

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

Newsletter of the Biogeography Specialty Group of
the Association of American Geographers

Volume 15, No. 2: Fall 2015

www.biogeographer.org

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Notes from the Chair

Jake Bendix, BSG Chair, 2015–17



Like most biogeographers, I start a new project by going over the relevant literature. In this case, I've been reviewing past issues of this newsletter. My collection is almost complete, as I have paper copies from No. 3 (September 1982) to No. 56 (Spring/Summer 1998), and there are issues online commencing with Electronic Version Volume 1 No. 1 (Fall 2000) at the BSG website (www.biogeographer.org).

My first question was a taxonomic one: how is it that I have become President of the BSG, when all other AAG specialty groups have Chairs? No reason is apparent in our records. The initial BSG bylaws specify that a "Chairperson" is to be elected in odd [-numbered] years, and from 1983 through 2000, our newsletters featured messages from the Chair. The transition

seems to have occurred in 2000. In our minutes from the April 2000 business meeting, Glen MacDonald is referred to as the Chair, but in the Fall Newsletter, his remarks are headlined "President's Column." And in 2001, the BSG ballot featured candidates for BSG President, rather than Chair. There is no record in any of our business meeting minutes of this change, which was apparently spontaneous. Being something of a traditionalist myself, I suggest that we revert to the previous terminology, and hope that these comments will appear in the newsletter as "Notes from the Chair," as was the case for many years in the past.

Perusal of past newsletters yields far more than information about nomenclature, however. The newsletters provide a record of how much has changed in the lifetime of our specialty group. Minutes from the 1982 Business Meeting (in issue No. 3) include the treasurer's report that we had income totaling only \$66.00, but that there had been no expenses to offset that amount (Our current indefatigable treasurer, Taly Drezner may well envy those simpler times). It was in the ensuing discussion that the specialty group first decided to charge membership dues, which were set at \$3.00. At that same meeting, Tom Veblen announced results of the BSG elections, in which 48 members had voted (our membership 33 years later is 422). Since the topic of membership dues seems to come up at our Business Meetings almost every year, I'll note that for years the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter constituted the entirety of the BSG's expenses. The first additional cost arose at the 1986 meeting, with a vote to institute a best student paper award, with a cash prize. In 1991, we added competitive student research grants, and dues were increased to cover the associated costs. With the transition to electronic newsletter, we have shed the expense of mailing, and the student research grants now constitute (quite appropriately, I think) the bulk of our expenses.

Those interested in technology may be interested that the September 1992 newsletter included an entry from Henri Grissino-Mayer noting that he and Sally Horn had established a BSG listserv. Those being the dawning days of dial-up internet awareness for many of us, Henri helpfully included an explanation of what a listserv actually was. (Early days or not, many of us recall how much simpler that listserv was to use than the current AAG Knowledge Community system!).

There is of course much more in these newsletters, including much detail about what different biogeographers at different programs were working on. I could go on, but much of this content is available for your own perusal at www.biogeographer.org. I recommend it – not as an exercise in nostalgia, but because these records illustrate for us how we have evolved as a group over time. For younger biogeographers in particular, it may help to contextualize your advisors (and other scholars whose work you've read) as people, rather than just as authors listed in reference lists. For me, this reading has served to remind me of how impressive my predecessors in this position (including Lynn Resler, our exemplary leader for the past two years) have been, and to inspire me regarding the trajectory of the biogeographic scholarship that we all continue today.

--Jake Bendix

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Graduate Student Representative Column

Christopher Kaase, BSG Graduate Student Representative 2015–16



Hello Biogeographers!

My name is Christopher Kaase and I am excited to be serving as your graduate student representative for the Biogeography Specialty Group during 2015-2016. I am from the mountains of western North Carolina and my research centers on rivers, riparian systems, and the ecosystem services that they provide. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina, where I am examining the reciprocal influences between bottomland hardwood forests and floodplain sedimentation in the Congaree National Park, SC. I would like to thank Amanda Young for her service to the Biogeography Specialty Group as graduate student representative during 2014–2015! A responsibility of this position is to organize a panel for

the annual AAG meeting that is directed towards student interests. For the upcoming meeting in San Francisco, I have put together a session titled, *How to Become a Biogeographer: Advice from an Early-Career Panel*. This session will draw upon the experiences of biogeographers who are in early stages of their careers and, thus, can provide fresh perspective on making career choices and professional development. Panelists currently include Aquila Flower (Western Washington University), Kimberly Meitzen (Texas State University), Melanie Stine (Sweet Briar College), and Arvind Bhuta (U.S. Forest Service). If you are attending the 2016 AAG, please join us and contribute to the discussion – no matter what career stage you are in!

Sincerely,
Christopher Kaase
BSG Graduate Student Representative
kaase@email.sc.edu

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BSG Board Elections

Joy Fritschle, BSG Board Member 2014–16 and Elections Organizer



Call for Nominations: 2016 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 Carissa Brown and Joy Fritschle. Additionally, the student representative position on the board, currently held by Chris Kaase, is also open for nominations. Service as board members is for two years, and the student representative serves for one year. Please send nominations for any of these three positions to Joy Fritschle at jfritschle@wcupa.edu no later than 31 January 2016. Also, please specify the position of interest for each nomination.

Voting will take place between Monday, 8 February and Monday, 7 March 2016. Election results will be announced at our annual BSG specialty group board meeting in San Francisco.

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Awards and Competitions

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

Matt Bekker, BSG Board Member 2015–17 and Awards Organizer



The James J. Parsons Award, named in honor of long-time University of California-Berkeley professor James J. Parsons, was created in 1998 to recognize outstanding lifetime achievements in the field of biogeography. Criteria used to assess a candidate's merit for this award include a distinguished research career, remarkable dedication to the development of undergraduate and graduate students in biogeography, and outstanding service to the discipline. Application packets for the Parsons Award should include 1) a formal nomination letter and 2) at least two supporting letters. Parsons Award nominations should be submitted as a single packet.

The Henry Cowles Award was established in 1998 to honor Henry Cowles, who published the first paper to appear in the *Annals of the Association of American*

Geographers: “The causes of vegetation cycles” (1911). The award recognizes the best biogeographical paper or book of the year. Applications for the Cowles Award should include the name of the person(s) you are nominating along with the citation for the paper or book that was published in 2015.

Applications can be submitted via postal or electronic mail to:

Matt Bekker
Department of Geography
690 SWKT
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
Email: matthew_bekker@byu.edu
Phone: (801) 422-1961

Please consider nominating deserving colleagues for these awards. For a list of previous award winners, please see the BSG Website (www.biogeographer.org).

Student Paper Awards

Carissa Brown, BSG Board Member 2014–16 and Student Paper Awards Coordinator



I am pleased to announce the 2016 Student Paper Competition to be held at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The AAG Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their research and network with others in their field. The Student Paper Competition allows our specialty group to recognize the achievements of early-career biogeographers. I highly encourage undergraduate and graduate students who are presenting their research at AAG 2016 to enter the BSG Paper Competition, and for advisors to encourage their students to participate. The BSG has two award categories:

1. Best Undergraduate or Master’s Student Paper
2. Best PhD Student Paper.

Eligibility: The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are sole or primary author *and* presenter of the paper. Individuals who received their Ph.D. less than one year prior to the meeting are also eligible. Illustrated poster presentations are not eligible for this competition

If you are presenting a paper at AAG 2016 in San Francisco and would like to participate in the competition, please email me (contact info below) with the following information: (1) a copy of your abstract submission from the AAG, (2) your PIN for the AAG 2016 meeting, and (3) a completed application form, available upon request or from the Biogeography Specialty Group webpage under the Student Paper Competition link (www.biogeographer.org).

The deadline for submission is **15 February 2016**.

****Call for Judges!****

I am looking for judges to evaluate the student paper competition. It is a great way to familiarize yourself with up-and-coming biogeographers, give valuable feedback on their research, and provide a service to the BSG. If you are able to serve as a judge for either competition, please contact me.

Dr. Carissa Brown
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
carissa.brown@mun.ca

Student Research Grant Competition

Melanie Stine, BSG Board Member 2015–17 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 emailed by **15 February 2016** to Dr. Melanie Stine at the email address below. Please see the following pages for instructions and a cover sheet template.

For more information, please contact:

Melanie Stine
mstine@sbcc.edu

Graduate Student Research Grant Application Instructions

Name all application files with your last name first. Each applicant should submit a proposal according to the following format:

1. **Cover sheet**—Please complete and submit the application form on the next page. The form must be signed by the student's advisor (or provide advisor's e-mail address if application is submitted electronically) to certify that the information is correct. You should type the information directly into the cover sheet, and then simply append the following items to the end of this document.
2. **Project description**—This section should contain a clear description of the research objectives, the expected significance, and the research methods. The text should not exceed two single-spaced pages. Cite only the most relevant publications.
3. **List of cited references.**
4. **Itemized budget**—Note: No salaries or indirect costs are allowed, only direct costs such as travel expenses and essential field supplies. The awards are usually \$1000 for doctoral work and \$500 for master's work.
5. **Budget justification.**
6. **One-page abbreviated curriculum vitae**—Note: In the CV, please *briefly* list past and current funding (both the agency and the dollar amount) that has supported this proposed research. Awards given by the BSG are partially based on demonstration of *need* for BSG funding. Failure to disclose your past and current funding (including funding that may have arrived during this competition) for this research could result in disqualification from this competition.

Proposals must be submitted electronically. Please e-mail the application in any acceptable format (Word or PDF) to mstine@sbc.edu by 15 February 2016. Please name all files beginning with your last name (i.e., Stine_CV.docx).

Cover Sheet

Date:	
Name of Applicant:	
Department:	
University:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	
The proposed study is for:	<input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree
Anticipated date of graduation:	
Title of project:	
Amount requested:	
I am a student member of both the AAG and BSG:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Electronic Signature of Applicant: (please type)	
Proof of student eligibility: I certify that the applicant is currently a graduate student under my supervision and that the proposed project is part of her/his thesis research.	
Name of Advisor:	Advisor's Electronic Signature: (please type)
E-mail address so that we may confirm your signature on this proposal:	

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Recent Publications

Articles:

1. Álvarez, C., T. T. Veblen, D. Christie and Á. González-Reyes. 2015. Influence of climate variability on radial growth of *Nothofagus pumilio* near altitudinal treeline in the Andes of northern Patagonia, Chile. *Forest Ecology and Management* 342: 112–121.
2. Andrus, R.A., T.T. Veblen, B.J. Harvey, and S.J. Hart. 2015. Fire severity unaffected by spruce beetle outbreak in spruce-fir forests in southwestern Colorado. *Ecological Applications*, online <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/15-1121.1>.
3. Ballesteros-Canovas, J.A., D.R. Butler, and M. Stoffel, 2015. R. S. Sigafos's 1961 and 1964 papers on botanical evidence of paleofloods. *Progress in Physical Geography* 39(3): 405–411.
4. Blackhall, M., E. Raffaele, and T.T. Veblen. 2015. Efectos combinados del fuego y el ganado en matorrales y bosques del noroeste patagónico. *Ecología Austral* 25: 1–10.
5. Butler, D.R., and C.J. Whitesides (guest eds.). 2015. Biopedoturbation and zoogeomorphology. Special Issue of *Physical Geography* 36(3): 177–253.
6. Cavin, R.M. and D.R. Butler. 2015. Patterns and Trends in the Fields of Bioturbation, Faunalturbation, and Zoogeomorphology *Physical Geography* 36(3): 178–187.
7. Conlisk, E., A. D. Syphard, J. Franklin, and H. M. Regan. 2015. Predicting the impact of fire on a vulnerable multi-species community using a dynamic vegetation model. *Ecological Modelling* 301: 27–39.
8. DeRose, R.J., M.F. Bekker, E.B. Allen, T. Bardsley, B.M. Buckley, R.K. Kjelgren, T. Rittenour, and S.-Y. Wang. 2015. A millennium-length reconstruction of Bear River stream flow. *Journal of Hydrology* 529: 524–534.
9. Franklin, J., E. Freid, J. Ripplinger, and D. W. Steadman. 2015. Geographical variation in northern Bahamian forest composition. *Plant Ecology* 216: 873–886.
10. Gartner, M.H., T.T. Veblen, S. Leyk, and C.A. Wessman. 2015. Detection of mountain pine beetle-killed ponderosa pine in a heterogeneous landscape using high-resolution aerial imagery. *International Journal of Remote Sensing* DOI: 10.1080/01431161.2015.1095369.
11. Hanson, C.T., R.L. Sherriff, R.L. Hutto, D.A. DellaSala, T.T. Veblen, and W.L. Baker. 2015. Setting the stage for mixed- and high-severity fires. Pages 3–22 in: D.A. DellaSala and C.T. Hanson (eds.). *The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature's Phoenix*. Elsevier, New York.
12. Hart, S.J., T. Schoennagel, T.T. Veblen, and T.B. Chapman. 2015. Area burned in the western United States is unaffected by recent mountain pine beetle outbreaks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, online www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1424037112
13. Hart, S.J. and T.T. Veblen. 2015. Detection of spruce beetle-induced tree mortality using high- and medium-resolution remotely sensed imagery. *Remote Sensing of the Environment* 168: 134–145. DOI: 10.1016/j.rse.2015.06.015.
14. Hart, S.J., T.T. Veblen, N. Mietkiewicz, and D. Kulakowski. 2015. Negative feedbacks on bark beetle outbreaks: widespread and severe spruce beetle infestation restricts subsequent infestation. *PloS ONE* 10(5): e0127975. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0127975.

15. Kim, D., T. J. DeWitt, C. S. B. Costa, J. A. Kupfer, R. W. McEwan, and J. A. Stallins. 2015. Beyond bivariate correlations: three-block partial least squares illustrated with vegetation, soil, and topography. *Ecosphere* 6: article 135. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES15-0074.1>.
16. Kim, D. and Y.H. Shin. 2016. Spatial autocorrelation potentially indicates the degree of changes in the predictive power of environmental factors for plant diversity. *Ecological Indicators* 60: 1130–1141.
17. Kulakowski, D. and T. T. Veblen. 2015. Bark beetles and high-severity fires in Rocky Mountain subalpine forests. Pages 149–168 in: D. DellaSala and C.T. Hanson (eds.). *The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature's Phoenix*. Elsevier, New York.
18. Naficy, C. E., T.T. Veblen, and P.F. Hessburg. 2015. Spatially explicit quantification of heterogeneous fire effects over long time series: patterns from two forest types in the northern U.S. Rockies. In: Keane, R.E., M. Jolly, R. Parsons, and K. Riley (eds.) *Proceedings of the Large Wildland Fires: Social, Political, and Ecological Effects Conference*. Held May 2014, Missoula, MT. USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Proceedings RMRS-P-73, pp. 167–171, www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/publications.
19. Naficy, C.E., E.G. Keeling, P. Landres, P.F. Hessburg, A. Sala, and T.T. Veblen. 2015. A framework for testing assumptions about ecological intervention in wilderness using a case study of fire ecology in the Rocky Mountains. *Journal of Forestry*, online <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.15-010>.
20. Ren, G., S.S. Young, L. Wang, W. Wang, Y. Long, R. Wu, J. Li, J. Zhu, and D.W. Yu. 2015. Effectiveness of China's national forest protection program and nature reserves. *Conservation Biology*. doi:10.1111/cobi.12561. Online <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12561/full>
21. Rother, M.T., T.T. Veblen, and L.G. Furman. 2015. A field experiment informs expected patterns of conifer regeneration after disturbance under changing climate conditions. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 45: 1607–1616. Online dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2015-0033.
22. Serra-Diaz, J. M., R. M. Scheller, A. D. Syphard, and J. Franklin. 2015. Disturbance and climate microrefugia mediate tree range shifts during climate change. *Landscape Ecology* 30: 1039–1053.
23. Smith, J. M., J. Paritsis, T. T. Veblen, and T. B. Chapman. 2015. Permanent forest plots show accelerating tree mortality in subalpine forests of the Colorado Front Range from 1982 to 2013. *Forest Ecology and Management* 341: 8–17.
24. Steadman, D. W., and J. Franklin. 2015. Changes in an insular bird community since the late Pleistocene. *Journal of Biogeography* 42: 426–438.
25. Stine, M.B. and D.R. Butler. 2015. Effects of fire on geomorphic factors and seedling site conditions within the alpine treeline ecotone, Glacier National Park, MT. *Catena* 132: 37–44.
26. Taylor, Z.P., S.P. Horn, and D.B. Finkelstein. 2015. Assessing intra-basin spatial variability in geochemical and isotopic signatures in the sediments of a small Neotropical lake. *Journal of Paleolimnology* 54(4): 395–411.
27. Temperli, C., T.T. Veblen, S.J. Hart, D. Kulakowski, and A.J. Tepley. 2015. Interactions among spruce beetle disturbance, climate change and forest dynamics captured by a forest landscape model. *Ecosphere* 6: article 231: 1–20.

28. Tepley, A.J. and T.T. Veblen. 2015. Spatiotemporal fire dynamics in mixed-conifer and aspen forests in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, USA. *Ecological Monographs* 85(4): 583–603. Doi/pdf/10.1890/14-1496.1
29. Tsikalas, S.G. and D.R. Butler. 2015. Zoogeomorphic impacts of mud-nesting swallows in Central Texas. *Physical Geography* 36(3): 239–253.
30. Whitesides, C.J. and D.R. Butler. 2015. Biopedoturbation and zoogeomorphology: an introduction to the special issue. *Physical Geography* 36(3): 177.
31. Whitlock, C., D.B. McWethy, A.J. Tepley, T.T. Veblen, A. Holz, M.S. McGlone, G.L.W. Perry, J.M. Wilmshurst, and S.W. Wood. 2015. Past and present vulnerability of closed-canopy temperate forests to altered fire regimes. *BioScience* 65: 151–163. DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biu194.

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News

Macro or Micro

An art exhibition
challenging our perceptions of scale

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Artists / Scientists:

[Stephen S. Young](#)
and
[Paul Kelly](#)
from
[Salem State University](#)
created May, 2012
updated June, 2015



“Macro or Micro?” is an interdisciplinary exhibition that uses satellite and electron microscopic imagery to explore the concept of scale in scientific inquiry. Created by Stephen Young and Paul Kelly of Salem State University, the exhibition is traveling worldwide this year:

Kroon Hall Gallery, Yale University. October to December, 2015
 Tehran University, Department of Geography. November 22, 2015
 Sazmanab Center for Contemporary Art, Tehran, Iran. August 16 and 17, 2015
 Museum of Science, Boston, Massachusetts. June to December, 2015

You can read more about the exhibition online at: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/macro-or-micro-test-your-sense-of-scale-2208824/?no-ist>

and:

<http://dgl.salemstate.edu/geography/profs/young/ART/Macro-Micro/MM-index.htm>

2016 Annual Meeting of the AAG, San Francisco, California

Registration is now open for our next annual meeting and our first as the American Association of Geographers. The meeting, March 29 to April 2, will have its headquarters at the Hilton San Francisco-Union Square. Please see the AAG Annual Meeting webpage for further information and updates (<http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>)

Notes

1. Back issues of *The Biogeographer* 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, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. (www.biogeographer.org).
3. The BSG Facebook page is managed by Arvind Bhuta and is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/141655989204924/>
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. You can contact John at kupfer@mailbox.sc.edu
5. Communications among BSG members is usually by email through the AAG's discussion forum. For instructions to access and post messages on the BSG forum, login to the AAG website (www.aag.org), then:

Select Memberships
Select Specialty Groups
Scroll down to Biogeography and click on “learn more”

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Submission Guidelines

Chris Underwood, Editor, *The Biogeographer*



Submissions to *The Biogeographer* should be sent directly to the editor (underwoodc@uwplatt.edu) as email attachments in Word format. Please spell-check and proofread your submissions carefully. Submissions should be concise and written in a style consistent with the rest of the newsletter.

Notes and News Items

Notes are intended to convey topical information of interest to the BSG community. *Notes* topics may include: (1) **Research Notes** – new projects and progress reports or general research-related ideas and issues; (2) **Field Notes** – recent field work or field trips or retellings of classic tales from the field; (3) **Course Notes** – news, announcements, or articles related to teaching biogeography or pedagogical issues affecting the discipline; (4)

Book Notes – book reviews or announcements; and/or (5) **Miscellaneous Notes** – anything that doesn't fit in any of the other categories.

News items can be personal, departmental, institutional, or any other biogeography-related happenings that have occurred since the last edition of *The Biogeographer*. These can be self-authored items or press releases.

Recent Publications

Only publications that have actually appeared in print or online will be listed; please do not submit in-press items until you have page numbers or a permanent URL.

Kind regards,

Chris

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