

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

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of the Association of American Geographers

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President's Column

-- David Cairns, BSG President, 2011-13

Avoiding Science in a Vacuum



Lately, I have been thinking about the way that biogeographers conduct our research. Over the past few decades, we have moved from a discipline that was dominated by scholars that worked alone, published single-author manuscripts, and generally directed our own research to a more collaborative approach to science. Biogeographers are not alone in making this transition. As the questions that we are interested in answering have become larger, and more complicated, so have the skill sets that are necessary to address those questions. It is not unusual now for biogeographers to partner with remote sensing specialists, ecologists, hydrologists, geomorphologists and/or human geographers to answer

questions that are both scientifically and societally relevant. Indeed, in many cases, these kinds of partnerships are explicitly encouraged by the agencies that fund our research. Sometimes, this generational shift in the mode of research that we conduct has resulted in tensions within academic departments when it comes time to evaluate either faculty or students' productivity. How that is done varies by institution and is not what I would like to focus on in this column. I am interested, however, in how the large interdisciplinary programs that we contribute to are created and how biogeographers can contribute to their formation.

In the early 1990s when I was a graduate student at the University of Iowa, I concentrated my efforts on my own research project and gave little thought to how to convince the broader scientific community that what I was interested in should be interesting to them. It all seemed simple to me. I became interested in a topic based on the literature that I had read, identified a knowledge gap, and set about trying to fill that gap in understanding about a process. Once I had convinced myself that I had answered the question, I wrote a manuscript, submitted it for publication, and by the time that it was published, I had moved on to the next question. The only input that I would get about the work was from my dissertation supervisor, my supervisory committee, audience members at the occasional public presentations that I made, and ultimately from reviewers of the manuscript. The one thing that was missing was a sense that what I was doing was of interest to a broader audience than that relatively small group. What was missing was a sense of community. What were the really big questions that needed to be answered? How could my interests and skills contribute to a framework of research that many people were interested in?

My first inklings that there might be larger research communities out there came from a conversation with Dr. Dan Brown (now at the University of Michigan) when he was talking about how there was a land use land cover change (LULCC) research community in which there was a coherent understanding among a large number of scientists about what the research priorities were in the field. This was a novel concept to me and one that I did not think was present in biogeography. Since that initial conversation with Dan, I've found lots of these research communities and found them to be incredibly fulfilling. I've become active in the Arctic research community and discovered that Arctic research is highly collaborative and community oriented. People know each other's work well, and are continually trying to find ways to make sure that the disparate scientists within the community are collaborating not only on the research, but on the formulation of the questions to be asked. This becomes manifest through the creation of science plans, communities of practice and other mechanisms that inform the funding agencies about what their research priorities should be. I've found that participation in these kinds of activities is enlightening and very rewarding. I encourage all members of the BSG to seek out these opportunities and help shape the direction of future scientific research.

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Graduate Student Representative Column

- Melanie Stine, BSG Graduate Student Representative



Hello all! I am the new Biogeography Specialty Group student representative for the 2012-2013 year. I am a Ph.D. candidate at Texas State University–San Marcos and my interests include mountain environments, ecotone dynamics, and biogeomorphology.

Thanks to Clayton Whitesides for his services last year as student representative. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at ms1789@txstate.edu.

Additionally, if you are a student member of the BSG and would like to join the BSG student listserv, please email Chad Lane at lanec@uncw.edu.

For the 2013 AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, I have organized a panel session, titled “Navigating the Process of Journal Publishing in Biogeography,” which will be of special value to graduate and undergraduate students interested in publishing in academic journals. Panelists experienced in publishing, reviewing, and/or serving as journal editors will be available to provide helpful advice and answer your questions regarding the publishing process. The abstract is as follows:

This panel session will address the process of publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals with an aim of introducing the process to students who have limited experience in publishing. Panelists will offer information and guidance on how to progress from a research project to a published article. Topics to be addressed may include selecting a journal, communicating with the editor, responding to reviewer comments, actions to take after rejection, preparing your material for submission, and tips on how to optimize the potential of your manuscript’s acceptance. The focus of the session will be on publishing within the field of biogeography, but will be applicable to other areas of geography as well.

Please spread the word on what is sure to be an informative session!

I would like to remind you about the Biogeography Specialty Group on Facebook (special thanks to Arvind Bhuta for creating it a few years ago!). If you haven’t joined, I would encourage you do to so! I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles!

-- Melanie Stine, BSG Graduate Student Representative 2012-2013.

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2013 Awards and Competitions

James J. Parsons Award for Distinguished Career in Biogeography & Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication in Biogeography

-- Ross Meentemeyer, BSG Board Member and Awards Organizer



Please consider nominating deserving colleagues for the 2013 Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication or the 2013 James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award.

The Cowles Award honors the best article or book published in biogeography each year. To submit a nomination for the Cowles Award, please send the name of the person you are nominating, along with the literature reference and a PDF of their article or book that was published in 2012.

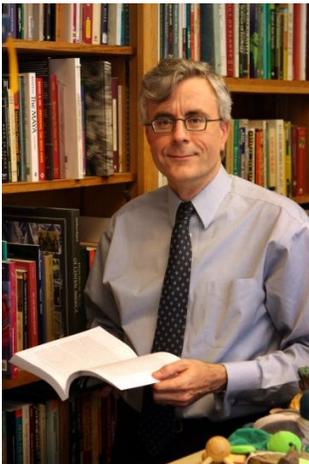
The Parsons Award, named in honor of the 20th century biogeographer and cultural geographer, recognizes career contributions of distinguished biogeographers. To nominate a

candidate for the Parsons Award, send a short letter that summarizes the candidate's most significant achievements.

The nomination deadline for both awards is January 31, 2013. Information should be emailed to Ross Meentemeyer (rkmeente@uncc.edu) in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

2013 BSG Board Elections

-- Curt Holder, BSG Board Member and Elections Organizer



Call for Nominations: 2013 BSG Board Elections

The Biogeography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers invites nominations for board members. During this election cycle, we will elect two new BSG Board members to take the place of board members David Goldblum and Ross Meentemeyer. David Cairns' term as president of the BSG will also expire in 2013. Additionally, the student representative position on the board is also open for nominations, although Melanie Stine remains eligible to continue to serve a second term. Service of the board members and the president is for two years, and the student representative serves for one year.

Please send nominations for any of these four positions no later than 31 January 2013 to Curt Holder at **cholder@uccs.edu**. Also, please specify the position of interest for each nomination. Voting will take place between Monday, 11 February and Monday, 11 March 2013. Election results will be announced at our annual BSG specialty group board meeting in Los Angeles.

2013 Student Presentation Awards, National AAG Meeting

-- Evan Larson, BSG Board Member and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator



The Biogeography Specialty Group encourages all undergraduate and graduate students who will be presenting a paper at the 2013 AAG Meeting in Los Angeles to consider participating in the 2013 BSG Student Paper Competition.

Two Award Categories will be considered:

- Undergraduate/Master's Student Paper
- Ph.D. Student Paper

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students (including those receiving their Ph.D. within a year after the dissertation defense) who are serving as the sole author or the primary author of the paper and will be the presenter at the meeting. Illustrated posters are not eligible for this competition.

If you are presenting a paper in New York that you would like to be judged in the competition, please email Dr. Evan Larson (larsonev@uwplatt.edu) with the following information:

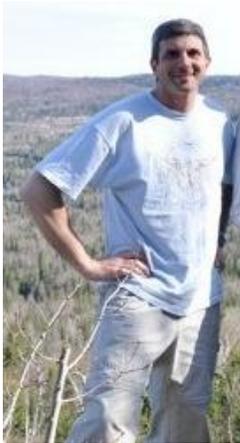
- 1) the application form which is available upon request and at <http://people.cas.sc.edu/kupfer/bsg.html>
- 2) a copy of the abstract submitted to AAG
- 3) your PIN for the AAG Annual Meeting

The deadline for submission is January 31, 2013.

NOTE: If you are interested in serving as a **judge** for either the Undergraduate/Master's and/or the Ph.D. competitions please contact Evan Larson (larsonev@uwplatt.edu). Judging criteria include: the significance and originality of the research question, the creativity and the quality of the methodology, the validity of the conclusions drawn from the results and the clarity of the presentation.

2013 Student Research Grant Competition

--David Goldblum, BSG Board Member and Student Research Grant Coordinator



The goal of the Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG) Graduate Student Research Grant competition is to provide partial support for graduate students to conduct quality biogeographic research projects for their master's thesis or doctoral dissertation. The awards are competitive, and proposals are judged individually on the basis of:

- 1) scientific merit of the project, including biogeographic significance of the research question, adequacy and quality of the methods, and originality of the research;
- 2) organization and clarity of the proposal; and,
- 3) qualifications of the student to conduct the proposed work.

Each applicant must be a student member of both the AAG and BSG, and the proposed project should be part of her/his thesis or dissertation research. Students may join the AAG and BSG now and become eligible for the grants competition if not already a student member.

Normally, awards are made to one master's student for \$500 and one doctoral student for \$1000 each year, but an additional award may be made if the proposals are exceptional and funds are available. A committee of four to six biogeographers from different institutions will evaluate the proposals. Applications must be postmarked or electronically delivered (preferred) by April 1, 2013 to Dr. David Goldblum at the address below. Formal announcement of the award winners will be made at the BSG Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting in 2014, although award winners will be notified as soon as decisions are made, usually before the 2013 summer field season.

For more information please contact:

Dr. David Goldblum
Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Geography
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
dgoldblum@niu.edu

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Recent Publications

Articles:

1. Bailey, Robert G. 2012. A sense of place: Ecoregional design at Mesa Verde National Park. *American Bungalow*. 73: 62-73.
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2012_bailey_r001.html
2. Bailey, Robert G. 2011. The sustainable bungalow: Ecological design in historical perspective. *American Bungalow*. 71: 72-83.
Robert Bailey (Rocky Mountain Research Station) has his 1922 bungalow house in Fort Collins, Colorado recently featured on the cover of *American Bungalow* magazine. The article extolls the virtues of small house living as a way to live more sustainably (note the tie-in to ecoregions).
http://ylamericanwebinc.com/aw_flip_books/ab/article/
3. Blackhall, M., E. Raffaele, and T.T. Veblen. 2012. Is foliar flammability of woody species related to time since fire and herbivory in northwestern Patagonia, Argentina? *Journal of Vegetation Science* 23: 931-941.
4. Butler, David R., and Carol F. Sawyer (eds.), 2012. Zoogeomorphology and Ecosystem Engineering – Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium. *Geomorphology* 157-158, 1-192.
5. Butler, David R., and Carol F. Sawyer, 2012. Introduction to the special issue – zoogeomorphology and ecosystem engineering. *Geomorphology* 157-158, 1-5.
6. Butler, David R., 2012. The impact of climate change on patterns of zoogeomorphological influence: examples from the Rocky Mountains of the western U.S.A. *Geomorphology* 157-158, 183-191.
7. Butler, David R., 2012. Characteristics of beaver ponds on deltas in a mountain environment. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 37(8), 876-882.
8. Chapman, T.B., T.T. Veblen, T. Schoennagel. 2012. Spatio-temporal patterns of mountain pine beetle activity in the southern Rocky Mountains. *Ecology* 93: 2175-2185.
9. Christian, Taylor A., and David R. Butler, 2012. Range of variability in the life cycle of beaver ponds in Glacier National Park, Montana, as a context for restoration. *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference* 35, 259-264.
10. Elliott, G. P. 2012. Extrinsic regime shifts drive abrupt changes in regeneration dynamics at upper treeline in the Rocky Mountains, USA. *Ecology* 93:1614-1625.

11. Elliott, G. P. 2012. The role of thresholds and fine-scale interactions in driving upper treeline dynamics in the Bighorn Mountains, Wyoming. *Physical Geography* 33:129-145.
12. Gartner, M.H., T.T. Veblen, R.L. Sherriff, T.L. Schoennagel. 2012. Proximity to grasslands influences fire frequency and sensitivity to climate variability in ponderosa pine forests of the Colorado Front Range. *International Journal of Wildfire* 21: 562-571.
13. Hayward, G.D., T.T. Veblen, L. Suring, B. Davis. 2012. Challenges in the application of historical range of variation to conservation and land management. Chapter 3 in: J. A. Wiens, G.D. Hayward, H. D. Safford and Catherine Giffen (eds). *Historical Environmental Variation in Conservation and Natural Resource Management*. Pages 32- 45. Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1002/9781118329726.ch3
14. Holder, C. D. and Chase, G. 2012. The role of remittances and decentralization of forest management in the sustainability of a municipal-communal pine forest in eastern Guatemala. *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 14: 25-43.
15. Holz, A., S. Haberle, T.T. Veblen, R. De Pol-Holz, and J. Southon. 2012. Fire history in western Patagonia from paired tree-ring fire-scar and charcoal records. *Climate of the Past Discussions* 8:451-466.
16. Holz, A., T. Kitzberger, J. Paritsis, T.T. Veblen. 2012. Ecological and climatic controls of modern wildfire activity patterns across southwestern South America. *Ecosphere* 3(11):103. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES12-00234.1>
17. Holz, A., and T.T. Veblen. 2012. Wildfire activity in rainforests in western Patagonia linked to the Southern Annular Mode. *International Journal of Wildfire* 21:114-126.
18. Kim, D. 2012. Biogeomorphic feedbacks drive dynamics of vegetation–landform complex in a coastal riparian system. *Ecosphere* 3(8): 74. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES12-00028.1>
19. Kulakowski, D., D. Jarvis, T.T. Veblen, J.M. Smith. 2012. Stand-replacing fires reduce susceptibility of lodgepole pine to mountain pine beetle outbreaks in Colorado. *Journal of Biogeography* 39: 2061-2071.
20. Kulakowski, D., C. Matthews, D. Jarvis, and T.T. Veblen. 2012. Compounded disturbances in subalpine forests in western Colorado favor future dominance by quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). *Journal of Vegetation Science*. Online Doi: 10.1111/j.1654-1103.2012.01437.x
21. Muñoz, A.A., M.E. Gonzalez, C. Celedón, T.T. Veblen. 2012. Respuesta inicial de la regeneración arbórea luego de la floración y muerte de *Chusquea culeou*

- (Poaceae) en bosques andinos del centro-sur de Chile. *Bosque* (Valdivia, Chile) 33:153-162.
22. Paritsis, J., C. Quintero, T. Kitzberger and T.T. Veblen. 2012. Mortality of the outbreak defoliator *Ormiscoodes amphimone* (F.) (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) caused by natural enemies in northwestern Patagonia, Argentina. *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural* 85: 113-122.
 23. Schoennagel, T., T.T. Veblen, J.F. Negron, J. M. Smith. 2012. Effects of mountain pine beetle on fuels and expected fire behavior in lodgepole pine forests, Colorado, USA. *PLoS ONE* 7:1-14.
 24. Smith, J.M., S.J. Hart, T.B. Chapman, T.T. Veblen, and T. Schoennagel. 2012. Dendroecological reconstruction of 1980s mountain pine beetle outbreak in lodgepole pine forests in northwestern Colorado. *Ecoscience* 19:113-126.
 25. Veblen, T.T., W.H. Romme, C. Regan. 2012. Regional Application of Historical Ecology at Ecologically Defined Scales: Forest Ecosystems in the Colorado Front Range. Chapter 10 in: J. A. Wiens, G.D. Hayward, H. D. Safford and Catherine Giffen (eds). *Historical Environmental Variation in Conservation and Natural Resource Management*. Pages 149-165. Wiley-Blackwell. DOI: 10.1002/9781118329726.ch10

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News

Treasurer's Update

-- Taly Drezner (Secretary-Treasurer)



Hello biogeographers! If you've ever wondered where your specialty group dues go or interested in the current state of our budget, keep reading! Our specialty group balance as of October 31 is \$2341.10.

Amazingly, last year at this time we were within \$2 of this figure. Our budget goes through an annual cycle (minimum soon after AAG when awards are disbursed, and then we slowly creep up again over the year from dues, with the greatest influx coming around October-November when abstracts are due and people renew their memberships).

After the 2012 meeting, we gave out \$1700 in awards (PhD (\$1000) and MA (\$500) grants, and MA/undergraduate and Ph.D. paper competitions at \$100 each). We also provided \$500 to our graduate student representative for travel support, and paid out about \$68 in miscellaneous expenses. If you have any questions about our budget or anything else I may be able to help with, feel free to email me at drezner@yorku.ca.

News

Whalen Dillon (Geography PhD student at UNC Charlotte) won the John Fraser Hart PhD Paper Competition at the 2012 annual SEDAAG conference. Whalen's written paper and presentation was entitled 'Range-wide risks to a foundation tree species from disturbance interactions'. This is the fourth year in a row that UNC Charlotte has won this prestigious \$1000 award in honor of excellent student scholarship at the doctoral level.

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Research Notes

Ecoregional Planting Guides Help Pollinators

A new series of ecoregional planting guides has been created to help farmers, land managers, gardeners and others select plant to increase the number of pollinators in their area. It is estimated that animal pollinators are needed for reproduction of 80% of flowering plants and one-third of human food crops. Each of us depends on these industrious pollinators to provide us with a wide range of foods we eat. In addition, pollinators are part of the intricate web that supports the biological diversity in natural ecosystems that help sustain our quality of life.

Unfortunately, pollinators are declining. They are threatened by habitat loss, disease, and the excessive and inappropriate use of pesticides. A number of pollinator species are at risk.

This series was created by the Pollinator Partnership, to which the U.S. Forest Service is affiliated, along with several other federal agencies. They have an Ecoregion Locator using your zip code. These 27 guides are tailored to specific ecoregion provinces in the U.S., as defined by the Forest Service, and are available for downloading, free of charge, at <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>.

Robert G. Bailey
Ecoregions, Ecosystem Geography, and Sustainability
Rocky Mountain Research Station
USDA Forest Service

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Notes

1. Back issues of *The Biogeographer* in pdf format are posted on the BSG website (www.biogeographer.org).
2. Please consider adding the **BSG domain** to your favorite links and promote it on your homepage (www.biogeographer.org)
3. If you're interested in being on the BSG student list-serv, please e-mail the list moderator, Chad Lane, at chad.lane@lawrence.edu.
4. John Kupfer is presently managing the BSG website, www.biogeographer.org. If you have links (or other materials), send up to 2-3 pages to John, including syllabi for biogeography courses. If there is anything for any of these areas, contact John at KUPFER@mailbox.sc.edu
5. Communications among BSG members is usually by email through the AAG's discussion forum. Current instructions to access and post messages on the BSG forum: Login to the AAG website (www.aag.org)
Select Memberships
Select Specialty Groups
Scroll down to Biogeography and click on "learn more"
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Submission Guidelines

--- Joy Nystrom Mast, Editor, *The Biogeographer*



Greetings! I am wrapping my 5-year service as the editor of *The Biogeographer* with this volume submitted as my 10th and final issue.

The Biogeographer underwent a wonderful transition from hardcopies mailed to members to PDFs posted on our website, which has saved the BSG money, allowed for easy archiving of issues, and expanded our ability to add colored images and linked materials.

Best wishes to all for continued success as biogeographers. As editor, I've enjoyed helping with the mission of the Biogeography Specialty Group: *"to promote interactions between biogeographers, stimulate active research and teaching development in biogeography, and facilitate the exchange of ideas."*

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