

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

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of the Association of American Geographers

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BSG Executive Board

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Ross Meentemeyer, University of North Carolina – Charlotte;

Lynn Resler, Virginia Tech University;

Clayton Whitesides, Student Representative, Texas State University-San Marcos;

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President's Column

-- David Cairns, BSG President, 2011-13



Recently, at the AAG Annual meeting in New York, the BSG sponsored a panel on “Networking and professionalization opportunities for early career biogeographers”. The panel included faculty (Joy Mast, Leslie Rigg, John Kupfer, Grant Elliott, and me), a post-doc (Stockton Maxwell), and two graduate students (Adam Naito and Clayton Whitesides). We met very early one morning and the attendance at the panel was good. Each participant on the panel provided some initial thoughts about the kinds of experiences that are available for biogeographers to increase their engagement with both Geography in general and biogeography specifically. There are many opportunities available to early career biogeographers for them to

become involved in both geography specific activities and with other societies (e.g. the International Biogeography Society) that are closely aligned to the kind of research that we do within the BSG.

One theme that emerged from the panel discussion was that over the past decade it has become more difficult to become fully engaged in the BSG. This is not because we are not an open and inviting group, but rather because the AAG meeting has become so large. As the meeting has become larger, the number of sessions has increased pushing specialty group business meetings into times that are either late at night or at lunch. Also, the number of specialty groups has increased. Ten years ago I used to make a point of attending the Biogeography and Geomorphology specialty group business meetings and rarely had scheduling problems. Now there are many other meetings that I would like to attend (Mountain Geography, Animal Geography, Climate, Cryosphere, and Paleoenvironmental Change) and there simply isn't enough time to be everywhere that I want to be. Also, as the number of papers in biogeography has increased and the number of sessions has expanded, the sessions have also become more specialized. The result of all of these things is that there are relatively few opportunities for biogeographers to gather together as a group. We are all pulled in multiple directions that don't allow for the same building of community that we used to occur rather easily. This has resulted in many of the early career scholars not having the easy opportunities to meet more senior scholars in a relatively relaxed environment.

The panel at the New York AAG meeting addressed this issue by generally agreeing that there should be some kind of mentoring activity that would be relatively informal but that some of the more senior biogeographers should spear-head to try to bring together senior and junior scholars at the next AAG meeting in Los Angeles. We discussed various methods for doing this and we will continue to explore them over the summer. Possibilities included options from having specific mentoring sessions using a model employed by the International Association of Landscape Ecology where early career scientists write proposals to be included in the mentoring activities and are then partnered with appropriate senior scholars to more simply trying to arrange specific mentoring sessions on the AAG program and making an effort to get particular groups of people together at the same time within the structure of the AAG schedule.

I don't yet know how we will address this issue of enhancing the mentoring, networking and professionalization of our early career scientists. I do know that there are many people who want to see us foster a strong group of young biogeographers and that we will devote significant effort to making sure that we continue to produce excellent scientists and to identify a broad range of activities that will further individual careers and biogeography in general.

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Graduate Student Representative Column

-- Clayton Whitesides, BSG Graduate Student Representative 2011-12



Hello! I enjoyed meeting many of you, and reconnecting with others, at the annual meeting in New York. I organized a panel session at the 2012 annual meeting titled, “Optimizing your Curriculum Vitae”. Panelists consisted of senior graduate students, recent graduates, and early career faculty who are actively preparing CVs in order to obtain employment, or who were successful in acquiring positions. Panelists included Arvind Bhuta from Virginia Tech, James Dietrich from the University of Oregon, Justin Hart from the University of Alabama, and Melanie Stine from Texas State University. The session was well attended by biogeography students, both undergraduate and graduate, as well as graduate students from many other specialty groups. We discussed topics ranging from what is relevant work experience appropriate for your CV, to what constitutes

service. The discussion continued for the entire allotted time and we were forced to terminate the session prior to exhausting all questions from the audience. I hope the session provided the attendees with the skills necessary to prepare a CV that helps them receive the attention they deserve.

Don’t forget that if you would like to join the BSG student listserv, or have information you would like to distribute to the students of the BSG, Chad Lane (lanec@uncw.edu) is willing to distribute the information via the BSG student listserv.

My tenure as the Biogeography Specialty Group graduate student representative is ending and I would like to welcome Melanie Stine, fellow Texas State University student, as the newly elected BSG grad student representative. Melanie is a Ph.D. candidate with research interests in mountain environments, disturbance, and biogeomorphology.

Have a wonderful summer –

Clayton Whitesides, BSG Graduate Student Representative 2011-2012

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Awards and Competitions

Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication in Biogeography



-- Lynn Resler,
BSG Board Member 2010-12 and Awards Organizer

Congratulations to the 2012 winners

The Henry Cowles Excellence in Publishing in Biogeography was awarded to:

Michael F. J. Pisaric (photo, right side), **Joshua R. Thienpont**, **Steven V. Kokelj**, **Holly Nesbitt**, **Trevor C. Lantz**, **Steven Solomon**, and **John P. Smol**, for their 2011 article:

“Impacts of a recent storm surge on an Arctic delta ecosystem examined in the context of the last millennium”, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (Volume 108, No. 22).

Abstract:

One of the most ominous predictions related to recent climatic warming is that low-lying coastal environments will be inundated by higher sea levels. The threat is especially acute in polar regions because reductions in extent and duration of sea ice cover increase the risk of storm surge occurrence. The Mackenzie Delta of northwest Canada is an ecologically significant ecosystem adapted to freshwater flooding during spring breakup. Marine storm surges during the open-water season, which move saltwater into the delta, can have major impacts on terrestrial and aquatic systems. We examined growth rings of alder shrubs (*Alnus viridis* subsp. *fruticosa*) and diatoms preserved in dated lake sediment cores to show that a recent marine storm surge in 1999 caused widespread ecological changes across a broad extent of the outer Mackenzie Delta. For example, diatom assemblages record a striking shift from freshwater to brackish species following the inundation event. What is of particular significance is that the magnitude of this recent ecological impact is unmatched over the >1,000-year history of this lake ecosystem. We infer that no biological recovery has occurred in this lake, while large areas of terrestrial vegetation remain dramatically altered over a decade later, suggesting that these systems may be on a new ecological trajectory. As climate continues to warm and sea ice declines, similar changes will likely be repeated in other coastal areas of the circumpolar Arctic. Given the magnitude of ecological changes recorded in this study, such impacts may prove to be long lasting or possibly irreversible.

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2012 BSG Board Elections

-- **Kurt Kipfmüller**, BSG Board Member 2010-12 and Elections Organizer



On behalf of the BSG Specialty Group, I am pleased to announce the newly elected members of the BSG Executive Board:

Executive Board Members (Two Year Term)

Curt Holder, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Evan Larson, University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Student Representative (One Year Term)

Melanie Stine, Texas State University-San Marcos

Please join me in welcoming our newly elected board members. Also, thanks to all who were willing run for election and volunteer their time to the BSG. There were 43 votes this year, with 3 people running for the executive board and 3 candidates for student representative. Congratulations to the new board members, and thanks to the outgoing board members for their service.

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2012 Student Presentation Awards, National AAG Meeting

-- **Ross Meentemeyer**, BSG Board Member 2011-13 and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator



Congratulations to the 2012 Student Presentation Award winners!

Sarah Haas (UNC Charlotte) won first place in the PhD student competition for her paper "Forest species diversity reduces disease risk in a generalist pathogen invasion"

Rebecca Klauk (Edinboro University) won first place in the Undergraduate/Masters student competition for her paper "Documenting vegetation differences between two sites at Howard Falls Land Trust in northwestern PA using a nested sampling method"



Ph.D. Winner: Sarah E. Haas, UNC Charlotte

Title: Forest species diversity reduces disease risk in a generalist plant pathogen invasion

Abstract:

Mounting evidence indicates that biodiversity loss can increase infectious disease transmission. Although effects of species diversity on disease risk have been reasonably well-studied in a range of host-pathogen systems, our understanding of the diversity-disease hypothesis for generalist plant pathogens in natural ecosystems is limited. We use a landscape epidemiological approach to examine two scenarios regarding diversity effects on the emerging plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* across a broad, heterogeneous ecoregion of coastal California (n=280 plots): (1) an 'amplification effect' exists in which disease risk is higher in areas with greater plant diversity due to the pathogen's wide host range, or (2) a 'dilution effect' where disease risk is reduced with increasing plant diversity due to lower competency of alternative hosts. *P. ramorum*, causal agent of the forest disease Sudden Oak Death, is a generalist pathogen that infects dozens of plant species in California and Oregon, yet varies in its ability to infect, sporulate on, and cause mortality of infected hosts. In addition to species diversity, quantified as both species richness and evenness, we also account for the potentially-confounding effects of host density and landscape heterogeneity on disease risk. We find evidence for pathogen dilution, whereby disease risk is lower in sites with higher plant diversity, after accounting for host density and landscape context. Our results suggest that although nearly all plants in the ecosystem are hosts, the alternative hosts may dilute disease transmission by competent hosts, thereby buffering forest health from infectious disease.



Master's Winner: Rebecca J. Klauk, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Title: Documenting vegetation differences between two sites at Howard Falls Land Trust in northwestern PA using a nested sampling method.

Abstract: Between June 5 to August 15, 2010, a research project was conducted at Howard Falls Land Trust in Erie County, PA, which is located at 41.96 N and 80.23 W longitude. This research inventoried and compared vegetation between two sites; the top of the gorge (the upland), and a flood terrace in the bottom of the gorge. Modified Whittaker Plot (MWP) method was used in both sites to obtain data on species richness and size distributions. The MWP is composed of one 1000m² main plot with 13 subplots of the following sizes: one 100m² plot, two 10m² plots, and ten 1m² plots. Ground cover was recorded as percent cover per species of individuals under 50-cm tall in each of ten 1m² plots. Diameters of woody species were recorded in the main plot and other subplots. Results show that the bottom of the gorge has greater species richness in ground cover that is less than 50cm in height, whereas the upland plot has greater species richness in its subcanopy and canopy layers. Though the two sites share several species, the dominant species in the ground layers and canopy layers are different. For the bottom of the gorge, *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) dominates the canopy layer and *Caulophyllum thalictroides* (Blue Cohosh) dominates the ground cover layer; for the upland, *Acer rubrum* (red maple) dominates the canopy layer and *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern) dominates the ground cover layer.

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2012 Student Research Grant Competition

--David Goldblum, BSG Board Member 2011-13 and Student Research Grant Coordinator



Congratulations to the 2012 Student Research Grant award recipients:

The winning PhD proposal is by Megan Buchanan (University of Minnesota): Drivers of the oak-maple transition across contrasting site types in southwestern Wisconsin (advisor: Kurt Kipfmuller).

The winning MS proposal is by Ellen Gass (Texas A&M University): Simulating Historic Landscape Patterns of Fire in the Southern Appalachian Mountains: Implications for Fire History and Management (advisor: Charles Lafon).

Best PhD Degree proposal: \$1000 award Megan Buchanan, University of Minnesota

Research Summary: My dissertation research will examine drivers of the oak-to-maple transition with the ultimate goal of providing landowners management plans to restore or conserve oak dominance and the ecological, commercial, and cultural services associated with eastern oak forests. Working on sites with differing fire histories in southwestern Wisconsin, I will identify the relationships between climate, fire, canopy disturbances, herbivory, and tree growth and establishment. Understanding these complex interactions will assist oak restoration efforts and help reduce uncertainty regarding the impacts of global climate change in these forests and similar forests throughout the eastern United States.



Best Master's Degree proposal: \$500 Award Ellen Gass, Texas A&M University

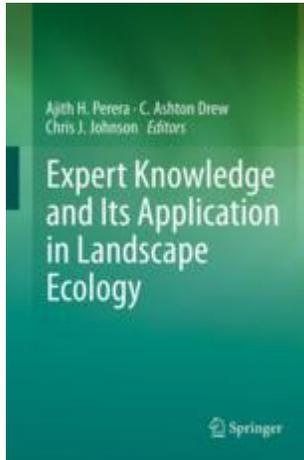
Research summary: My thesis research will address fire behavior under the more open and flammable vegetation conditions that existed in the southern Appalachian Mountains prior to fire suppression in the early 20th century. I will use the Fire Area Simulator model (FARSITE) to estimate the range of fire sizes and the ignition density required to generate the past fire frequency observed from fire-scarred trees.



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Recent Publications

Book:



Expert Knowledge and Its Application in Landscape Ecology. 2012. Editors: Ajith H. Perera, C. Ashton Drew and Chris J. Johnson. Springer Publishing, 308 pp. ISBN 978-4614-1033-1

Please click the following link to find out more about this publication:

<http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-1-4614-1033-1>

Articles:

1. Kim, D., D. M. Cairns, J. Bartholdy, and C. L. S. Morgan. 2012. Scale-dependent correspondence of floristic and edaphic gradients across salt marsh creeks. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 102:276-94.
2. Stephanie Pau, Glen M. MacDonald & Thomas W. Gillespie (2012): A Dynamic History of Climate Change and Human Impact on the Environment from Kealia Pond, Maui, Hawaiian Islands, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, DOI:10.1080/00045608.2011.652853.
3. Kipfmüller, K. F., E. R. Larson, and S. St. George. 2012. Does proxy uncertainty affect the relations inferred between the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and wildfire activity in the western United States? *Geophysical Research Letters* 39 (4):L04703.
4. Larson, E. R., and K. F. Kipfmüller. 2012. Ecological disaster or the limits of observation? Reconciling modern declines with the long-term dynamics of whitebark pine communities. *Geography Compass* 6 (4):189–214.
5. Hart, Justin L. and Megan L. Buchanan. 2012. Forest restoration: the importance of place-based ecological histories. *Forest Wisdom* 19: 6–13.
6. Buchanan, Megan L. and Justin L. Hart. 2012. Canopy disturbance history of old-growth *Quercus alba* sites in the eastern United States: examination of long-term trends and broad-scale patterns. *Forest Ecology and Management* 267: 28–39.

7. Hart, Justin L., Stacy L. Clark, Scott J. Torreano, and Megan L. Buchanan. 2012. Composition, structure, and dendroecology of an old-growth *Quercus* forest on the tablelands of the Cumberland Plateau, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* 266: 11–24.
8. Richards, Jacob D. and Justin L. Hart. 2011. Canopy gap dynamics and development patterns in secondary *Quercus* stands on the Cumberland Plateau, Alabama, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* 262: 2229–2239.
9. Hart, Justin L. and John A. Kupfer. 2011. Sapling richness and composition in canopy gaps of a southern Appalachian mixed *Quercus* forest. *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* 138: 207–219.
10. Bhuta, Arvind A.R., Justin L. Hart, and Rebecca M. Schneider. 2011. Forest development and vegetation patterns of secondary stands on the Alabama Highland Rim: an examination of the largest landholding in the region. *Natural Areas Journal* 31: 256–269.
11. Buchanan, Megan L. and Justin L. Hart. 2011. A methodological analysis of canopy disturbance reconstructions using *Quercus alba*. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 41: 1359–1367.
12. Hart, Justin L., Arvind A.R. Bhuta, and Rebecca M. Schneider. 2011. Canopy disturbance patterns in secondary hardwood stands on the Highland Rim of Alabama. *Castanea* 76: 55–63.

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News



Congratulations to **Daehyun Kim** selected as this year's recipient of J. Warren Nystrom Dissertation Award.

Title: Fluvial-Geomorphic Processes of Salt Marsh Creeks Shape Spatial Trends in Vegetation by Complicating Environmental Stress Gradients

Abstract:

Zonal patterns of salt marsh plants and physical conditions have been addressed primarily across the elevation gradient from inland to coastline, but rarely across tidal creeks in relation to their hydro-geomorphic processes. To evaluate the role of such processes in salt marsh biogeography, we investigated cross-creek trends in physical stresses and vegetation at a Danish salt

marsh. Results showed that creek meandering concentrated fine sediments on marsh interiors and relatively coarser grains on high levees near the streams. Consequently, in the poorly-drained interiors, saline water could remain after inundation to evaporate and accumulate salts, while the well-drained levees experienced reduced salinity. The occurrence of the highest salinity at these mid-elevation interiors—not at the lowest point bars with frequent waterlogging—is at odds with conventional expectations. Therefore, based on surface elevation only, it is difficult to define a single, overriding stress gradient around tidal channels. This further implies that the topographic gradient created by the creeks, when superimposed on top of the stress gradient from inland to open ocean, complicates our ideas about salt marsh structuring processes. We conclude that, by shaping major geomorphic features and providing sediments to the adjacent sites, fluvial-geomorphic processes of tidal creeks exert fundamental controls on the cross-channel distribution of abiotic and biotic factors. These results point to a need for biogeomorphic and landscape ecological perspectives to fully understand the underlying structure and geographic variability in salt marshes.

Susan Woodward, Professor Emerita of Geography in the Geospatial Science Department at Radford University, Virginia, announces the relaunching of her website “Biomes of the World”: <https://php.radford.edu/~swoodwar/biomes>

The site was originally a module of the Virtual Geography Department Project (1996-2006), a pioneering effort to help geographers create innovative learning and teaching resources on the web and was prepared for the Physical Geography Working Group of the Project. Initially designed as supplemental material for an undergraduate course in biogeography at Radford University, the site has been used by a variety of students from middle school through high school levels and by the general public. The new and improved version adds representative climographs and soil profiles for each terrestrial biome. In the next few months, more photographs and maps will be added, and pages for freshwater and marine ecosystems will be developed.

BSG Business Meeting: 2012 AAG Conference in New York City



Minutes Submitted by **Taly Drezner**,
Secretary-Treasurer

1. Welcome Remarks

David Cairns, Biogeography Specialty Group Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:08pm and welcomed the audience, and introduced the BSG board. David noted that attendance is not down at the conference this year as a whole with record attendance this year, but the BSG seems to be down a bit.

2. Board Reports

A. BSG ELECTIONS

Kurt Kipfmüller announced the BSG Board election results. The new members are, for the Executive board, Curtis Holder (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) and Evan Larson (University of Wisconsin, Platteville). The new student representative is Melanie Stine (Texas State University, San Marcos). Some suggestions came from the audience, such as to use survey monkey or other websites. David Cairns welcomed the new board members.

B. STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

David Goldblum announced the winners of the student papers, speaking in place of Ross Meentemeyer. The **2011** winners were **Tomas Vaclavik** (UNC Charlotte, Best Ph.D.) and **Eric Creeden** (Best Masters/undergraduate). This year's (2012) votes are now being processed. David Cairns noted that in past years, we had dedicated sessions for students vying for awards and perhaps we should return to that format for next year. Karen Eisenhart noted the confusion for the single undergraduate student in the competition. David Cairns noted that the way AAG schedules sessions is a bit like a black box and we aren't asked for input. There was general support in the audience for dedicated session as were in Las Vegas.

C. BSG FINANCES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Taly Drezner, BSG Treasurer discussed the specialty group's finances. Our balance as of December 31, 2011 was \$2806.99. At last year's (2011) meeting we awarded or paid:

AWARDS: 1 each	
Best paper Ph.D.	\$100
Best paper MA/BA	\$100
Ph.D. grant	\$1000
Masters grant	\$500
	TOTAL: \$1700
OTHER:	
Domain name:	\$15.87
Student rep support:	\$500
	TOTAL: \$515.87

GRAND TOTAL \$2215.87

There was no physical geography reception last year for us to contribute to, and no other receipts for reimbursement were submitted. Discussion turned to the Physical Geography party and the high price tag which has resulted in its cancellation. David Cairns noted that all specialty groups used to contribute and each year one would take the lead in organizing, but the hotels were price gouging and there was concern if the venue was too far from the conference hotel attendance may drop. Sally Horn noted that when biogeographers get together after our specialty group meeting, the loud noise at a bar is not conducive to conversation and interaction. A BSG only party may be impractical. Karen Eisenhart suggested renting a room at a restaurant. There was generally a lot of interest in the physical geography reception coming back. Sally Horn suggested the Unitarian Church allows alcohol and is much cheaper if there was willingness to travel beyond the conference hotel and immediate vicinity.

D. GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Clayton Whitesides, the student representative discussed the session that was organized on “Optimizing your CV” and noted that about 30 people attended. Clayton encouraged the effort being made to try to increase communication about jobs, post-docs and other positions of interest to graduate students, and suggested that such items should be posted where the BSG can see them. Chad Lane suggested sending to the BSG list serve.

E. PARSONS AND COWLES AWARDS

David Cairns presented the winners in place of Lynn Resler who could not attend. The Cowles award this year goes to: **Michael F. J. Pisaric, Joshua R. Thienpont, Steven V. Kokelj, Holly Nesbitt, Trevor C. Lantz, Steven Solomon, and John P. Smol** for their paper, “Impacts of a recent storm surge on an Arctic delta ecosystem examined in the context of the last millennium” that was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Mike Pisaric accepted his award graciously. No Parsons award was given out this year.

F. STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

David Goldblum encouraged continued submissions for the research grant awards. The awards are \$1000 for Ph.D.s.’ and \$500 for Masters’ students. Last year’s winners were **M.W. Habberfield** (SUNY Buffalo) for the Ph.D. award for \$1000 and **J.R. Leisen** (University of South Carolina) for the Masters award for \$500. David Goldblum noted that we are encouraging applications for this current field season and we aim to have payments processed in time for this summer’s field season. David Cairns observed that the BSG does a good job with these awards and we should all be proud of them.

3. Announcements and Discussion

David Cairns organized a panel on networking in biogeography, and there were good comments about the session. David mentioned his desire to see an extension of this in future panels, especially in an intergenerational way (e.g.

more senior as well as junior scholars). David is trying to find ways to get more senior scholars with more junior scholars together in the same room, and to try to formalize it, especially for next year, though he is still working through how to do that. David suggested identifying senior scholars as mentors and also identifying interested junior scholars. David Cairns asked the audience for any questions or comments.

Mary Ann Cunningham reminded the audience that the International Biogeography Society (IBS) is having its sixth conference in Florida next January, and brought flyers to pass out as requested by Duane Griffin who couldn't make the meeting. David Cairns reminded the audience that the IBS is currently dominated by biologists, but it doesn't have to be and we should be more involved in the meetings and organization, as some BSG members already are.

David Cairns attended the specialty group (SG) chairs meeting where a push for regional meeting attendance was discussed. It was suggested that SGs hold their own meeting or conference with or before the regional meeting, thereby combining travel and the SG meeting with the regional meeting. Such SG meetings could rotate from year to year to different regional meetings, and this would increase regional meeting attendance. David pointed out that this is a very new idea, and the AAG asked the chairs to bring up the idea to their specialty groups. It was observed that it would still amount to another meeting, the costs still add up, and it may not be feasible.

Mary Ann Cunningham asked if there were trends attendance in the regional meetings and Joy Mast noted that they are down. David Cairns said he did not know the demographics (students, faculty, junior, senior, etc.). David Cairns noted that there was a recent AAG presidential column asking if we need specialty groups. The regional associations are not affiliated with the AAG. Sally Horn observed that prices and costs have increased over the years. Karen Eisenhart said that there is great value in presenting at meetings. For undergraduates the regional meetings are less overwhelming and they are good for networking. Joy Mast noted that regional meetings outside of your own region can be a hard sell to your university for reimbursement. Some discussion ensued about CDAG regional meetings and the contrast with other regional meetings. CDAG was highlighted as an example of a good regional meeting and this is likely due to the fact that in order to present, you must submit a completed paper that must pass review to be accepted. Some discussion ensued about whether this was a good policy.

6. Adjournment

David Cairns adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm. Post meeting socializing will commence at Rosie O'Grady's.

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Research Notes



Evan Larson, Assistant Professor Geography at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, spent the 2011–12 academic year as a J. William Fulbright scholar studying the long-term effects of landscape structure on disturbance and succession across the naturally fragmented landscape of Granlandet Reserve in northern Sweden. The reserve encompasses an expansive forest-wetland mosaic just north of the Arctic Circle, and contains over 1,000 glacial deposits that rise above the surrounding mire and provide suitable grounds for forests. This essentially creates a fragmented landscape composed of forest islands of various size and isolation. Evan’s host, Professor Bengt Gunnar Jonsson of Mid Sweden University, had previously documented patterns in biodiversity across the landscape. Evan, with the very capable assistance of Julia Rauchfuss and Joel Ljunggren of Mid Sweden University, spent the month of August and part of September traversing the mire to collect forest age, structure, and composition data from throughout the study area, with the remainder of the Swedish winter spent in the woodshop and laboratory at the gorgeous Mid Sweden University campus in Sundsvall processing and analyzing the results of this work. Preliminary results are tantalizing – the log-transformed area of the forest isolates alone explains nearly 50% of the variance in species importance values for björk (birch) and gran (spruce) and co-varies with a suite of associated structural variables. More results from this work are forthcoming!



While in Sweden Evan was also working with his colleagues in Wisconsin to establish the Tree-Ring, Earth, and Environmental Science Laboratory (TREES Lab), a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduate (NSF REU) site and center for undergraduate research at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. The TREES Lab currently has five full-time staff and active research programs in Quaternary geomorphology, dendroecology, and soil charcoal analysis.

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Notes

- 1. Contribute to “The Alfred Russel Wallace Page” Website:** Some years ago I solicited what I termed “commentaries” for a feature on my “Alfred Russel Wallace Page” website (<http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/index1.htm>), transcriptions of Wallace publications. Almost all of Wallace’s 1000+ published works are now to be found there (<http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/wallace/writings.htm>), and I am hoping additional parties might be interested in contributing one or more such “commentaries” to this array. These typically have been 250 to 350 words in length, and would feature your slant on why a particular Wallace article remains of interest – historically and/or currently. A good example may be found at the end of: <http://people.wku.edu/charles.smith/wallace/S184.htm>

It is not important that you may not consider yourself a “Wallace expert,” and in fact most of those who have contributed in the past are not. If you do not wish to wade through the entire list of Wallace’s publications to choose a subject writing, I can suggest a handful of articles (many quite short) that might be of most interest to you. 2013 is the one hundredth anniversary of Wallace’s death, and some dozen book projects and conferences are in preparation/planning accordingly. If you feel you might be interested in contributing to my site (and in turn to the anniversary celebration), please contact me for more details at: charles.smith@wku.edu. Thanks very much for your time and attention

--Charles H. Smith, Ph.D., FLS, Western Kentucky University
- 2. CALL FOR AUTHORS: Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia** (Edited by Robert Warren Howarth)

They are inviting academic editorial contributors to a new reference work about biomes and ecosystems to be published by Salem Press in 2013. With approximately 600 articles in 4 volumes, Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia is a comprehensive review of key biological and geographic classifications tied to the high-school and college curriculum. The reference work will cover the broad scope of biomes and ecosystems around the world, from puddles on the street to coral reefs in Australia to rain forests in Brazil to the tundra in Siberia. Each article will delve into the properties that make the subject a biome or ecosystem, and how those features work together. Especially targeted toward high-school students, this outstanding reference work is edited to make the content readily accessible as well to patrons of public, academic, and university libraries. Pedagogical elements include a Topic Finder, Chronology, Resource Guide, Glossary, Appendix, and thorough index. Presented in an A-to-Z format, Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia is richly illustrated with photos, charts, and tables, all comprising an unprecedented and unique resource produced by Golson Media for Salem Press.

They are now making new article assignments with a deadline of June 30, 2012.

Each article ranges from 600 to 3500 words and is signed by the contributor. The General Editor for the encyclopedia is Dr. Robert Warren Howarth, Cornell University, who will review all the articles for editorial content and academic consistency. If you are interested in contributing to Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia, it can be a notable publication addition to your CV/resume and broaden your publishing credits. Moreover, you can help ensure that accurate information and important points of view are credibly presented to students and library patrons. Compensation is an honorarium payment of \$25 up to 1000 words; \$35 from 1001 to 2500 words; and \$45 above 2501 words.

The style guidelines and sample article are prepared and will be sent to you in response to your inquiry. The list of available articles is below. Please select which unassigned articles may best suit your interests and expertise. Upon your response, they will confirm your assignment.

If you would like to contribute to building an outstanding reference with Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia, please contact them by the e-mail information below. Please provide a brief summary of your background in biology, ecology, and environmental topics.

Article Word Count

- Ad Dahna Desert 1200
- Atlantic Coastal Forests 950
- Atlantic Ocean, North 1500
- Atlantic Ocean, South 1500
- Baikal, Lake 1200
- Carpentaria tropical savanna 1200
- Congo River 1500
- Congolian lowland forests 1200
- Congolian swamp forests 1200
- Copper Plateau Taiga 1200
- Denakil Desert 950
- Dnieper River 1200
- Don River 1200
- Gambia River 1200
- Glacier Bay, intertidal zone 1200
- Lake Balkash 1200
- Lake Onega 950
- Lukanga Swamp 950
- Puget Sound 1500
- Pyramid Lake 1200
- Salween River 1200
- Sao Francisco River 1200
- Srebarna, Lake 950
- Strait of Juan de Fuca, intertidal zone 950
- Swan River Estuary, Australia 1200

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3. **Announcement for the 6th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society in Florida, USA.**

Kovens Convention Center, Florida International University
Miami, Florida, USA. **January 9th-13th, 2013**

Registration and abstract submission for symposia, contributed papers and posters will open in July 2012. The meeting will have:

Four successive symposia on broad foundational and cutting-edge topics and approaches in biogeography and macroecology, each with a suite of leading international scientists as well as openings for contributed papers

- Beyond Bergmann: New perspectives on the biogeography of traits
- Island Biogeography: new syntheses
- Predicting species and biodiversity in a warmer world: are we doing a good job?
- Conservation paleobiology: using knowledge of past ecosystems to inform conservation priorities

Twelve sessions of contributed papers on key topics including:

- (i) Neotropical biogeography,
- (ii) Climate change biogeography,
- (iii) Paleobiogeography,
- (iv) Phylogeography,
- (v) Marine biogeography
- (vii) Disturbance regimes and biogeography, and
- (viii) Global biogeography

Poster sessions will occur two times per day and posters will be viewable for two full days.

Schedule:

- 9th January: Workshops and fieldtrips
- 10th - 11th January: Symposia and poster sessions
- 12th January: Contributed papers
- 13th January: Post-conference field trips

A keynote lecture will be given by the Alfred Russel Wallace Award winner, recognizing a lifetime of outstanding contributions to biogeography. On the day just before and after the conference (9th and 13th January), there will be field excursions to a number of protected natural areas including Everglades National Park. In addition, on January 9th several workshops will be held. Preliminary information on the venue and lodging is available on the International Biogeography

website: <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2013/index.html>

- 4. Back issues of *The Biogeographer* in pdf format are posted on the BSG website (www.biogeographer.org).
- 5. Please consider adding the **BSG domain** to your favorite links and promote it on your homepage (www.biogeographer.org)

6. 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.
7. 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
8. 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"
[Back to the top](#)

Submission Guidelines

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



Submissions to The Biogeographer should be sent directly to the editor as email attachments in Word format. Bear in mind that your editor generally just cuts and pastes whatever she gets, so 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. News items can be personal, departmental, institutional, or simply biogeography-related stories from the press. Notes are intended to convey topical information of interest to the BSG community.

Recent Publications

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

Topics for these categories include:

- Research Notes: new projects and progress reports or general research-related ideas and issues.
- Field Notes: recent field work or field trips or retellings of classic tales from the field (embellishments welcome).
- Course Notes: news, announcements, or articles related to teaching biogeography or pedagogical issues affecting the discipline.
- Book Notes: book reviews or announcements.
- Miscellaneous Notes: anything that doesn't fit in any of the other categories.

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