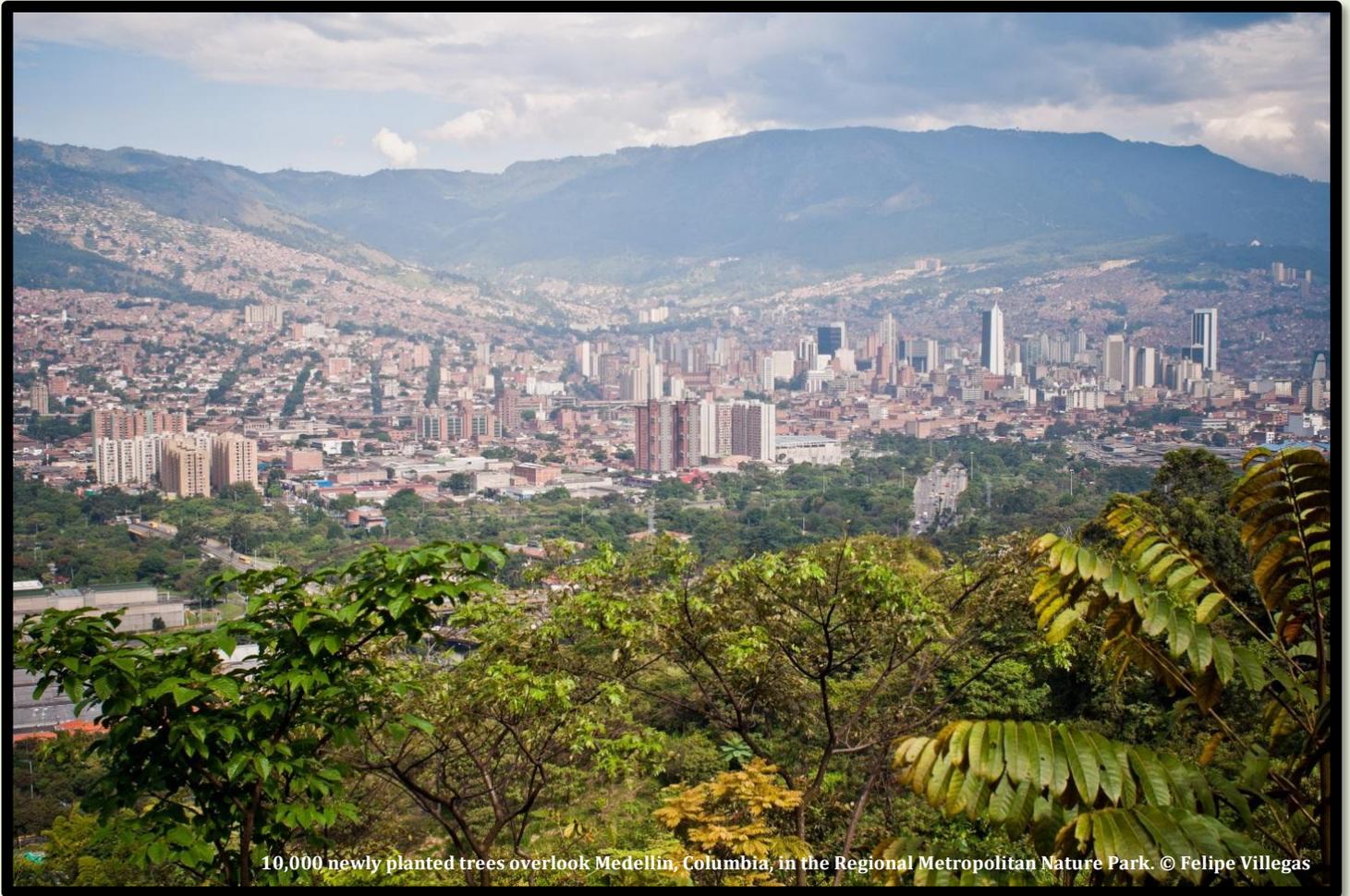


Society for Ecological Restoration



Annual Report 2011





Dear SER Members, Supporters and Partners,

It is no secret that today's world is struggling with the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable resource extraction and human poverty. Here at SER, we stand firm in our belief that ecological restoration plays a crucial role in mitigating and adapting to these challenges. We envision a future where ecological restoration is widely and effectively implemented to re-establish and enhance biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being. With your support, we have made it our mission to advance the field of ecological restoration and are proud to report on our achievements from 2011.

The past year has been extremely productive for the Society. Our participation on the global scale has amplified; resulting in a stronger, more unified voice representing the field. Among other global partnerships, SER has deepened its ties with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). SER was given the opportunity to help outline the role of restoration within the CBD's Strategic Plan and participated in several CBD initiatives and events throughout the year. In June, we expanded our reaches to Asia with the establishment of a regional chapter in Nepal. With so much growth on the global scale in 2011, SER now boasts a network of individuals and groups in over 70 countries!

Publications are one of the Society's most powerful tools in promoting ecological restoration. The Society released *Investing in our Ecological Infrastructure*, a timely and relevant brochure, at a CBD meeting in November. The publication engages a more diverse audience by highlighting the economic benefits inherent in ecological restoration projects. Our book series with Island Press continues to grow with four new titles published in 2011. Other publications released in 2011, such as *Opportunities and Challenges for Ecological Restoration within REDD+*, served to stimulate conversation around the role of ecological restoration in mitigating climate change and ongoing biodiversity loss. The Society looks forward to providing members, partners and the public with future publications aimed at education, practical application and awareness.

As part of our commitment to integrating leading-edge science and technology with the practice of restoration, SER celebrated its 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in August 2011. The conference took place in Merida, Mexico and attracted 1,000 participants from 60 countries. During three days of scientific sessions, delegates explored the role of restoration in reconnecting human communities with the ecosystems that sustain them. We look forward to celebrating our next World Conference in Madison, Wisconsin in October 2013, an occasion that marks the Society's 25th Anniversary. We hope to see each of you there.

I continue to find that the Society has a loyal membership and hard-working, dedicated staff carrying out its mission. In 2012 we will launch our new website to deliver new resources and tools aimed at enhancing the knowledge and expertise of both the public and those working in the field. We will continue to advance and advocate for ecological restoration and promote best practices around the world. The key to our success hinges on our ability to grow membership and support, build strong and meaningful partnerships, and remain flexible in a rapidly changing environment. I look forward to a long-term, open and positive relationship with our members, supporter, partners and staff.

Sincerely,

Steve Whisenant
SER Chair

2011 Board of Directors



The 2009-2011 SER Board of Directors came together with the incoming 2011-2013 Board members at the annual Board of Directors Meeting in Merida, Mexico in August 2011.ⁱ

2009-2011 Officers

Jim Harris, Chair (*Aug 2009-April 2011*)
Cranfield University

Steve Whisenant, Acting Chair (*April –Aug 2011*)
Texas A & M University

Steve Whisenant, Vice Chair
Texas A & M University

Mary Travaglini, Treasurer
The Nature Conservancy

Don Eastman, Secretary

Keith Bowers, Global Restoration Ambassador
Biohabitats Inc.

2009-2011 At Large Representatives

Francisco A. Comín
Instituto Pirenaico de Ecologia

Kingsley Dixon
Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Karen Keenleyside
Parks Canada

Carolina Murcia
Fundacion EcoAndina

Matthew Dunkle, Student Representative
University of Montana

2009-2011 Regional Representatives

Oliver Enuoh [Africa]
African Ecological Restoration Foundation

Katalin Török [Europe]
Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Mauricio Balensiefer [Latin America]
Universidade Federal do Paraná

Stuart Allison [Midwestern U.S.]
Knox College

Malcolm Wealleans [Pacific]
Newcrest Mining Ltd.

Cara Nelson [Pacific Northwest U.S.]
University of Montana

John Tobe [Southeast U.S.]
Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.

Vivienne Wilson [Rockies/Great Plains U.S.]
Shell Canada Ltd.

John Stanely [Western U.S.]
WW Restoration

2011 SER Committees

Executive Committee

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Steve Whisenant, Vice Chair, (*Acting Chair- April –Aug 2011*) *Texas A&M University*

Mary Travaglini, *The Nature Conservancy*

Don Eastman, *University of Victoria*

Carolina Murcia, *Fundacion EcoAndina*

Cara R. Nelson, *University of Montana*

Keith Bowers, *Biohabitats, Inc.*

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David Borland, *Edgefair Wood*

Francisco A. Comín, *Instituto Pirenaico de Ecologia-CSIC*

Don Eastman *University of Victoria*

Ted Shear, *North Carolina State University*

Kellie A. Westervelt

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Sasha Alexander, Vice Chair, *Society for Ecological Restoration*

James Aronson, *Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive*

William Wallace Covington, *Northern Arizona University*

Carolina Murcia, *Fundacion EcoAndina*

Jim A. Harris *Cranfield University*

Richard Hobbs, *University of Western Australia*

Dennis Martinez, *Indigenous People's Restoration Network*

Cara R. Nelson, *University of Montana*

An Cliquet, *Ghent University, Belgium*

2011 SER Working Groups

Ad-Hoc Certification Working Group

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Sean Anderson, *California State University*

Todd A. Aschenbach, *Grand Valley State University*

Keith Bowers, *Biohabitats, Inc.*

Andre F. Clewell, *Clewell Consultants, Inc.*

Juli E. Crane, *Planning Resources, Inc.*

Kingsley Dixon, *Kings Park and Botanic Garden*

Michael Hogan, *Integrated Environmental Restoration Services, Inc.*

Kelly Keefe, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Robert Jontos, *Land-Tech Consultants, Inc.*

Mickey Marcus, *New England Environmental*

Cara R. Nelson, *University of Montana*

Mark J. O'Leary, *Applied Ecological Services, Inc.*

David Polster, *Polster Environmental Services, Ltd.*

John Rieger, *John Rieger & Associates*

Karen Rodriguez, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Johanna Salatas, *Exponent*

Tom St. Clair, *Atkins*

Joshua Tallis, *ARCADIS*

Jim Thorne, *Natural Lands Trust*

John Tobe, *Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.*

Michael J. Toohill, *Coneco Engineers, Scientists & Surveyors, Inc.*

Alan Unwin, *Niagara College*

Awards Working Group

Stuart Allison, Chair, *Knox College*

Karen Keenleyside, *Parks Canada*

Mary Travaglini, *The Nature Conservancy*

Alan Unwin, *Niagara College*

Malcolm Wealleans, *Newcrest Mining Limited*

Chapter Development Working Group

Stuart Allison, Chair, *Knox College*

Mauricio Balensiefir, *Universidade Federal do Paraná*

Kingsley Dixon, *Kings Park and Botanic Garden*

Cara R. Nelson, *University of Montana*

John T. Stanley, *WWW Restoration*

John Tobe, *Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.*

Katalin Török, *Institute of Ecology and Botany*

Malcolm Wealleans, *Newcrest Mining Limited*

Oliver Enouh

Conferences Working Group

Alan Unwin, Chair, *Niagara College*
James Aronson, *Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive*
Mauricio Balensiefer, *Universidade Federal do Paraná*

Kingsley Dixon, *Kings Park and Botanic Garden*
Bill Halvorson *U.S. Geological Survey*
Carolina Murcia, *Fundacion EcoAndina*
Francisco A. Comín, *Instituto Pirenaico de Ecologia*
Steve Whisenant, *Texas A&M University*

Membership Working Group

Kingsley Dixon, Chair, *Kings Park and Botanic Garden*

John T. Stanley, *WWW Restoration*
John Rieger, *John Rieger & Associates*

SER Staff Members

Mary Travaglini, Interim Executive Director
Sasha Alexander, Program Director
Levi Wickwire, Project Coordinator
Caroline Bronaugh, Membership Manager
Leah Bregman, Communications Coordinator

Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director (Until September 2011)
Marion Smith, Development Director (Until February 2011)
Christine Chau, Outreach Coordinator (Until November 2011)

Strengthening SER's Global Network

Science, Policy, and International Collaboration

The Society continuously works to partner with international organizations and initiatives to promote the field of ecological restoration around the world. These collaborations are spearheaded by SER's Science and Policy Working Group which was restructured in 2011 and renamed the Science and Policy Committee (SPC). Throughout the year, the SPC participated in a number of international conferences and events, collaborated on new initiatives and publications, and established exciting new partnerships.

Supporting Wetland Restoration with Ramsar

In the February 2011, SER participated in the 16th [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands' Scientific and Technical Review Panel](#) (STRP) meeting in Gland, Switzerland and a follow-up workshop held in Wallingford, UK in June 2011. SER continues to assist the Ramsar Convention on documents and resolutions about wetland restoration and related issues, including a Briefing Note to be published in June 2012.

Safeguarding the Future of Biodiversity with the CBD

In June 2011, SER was an invited to participate as a member of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the [2011-2020 Strategic Plan](#). As a result of this invitation, SER participated in a week-long workshop in High Wycombe, UK. The workshop contributed to the process and identification of appropriate indicators to track the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at global, regional and national scales.

In November 2011, SER attended the 15th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological ([SBSTTA](#)) in Montreal, Canada. SER was invited to make a statement during the SBSTTA plenary session. SER Chair, Steve Whisenant, read a concise [statement](#), on behalf of SER outlining the role of restoration in the CBD 2011-2010 Strategic Plan.



Steve Whisenant, SER Chair, received a token of appreciation from Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary.ⁱ



Sasha Alexander, SER Program Director, speaking with Sarat Babu Gidda, CBD Secretariat.ⁱⁱⁱ

During the meeting, SER co-organized two side events on restoration. The first event focused on the economic rationale for restoring degraded ecosystems during which SER released a new brochure entitled [Investing in our Ecological Infrastructure](#). The second event "*Challenges and Hopes for Ecosystem Restoration*," featured restoration as an effective response to human-induced pressure, reductions in agricultural productivity and natural catastrophes. SER members also participated in a week long [poster session](#) to highlight the ways ecosystem restoration will assist the CBD in meeting its objectives and maintaining a healthy planet for all.

SER and Parks Canada

SER and Parks Canada continue to lead a Task Force on developing [guidelines for ecological restoration in protected areas](#). In August 2011 this Task Force held a writing workshop at SER's 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Merida, Mexico. This document has been commissioned as part of the work of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and will be delivered to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2012 in Jeju, Korea.

SER and the IUCN

SER also continues to collaborate with the [IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management \(CEM\)](#) on issues related to ecosystem restoration. SER and CEM members co-organized a workshop during the SER2011 World Conference that explored a number of issues related to the restoration of the US Gulf Coast following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Efforts are underway to co-organize two workshops during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Korea in September 2012.

SER and the Wildlands Network

Ecological Restoration for Continental Conservation

Begun in November 2010, this joint initiative of SER and [the Wildlands Network](#) is aimed at bridging the gap between restoration ecology and conservation biology to foster a new perspective that emphasizes the role of ecological restoration in enhancing and protecting the integrity of ecosystems at a landscape scale. A joint symposium held during the SER2011 World Conference in August brought together a series of presenters to further explore a number of issues related to this synergy and communicate this new perspective to a wider audience. The SER-WN Steering Committee continues work on a primer document that will clearly define the role of restoration in achieving large landscape connectivity and establish principles and best practices to guide this approach.

Exploring New Directions in the Field of Ecological Restoration

In November 2011, SPC members and partners published a paper on the [Opportunities and Challenges for Ecological Restoration within REDD+](#) in SER's peer-reviewed journal, *Restoration Ecology*. This article stimulated discussion around the idea that forest restoration could play an increasingly important role now that REDD+ mechanisms have expanded beyond a sole focus on activities that enhance ecosystem services to include the delivery of other co-benefits to biodiversity and human communities.

Supporting Internationally Significant Projects

SER publicly supported the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, and submitted an [official endorsement](#) of their Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy in November 2011. SER applauded the Task Force's efforts to engage stakeholders, incorporate science-based adaptive management and monitoring into the strategy, and formalize long-term intergovernmental partnership throughout the Gulf Region. The [final Ecosystem Restoration Strategy](#) was released on December 5, 2011.

SER Programs

Planning for the Future

Improving Tools and Resources

In late 2011, SER began work on a long-awaited website redesign project that will culminate in a new SER.org website and a dramatic improvement in the Society's ability to provide web-based resources and networking tools to SER members, chapters, affiliates and the general public. Scheduled to go live in June 2012, the new website will significantly enhance the Society's online presence and increase not only its effectiveness in recruiting and retaining members, but also its capacity to form new partnerships, foster the exchange of knowledge and ideas among restoration scientists and practitioners, and communicate important issues within the field of restoration to natural resource managers and the general public.

As part of this project, SER purchased membership software in November 2011 that will allow members to better connect, network and share with one another. The software includes powerful tools like an online member directory where members can search for and communicate with peers working in a variety of fields related to restoration. This resource will be ready for use on SER's new website in June 2012.

In September 2011, SER launched a [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page to communicate with members and the general public on a more personal level and in a more interactive way. Keep an eye out for fun and exciting social media campaigns and a new Twitter page in 2012!

SER Code of Ethics

The [SER Code of Ethics](#) was released in November 2011 and was the culmination of more than a year's worth of effort by our Code of Ethics Ad-Hoc Committee. The Code of Ethics accompanies the SER Bylaws as one of the Society's governing documents, and is intended to guide the conduct and work of SER members, boards, and staff. Included in the document are mandates by which members of SER should hold one another accountable to better advance the science and practice of ecological restoration. Not only will the Code of Ethics help maintain high standards of conduct in all of our activities, but it will also help guide the development and use of knowledge pertaining to restoration as well as provide ambassadors of SER with a valuable tool in their efforts to advance the discipline.

2012-2016 Strategic Plan

In August 2011, the SER Board of Directors adopted a 5-year strategic plan to help guide the Society into the future. The new strategic plan provides a framework for the future growth and development of the Society and outlines ambitious goals for its contribution to the field of ecological restoration. The plan centers around six strategic initiatives:

- I. Facilitate the integration of leading-edge science and practice
- II. Promote excellence in ecological restoration practice and projects
- III. Build a global network
- IV. Facilitate education and training
- V. Inform policy decisions
- VI. Build organizational capacity

SER2011 World Conference on Ecological Restoration

Re-establishing the link between nature and culture



SER celebrated its [4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#) August 21-25, 2011 in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, in partnership with the Latin American & Caribbean Ecological Restoration Network (RIACRE) and the local research institutes CINVESTAV-IPN and CICY. SER2011 attracted 1,000 participants from 60 countries, including nearly 450 attendees from Latin America.

The three-day scientific program, organized around the theme *Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture*, included more than 700 oral and poster presentations in both English and Spanish exploring the social, economic and functional aspects of ecological restoration. Plenary sessions on each of the three days featured 12 internationally-renowned keynote speakers addressing themes ranging from restoration science, international policy and community-based resource management to private industry, economics and indigenous issues. Headline speakers included Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader for The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB); Eric Higgs, Professor and past-Director of the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria; and Shahid Naeem, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology at Columbia University.



SER members look on during a morning plenary session at SER2011.^{iv}



Pavan Sukhdev gave his keynote address at the opening plenary session on the economic aspects of ecological restoration.^v

SER2011 Call to Action

At the conclusion of the SER2011 World Conference, the delegation issued a [Call to Action](#) to the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) urging them to act swiftly on the commitments to ecological restoration outlined in their Strategic Plan for 2011-2020, and to integrate restoration into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).



2011 SER awards winners (from the left): Dr. Steven Handel, Dr. Peter C. 'Rocky' Smiley, and Kalemani Jo Mulongoy of the CBD.^{vi}



Leading SER board, committee, and chapter members wave goodbye at the closing ceremony of SER2011.^{vii}

SER Sponsors and Donors

SER would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support and indispensable contribution to the success of the SER2011 World Conference.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



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Bronze Sponsors



Individual Donors



SER2011 Scientific Program Committee

Francisco Comin, Chair, *Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología*

Sasha Alexander, Vice Chair, *Society for Ecological Restoration*

Amanda Jorgenson, Treasurer, *Society for Ecological Restoration*

Levi Wickwire, Secretary, *Society for Ecological Restoration*

Kingsley Dixon, *Kings Park and Botanic Garden*

Caroline Murcia, *Organization for Tropical Studies*

Bill Halvorson, *US Geological Survey*

Alan Unwin, *Niagara College*

Mauricio Balensiefer, *Sociedade Brasileira de Recuperação de Áreas Degradadas*

Steve Whisenant, *Texas A&M University*

James Aronson, *CEFE, CNRS France*

SER2011 Local Organizing Committee

David Alonzo, *DUMAC*

José Luis Andrade, *CICY*

Issac Castillo, *CICY*

David Canul, *DUMAC*

Sergio Guevara, *INECOL A.C.*

Jorge Herrera, *CINVESTAV*

Fabiola López, *INECOL A.C.*

Javier Ramírez, *CINVESTAV*

Claudia Teutli, *CINVESTAV*

Arturo Zaldívar, *CINVESTAV*

SER would like to personally thank Francisco Comín, SER2011 Conference Chair, for the numerous hours he dedicated to ensuring SER2011 was a successful and inspiring event!



Planning for SER 2013, 5th World Conference on Ecological Restoration

Reflections on the Past, Directions for the Future

In April, a small delegation from SER traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, USA to tour Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and meet with a number of prospective local partners. As a result of the visit, Madison was chosen as the site of SER2013: The 5th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, to be held October 6-11, 2013. The [SER2013 World Conference](#) marks the 25th Anniversary of SER and the 21st Annual Meeting since the Society's founding in 1988. Madison provides an ideal setting in which to celebrate this important milestone, as it was here that SER was originally founded and here that the science and practice of ecological restoration first began with the pioneering philosophies and early experiments of Aldo Leopold, Theodore Sperry and others. This rich history forms the basis of the SER2013 conference theme: *Reflections on the Past, Directions for the Future*.



The Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, site for SER2013, is a Frank Lloyd Wright Design.



The Leopold Shack near Madison, Wisconsin, USA holds significant meaning for ecological restoration.

Publications

Cutting-Edge Knowledge on Ecological Restoration

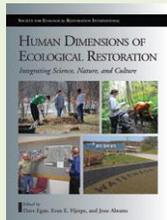
[The Science and Practice of Ecological Restoration](#) book series, published in collaboration with Island Press, aims to create a forum devoted to advancing restoration science and practice through an interdisciplinary approach. In 2011 Island Press and SER published four exciting new titles, bringing the series total to 24 books.



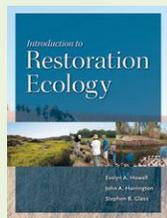
Notable series authors in the field of ecological restoration attended SER2011 in August. **From the left:** Vickey Temperton, Richard Hobbs, Bob Cain, Cristina Eisenberg (front), Joyce Maschinski (back), James Aronson, Andre Clewell, Steve Glass, Dean Apostol, Dave Polster



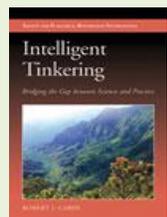
Making Nature Whole presents an in-depth history of the field of ecological restoration as it has developed in the U.S. over the last three decades. Jordan and Lubick explore the development of the field and its importance to environmental management as well as to the larger environmental movement and our understanding of the world. Considering antecedents as varied as monastic gardens, the Scientific Revolution, and the emerging nature-awareness of nineteenth-century Romantics and Transcendentalists, the authors offer unique insight into the field's philosophical and theoretical underpinnings.



Human Dimensions of Ecological Restoration takes an interdisciplinary look at the myriad human aspects of ecological restoration. The book provides practical and theoretical information, analysis, models and guidelines for optimizing human involvement in restoration projects. Examining six categories of social activities, the book delves into the often-neglected aspects of ecological restoration that ultimately make the difference between projects that are successfully executed and those unable to advance past the conceptual stage due to misunderstanding or apathy.



An ***Introduction to Restoration Ecology*** is a new textbook written for upper-division and first year graduate students offering a real-life introduction to the field and theory behind restoration ecology. Developed by ecologists and landscape architects, the focus of the book is on providing a framework that can be used to guide restoration decisions anywhere on the globe, both now and in the future. The framework is designed to work with the uniqueness, uncertainty, messiness, and constraints inherent in any real-world restoration project.



In ***Intelligent Tinkering***, Robert J. Cabin uses the restoration of tropical dry forestland in Hawaii as an in-depth case study to investigate the scientific, practical, and philosophical issues associated with performing ecological restoration. Interweaving entertaining narratives of his own on-the-ground experiences as a practicing restorationist with reflections about his scientific training and background, Cabin explores the relationship between science and practice in ecological restoration.

Restoration Ecology Journal (RE)



Restoration Ecology, the Society's peer reviewed journal, experienced growth and success in 2011. The journal is maintained by a 46-member review board with eminent scholars from 11 different countries. RE continues to be a well-respected force in the field of ecological restoration, growing from an impact factor of 1.665 in 2009 to 1.927 in 2010. Now publishing six print issues a year, the journal also published two online-only issues in 2011. The new section, *Set-backs and Surprises* – based on the premise that knowing what doesn't work can be just as informative and helpful in improving restoration efforts as knowing what does – has proven to be of interest to both authors and readers. The opinion section continues to be very successful with an increase in the number of written responses to articles.

Over the past 2 years, the journal has experienced increased success and growth which has resulted in the need to increase rejection rates, and therefore the quality of articles selected for publication. Three sponsored special sections are in progress for future publication: Restoration of Lake Tahoe, Kissimmee River Restoration, and The Scientific Scope to find Mutual Solutions in Large River Restoration.

Restoration Ecology Staff:

Richard Hobbs, Editor in Chief

Susan Yates, Managing Editor

Peter Friederici, Book Review Editor

Regional Chapters

Strengthening Local Connections Worldwide

SER Chapters embody the spirit of SER's mission at the local, state, and regional levels around the world. While SER operates on a global scale, chapters act locally. In 2011, SER regional chapters provided excellent local resources in various areas around the world by hosting conferences, launching new websites and resources, and participating in local events. Each regional chapter has grown their own profile on a grassroots level. SER now has thirteen chapters and was excited to announce the introduction of two new chapters in 2011: SER Nepal and SER Great Basin. The Society is proud to partner with each chapter in our shared commitment to promote ecological restoration.

Australasia

The SER Australasia Chapter (SERA) officially launched in late 2011 and has already accomplished an impressive amount of work. After holding their inaugural Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting in August of 2011, SERA developed and launched their new website [www.seraaustralasia], elected their first board members, and established themselves as an official not-for-profit organization in the Australasia region. Already boasting members in 17 countries, SERA hopes to strengthen and expand their membership across the Australasian region. Looking ahead to 2012, the chapter plans their November 2012 SERA Restoration Conference in Perth, Australia. The conference will provide a critical international forum for land managers, scientists and practitioners who work in biodiversity and ecological restoration fields.

British Columbia



Participants traveled to examine project sites during the 2011 Restoration Institute event in British Columbia.

The SER British Columbia Chapter (SER-BC) began 2011 by bringing their Directors together in a March 5th Strategic Planning Session on Galiano Island, British Columbia. During the meeting, the chapter planned the future direction of their group. The chapter led the 4th Western Huckleberry Forum event in Cranbrook, BC on February 22-23, 2011. In May 2011, SER-BC participated in the Restoration Institute's Workshop on Novel Ecosystems held on Pender Island, British Columbia. SER-BC co-sponsored the 3rd British Columbia Protected Areas

Research Forum (BCPARF) Conference in November 2011. In addition to co-sponsoring the event, SER-BC also hosted an exceptionally successful special session entitled *Restoration in Protected Areas*.

SER-BC is currently planning for Beyond Borders 2012, their joint conference with the SER Northwest Chapter and the Washington chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The conference will take place May 15-18, 2012 in Victoria, Canada.

Central Rockies

The SER Central Rockies Chapter (SER-CR) is in a crucial transition phase as new leadership is being recruited and new committees are taking shape. While laying the groundwork for increased capacity, the Chapter is also exploring ways to unite restoration efforts in the Central Rocky Mountain Region. This includes fostering collaborations with other like-minded organizations and universities in the region.

Europe

The SER Europe Chapter (SER-EU) worked hard in early 2011 to prepare for two events in May. Professor Sabine Tiscew, a very active member of the chapter's board, hosted a workshop with her program at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences in Sachsen Anhalt, Germany. The workshop, which was followed by a field day, focused on the SALVERE Project: Semi-Natural Grassland as a Source of Biodiversity Improvement.



SER Europe attended field trip excursions during the ReNo International Conference in Iceland.

In October 2011, the chapter participated in ReNo's International Conference on the Restoration of Damaged Ecosystems in the Northern regions of Selfoss, Iceland. The conference explored current issues threatening the area's ecosystems and identified the need for more comprehensive evaluation of restoration projects. SER Europe's Board of Directors also took part in a WWF-Adena initiative in 2011 to define forest ecosystem restoration standards. A draft protocol for certification has been prepared and will soon be tested in several pilot sites in Spain.

The chapter looks ahead to its 8th European Conference on Ecological Restoration (ECER2012) will be held in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic in September 2012. The conference theme is near-natural restoration.

Great Basin

The SER Great Basin Chapter (SER-GB) became SER's newest chapter when it was officially approved in August 2011. SER-GB represents Southern Idaho, Southeastern Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Eastern California. While still in the process of organizing their committees and recruiting committee chairs, the chapter had already started to plan ahead. A summer workshop and annual meeting in conjunction with the Western Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association is being planned for the upcoming year. The chapter also plans to sponsor at least one field tour in the summer of 2012.

Mid-Atlantic

The SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter (SER-MA) began 2011 by launching their chapter e-newsletter which includes calendar postings, links to news reports, and other items pertaining to their region. Following this, the chapter convened an ad-hoc group of ecological restoration practitioners and researchers who created pilot monitoring plots at the 800-acre Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. Each plot will be monitored in an effort to better understand how various restoration methods affect ecological processes and function.



Field trip participants check out the wildlife at Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

In April, SER-MA held its 6th Annual Conference, *Brave New World: Working with Emerging Ecosystems and other New Challenges*, at the University of Maryland, College Park. And, in October 2011, SER-MA chapter members hopped aboard a guided boat tour into the Chesapeake Bay followed by a visit to Poplar Island, a restoration site where the island was remade into a mixed ecosystem from dredge materials.

Looking forward to 2012, SER-MA teamed up with SER Northwest to plan their March 2012 7th Annual Conference, *Restoration on the Edge: Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing*

Ecosystem. The conference will be held at Brooklyn College in New York City.

Midwest Great Lakes

The SER Midwest Great Lakes (SER-MWGL) Chapter's most important accomplishment of 2011 was their 3rd Annual Chapter Meeting, *Linkages Between Ecological Restoration and Ecosystem Sustainability*. The goal of the meeting was to explore the linkages between ecological restoration and ecosystem sustainability and to discuss how current restoration efforts contribute to regaining, preserving, and sustaining the structure and functions of Midwestern and Great Lakes ecosystems.



Prescribed Fire Workshop held at the 2011 Annual MWGL Meeting in Illinois.



The Emiquon Restoration Project Tour at the chapters 2011 Annual MWGL Meeting in Illinois.

In August 2011, SER-MWGL presented a poster presentation at SER2011 synthesizing their past and current work and providing recommendations on how to promote ecological restoration in the Midwestern U.S. SER-MWGL's 4th Chapter Conference will be held in May of 2012 at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Nepal

The Nepal Chapter was officially welcomed into the Society in June 2011. Starting off strong, SER-Nepal followed-up their first Annual General Membership Meeting in April 2011 by launching their *Million Tree's Planation Campaign* in Kathmandu, Nepal. The campaign aims to promote reforestation in Nepal by planting one million trees over a 10-year period in the Kathmandu Valley. SER Nepal has already created a supporting tree nursery containing 25,000 seedlings and saplings in Chalnakhel, Kathmandu and continues to engage civic and private sector organizations.

In late 2011, SER Nepal partnered with the Kalanki Chok Restoration Program to reverse the adverse effects of high vehicle emission by establishing a plantation at the key city exit point. Additionally, the chapter took on a restoration project along the Bagmati River Corridor which has been heavily polluted for 10 years. SER Nepal teamed up with Sahid Memorial Park, the Sanepa

Department of Environment and Sanitation and the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City office to plant 100 bamboo trees and raise awareness through events held at the site of the river.



Women make Polythene bags at the SER Nepal Nursery in 2011 in Kathmandu.



A local girl plants a tree at an SER Nepal event in Kathmandu.



Saplings thrive at SER Nepal's 25,000 seedling nursery in Kathmandu.

New England

The SER New England Chapter (SER-NE) kicked off 2011 with a seminar, *Noannet Garden Club Ecological Restoration Seminar*. The seminar was held in February and guided by SER-NE Board President, Mike Toohill. In March, the chapter co-hosted the 17th Annual Ecological Landscaping Association Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts. At the conference, SER-NE board members presented a session entitled *Ecological Restoration: Reference Systems, Trajectories, and Measures of Success*. In August, SER-NE member Jules Opton Himmel put together a one-day tour with staff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) entitled, *Coastal Aquaculture (oyster farming) and Coastal Shellfish Habitat Restoration Eco-Tour*.

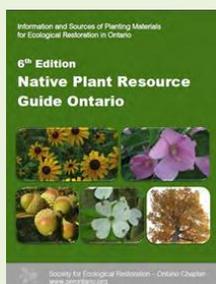
SER-NE will team up with SER Mid-Atlantic in March 2012 at Brooklyn College in New York City for their Annual Chapter Conference, *Restoration on the Edge: Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing Ecosystems*.

Northwest

The SER Northwest Chapter (SER-NW) spent the beginning of their year planning and co-hosting the Columbia Basin Landscapes Workshop, *Linking Science and Management to Improve Restoration Success in the Shrub Steppe*. In August, the chapter held their Annual Chapter Meeting Campout at the Seaquest State Park in Washington. Adding to an exciting month, the chapter launched Restoration Highlights, an online resource through which members can share short articles and case studies on restoration and related work. SER-NW also resurrected their e-newsletter *Cascadia Restoration and Management*, to facilitate better communication with members.

SER-NW continues to plan for their May 2012 joint conference with SER British Columbia and AFS, *Restoration Beyond Borders 2012*, to be held at Victoria University in Victoria, Canada.

Ontario



The SER Ontario Chapter (SER-O) started 2011 off with a bang by publishing the 6th edition of their *Native Plant Resource Guide Ontario* and offering a free copy to each chapter member. The guide is the ultimate resource for those individuals and groups involved in ecological restoration in Ontario with grower listings, valuable articles, and knowledge to help select the right native species for any restoration project. In October, the chapter held their 2011 Annual Conference at York University in Toronto, Canada, where they focused on the restoration of

forests in Ontario.

Additionally, SER-O was also able to leverage social media by launching their own LinkedIn page in 2011. The chapter continues to work towards developing a list of restoration practitioners in Ontario which will be made available to those seeking restoration practitioners for hire or consultation.

Southeast

The SER Southeast Chapter (SER-SE) spent much of the year planning and executing their 2011 Annual Symposium and Chapter Meeting, *New Trajectories and References for Ecological Recovery in Florida*. The meeting explored current practices and research regarding the degradation and restoration of the southeastern region with special consideration of contemporary realities and future trajectories of ecosystems. The chapter also held a soil workshop in conjunction with their conference.



Joe Schuster discusses soil morphology during a field trip at the chapters 2011 Conference in Florida.



David Clayton talks about wetlands restoration during a field trip at the chapter's 2011 conference in Florida.

Texas

The SER Texas Chapter (TxSER) successfully held their Annual Membership Meeting in 2012 at the Parrie Haynes State Park in Central Texas. The chapter launched their new website in 2011 while continuing to manage their active Facebook page. Looking ahead, TxSER recently announced their 2012 Annual TxSER Conference, which will be held in November 2012 at the Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco, Texas.

2011 Financial Report

While economic uncertainty continued to influence revenues in 2011, total SER revenues increase by 39.3% over last year thanks to Grants from the Bureau of Land Management, the US Department of the Interior, and others.

Statement of Activities

Revenue & Other Support

Donations	10,572
Grants	50,000
Membership	99,070
Publications	29,918
Other Income	23,407
Biennial World Conference	452,847
Total Revenue & Other Support	665,815

Program & Administrative Expenses

Management & General	107,789
Board	3,141
Building Long Term Viability	122,186
Chapter Support	8,261
Communications	85,693
Fundraising	10,000
Global Network	127,433
Legislation & Policy	57,488
Standards of Practice	57,060
Biennial World Conference	409,108
Total Expenses	988,159

Change in Assets	-322,345
Net Assets, December 31, 2012	1,588,485

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	229,767
Endowment Investments	1,023,546
Pledges Receivable	7,025
Prepaid Expenses	33,652
Deposits	6,458
Unrealized Gain on Investment	30,295
Office Equipment, Net	7,774
Depreciation	

Total Assets 1,338,516

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	27,922
Accrued Expenses	4,632
Contingent Liability	34,422
Total Liabilities	66,976

Net Assets

Undesignated	96,254
Board Designated	1,175,286
Total Net Assets	1,271,540

Total Liabilities & Net Assets 1,338,516

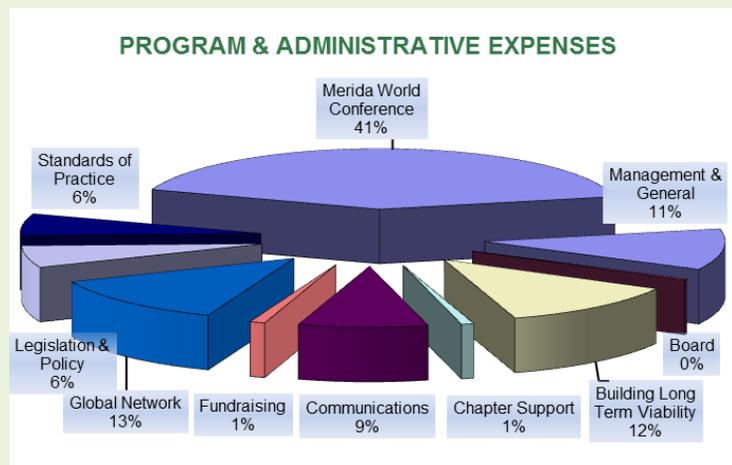
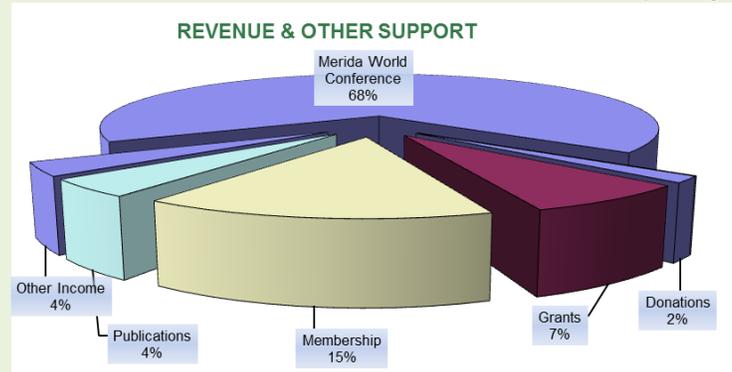
Unrestricted Donations revenue increased in 2011 by 67% as the result of a \$2500 contribution by Bartlett Tree Experts out of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Likewise, Membership saw a 5.9% increase over last year that was directly related to the increase in Chapter Membership drives in 2011.

Operationally, SER continued significant action to reduce spending to hedge possible decreased revenues during the lethargic economy. The 2011 Management and general expense cost ratio finished at 10.90%, a 2.21% drop from the prior year. While cost reductions were necessary to sustainably manage the organization's finance, the Society's overall programmatic efficiency remained strong at 77.74%.

The August SER World Conference in Merida, Mexico contributed to 68% of the revenue stream, and 41.4% of all expenses.

This Statement of Financial Activities and accompanying charts represent the Society's Calendar Year ending December 31, 2011*.

**2011 unaudited-Audit pending*



Thank you for Supporting SER!

SER would like to thank the following individual donors for their generous contributions during the calendar year January 1- December 31, 2011.

\$2,500

Bartlett Tree Experts Inc.

\$1,000

Margarita Tonkinson

\$300-999

James Aronson

Pati T. An

James C. Keeseey

Mary Travaglini

Victoria Stubbs

Cheryl Ulrich

Up to \$250

Alicia Nuñez Garcia
Aline Ortega
Amanda Van Houtte
Andrew Wright
Andy Iskra
Barbara Lisa Rueter
Brenda Molano-Flores
Bolechlinger Foundation
Carol Dawson
Anonymous
Christina Melymick
Daphne Lambright
David Borland
David Davidson
David Morgan
David John Barnes
Deborah Keammerer
Dennis Bramble
Diane Brewster
Don Eastman
Edith B. Allen
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Flávia Rebelo Mochel
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Gustavo Zuleta
Harold Manrique-
Hernández
Heidi Guenther
James Clark
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James R. Evans
Jeannine Lessmann
Jeffrey Ralston
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Jorge Monerris Llopis
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Soða Mason
Steven Jones
Susan Abraham
Suzanne Tuttle
Takayoshi Nishio
Ted Harris
Tom Hilditch
William Young
Yu-Huang Wang
Zack Harris

In-Kind Donations & Designated Funding

In-Kind Donations

SER would like to extend our gratitude to the following individuals and organizations which donated their time, efforts, and expertise to support the work of the Society and our mission to promote ecological restoration worldwide:

James Aronson & Keith Bowers

For their travel and work towards our partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Moia Group

For their donation of additional hours toward design and logo work for SER2011

Pyramid Inc.

For their donation of additional hours toward SER's branding process

SER would like to personally thank those members of the Board of Directors who put forth resources to attend our August 2011 Board of Directors meeting in Merida, Mexico:

Alan Unwin
Cara Nelson
Carolina Murcia
Carolyn Browning
Celement Ebin
Cheryl Ulrich
Don Eastman
Francisco Comín
James Aronson
Jim Hallet

John Tobe
José Ignacio Barrera Catano
Karen Keenleyside
Keith Bowers
Kingsley Dixon
Mary Travaglini
Matt Dunkle
Steve Whisenant
Stuart Allison

Grants and Designated Funding

\$20,000

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Program Support

\$15,000

Wildlands Network
Continental Connectivity Partnership

\$10,000

Anonymous Grant
Website Development Support

\$5,000

Department of Interior (DOI)
Global Restoration Network

\$2,000

James Aronson
Economic Rational for Restoration Degraded Ecosystem brochure

Design & Editing

Leah Bregman

Content

Leah Bregman, Mary Travaglini, Sasha Alexander, Levi Wickwire, Caroline Bronaugh, and MHR Accounting

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