



Bulletin

International Association for Landscape Ecology

UPCOMING IALE MEETINGS

IALE UK 2008 (SEPTEMBER 8-11, CAMBRIDGE)

Annual Symposium in conjunction with the Cambridge Conservation Forum Landscape Ecology and Conservation

8-10th September

Sessions to include (subject to demand):

- Conservation planning at national or continental scales
- Conservation in farmed landscapes
- Landscape ecology in wilderness areas
- Dispersal in fragmented landscapes
- Food and resource capture in the landscape
- Theory into practice: landscape ecology being used to conserve habitats and species

11th September

Field trip to two or three of the following:

The Great Fen Project; Wicken Fen; and Kingfisher Bridge.

These three areas are all recreating wet landscapes in the Fenland of East Anglia near to Cambridge. Between them they make up most of the largest wetland restoration any where in Europe. Each is being managed in a different way and aim to create habitats over the next one hundred years, but hopefully faster than this!

Abstracts of no more than 300 words using the proforma on the IALE(UK) website to be sent to Dr. Pete Carey at the following e-mail address

Conference2008@iale.org.uk

For more details please see:

<http://www.iale.org.uk/>

II JORNADAS ARGENTINAS DE ECOLOGIA DE PAISAJES 2009 (MAY 2009, CORDOBA, ARGENTINA)

The Asociación Argentina de Ecología de Paisajes (ASADEP) organizes "II Jornadas Argentinas de Ecología de Paisajes". Key issues of the conference are causes and consequences of land use/land cover change, the impact on structure and function of ecosystems and on human disturbances and quality of life. The focus will be on both rural and urban areas, and local and global scales. Particular emphasis on Argentinean landscapes and Latin American related issues.

For more details please see:

http://www.wsl.ch/land/iale/bulletins/J_Argent.pdf

Contact: ecopaisajell2009@gmail.com

EUROPEAN IALE 2009 (JULY 12 – 16, SALZBURG)

70 years of Landscape Ecology in Europe: "European Landscapes in Transformation - Challenges for Landscape Ecology and Management"

The 2009 European Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, to be held in Salzburg, Austria, will focus on "European Landscapes in Transformation – Challenges for Landscape Ecology and Management".

For more details please see:

<http://www.iale2009.eu/>

OUTLOOK WORLD CONGRESS 2011 (AUGUST, 18-23, BEIJING)

"Landscape Ecology and it's role in sustaining culture and the environment"

China is an ancient country with a rich cultural legacy. The diversity of cultural landscapes has gained much attention from all over the world, in addition to the beautiful natural landscapes. By organizing the IALE World Congress, we wish to draw more attention from international scientists, and establish a platform for them to start cooperative research projects in China. We will welcome all IALE members and interested individuals to participate in this congress in Beijing. We expect that participants will enjoy the stimulating academic atmosphere at these meetings.

Here is a brief summary of the preliminary themes (please send in other suggestions to Prof. Bojie Fu, bjfu@cashq.ac.cn): Cultural landscapes: Dynamic relationships between nature and society; Integrating landscape ecology with sustainability: Meeting the challenges of humanity; Landscape change and modeling in quickly developing regions; Habitat and bio-conservation; Long term ecological research at multi-spatial scales; Landscape and urban planning: the role of human beings in nature; Urbanization; Creation of landscapes.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Vogiatzakis, I.N., Pungetti, G., Mannion, A.M. (Eds.), 2008. Mediterranean Island Landscapes, Natural and Cultural Approaches, Landscape Series, Vol. 9, 2008, XXXII, 372 p.

Mediterranean islands exhibit many similarities in their biotic ecological, physical and environmental characteristics. There are also many differences in terms of their human colonization and current anthropogenic pressures. This book addresses in three sections these characteristics and examines the major environmental changes that the islands experienced during the Quaternary period. The first section provides details on natural and cultural factors which have shaped island landscapes. It describes the environmental and cultural changes of the Holocene and their effects on biota, as well as on the current human pressures that are now threats to the sustainability of the island communities. The second section focuses on the landscapes of the largest islands namely Sicily, Sardinia,

Corsica, Cyprus, Crete, Malta and the Balearics. Each island chapter includes a special topic reflecting a particular characteristic of the island. Part three presents strategies for action towards sustainability in Mediterranean islands and concludes with a comparison between the largest islands.

Despite several published books on Mediterranean ecosystems/landscapes there is no existing book dealing with Mediterranean islands in a collective manner. Students, researchers and university lecturers in environmental science, geography, biology and ecology will find this work invaluable as a cross-disciplinary text while planners and politicians will welcome the succinct summaries as background material to planning decisions.

BOOK REVIEW

Marcus Hall's *Earth Repair: A must for environmental scientists, engineers and restoration ecologists.*

By Felix Kienast, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland (Reprint from *Mountain Research and Development*, Vol. 27:383-384)

A look into major journal databases quickly reveals that restoration ecology and rehabilitation studies are emerging research fields. They are largely based on a synthesis of ecological theory and environmental management procedures. Restoration ecology is commonly understood as „the study of how to repair anthropogenic damage to the integrity of ecological systems“ (Cairns and Heckman, 1996). But what do scientists, engineers or politicians mean when using the terms „repair“, „degraded“ or „natural“? How much „restoration“ is needed on land that was heavily sculptured by humans over decades to centuries? Is landscape restoration as debatable as the restoration of an ancient piece of art restored with techniques that have never been used when it was created? These are only a few examples of a fundamental historical and philo-

sophical debate that should be an essential component of a modern restoration ecology discourse. This is the starting point of the fascinating book of Marcus Hall, which can be considered a timely contribution to this debate. In *Earth Repair-A Transatlantic History Of Environmental Restoration* he travels with the reader through a fantastic collection of historic restoration literature from North American and European environmentalists, scientists, civil engineers and politicians. Hall's writing is fresh, vivid, subtle, and sharp. He profits from the fact that he – like many of the characters in his book - is a traveler between the new and the old worlds. The book starts with readings/excerpts and a thorough analysis of George Perkins Marsh's extensive descriptions (e.g. *Man and Nature*, 1864) on how Europe's formerly forested wild nature had degraded due

to overgrazing and badly adapted land techniques. The descriptions highlight the different (historical?) views of Americans and Europeans towards land cultivation. Hall writes: „Marsh saw degradation, but his European hosts saw degeneration – the spontaneous, entropic decay of gardened land. When Italians drained malarial wetlands, when the French seeded shifting sand dunes or when the Swiss reforested avalanche-prone mountainsides, they saw themselves improving the land by combating natural forces through human means. But Marsh saw them repairing a once-pristine, once-wild land that humans had long ago degraded. Marsh’s American background with its growing reverence for wild places helped to provide him with a new perspective on the root cause of environmental damage.“ (Hall, 2005, p. 30)

Two consecutive chapters deal with land restoration in Piedmont’s southern province of Cuneo and Utah’s Wasatch Mountains. Hall gives a detailed analysis of the environmental problems in these areas after 1850 and elaborates on the various „improvements“ of Italian engineers to stabilize the slopes. The latter had been cleared from forests and overgrazed, leading to massive flooding, such as that that occurred in the Stura Valley. Beginning in 1869 the Cuneese began reforesting and in the 1880’s the streambeds were reinforced with rock and masonry check dams. The main aim of the restoration measures in this period was, however not to „renature“ the area but to „regarden“ it and bring back human order and life to the land (the population in 1860 was 3 to 10 times greater than 1980). Again, it was Marsh’s and other environmentalist’s writings that influenced the passage of Italy’s forest law of 1877. The restoration of Cuneo’s Alps is an example of how people came to agree with Marsh that the land was being degraded by human abuse and not by nature itself. After 1950, shifts in economies caused the region to depopulate, releasing larger parts to „rewilding“. Due to the long history of land cultivation and place attach-

ment Italians and Europeans in general have, there was an ambiguous attitude towards this newly created wilderness. The latter, however, „would become a North American speciality“ (Hall 2005, p. 58). It is exemplified in the chapter on „re-wilding“ Utah’s Wasatch Mountains where a 10’000 year old history of Native American land use with periodic human use of fire was altered when the first Mormon agriculturists developed early irrigation techniques and started to heavily graze the land. Soon, overgrazing degraded the land and led to frequent flooding. Numerous attempts followed (and many of them failed) to revegetate the land with native seeds and to restore the historic floristic and faunistic conditions. This and other experiences were the major drivers of the Wildlife Restoration act that passed US Congress in 1937. A major promoter of this „rewilding“ paradigm was - among others - Aldo Leopold. He constitutes the major character in the very well written chapter „Ecology and Memory.“ Here, Hall proves to be a gifted writer elaborating on the two extremes of restoration; the gardening versus the wilding. In the chapter „Cross-cultural restoration“, Hall evaluates these views by proposing a restoration model that is driven by the individualistic human preference for an ideal landscape on a continuous gradient from garden to untouched and wasteland. With this model Hall is able to reconcile the three major views of restoration, that of maintenance gardening, reparative gardening and reparative naturalizing.

Hall’s well-written comparative analysis of Old World and New World restoration concepts is a must for environmental scientists and restoration ecologists that are frequently confronted with defending the goals of their restoration projects to politicians and the public. It reminds them that restoration is much more than a value-free improvement of the functioning of a degraded system. Restoration is a cultural and democratic act, embedded in a specific historical and cultural context and driven by individualistic preferences of the population.

The IALE Bulletin is distributed six times a year to the members of the IALE. The IALE - International Association for Landscape Ecology - was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Executive Committee: **President:** K. Bruce Jones 2007-2011, US Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia, USA, kbjones@usgs.gov; **Secretary General:** Marion Potschin 2003-2011, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK, Marion.Potschin@nottingham.ac.uk; **Treasurer:** Ralf-Uwe Syrbe 2007-2011, Saxon Academy of Sciences, Neustädter Markt 19, D-01239 Dresden, Germany, syrbe@iale.de; **Past President:** Bob Bunce 2007-2011; ALTERRA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, bob.bunce@wur.nl; **Vice Presidents:** Paul Opdam 2007-2011, Wageningen UR, Landscape Ct., Land Use Planning Group, PO Box 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, Paul.Opdam@wur.nl; Diane Pearson 2007-2011, Tropical Spatial Science Group, School of Science & Primary Industries, Faculty of Education, Health & Science, Charles Darwin University, Darwin 0909 Australia, diane.pearson@cdu.edu.au; Maria Kozova 2005-2009, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ml. dol. B-2, 842 15 Bratislava 4, Slovakia, kozova@fns.uniba.sk; Sandra Luque 2005-2009, Cemagref - Institute for Agricultural and environmental engineering research, 2, rue de la papeterie, BP 76, F-38402 St-Martin-d’Hères, cedex, France, sandra.luque@cemagref.fr; **Bulletin Editor and Deputy Secretary General:** Felix Kienast 1999-2011, Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Division of Land Use Dynamics, Landscape Modelling, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland, felix.kienast@wsl.ch; **Chairman of Council:** Bob Gardner 2007-2011, Appalachian Environmental Laboratory, Univ. of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science, Frostburg, MD 21532, gardner@al.umces.edu.
IALE on the Internet: IALE International: www.landscape-ecology.org

MEETINGS

June 18-19, 2008

Geo-Environment & Landscape Evolution 2008.

Third International Conference on Evaluation, Monitoring, Simulation, Management and Remediation of the Geological Environment and Landscape. The New Forest, UK; Wessex Institute of Technology, UK; Complutense University, Spain.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/geoenv08/>

July 20-25, 2008

8th International Wetlands Conference: "Big Wetlands, Big Concerns". Cuiabá, Brasil.

http://www.intecol.net/info-esk/8th_WWG_Conference/eighth-wwg-0.htm

August 6-7, 2008 (Workshops Aug 4-5, 8-9 2008)

GEOBIA 2008 - Pixels, Objects, Intelligence: Geographic Object Based Image Analysis for the 21st Century, 2nd International Conference on Geographic Object-Based Image Analysis. Calgary, Canada.

Registration Deadline - July 01, 2008

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/geobia/>

August 25-29, 2008

1st Moravian Conference on Rural Research: EURORURAL '08. Investigating European Countryside. Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno, Czech Republic.

<http://www.uake.cz/novinky.html>

September 8-12, 2008

6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration for "Towards a sustainable future for European Ecosystems - Providing restoration guidelines for Natura2000 habitats and species". Ghent, Belgium.

<http://www.ser2008.be/>

September 15-19, 2008

The European Ecological Federation (EURECO-GFOE 2008) The EEF's 2008 symposium on "Biodiversity in an Ecosystem Context". Leipzig, Germany.

<http://www.europeanecology.org/>

September 16-18, 2008

Landscape Ecology and Forest Management. Challenges and Solutions. IUFRO International Conference. Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R. China.

<http://research.eeescience.utoledo.edu/lees/IUFRO/2008MTG>

October 12-15, 2008

International Human Dimensions Workshop

October 16-19, 2008

International conference of Social Challenges of Global Change - IHDP Open Meeting, the 7th Open Meeting.

New Delhi, India.

www.openmeeting2008.org

November 11-15, 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity. Valencia, Spain.

Aims are to review the current understanding of marine biodiversity, its role in marine ecosystem functioning and its socio-economic context, to assess current and future threats and potential mitigation strategies for conservation and regulation of marine resources and to identify future research priorities.

<http://www.marbef.org/worldconference/>

April 20-23, 2009

International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology Ecosystems Interfacing with Groundwater and Surface Water. Vienna, Austria.

Abstract submission by 5 September 2008

<http://www.natur.cuni.cz/hydroeco2009/index.php>

August 16-21, 2009

10th International Congress of Ecology: "Ecology in a Changing Climate. Two Hemispheres - One Globe". Brisbane, Australia.

http://www.intecol.net/info-esk/X-INTECOL/10th_INTECOL_Congress-3.htm

Bulletin Deadline

Vol. 26 no.3: June 30, 2008