

**ESA Urban Ecosystem Ecology Section Newsletter**  
**January 2010**

Happy New Year!

**From the Chair**

The UEE section had a great 2009 with 5 students receiving travel awards, 2 symposia we sponsored being accepted for the national meeting, a full field trip at the national meeting, and a great turnout at the business meeting. Those receiving awards included:

**Colleen Butler**, Tufts University, “Rooftop ecology: Using Sedum as a nurse plant to increase plant diversity on a green roof”

**Emily Peters**, University of Minnesota, “Environmental and biological controls of urban tree transpiration: Implications for urban hydrology”

**Greg Decker**, Emory University, “Urban stream pollution increases mosquito fitness and disease vector potential”)

**Yevgeniy Marusenko**, Arizona State University, “The fate of combustion-derived carbon deposition in arid urban soil”

**Sarah Cech**, College of Charleston, “Invasive plants in private neighborhoods: Does neighborhood governance make a difference?”)

One of the symposia we sponsored was also featured in an article entitled “Beyond the Pristine” in the journal *Nature* (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v460/n7254/full/460435b.html>) The discussion at the business meeting was lively and full of creative ideas for future efforts. One of these ideas has already come to fruition: a map of urban ecology programs around the country (see “Urban News and Events” section of the newsletter). Thanks to Tim Carter and his students for their hard work on this.

At the annual meeting in Albuquerque, the Urban Ecosystems section led a morning field trip across an urban gradient of the city. Starting at the convention center, a group of 15 individuals, led by Chris Lepczyk, walked through residential, commercial and light industrial areas of the city and ended at a state park abutting the Rio Grande. Upon reaching the Rio Grande, the group explored the park’s riparian corridor looking for changes in species composition, community type and native versus introduced components of the ecosystem. Over the course of the morning most participants had found new friends and shared many stories related to urban ecosystems as well as gained a deeper appreciation for urban ecosystems. Moreover, all of the participants enjoyed exploring the urban ecosystem of Albuquerque.

For the coming year, we will continue offering the same events and opportunities and will work on developing some new ones. We will again offer travel awards to students for the 2010 meeting in Pittsburgh. We sponsored the maximum 3 symposia we are allowed and are waiting to hear which will be accepted (Nicole Heller’s “Urban Ecosystems as Socio-Ecological Centers of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation” has been accepted). Several exciting field trip possibilities are in the works, including an urban bioblitz co-sponsored with other sections.

The UEE section currently has membership of 241 members and a balance of \$1,692.34. Based on past spending levels for travel awards, we will have extra money in our budget (about \$1500) to invest in section activities ***We need your input on what to do with this money.*** Some of the suggestions from the 2009 business meeting and subsequent conversations include:

- Offer other awards, such as best student oral and poster presentation awards, additional travel awards (e.g. for undergraduates), or best urban ecology paper of the year
- Sponsor a joint mixer at each annual meeting with another ESA section. Suggestions included the Environmental Justice and Applied Ecology sections
- Engage in some sort of service activity
- Pay for additional web development
- Support a graduate student intern to assist with developing new initiatives for the section

Please note that several of these suggestions involve either finding additional funds or getting members to volunteer time (e.g. judging presentations). I think we have a vibrant section with ample numbers of members to help with these events, but I also want to be sure that anything new we do has full support of the section. Thus, we will not try to put any of these initiatives into practice for the 2010 meeting. Instead, we will send out a short survey before the 2010 annual meeting. A final decision will be made at that meeting, with a goal of applying for the next round of ESA Long Term Planning Grants to support whichever initiative the section supports. **Please continue to send suggestions for new initiatives to one of the section officers** (Paige, Chris, or Paul).

Thanks for you support and engagement,  
Paige Warren  
Chair, UEE Section

### **Urban News and Events**

**NYT Editorial:** Check out the very relevant and encouraging editorial by Henry Fountain in the NY Times January 3rd, Education Life supplement on "The Utility Degree: 10 masters degrees for the new world order" of which number 4 is "Urban Environment: Sustainability Comes of Age" <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/education/03urbansustain.html>

**Interactive Map of Urban Programs:** Professor Tim Carter and student interns at the Center for Urban Ecology at Butler University have constructed an interactive map of urban ecology programs around the nation. It's very cool and very useful. We will include the link on the UEE webpage. According to Tim: "We mapped the urban ecology programs around the country. I was hoping we could make it updatable by users of the website so they could do it themselves through Google maps...else, we could just have them email the location of a new program to us and we could have a "master" map here." Contact: Timothy Carter, Ph.D., Director, Center for Urban Ecology, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN 317.940.6506, [www.butler.edu/cue](http://www.butler.edu/cue)

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=111688935213424737166.00047718777dac9e97e43&ll=39.571822,-99.404297&spn=38.491165,67.236328&z=4>

*We encourage all our members to add points to the map or to email Dr. Carter with additions.*

**IUFRO Urban Forestry Update:**

<http://www.iufro.org/publications/news/electronic-news/>  
<http://www.unri.org/iufro>

### **Conferences and Meetings**

**2nd International Conference of Urban Biodiversity & Design (URBIO 2010)**

<http://www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010/> Nagoya, Japan 18 - 22 May, 2010. URBIO is an open

worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim to promote urban biodiversity through a continuing dialogue with the CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity, initiative on "Cities and Biodiversity". In order to implement the CBD in urban areas, the URBIO2010 will be held before CBD\_COP10, which will also be held in Nagoya in October 2010. The main theme of URBIO2010 is "Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network", which consists of the following two subthemes. I. Ecosystem network and quality of habitats in and around the urban area, II. Networking the activities of urban people. Papers about urban forestry are also welcome. Contact: Hiroshi Hashimoto, E-mail: hihashi@ccmfs.meijo-u.ac.jp URL: <http://hashi8.hp.infoseek.co.jp/res.html>, Assistant professor of the Laboratory of Landscape Design, Department of Environmental Bioscience, Faculty of Agriculture, Meijo University, 501 Shiogamaguchi 1, Tenpaku-ku, Nagoya City, 468-8502, Aichi Pref., Japan Tel & Fax: +81-52-838-2521

**Urban Environmental Pollution 2010 - Overcoming Obstacles to Sustainability and Quality of Life** - <http://www.uep2010.com/> Boston, MA. June 20 - 23, 2010. This international conference aims to bring together 400 leading experts to exchange knowledge on environmental innovation to create sustainable urban areas. A selection of the best papers of the conference will be published in *Environmental Pollution* (ISI Impact Factor 3.135). The Proceedings will be made available open access on ScienceDirect. Invited speakers include Dr. Christopher Kennedy of the University of Toronto, Canada and Dr. Yong-Yuan Zhu of the National Urban Environmental Institute, Xiamen, China.

**Auburn University's Center for Forest Sustainability will be hosting its 3rd interdisciplinary conference, "Emerging Issues Along Urban-Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society" at the Sheraton Atlanta, April 11-14, 2010.** The overarching theme and goal of our conference is linking human dimensions aspects of urban/rural interfaces with ecological aspects of urban/rural interfaces. We believe that such linkages offer the promise of new, powerful insights for understanding the forces that shape, and are shaped by, urbanization and offer more encompassing and compelling understanding of the causes and consequences of urbanization-related policies. We seek to bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to share current research results and implementation strategies, and to identify knowledge gaps, challenges, and opportunities regarding the interaction between urbanization and natural resources. In particular, approaches that focus on integrating socioeconomic and ecological research will be highlighted. We anticipate this conference to be a vehicle for not only providing conceptual frameworks for accomplishing integrated research, but an outlet for sharing of case studies, as well as showcasing the benefits integrated research can provide scientists, land-use planners, policy makers, and society. Select papers will be invited for submission as refereed publications in a special issue of *Urban Ecosystems*. Our confirmed keynote speakers are: Dr. Marina Alberti, University of Washington, Dr. Ted Gragson, University of Georgia and Coweta LTER, Dr. Steward Pickett, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Study and Baltimore LTER, Dr. Rich Pouyat, USDA Forest Service, Dr. Charles Redmon, Arizona State University and Phoenix LTER. We have a limited pool of funds to provide support for students. More information and our Call for Abstracts is available at: <http://emergingissues.interfacesouth.org/>.

### **Highlighting Urban Ecology Programs**

**Butler University Center for Urban Ecology:** check out the urban ecology program at Butler University in Indianapolis: [www.butler.edu/cue](http://www.butler.edu/cue)

**SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry:** Update your browser from [www.esf.edu](http://www.esf.edu) to [www.esf.edu/cue](http://www.esf.edu/cue). Add the following URL for the degree in urban studies:

www.esf.edu/urban. (contact: Myrna H. P. Hall, Director, SUNY ESF Center for the Urban Environment Research Associate, mhhall@esf.edu)

**The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa** is pleased to announce the establishment of a new, course-driven professional M.S. degree (M.S. Plan B) for students seeking advanced training in natural resource and environmental management. Currently, we offer four different focal areas in the professional M.S. Plan B track: Geospatial Analysis & Modeling; Natural Resources Economics and Environmental Planning; Land & Water Resource Management; and Applied Terrestrial Ecology (please see <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nrem/students/masters.html> for more information). NREM is an interdisciplinary department that offers unique training in both the natural and social sciences, with emphasis on both tropical island systems and globally relevant issues. In addition to the NREM professional M.S. Plan B degree, we also offer research-based M.S. (M.S. Plan A) and doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees. Other unique aspects of our program include certificate programs in urban and regional planning, ocean policy, and participation in a University-wide specialization in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (EECB; <http://www.hawaii.edu/eecb/>). Please see <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nrem/> for complete details on the department and degree offerings. The application deadline to begin study in the Fall 2010 semester is March 1 ([http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nrem/students/grad-e\\_komo\\_mai.html#admit](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/nrem/students/grad-e_komo_mai.html#admit)).

NREM will be soliciting applications for two doctoral students interested in looking at conservation and sustainability related to Hawaii's 2050 plan through support of a USDA National Needs Fellowship program. Annual stipend is expected to be \$24,000, plus funds for research.

### Jobs

**EPA Post-Doc in “Restoration of Brownfields and Vacant Lands for use in Urban Green Infrastructure” (<http://www.epa.gov/NRMRL/jobs/nrmrl10002.html>)**

Location: Cincinnati, OH, National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL).  
Requirements: Experience with implementation of hydrologic models (including but not limited to: SWMM, GSSHA, SWAT, etc.) and/or Experience and GIS (including but not limited to: ArcGIS, etc.); skills and abilities in organization and management of large hydrometric datasets via scripting languages; various statistical approaches and techniques in characterizing spatial and temporal variability in hydrometric data. Contact: Bill Shuster, PhD, Research Hydrologist, Sustainable Environments Branch, ML498, National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 26 W. Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, 513-569-7244 (desk) 513-487-2511 (fax), shuster.william@epa.gov

**Faculty positions - State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF)** is seeking applicants in the following areas of expertise: 1) Biomimicry and design of sustainable systems; 2) Climate change drivers and responses of natural and urban systems; 3) Urban sustainability: built environments, ecological engineering and sustainable communities; 4) Quantitative analysis of fate and transport of environmental contaminants, pathogens and/or invasive species; 5) Biomolecular engineering for sustainable products and processes; and renewable energy engineering. <http://www.esf.edu/positions/> Contact: Myrna H. P. Hall, Director, SUNY ESF Center for the Urban Environment, Research Associate, Department of Environmental Studies, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 112 Marshall Hall, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210, (315) 470-4741, mhhall@esf.edu

**ORISE Post doc** (<http://www.orau.gov/orise/edu/EPA/app-gugrgpd.pdf>) A postgraduate research project training opportunity is currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in Gulf Breeze, Florida. This appointment will be served in the Gulf Ecology Division. This research will address scientific priorities of EPA's Ecosystem Services Research Program (ESRP) that are common to ESRP's Nitrogen, Wetlands, and Tampa Bay projects. The participant will provide scientific support for a widely applicable predictive model of the effects of reactive nitrogen (Nr) loading on wetlands, with the wetlands complex in the Tampa Bay, Florida, watershed as a potential area for testing and application. The model will output a predicted array of ecosystem services and trade-offs, estimates of critical Nr loads, and measures of uncertainty. Applicants must have received a doctoral degree within five years of the desired starting date. Applicants who have completed a master's degree and have relevant experience may be considered. See project EPA-ORD/NHEERL-GB-2010-01. Contact Ann Vega ([Vega.Ann@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Vega.Ann@epamail.epa.gov)), Research Participation Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Breeze, Florida

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