ecosystem that had special value for the managers – rich pasture for bison maintained by burning, for example.

What George and I wound up calling "eco-centric restoration" is different from that, in what we believe are ecologically and experientially important ways. Specifically, it entails restoration not only of those features or elements of an ecosystem that happen to be of special interest to the managers, but of the whole ecosystem. It is true that when managers started shaping this idea early in the past century, they often supposed that this comprehensive form of restoration had urgent practical value – that, for example, an ecosystem required "all its parts" in order to function "properly." But ecologists have long since discarded this notion, having found that most ecosystems "function" just fine with only a relative handful of their "original" species. Yet, restorationists go on making the case for "all the parts," and that's an idea that, as far as George and I could tell, dates back only to around 1900. As late as 1934, by which time a scattering of projects that we thought qualified pretty well as eco-centric restoration projects were underway, Aldo Leopold, described the plan to "reconstruct" a "sample of original Wisconsin" at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum as "something new and different". Fifteen years later, when one of my father's classmates in Iowa State's School of Forestry Class of '49, ventured up to Madison to interview for a job at the Arboretum, he came back to Ames to report that he wasn't interested in the job since "they aren't doing forestry up there."

Indeed, they weren't. They were planting pathetic little bits of forest – pine, boreal forest, Ohio valley hardwood – alongside, for heaven's sake, swatches of tallgrass prairie, all on what had, not long before, been a reasonably, if unreliably productive, farm. That made no sense to a forester trained in the tradition of Gifford Pinchot. And a dozen years after that, my father, by then a forester with the Wisconsin DNR, took a similar position in discussions we had about these matters around the dinner table in the early 1960s. He saw what was going on at the Arboretum as possibly interesting, but as, at best, a boutique effort, so far as conservation was concerned.

Actually, as George and I soon realized, lots of people felt the same way, seeing a clear distinction between conservation as represented by, say, the tree-planting, soil conservation and range management efforts of the early and mid-twentieth century, and what locals often referred to as the "Arboretum idea." The former were "practical," had reasonably predictable results

and made economic sense. The latter represented a quixotic attempt to return to the past in search of a stable, self-sustaining ecosystem that, by the end of the century, ecologists no longer believed existed. In fact, interest in restoration was at a low ebb even at the Arboretum when I started working there in 1977. The notion of restoration bounced off the National Park Service at least twice, first in the 1930s and then again in the 1960s, gaining a measure of acceptance by the agency only in the 1990s. And when restoration began to influence TNC policy in the 1980s, Steve Packard, then with the Conservancy, described it to me as "a revolution."

These developments in two major organizations committed to the "preservation" of classic ecosystems were part of a growing interest in restoration that began in the 1970s and led to the creation of SER at the end of the 1980s. Several factors were in play here. For one thing, opportunities to acquire more or less "pristine" lands for "preservation" declined as such places were either acquired or lost to development. Even more importantly, however, land managers began to realize the truth of what ecologists like George Wright with the Park Service and Robert Jenkins with TNC had been trying to tell their organizations for years – basically, that "preservation" of an ecosystem actually depends on an ongoing program of restoration to compensate for novel influences from "outside" the system. Restoration, in other words, wasn't just something you did to replace an ecosystem wholesale on a radically altered site like the old horse pasture at the UW-Madison Arboretum. It was what you have to do to keep any ecosystem on its "own" trajectory in a constantly changing environment.

Besides this, I believe that environmentalists generally were beginning to sense that the gloomy message the movement had been putting out at least since *Silent Spring* – that humans are inveterate

(R-L) Pepper Jackson, Aldo Leopold, Jim Hale and Mary Ellen Helgren creating a black line for a controlled burn at the UW-Madison Aboretum in Madison, Wisconsin. Leopold envisioned the Arboretum as 'a reconstructed sample of old Wisconsin.' *©UW-Madison Arboretum*

if not congenital bad actors in an ecosystem, and that the best we can do in behalf of "natural areas" is slow their inevitable decline toward zero – was failing, calling for a more positive message. Restoration obviously met that need. I recall my friend Ellen Burleigh, who ran an advertising firm in Madison, responding to my notions about restoration with enthusiasm. "Oh, yes," she said. "We can sell that. Let's call Robert Redford."

Whatever other factors were involved, by the late 1970s a scattering of land managers – self-taught inventors like Bob Betz and Steve Packard in Chicago, eco-entrepreneurs like Robin Lewis III and Andy Clewell in Florida, and Leslie Sauer and her colleagues at Andropogon Associates in Philadelphia, and academics like John Cairns at Virginia Tech and Dan Janzen in Costa Rica – were at work inventing a land management practice that didn't even have a name. Janzen recalls using the word "reconstruction" to describe what he was attempting to do with tropical dry forests until he came across the term "ecological restoration" sometime in the late 1980s. With these human and linguistic resources in place, restoration rapidly gained recognition as a distinctive discipline (with Mary Lee Guinon fending off attempts by foresters in California to lay claim to it), a business, a recognized conservation strategy, a culture, a vision and – just a few years after Bob Betz had said to me, "You know, Bill, someday they'll be teaching courses about this" – an academic discipline.

A practitioner like Betz, fascinated by the tallgrass prairie, and devoted to perpetuating this beleaguered ecosystem, had a clear idea of what he meant by "restoration." Over the past decade or so, however restorationists in what one might call diversification or mission drift – have fashioned a range of ideas about what "restoration" means. Early projects of the sort that came to be called "restoration" were oriented toward re-creation of actual communities made up of the species found in the historic ecosystem that served as models. Projects like these were often motivated, at least in part, by the idea that these old, "original" or "natural" communities were ecologically privileged assemblages that provided models of stability

and integrity even in altered settings. Yet ecologists have, by and large, withdrawn their support from this idea, though an allegiance to it was still evident in SER's original "Primer," which stipulated that "The restored ecosystem is self-sustaining to the same degree as its reference ecosystem, and has the potential to persist indefinitely under existing environmental conditions."

Even while looking for ways to justify their commitment to restoration of "the whole thing," restorationists have been tinkering with – and qualifying – their ideas about what restoration means. In doing so, they are responding to a number of developments. One is a growing awareness of the dynamic nature of ecological systems, and the discrediting of the idea that there are "natural" or "original" ecosystems that, once restored, might be expected to "persist indefinitely" under "existing" – typically novel – conditions. Another, that puts the lid on this realization, has been the specter of climate change marshaling in an era of "no analogue" landscapes in which historic ecosystems are ecologically irrelevant. Yet another has been a desire to extend the notion of restoration from its places of origin in North America and Australia into Old World settings that belie the notion of an "original" or distinctively "natural" ecology uncompromised by history, not because these places have any less history than New World landscapes, but because their histories are better known, at least to those who are planning and carrying out the work.

All these considerations have undermined confidence in the old notion of restoration, now often characterized, somewhat condescendingly, as "classic" or "traditional," and have led to discussions of "restoring to the future" and, oddly enough under the banner of "restoration," the importance of novel ecosystems. It has also led to a drastic broadening of the idea of what "restoration" actually means in practice. This has entailed, replacing concrete elements, notably species and communities, as the objectives of restoration projects with more-abstract attributes such as function, biodiversity and, as in the characterization quoted above from SER's Primer, self-sustainability.

I have always believed that one of the great values of restoration is that it raises questions about the environment and our relationship with it that are easily overlooked or ignored when projects are conceived as either "conservation" or "preservation." This being so, questions about what to make of these developments, and how to shape the thinking about restoration, should remain a major agenda item for SER and for anyone who is concerned about the future of this planet.

My own view is that the conversation has tended to place too much emphasis on the word "restoration" and not enough on what is to be restored. "To restore," after all, is a transitive verb, and, despite its strong positive connotation, means nothing at all without a direct object. It's one thing to restore the hydrology or nitrogen-cycling system of an ecosystem, and a very different thing to restore, say, a wetland.

These represent two very different games to be playing with nature, and we need both. When resource managers emphasize process and stability at the expense of more difficult objectives like species composition, "restoration" becomes something very much like the conservation practiced by people like my father and his colleagues 50 and 75 years ago. This was – and remains – admirable and important – indeed, crucial – work. But it is not the practice that led to my conversations with my father a half a century ago, and which justified the use of a new word to describe it.

This, I believe, is a core concern: not what "restoration" means, but what is being restored. Sometimes these or those processes. Sometimes actual ecological systems, modeled, even if impractically and even quixotically, on historic systems. Either way, the model, if you are doing "restoration," is the past – an historic, very likely ecologically obsolete ecosystem. If it's not, use another word.

Brave the distinctions.

Members in the News

Christopher Robins and best friend Winnie-the-Pooh explore the forests of their childhood.
© Galleons Lap by EH Shepard from The House at Pooh Corner by AA Milne. Illustrations provided by Egmont UK

The Ecology of Pooh

In this thought provoking article, **SER member Liam Heneghan** uses a first person narrative to ponder how our association with our childhood environments shapes our wish to alter and restore landscapes to a similar aesthetic.

Drawing parallels between his own life and that of Christopher Robins, the main character of the children's books Winnie-the-Pooh, Heneghan describes the complex mix of emotions regarding esoteric yet modern themes in ecology, particularly the individual's attunement with the natural landscape.

Exploring the issue of transplantation and relocation, Heneghan composes a compelling piece that ties together science and human emotion. To read this article, click here.

Short and Long Term Effects of Native Perennial and Exotic Grasses

SER member Dr. Truman Young is featured in this article for his research at the UC Hopland Research & Extension Center (HREC). Dr. Young, a professor at UC Davis, leads two experiments to assess the short and long term effects of ecological restoration on land that was previously used for agricultural purposes. The first experiment tests short-term priority effects of native perennial grasses and exotic annual grasses. The second tests long-term priority effects of native perennial grasses and native perennial forbs. Monitored over five years, Dr. Young states that this is the first long term examination of year-effects in ecological restoration. To read more, click here.

Why We Must Put Nature Back to Work

In this Huffington Post article on the American Society of Civil Engineer's new report card, **SER member Keith Bowers** is interviewed as a premier expert on ecosystem services. Speaking as the president of Biohabitats Inc. – a conservation planning, ecological restoration, and regenerative design firm – Bowers discusses community interest in the value of ecosystem services, noting that many communities remain uninformed about the impact ecosystems have on economy, culture, and quality of life. Bowers emphasizes the importance of questioning policy makers and government officials to achieve results at the local level. He sums up the interview with his philosophy on the "living system approach," which focuses on embracing, protecting, and restoring life. To read the full interview, click here.

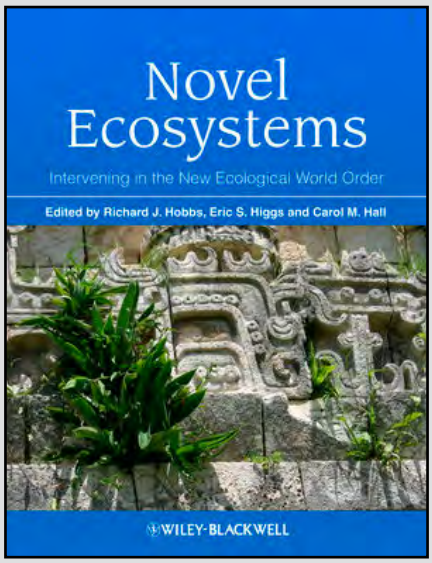
UW Students Restore Their Community

University of Washington (UW) students, and SER members, are featured in the January 2013 edition of *BGjournal* in an article on the UW Restoration Ecology Capstone course, which focuses on working with community partners to accomplish restoration in the Greater Seattle area. Proposals from the community are submitted to student teams, who then develop a work plan, an as-built plan, and a final stewardship plan. Students carry out the removal of invasive plants, selection of plant material, management of volunteers, and final installation. The course culminates in a student facilitated restoration project. Since the program began in 1990, Capstone students have helped to restore fifteen acres of the Union Bay Natural Area, a former landfill, in Washington State. To read the full article, click here.

SER Welcomes Conference and Communications Intern, Sabina

SER is pleased to welcome new Conference and Communications Intern, Sabina Armstrong-Loscalzo. Sabina is studying International Affairs with a concentration in Global Public Health at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington D.C. With a keen interest in how the complex relationship between human health and the environment plays out on the global stage, Sabina is excited to learn about the intricacies of ecological restoration. Sabina will work with SER team members to support SER staff before, during, and after the 5th World Conference (SER2013). She will also lend a helping hand to daily office tasks and membership communications. Welcome to SER, Sabina!

New Books & Articles



Novel Ecosystems: Intervening in the New Ecological World Order

By Richard Hobbs, Eric S. Higgs, and Carol Hall

In this first comprehensive volume, researchers from a range of disciplines come together to uncover the issues surrounding novel ecosystems. Explored in depth is the controversial question: By raising the subject of novel ecosystems, are we simply paving the way for a more laissez-faire attitude to conservation and restoration?

The authors look at the ecological, social, cultural, ethical, and political dimensions of novel ecosystems, arguing that we are overdue for careful analysis. Particularly important is the need to figure out how to intervene in each dimension responsibly. Chapters include key concepts and methodologies for deciding when and how we should interfere in systems, as well as a persuasive collection of case studies and perspective pieces. Click here to purchase this new book.

True Nature: Revising Ideas on What is Pristine and Wild

By Fred Pearce

In this Yale Environment 360 Review, Fred Pearce takes a look at several new studies that seek to re-define our definition of pristine ecosystems. In one study at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, new analysis has determined that at least a fifth of the land across most of the world had been transformed by humans as early as 5,000 years ago. This study helped Pearce to assert his claim that pristine ecosystems do not exist as we envision them, but in a less-than-perfect manifestation of themselves. Calling upon the newly released book *Novel Ecosystems* by Richard Hobbs, Pearce puts forth some interesting questions to the scientific community regarding the future of restoration that can be found here.

Ecosystem Restoration is Now a Global Priority

By James Aronson and Sasha Alexander

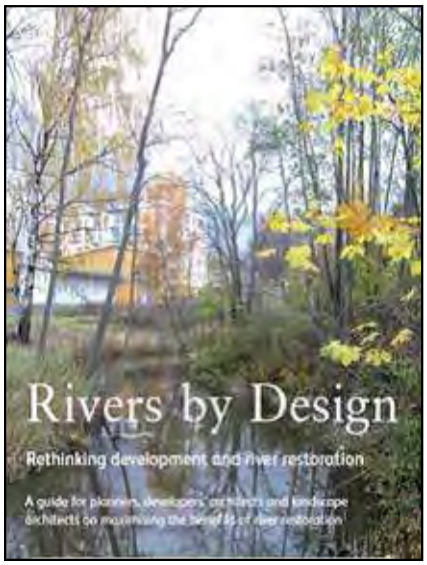
In this *Restoration Ecology* article, authors James Aronson and Sasha Alexander summarize the advances in mainstreaming ecological restoration in global environmental policy deliberations during the last year, which culminated in the 2012 eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP11). Underlining the need for caution and prudence when defining the scope of restoration practices, main themes about obstacles and misconceptions are explored at length. A valuable attribute to the research, key references for individuals seeking more information set out an agenda as to how the restoration community could respond to and act upon these recent developments. Read the full article in *Restoration Ecology* here.

Rivers by Design: Rethinking Development and River Restoration

by RESTORE

RESTORE, a partnership for sharing knowledge and promoting best practice on river restoration in Europe, has released *Rivers by Design*, a new "how-to" guide for planners, developers, architects and landscape architects. The guide offers practical advice and step-by-step guidelines on how to integrate river restoration and water management into development projects to maximize socio-economic benefits. Using a series of inspirational case studies, the partnership shows development professionals how they can user river restoration to meet the needs of people and the environment. Increasing ecological quality, reducing flood risk, and strengthening economic benefits are all addressed.

Click here to download a free copy and learn more about each of the case studies and see how this guidebook is able to demonstrate the ecological benefits that come from well located, planned, and designed development.



New Books & Articles

Reigning the River

By Anne Rademacher

Huta Ram Baidya, cultural heritage activist and Bagmati advocate in 2006. *Photo by Anne Rademacher.*

As a major contribution to the scientific anthropology of urban environments, *Reigning the River: Urban Ecologies and Political Transformation in Kathmandu* illuminates the complexities of river restoration in Kathmandu, Nepal. In this rich volume, Anne M. Rademacher explores the ways that urban riverscape improvement involves multiple actors, each constructing the ideals of restoration through their own individual lenses. Particularly compelling, Rademacher conducted research during a volatile period in Nepal's political history when Maoist revolutionaries clashed with the government. The book examines competing understandings of river restoration, particularly among bureaucrats in state and conservation-development agencies, cultural heritage activists, and advocates for the security of tens of thousands of rural-to-urban migrants settled along the exposed riverbed. Click here to learn more.

Garden, Park, Community, Farm

By Warren T. Byrd Jr., Thomas L. Woltz, Elizabeth Meyer, and edited by Stephen Orr

Nelson Byrd Woltz, a prestigious landscape architecture firm, present their uniquely modern ideas regarding open space in their newly released book, G*arden, Park, Community, Farm*.

The volume details a selection of twelve built projects representing the firm's contemporary vision for sustainable design. Each example demonstrates the remarkable breadth of their practice and inspires a new understanding of how landscape architecture and ecological restoration can shape our world through urbanism, agriculture, and conservation sciences.

With exceptional photography, hand-drawn plans, lists of plants and materials to document each project, and an appendix of details from numerous additional designs, this volume provides an extensive visual reference guide for architects and restorationists alike. Click here to read this new guide.

Restorative Art

By Sarah DeWeerdt

For the past three decades, a handful of artists have taken up the challenge of creating works of art that seek to address environmental concerns. This article by Sarah DeWeerdt, presented in *Conservation Magazine*, showcases pieces of work that have aesthetic appeal while simultaneously utilizing a variety of sound restoration practices. The artists' works span environments from the Utah desert to a Finnish lagoon. Some become permanent infrastructure, whereas others are designed to disappear, to become obscured by reinvigorated ecological processes. Click here to access this captivating photo essay which details the marriage of art and restoration.

A herd of six abstract, organic forms alongside a Toronto highway: some people see polar bears, others say sheep or mastodons. In fact, they are giant elevated wetlands. ©*Michel Boucher Photography*

Post a Position to the SER Job Board

SER recently re-launched its Career Center for restoration professionals. To further our goal of connecting with aspiring restoration scientists and practitioners, SER has created a distinctive space for individuals of all career levels to actively network with other professionals. Job seekers can search for new job listings, create a personal profile, upload their resume, and get job alerts and announcements for free. Employers can set up company profiles, view and purchase resumes, privately message qualified candidates, and post positions to SER's Job Board. Although anyone can access the Job Board, SER members receive a significant discount.

Visit the SER Career Center to Start your Job Hunt

SER Chapter News

Elections for the SER Board of Directors Close June 26th

It is time to cast your vote for candidates in SER's 2013 Board of Directors' election! As the governing body for SER, the Board of Directors is responsible for setting the overarching direction of the organization and guiding its working groups and committees. Please help the Society elect new Directors to help with these important functions. Voting will close on June 26th, 2013 at 5pm EDT. Click here to view each candidate's biography

Click Here to Cast Your Vote

Midwest Great Lakes Holds a Successful 2013 Meeting

The Midwest Great Lakes chapter (SER-MWGL) held a successful annual meeting with 134 attendees at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio this April. The meeting theme was "Ecological Restoration and Sustainability – Partners for the Future." Oral papers, posters, symposia, workshops, field trips, and an opening plenary session focused on a diverse range of topics including projected changes in tree distribution in response to climate change, ecosystem recovery in Lake Erie, dam removal, and the restoration of landscapes altered by surface mining. The Best Student Poster award went to Brad Gordon (Taylor University) for his poster presentation entitled "Creating biological benchmarks for habitat assessment following management of wetlands and oak savannas in northwestern Indiana." The Best Student Oral Presentation award went to Priscilla Nyamai (Ohio State University) for her presentation entitled, "Initial regeneration and litter decomposition response following a variable-retention harvest in mixed-pine forests of eastern Upper Michigan." Outgoing Chapter Vice-President, Hua Chen, was recognized for his service to the chapter over the past seven years. Hua was involved in the original chapter formation, served as Chapter Treasurer, Vice-President, Awards Committee Chair, Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and was a member of the Annual Meeting Committee from 2009 to 2013.

Southeast Members Network At Successful March Meeting

The Southeast chapter (SER-SE) held a successful regional conference this spring in Ocean Springs, Mississippi with informative presentations and great networking opportunities for restoration professionals. At the annual meeting, a nomination committee was selected to organize Board elections this fall.

Keep an eye out for restoration training opportunities this coming fall and winter. SER-SE will be partnering with the NOAA Coastal Services Center and National Estuarine Research Reserve to host the Principles of Ecological Restoration workshop with Dr. Andre Clewell in Weeks Bay, followed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center Restoration Project Design and Evaluation workshop in Grand Bay.

British Columbia Welcomes New Social Media Coordinator

The British Columbia chapter (SER-BC) has a new Social Media Coordinator. Natashia Cox will be keeping the chapter's Facebook page, website, and newsletter lively with restoration news, events, job postings, and project showcases from around the region. If you have something that may be of interest to those working in the BC restoration scene, please send it along to restoreBC@gmail.com. Click here to read the newly launched SER-BC newsletter.

Natashia Cox is the new BC Social Media Coordinator

Northwest Explores Restoration Sites from Washington to Oregon

The Northwest chapter (SER-NW) is actively developing program activities for the spring season, including a series of Restoration Walks across the region. This spring Restoration Walks were held in Seattle, in Eugene, along the Hoh River on the Olympic Peninsula, and in The Dalles. Walks covered wetland, prairie, grassland, and rainforest restoration projects.

SER Chapter News

Upcoming walks are scheduled for June 15th at the Burke Gilman Trail in Seattle, August 24th at Foster Floodplain in East Portland, and in September at Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle (*date TBD*). For more details on Restoration Walks click here.

SER members should mark their calendars for SER BC Board member, Dave Polster's Soil Bioengineering Workshop to be held October 18th to 20th in Port Angeles, Washington. The workshop will include a tour of Elwha restoration sites on Friday. Accommodations are at the beautiful NatureBridge Conference Center.

Planning is underway for SERNW's 2014 Conference next October. The chapter will partner with neighboring chapter, SER Great Basin. The chapters have already begun to secure an exciting line up for the conference, which will be located in Bend, Oregon. Chapter leaders are currently seeking conference committee participants, partners and sponsors. Please contact SERNW20@gmail.com if you are interested.

New England Sets a Theme for Its First Conference

The New England chapter (SER-NE) is preparing for their first solo chapter conference to be held at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts in April 2014. The theme of the conference will be "Designing for Success." The chapter also has a full-line up of field trips for the coming summer. The focus of chapter field trips will range from marsh restoration projects to dam removals spanning Rhode Island to Maine. Keep informed about chapter activities through the SER-NE website.

Bill Young (right), SER Mid-Atlantic, gives career advice to a University of Maryland student during their 2013 conference Student Networking Lunch in College Park, Maryland.

SERNW members participated in the chapter's June 1st Discovery Park Restoration Walk in Seattle, Washington. The chapter hosts Restoration Walks around the region.

Australasia Plans Ahead to Second Conference

As chapter membership continues to grow, the Australasian chapter (SERA) is planning ahead for its second conference in 2014. The meeting will be in New Caledonia, a set of French Islands known as a beautiful biodiversity hotspot. On the heels of a successful 2012 conference, the chapter is working to launch a new quarterly newsletter, which will be packed full of news and events from around the Australasian region.

SER Mid-Atlantic Builds Strong Board 12-Ways

Having caught their breath after a successful annual conference, the Mid-Atlantic chapter (SER-MA) Board and other dedicated volunteers are moving forward with new activities to keep the chapter busy in the months ahead. Chapter board elections have just concluded, filling two open At-Large slots. The chapter is seeking to add a Student Representative position soon. The board has room for initiative as they face the challenge of ensuring all board applicants have the opportunity to participate in chapter activities. The chapter's plans for the new year (which traditionally begins about now) include increased student engagement, improved intra-chapter communications via an online discussion group, an enhanced participation in SER's re-launched job platform, another round of fun and informative field trips, and, of course, the next annual conference in the late winter or early spring. Keep in touch with the chapter though their website. If you missed the 2013 SER-MA conference, you can access posted presentations here.

Great Basin Plans Joint Meeting with SER-NW

Great Basin chapter (SER-GB) members have been in the public eye over the past three months, having participated and exhibited at the National Native Seed Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico; the Seed Collection for Conservation and Restoration Training BLM National Training Center Course in Boise, Idaho; and the Wildflower Seed Production Day at the Oregon State University Malheur Experiment Station near Ontario, Oregon. The chapter recently agreed to co-sponsor an annual meeting with the SER Northwest chapter in Bend, Oregon in October 2014. The

SER Chapter News

SER's Texas A&M Student Association has been assisting with forest restoration initiatives after a fire ravaged the area in 2011 ©*SER Texas A&M*

Start a SER Student Association

SER's Student Association Program connects budding restoration professionals with SER's global community. SER provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience organizing activities in their communities and the ability to pursue professional development opportunities as a collective. Organized and run entirely by the students themselves, SER allows student associations to be formed by student at an accredited academic institution around the world. Students can form an association for $160 USD per year. Visit SER's student association webpage to learn more.

If you are interested in forming a student association, please contact leah@ser.org.

chapter is working to collaborate with SER Northwest to host a summer restoration site tour to Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in Idaho.

Texas Re-launches Chapter Website

Plans for the SER Texas (TxSER) Annual Conference are moving along. The Texas Riparian Association will co-host the conference which is to be held November 1-3 at Texas Tech University's Field Station in Junction, Texas. Planned field trips include a visit to the Sonora Research Station, a full-day Riparian workshop, a kayak paddle, and campus tours.

The Texas A&M SER Student Association rounded out the spring semester with a well-attended guest presentation by Dr. David L. Davidson, retired materials scientist and Kendall County landowner, entitled "Conversion of KR Bluestem Grassland to Native Grasses via Soil Restoration." Davidson discussed methods to restore native grasses to areas dominated by KR Bluestem (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*) in order to increase biodiversity on farm properties. A protocol, entitled "accelerated succession," was developed and the process appears to be replacing KR with native grasses. Despite the drought in 2011, results have been encouraging.

Last, but not least, SER Texas has redesigned its website to align with other SER chapter websites. The chapter is excited to enhance their ability to interact with SER members and chapters through their newly launched site. Documents are being loaded on to the site daily. If you are interested restoration activities around Texas keep up with them on their website.

Join Us at the 5th World Conference on Ecological Restoration

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

Reflections on the Past, Directions for the Future

Highlights

- Nearly 1,000 contributed abstracts
- More than 100 concurrent sessions over 4 days, including over 60 organized symposia
- Nationally and internationally renowned plenary speakers
- 7 one-day training courses
- More than 20 one-day field trip options

Upcoming Deadlines

- **July 15** - Early registration closes. *Register before July 15 and save up to $125 off the cost of registration.*
- **July 15** - Presenter registration deadline
- **September 27** - Online registration closes

Don't Forget

- **Accomodation**: Reserve your hotel room at a discounted rate. Space is limited so book early.
- **Exhibitors and Sponsors**: SER invites your company, organization or institution to sponsor or exhibit at the conference. Download the meeting prospectus for more information.

www.ser2013.org