



Promoting Sustainability



Annual Report 2013

esa

From the Executive Director

With the 2013 meeting behind us and what promises to be a momentous Centennial meeting less than two years away, I am reminded of the largest gathering of Past President's that I have seen in my 15 years as Executive Director—it was a privilege to be with them in Portland and to meet some for the first time. They represent so much of the recent history of the Society and, thankfully, are engaged in our preparations for the 2015 Centennial. The Centennial, however, will be much more than a historical view of ESA as it will also look to the future of ESA and the future of the science of ecology.

That future will be guided by the early career ecologists that are currently moving into active roles in ESA. This past year we fully implemented the first “class” of Early Career Fellows, honoring young ecologists for their current and anticipated contributions to the science. The Certification program added an Ecologist in Training category to foster career credentials for those just entering the field. The sections participated in a very successful mentoring event at the 2013 Minneapolis annual meeting.

ESA's two scaling up workshops also were aimed at early career scientists. One workshop brought 30 early career scientists together to explore continental-scale questions while addressing the tools needed to answer the questions. The second involved 25 students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to explore a case study of the Potomac River Basin using ecological and socioeconomic datasets. This workshop was a prototype of educational approaches needed to enable students to work with continental-scale data.

ESA participated in two international events this past year. ESA exhibited at EcoSummit 2012 where a number of members participated in earth stewardship presentations. The British Ecological Society and INTECOL held a joint meeting in London just after ESA's meeting in Minneapolis. We supported activities of an international group of students at the meeting, and had an exhibit as well.

Our ongoing discussions with the Ecological Society of China in anticipation of a joint journal have progressed steadily and we recently filled the position of Editor in Chief for the as yet unnamed journal. Our publishing program is adjusting to the decline in library budgets and the call for journal content to be available freely to all. An Ad hoc Publications Committee met this year and has made a number of significant suggestions that are intended to move us in new directions and are being seriously considered by our leadership. While this examination of our program progresses, ESA's journals continue to be highly rated, highly cited and valued by our members and the scientific community. ESA's experience in scientific publishing and the launching of an open access journal (*Ecosphere*) has given us much visibility and numerous requests to speak about our efforts.

ESA's science, education, and public policy programs have been exceptionally active this past year – please review the extensive reports that follow – I think you will be impressed. I am pleased that ESA has had another productive year and that our budgetary goals are being met. I look forward to the coming year with optimism that stems from the ability of our community of ecologists, leadership, and staff to support and guide ESA as it moves closer to the celebration of 100 years of being a trusted source of ecological knowledge and of advancing the understanding of life on earth.



Katherine S. McCarter

From the President

I very much enjoyed serving as President of the Ecological Society of America this past year. During this time, I had the distinct pleasure of working closely with ESA staff in the Washington Office and the Publications Office in Ithaca. I can say without hesitation that ESA staff is dedicated, professional, reliable, insightful and very hard working. They provide the Society with experience and stability. I also greatly enjoyed my time on the ESA Governing Board. The Governing Board must provide thoughtful and responsible management of Society business. As President, I was pleased to continue the Earth Stewardship Initiative promoted by past Presidents Mary Power, Terry Chapin and Steward Pickett. I genuinely believe that this initiative will help to extend the use of ecological knowledge to a broader public audience by engaging communities, such as business, faith and the arts, with which we have rarely interacted in the past.



Credit: ESA File Photo.

Currently ESA, like many professional societies, faces some significant challenges in meeting both of those needs. Regarding publications, I convened a committee to discuss the future of scientific publishing and its impact on ESA. Discussions by that committee vividly demonstrated that we are on the cusp of a revolution in scientific publishing, and that the traditional scientific journal will be unrecognizable sometime in the not too distant future. Open access publishing, creative commons copyright initiatives, prepublication archives for comments from the masses, or even blogs with the “result of the day” may overtake the deliberative and highly judgmental peer review process. How professional societies engage in these activities will remain an on-going topic of discussion. Given that ESA depends on revenue from its publications and its annual meeting, this means that the society will need to develop a new economic model to fulfill all of its important obligations beyond the journals and meetings, including fostering scientific communication, and promoting ecological education and outreach.

The annual meeting remains a lively source of discussion within the Governing Board and among the membership. Based on personal discussions and twitter feeds it is clear that Friday mornings are unpopular with many members. And yet, the number of abstract submissions continues to increase. That is a good thing! More people want to present their research results at the annual meeting. Accommodating these submissions within the constraints of a shorter meeting will be difficult. One exciting addition to the 2013 Annual Meeting was the new Ignite Sessions, which many reported to be a resounding success. Perhaps more Ignite sessions can reduce the time constraints of a growing number of presentations while providing a new form of communicating the results of our research.

One of the truly fun highlights of being President was receiving so many comments from many of the members who were elected to be ESA Fellows and Early Career Fellows in 2013. This honor was only recently established by ESA and it serves as a visible way of acknowledging the accomplishments of our membership. I offer my congratulations to all current and future Fellows!

Finally, I want to highlight one of ESA's most impressive activities, the highly acclaimed SEEDS Program. SEEDS has done a remarkable job of engaging a diverse population of students, who bring an infectious energy and enthusiasm to ecology, which definitely enlivens the annual meeting. I had the pleasure of participating in the annual SEEDS Leadership Conference this year along with several SEEDS sponsored activities at the annual meeting in Minneapolis. SEEDS is unquestionably a success story, but it needs your help. Please consider donating to SEEDS to allow this outstanding program to continue its important and valuable mission.

This annual report contains abundant evidence of how ESA continues to foster and promote ecological research, education and outreach on behalf of its members and the public at large.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott L. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

ESA in Action

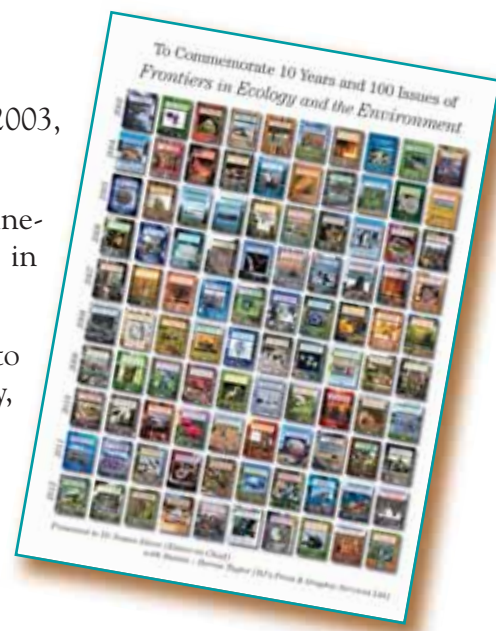
Sharing Ecology

Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, launched on February 1, 2003, celebrated its 10th birthday this past year.

This August, the journal published the first of a new series of online-only, open access special issues, with an issue on “Prescribed burning in fire-prone landscapes.”

Print special issues this year looked at interdisciplinary approaches to Earth Stewardship, and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services.

Papers in the regular issues of *Frontiers* on topics such as food safety practices in riparian habitats, shark mortality in fish aggregating devices, and the use of old menus to track historical fish populations also attracted a lot of interest.



Advancing Ecological Science and Education

ESA was awarded funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a training course on “Sustaining Biological Infrastructure: Strategies for Success.” The training will be aimed at directors of infrastructure projects, including databases, field stations, and collections, and the instruction will involve hands-on group work and case studies to help directors develop skills in business planning, marketing, and communication.

ESA’s flagship undergraduate program, *Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability* (SEEDS), held its 8th annual leadership meeting at Dillard University in New Orleans, LA, engaging SEEDS students and local community members on issues concerning ecological recovery from environmental disasters and the use of science to foster social resilience in communities. The meeting was funded by the Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas.

ESA organized two concurrent “Scaling Up” workshops. The “Scaling UP: Population and Community Ecology” workshop sought to help early career scientists address new, continental-scale scientific questions in innovative ways. “Scaling UP: Future of Environmental Decisions” helped students from diverse backgrounds learn about the role of Big Data in better understanding the complex interaction of local and regional socioecological issues. Support for the two workshops came from NSF.



SEEDS Students

Credit: Fred Abbott.

Promoting argo-ecology and sustainability

ESA held its first ever Science Café during its 2013 Annual Meeting at the Aster Café on the Minneapolis riverfront. Rapid Response Team Member Lisa Shulte Moore shared her experience working with farmers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on ways to retain fertilizers and soil in farm fields and keep such material from moving into surrounding waterways. These insights were further expanded in a subsequent *Field Talk* podcast and in a guest post by Schulte Moore for ESA's news blog, *EcoTone*, describing her new adventures public outreach.



Credit: ESA File Photo.

Lisa Schulte Moore at ESA Science Café

ESA also issued an Action Alert to members urging them to contact their representatives in support of retaining wildlife habitat conservation programs in the farm bill reauthorization that Congress is considering this session.

Multiple sessions during the Annual Meeting focused on the ecological study of agricultural systems in line with the meetings central theme of sustainable pathways. Sessions focused on issues such as food security, bioenergy, landscape ecology and nutrient pollution.

Informing Policy

Four ESA Graduate Student Policy Award (GSPA) recipients participated in Capitol Hill meetings to discuss the importance of funding for ecological research. Over the course of 2013, *Ecologist Goes to Washington* podcasts featured the perspectives of the GSPA recipients and others interacting with policymakers.

An ESA-sponsored congressional briefing on the ecology of zoonotic disease was attended by an ideologically diverse cross section on the Capitol Hill community, including congressional staff representation from states that have dealt with prominent animal to human diseases.

ESA corresponded with the administration and Congress on range of issues relevant to the ecological community, including federal discretionary spending cuts, legislative threats to the National Environmental Policy Act, environmental education programs, biosphere reserves and federal employee participation in scientific conferences.



Credit: Nadine Lynn.

President Scott Collins presents Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA) with the 2013 Biological Ecological Sciences Coalition 2013 Congressional Leadership Award

Communicating Research

Scientists around the world publish their research in ecology and environmental science in ESA's scientific, peer-reviewed journals: *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, and *Ecological Applications*. ESA's newest journal, *Ecosphere*, launched in 2010, is a rapid-publication, online-only, open access journal featuring all sub-disciplines of ecology. Thomas Reuters' Web of Science indexed *Ecosphere* in November 2013, and the journal will receive its first impact factor ranking in 2014.

ESA's *Issues in Ecology* series uses commonly-understood language to report the consensus of a panel of scientists on issues related to the environment. The most recent contributions to the series were "Ecological Dimensions of Biofuels," by C.S. Duke *et al.* and "Climate Change and U.S. Natural Resources: Advancing the Nation's Capability to Adapt," by Susan H. Julius *et al.*

Additional topics covered by ESA's journals in 2013 included female tiger shark migration patterns, the effects of agricultural food safety practices on floodplain and riparian ecosystems, ecosystem monitoring in Alaska forests, the integration of water protection and urban renewal, and the relation between predatory species abundance and prevalence of zoonotic diseases.

Yonglong Lu was appointed to lead a new international open-access digital journal, created as a mutual venture between the Ecological Society of America (ESA) and the Ecological Society of China (ESC), which seeks to highlight ecological research taking place in regions of rapid economic growth and industrialization around the world. Launch is expected in 2015.

In addition to press releases, ESA also continues to highlight the research of its members through the Society's blog and podcasts. ESA's social media presence continues to burgeon through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Google+, and our Twitter following surpassed 10,000 this December.

ESA Journal Rankings and Impact Factors



"Ecology" Category (out of 136 journal titles)

Rank	Title	Impact factor
5	ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS	8.085
6	FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	7.615
15	ECOLOGY	5.175
26	ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS	3.815

"Environmental Sciences" Category (out of 210 journal titles)

Rank	Title	Impact factor
3	FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	(7.615)
18	ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS	(3.815)

Annual Meeting

The Ecological Society of America's 98th Annual Meeting took place in Minneapolis, MN, drawing 3,300 registrants.

The meeting's opening plenary featured the presentation of ESA's 2013 Regional Policy Award to Ellen Anderson, Energy and Environment Senior Advisor to Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, recognized for her work in agriculture, energy and environmental policies through her service in both the executive and legislative branches of Minnesota state government. The 2013 opening plenary speaker was Jon Foley, Director of University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, who spoke about the urgent need for meeting attendees to communicate science beyond the academic community.



Minneapolis Convention Center

Credit: Terence Houston.

In addition to the standard workshops, field trips and organized oral sessions, this past year marked the successful debut of ESA's Ignite sessions, designed to stimulate the exchange of new and exciting ideas in a short time period. This meeting also marked the 30th anniversary of the Public Affairs office with a celebratory event co-

hosted by the Leopold Leadership Program. The Society's first-ever Science Café debuted at the Aster Café on the Minneapolis riverfront.

As part of its environmental offsets initiative, ESA donated \$16,615 to Great River Greening, a Minnesota non-profit devoted to restoration of local lands and waters.



2013 Bicycle Field Trip Participants

Credit: Stephen Davis.



Volunteers replant a forest in Minnesota

Credit: Great River Greening.



President Scott Collins and Sustainability Science Awardee Pamela Matson

Credit: ESA file photo.



Jon Foley speaks at opening plenary

Credit: Nadine Lynn.

2013 Award Winners

Eminent Ecologist: William Reiners

Odum Education Award: Martin Main

Mercer Award: Pieter Johnson and Jason Hoverman

Cooper Award: John Thompson, Anne Charpentier, G. Bouguet, Faustine Charmasson, Stephanie Roset, Bruno Buatois, Philippe Vernet, Pierre-Henri Gouyon

E. Lucy Braun Award: Tony Kovach

Murray F. Buell Award: Kate Boersma

Sustainability Science Award: Pamela Matson

Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award: Sonia Ortega

Distinguished Service Citation: Wes Jackson

Honorary Member: Christian Körner

Finances

Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2013

Revenues

Grants & Contributions	1,042,873
Membership Dues	615,015
Subscriptions	2,538,388
Manuscript Charges	545,205
Annual Meeting	1,354,475
Investment Income	230,403
Other Revenues	331,174
Total Revenues	6,657,533

Expenses

Public Affairs	263,648
Science Program	554,887
Annual Meeting	937,351
Chapters & Sections	45,563
Journal Publications	2,633,384
Education	522,774
Member & Administrative Services	1,395,376
Total Expenses	6,352,983

Change in Net Assets	304,5550
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2012	2,678,903
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2013	2,940,246

Assets

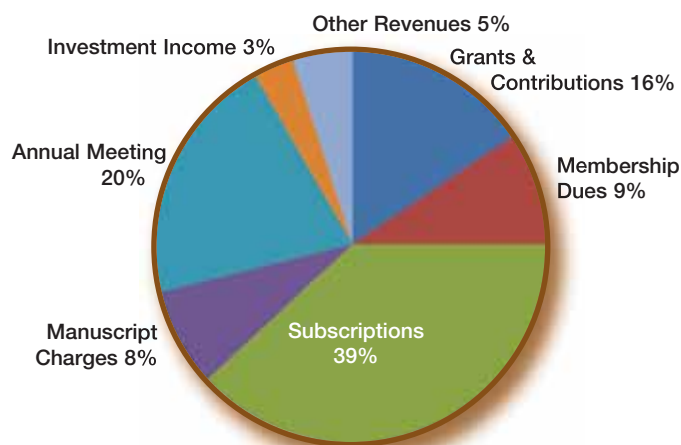
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,638,145
Investments	4,514,412
Accounts Receivable	328,440
Grants Receivable	300,822
Prepaid Expenses	155,313
Furniture & Equipment (less depreciation)	22,980
Deposits	24,616
Total Assets	6,984,728

Liabilities and Net Assets

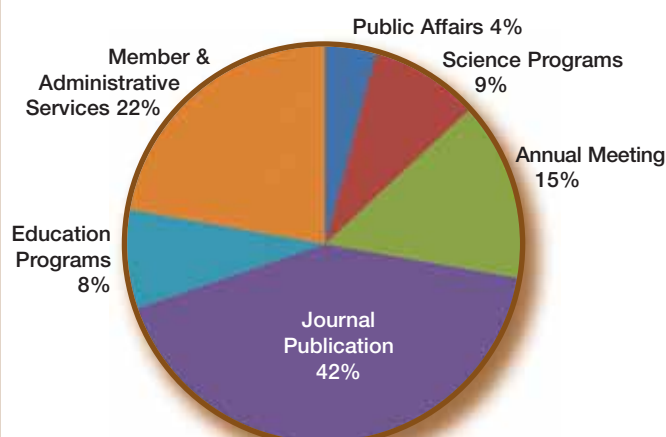
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	279,412
Deferred Revenue	2,505,451
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,940,246
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,209,619
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	50,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,984,728

Audited by Gelman, Rosenberg, Freedman.
For a complete audit report please contact
ESA's Washington DC office.

2013 REVENUES



2013 EXPENSES



2013 Fund for the Future

ESA thanks its generous donors who help support Society initiatives. If you would like to help the Society advance the science and profession of ecology, please consider making a donation at www.esa.org/donate.

\$1000+

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About the ESA

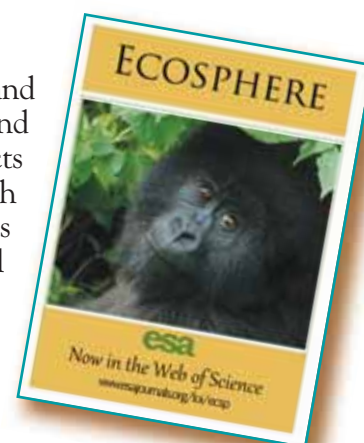
The Ecological Society of America is the world's largest professional organization of ecological scientists. ESA's 10,000 members work in academia, government and in the private sector to improve society's understanding and stewardship of life on Earth. Members' work addresses threatened and endangered species, alternative energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, invasive threats, emerging diseases, climate change and many other important issues.

The Society works to broadly share ecological information through policy and media outreach, education and diversity initiatives and projects that link the ecological research and management communities and help integrate ecological science into decision-making. ESA also organizes scientific conferences and publishes high-impact journals.

Credit: James Zablotny, USDA.



Ecological research includes understanding invasive threats posed by plant and animal species such as the emerald ash borer



Credit: Fred Abbott.



SEEDS Students classify marine fossils into taxonomy families from a coastal dig site at Las Cabezas de San Juan in Fajardo, Puerto Rico



Credit: Nadine Lynn.

Rapid Response Team Member Matthew Hurteau meets with Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) to discuss prescribed burns in forest systems



Credit: ESA File Photo.

Rapid Response Team Member Robert Parmenter speaks at an ESA-sponsored Congressional briefing on the ecology of zoonotic diseases

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Jon Foley at ESA Annual Meeting Opening Plenary. Credit: Nadine Lymn.

President Scott Collins and 2013 Regional Policy Award recipient Ellen Anderson.

Credit: Nadine Lymn. Allison Lewis, Kathryn LeCroy, Shalynn Pack, Lindsay Deel and Carlos Silva on Capitol Hill. Credit: ESA File Photo.

Bottom: ESA SEEDS students Melanie Quiñones and Javier Marrero collecting data on the degree of tree lichen presence. Credit: Fred Abbott.



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