

**SER**  
**SOCIETY FOR**  
**ECOLOGICAL**  
**RESTORATION**  
**International**

285 West 18th Street, Suite 1  
 Tucson, Arizona 85701 USA  
 001-520-622-5485 voice  
 001-270-626-5485 fax  
 info@ser.org | www.ser.org



A project of SER International  
[www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Interview with George Gann ..... 1-4  
 SER Bookshelf ..... 4  
 From the Executive Director ..... 5  
 Strategic Plan Unveiled ..... 6-7  
 SER Student Guilds ..... 8  
 Restoration and Climate Change ..... 9  
 Society News ..... 10-12  
 Restoration Funding ..... 13  
 Chapter Updates ..... 14-16

# SERNews

The Newsletter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International  
 Volume 21 No. 3 ISSN 1535-9859

## Meet SER's New Board Chair

**I**n August 2007, **George Gann** became the new Chair of the SER International Board of Directors. George has worn an impressive number of hats for the Society since he became the Southeastern U.S. Regional Board Representative in 1993.

He's been on the Board for 14 years in a variety of capacities, including Member-at-Large. He has chaired the Membership Committee, served as liaison to the IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management and, back in 1997, was SER Conference Chair. Questioning his own sanity at the time, he also became the Board Chair in 1997. He's been Board Vice-Chair three times (and will do it once again after his current Board Chair term ends) and is indisputably one of SER International's most committed members.

Based in Miami, Florida, George Gann runs a nonprofit environmental group that he helped to found, called **The Institute for Regional Conservation**. The group works on plant conservation and restoration primarily in south Florida, and also in the West Indies and Central America.

SERNews caught up with George, while he was wrestling alligators in the swampy Everglades of south Florida. He was happy to talk about his vision for the Society for the next two years.

**SERNews:** Congratulations on becoming the new Board Chair! Have you ever seen an actual alligator while out in the field?

**GG:** Lots and lots! I have not been bitten, but it's been close. I did witness a friend of mine stepping on one once. The alligator rolled over, and my friend jumped into a tree. There was nothing I could do but stand there and laugh!

By the way, the American alligator is a great example of the power of restoration. It was nearly wiped out in the early part of the 20th century. Through intensive protection and restoration efforts it's made an incredible comeback.

**SERNews:** What are your five best words to describe the Everglades?

**GG:** Tough, subtle, complex, beautiful, wet.

**SERNews:** On a more serious note, what are your top priorities for SER International in the next two years?

**GG:** Number one is that I'd like to see the process completed where the SER staff takes on more of the leadership role and the SER board focuses on strategic and long-



George Gann

term planning, fundraising and building financial capacity and oversight. We're well on our way to being that kind of organization, and Executive Director MK LeFevour and her staff already do much of the day-to-day work of running SER International. The Global Restoration Network (GRN) was a staff-initiated and staff-led project. While staff had some tactical and technical help from board members, it was led by, and launched by staff. That's exactly what we want to see happening again and again in

(continued on page 2)

## OFFICERS

CHAIR **George Gann** \* | Institute for Regional Conservation | 305-247-6547 | gann@regionalconservation.org

VICE CHAIR **Keith Bowers** \* | Biohabitats, Inc. | 410-554-0156 | kbowers@biohabitats.com

TREASURER **Suzanne Tuttle** \* | Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge | 817-237-6940 | susanne.tuttle@fortworthgov.org

SECRETARY **Karen Rodriguez** \* | 219-926-8206 | krod17@msn.com

## AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

**Don Eastman** \* | University of Victoria | 250-479-8382 | deastman@uvic.ca

**Jim Harris** \* | Cranfield University | +44 (0) 1234-758067 | j.a.harris@cranfield.ac.uk

**Francisco A. Comin** | Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología-CSIC | 34-9-7671-6115 | comin@ipe.csis.es

**Lucinda Jackson** | Chevron Environmental Management Co. | 925-842-3467 | lucindajackson@chevron.com

**Carolina Murcia** | Fundación EcoAndina | +57 (2) 893-0762 | carolinamurcia01@gmail.com

**Steve Whisenant** | Texas A&M University | 979-845-5500 | rangerider@mac.com

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

AFRICA **Oliver Enuoh** | African Ecological Restoration Network | 234-803-558-9919 | oliverenuoh@yahoo.com

ASIA~PACIFIC **Kingsley Dixon** | Kings Park and Botanic Garden | 61-8-9480-3637 | kingsley.dixon@bgpa.wa.gov.au

EUROPE **Katalin Török** | Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences | 36-28-360122 | kati@botanika.hu

LATIN AMERICA~CARIBBEAN **Mauricio Balensiefer** | Universidade Federal do Paraná | mauricio@sobrade.com.br

MIDWEST **Al Unwin** | Niagara College Centre for Environmental Training | 905-641-2252 | aunwin@niagarac.on.ca

NORTHEAST **Jim Thorne** | Natural Lands Trust | 610-353-5587 | jthorne@natlands.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST **Cara R. Nelson** | University of Montana | 406-243-6066 | cara.nelson@cfc.umt.edu

ROCKY MOUNTAINS~GREAT PLAINS **Vivienne Wilson** | Golder Associates Ltd. | 403-299-6444 | vwilson@golder.com

SOUTHEAST **Bobby Keeland** | USGS National Wetlands Research Center | 337-266-8663 | bob\_keeland@usgs.gov

\* Executive Committee

## SER STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Mary Kay LeFevour** \* | 520-622-5485 | mkl@ser.org

PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Sasha Alexander** | 520-622-5485 | sasha@ser.org

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR **Cynthia Taylor** | 520-622-5485 | cynthia@ser.org

(continued from page 1)

the future. There are a few areas where we still need to transition from board-run to staff-run. For example, since the beginning of time, conferences have been organized by a volunteer board member with a volunteer working group. In the near future, I'd like to see SER International have someone on the staff who is an expert on conference planning and who can do the nuts and bolts planning of not only our international conferences, but also assist chapters and affiliates to plan their meetings.

My second priority is to work with SER staff to make the Global Restoration Network (GRN) the resource that it needs to be to get the job of restoration done worldwide. For example, we're building the case studies area, and I hope in the next two years to see it increase tenfold. Imagine how helpful it will be to have 20 good case studies from all the major biomes and ecosystems on the planet! The GRN is already an excellent resource, and I intend to help make it even more robust and relevant. That's why my second top priority is to find ways to enhance the content. It will take money and time, but I think it will be worth the investment.

My third top priority is professional development. I hope to work with our past Board Chair, Keith Bowers, who has been the shepherd of the certification process (along with other SER members) to complete the development of a certification program. And one of the things we've done in the past, in response to member requests, are training programs. We need to do more. From training for volunteers to more *Primer*-based PowerPoint presentations on what ecological restoration is and what it means — we should be offering training from the theoretical to specific techniques for those who do restoration.

**SERNews:** How does SER International compare now to when you last served as chair? What has changed about the Society's work and the field of restoration in the past 8 years?

**GG:** When I was chair last time, the headline issue for the field was institution-building for the Society. We were in some turmoil as we shifted to a Parliamentary system of governance and moved to hire a full-time executive director. Also, as I remember it, I spent a lot of my time

facilitating the process of becoming more international. The 1997 conference in Fort Lauderdale was the first where we set aside \$5,000 in the budget to bring people from other continents to the meeting. While I was chair, I initiated the process of holding our first conference outside North America (in Liverpool in 2000).

In the last 8 years, largely because of the solid groundwork laid by founders and early leaders, the organization has matured and become experienced and well-connected in the environmental field worldwide. The field has exploded, and that's really great for the world, and also it's a challenge for the Society because of the widespread and grassroots nature of restoration being done all over the place. I believe it's important for the Society to continue to be a leader in the field. We don't want the field of restoration to divide into dozens of

**“The Society's role is to synthesize information and facilitate communication among all the groups working in the field.”**

areas of specialization, as has happened in other fields. River people have to talk not only to other river people, but also to the mountain people. We have to keep talking to one another across different ecosystems and specializations. The Society's role is to synthesize information and facilitate communication among all the groups working in the field.

Whereas before we had inspiration and a vision, we now have a plan and the means to carry it out.

**SERNews:** In your opinion, what are some of the challenges and strengths of being a globe-spanning organization?

**GG:** One of the biggest challenges is to navigate the waters of reaching out globally while still providing a high level of professional service to our core constituency who are largely based in North America. So it's a balance we've been aiming for, to do both. We're aware of some of the tensions and trying to do everything we can to stay very active on both fronts. MK, and to a lesser extent the board, have spent a lot of time

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

trying to anticipate our core constituents' professional needs as well as the grassroots needs of our international members. The GRN is a good example of a resource that serves both equally.

On the international environmental scene, we continue to take advantage of opportunities to increase our level of communication and relevance. Keith Bowers and I attended the World Conservation Congress in 2004, and I know it helped to get the Society's name out there.

If you think about the fact that restoration is all about ecological patterns that repeat themselves across the planet, the fact that SER International is an international organization makes absolutely perfect sense. In fact, it would be irresponsible of us not to recognize those profound and integral interconnections. Knowing this, our goal is to facilitate the sharing of information across the globe. We don't have time or resources to waste. If someone in another part of the world is doing something relevant to my work, I need to know!

**SERNews:** Do you think restoration is the answer to global climate change?

**GG:** I don't think one single intervention will be the answer to the climate crisis,

but I think ecological restoration is a necessity if we want to live in a better world. A few months ago, SER International sent out a press release stating that restoration can be one of the things that can slow down the process of climate change and help organisms move in response to climate change. We acknowledge that restoration alone can't reverse it. We do, however, need to plan for climate change when we think about restoration. For example, here in south Florida, our ability to restore the Everglades will be affected by rising sea levels. We have to consider that as we plot out the course of restoration here.

**“The capacity of ecosystems to heal themselves is inspiring, and the fact that we know how to help it happen makes me feel lucky to be in the field I'm in.”**



Florida Everglades (courtesy USGS.gov)

**SERNews:** What do you find most hopeful and encouraging about the work you do, and about the possibilities for our field as a whole?

**GG:** I love my work, and just being able to participate in the field is fantastic. I do everything from historical research to digging holes and putting plants in the ground. To actually be able to see how fast you can change ecosystems in a positive way is fundamentally awesome. You can see that we can make a significant change in what the planet

looks like and how it operates in a very short period of time. The capacity of ecosystems to heal themselves is inspiring, and the fact that we know how to help it happen makes me feel lucky to be in the field I'm in. Of course, working in one of the most difficult ecosystems to restore, I am also humble about what can and can't be achieved. Some things we just can't repair to the extent we want—at least not yet.

I am just remembering that back in 1989, at the first meeting of the Society, there were people who feared that restoration would be used to communicate the idea that we can destroy

something and then call in the restorationists to replace it. But we know that isn't true. Once we destroy something, we can never get it back to the way it was. I think our field is very honest about that, and hopefully it makes us all more mindful that we should be avoiding degradation and destruction at every turn.

**SERNews:** What are you reading these days?

**GG:** A book called *Getting Things Done*, by David Allen. It's about how to organize your life so you can get a lot of things done without stressing yourself out to the point where it's no fun.

**SERNews:** Sounds great!

**GG:** So far, so good!

**SERNews:** What was your path into the field of ecological restoration?

**GG:** I grew up in a tropical hardwood forest that my parents were restoring from an abandoned citrus grove. My first paying job was going out into the forest and pulling up exotic weed tree seedlings. I got a penny per seedling. My parents didn't know what ecological restoration was; they just had this hectare of land and they did it. This is pretty much how it

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

happens all over the world, and what I mean by “grassroots.” People observe their environment and figure things out. My parents found other people doing similar things and visited their land and talked to them and got ideas. They made mistakes and found solutions and passed on what they had learned.

**SERNews:** What is the forest like today?

**GG:** Well, unfortunately I call it the “Cuisinart Forest.” It was in great shape until it got shredded by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. We’ve been working to try to bring it back again, and 15 years later, it’s almost there.

**SERNews:** So your family experience really propelled you into your career!

**GG:** It did. I come from a family that put their resources into restoration for its own sake. So at IRC, where I work, we help landowners to get financial assistance to protect and restore their ecosystems. We have a roving crew that goes around and works on fragmented forests in the Miami area.

My dad was a tomato farmer, and one year the crop did well and my parents decided to invest their money

in one of the first native plant nurseries in Florida. Starting in junior high school, I worked in the nursery and learned all about plants and how to grow them. We brought dozens of new species onto the market. In college at the University of Colorado in Boulder, I earned a degree in Environmental Conservation and International Affairs.

**SERNews:** As if you knew that one day – twice – you would be board chair of SER International?

**GG:** It worked out that way! During college, I worked for three summers in Everglades National Park on a few restoration-related projects. After I graduated, I formed my own design/build restoration company. I did beach dune restoration, and if you watch the TV show *CSI: Miami*, when they do aerial shots of South Beach, you can see the dunes I helped to restore. After Hurricane Andrew, I helped the county set up a multimillion-dollar restoration project for the forest fragments that had been impacted by the storm, which were being invaded by exotic vines.

**SERNews:** Any mentors you want to mention?

**GG:** My best mentor has been south

Florida itself. And of course my parents were inspiring and largely responsible for where I ended up, as well as dozens of people I’ve worked with over the years.

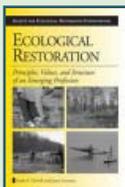
**SERNews:** George, as a representative of SER International, you have traveled all over the world, and you’re going to be doing even more in the next two years. As a taller-than-average person, how do you survive those long flights?

**GG:** I stay focused on where I’m headed. Having my knees crunched is a minor inconvenience.

**SERNews:** Last question before you go back to tending your mangroves: If you could have an hour with any world leader to talk up restoration, whom would you choose and what would you want to say to him or her?

**GG:** I don’t think there is a single person that can carry the message of restoration. I think that this is something that is happening, and has to happen, from the grassroots all around the world. So if there was something I could do, it would be to find a better way for the voices of the people working in the field to be heard in places of power. ☺

## NEW TITLES FROM THE SER-ISLAND PRESS BOOK SERIES



### **ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION** **Principles, Values and Structure** **of an Emerging Profession**

by Andre F. Clewell and James Aronson  
ISBN: 1-59726-169-6

This book offers a unified vision of ecological restoration as a holistic endeavor, one that addresses issues of ecological degradation, biodiversity loss, and sustainability science simultaneously, and draws upon cultural resources and local skills and knowledge in restoration work. In a lively, personal fashion, the authors discuss scientific and practical aspects of the field as well as the human needs and values that motivate practitioners. A unique feature of this book is the inclusion of eight “virtual field trips,” short photo essays of project sites around the world that illustrate various points made in the book and are “led” by those who were intimately involved with the project described.



### **OLD FIELDS** **Principles, Dynamics and Restoration** **of Abandoned Farmland**

by Viki A. Cramer and Richard J. Hobbs  
ISBN: 1-59726-075-4

Land abandonment is increasing as human influence on the globe intensifies and various ecological, social, and economic factors conspire to force the cessation of agriculture and other forms of land management. This book provides an up-to-date, global perspective on the causes and results of land abandonment, giving readers a broad understanding of why agricultural land is abandoned, the factors that determine the ecological recovery of old fields, and how this understanding contributes to theoretical and applied ecology.

Ask about your 10% SER Membership Discount! [www.IslandPress.org](http://www.IslandPress.org) 1-800-621-2736

# Creating Pathways for the Next Generation

By MK LeFevour

If you live in the Northern hemisphere, then chances are when September comes around you start to think about school. I haven't been a student for too many years to admit, but every September I remember the fresh notebooks, the itchy school uniform, and the heavy book bag.

As important to students as books and lectures is finding mentors who inspire, and learning about meaningful work people are doing across the planet. At its best, education lights students up with a passion to participate in helping to transform the world into a better place for all.

This fall, we are launching a new program called **SER Student Guilds**. It will be a way for the next generation of restoration professionals to become more knowledgeable and connected in the global restoration world, while staying on the cutting edge of the latest developments in the field. I am grateful to New England Chapter President Aimlee Laderman, a Yale professor, who has asked us over the years to create a better pathway into the field for students. In the past, we've tried to encourage students to join as Student Members,



and we created a Student Guild listserv, but only a handful took advantage of it.

SER Student Guilds are very different from student memberships.

We are partnering with departments, institutes and training centers, which will sponsor their own SER Student Guilds. Once a Guild is created, every single student studying ecological restoration at the sponsoring institution – graduate and undergraduate – is entitled to valuable benefits. You can read more about the guilds and what they offer on page 8.

In a few years, those who are now students will be leading our field and guiding its future. Now is the time to bring their great energy and enthusiasm and idealism into our Society, and to offer them our support and encouragement. For more information, contact Cynthia Taylor, Membership Director, at [cynthia@ser.org](mailto:cynthia@ser.org)

Another exciting and energizing development for SER International occurred last April, when our board,

staff and honored guests converged on the lovely White Oak Conservation Center in Florida for a strategic planning retreat. Amid the rhinos, giraffes and river kayaking, we were able to hammer out an ambitious five-year strategic plan. A mind map of SER's five-year objectives and goals can be found on page 7.

This retreat was a great opportunity for us to clarify SER's values and how we can integrate them into our mission and, above all, to keep reaching out to ensure that ecological restoration is recognized as an integral part of all communities' plans to meet the environmental challenges ahead. I welcome any ideas, feedback or suggestions that may spring up as you read the strategic plan – or anything else that you feel is important for us to know or act upon here at SER. My email box is always open: [mkl@ser.org](mailto:mkl@ser.org)

This five-year strategic plan was created right at the time of my five-year anniversary with SER. With a great plan in hand, I look forward to the next five years of working with all of you in restoring the earth and restoring our future. ☺

## Have You Taken Advantage of These Membership Benefits Yet?

**Member-in-the-News Profile** – Have you or your organization been interviewed? Quoted? Written about? Televised? Published? Let us know, so we can let the world know about the successes of our members! Contact us at [info@ser.org](mailto:info@ser.org) with your news, and visit [www.ser.org](http://www.ser.org) to see who is currently featured as a Member-in-the-News.

**Calendar of Events Listings** – SER chapters and members have exclusive access to post events on our online calendar. Promote your meetings, conferences, application deadlines, etc. Send calendar submissions with title, brief description, date, time, location, sponsor(s), contact name & phone number, and website to [info@ser.org](mailto:info@ser.org).

**Restoration Project Showcase** – Let the world see what you're doing to restore our future! Current members are welcome to submit their projects to our Showcase. Email us at [info@ser.org](mailto:info@ser.org) to submit a "before" photo, an "after" photo, and a project description of up to 500 words.

**GRN Expert Profiles** – SER members may post their expert profiles in the searchable GRN database at [www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org).

**GRN Organization Profiles** – SER Organizational members may post their organization profiles in the searchable database at [www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org).

# Five-Year Strategic Plan

## 2007-2011

**Our Mission:** The Society for Ecological Restoration International is a membership organization whose mission is “to promote ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and re-establishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.”

### **Our Guiding Principles/Values That Permeate All Strategic Plan Objectives:**

- We are based on sound science and recognize the essential participation of non-scientists and all stakeholders in restoration activities. We know that science is only one of many ways of gaining knowledge.
- All activities have human and social dimensions as well as environmental ones.
- Environmental constraints, limits and capacities are biophysically determined, but societies, communities and individuals make decisions about respecting or ignoring them.
- All actions take place on an international basis.
- We actively promote dialog and collaboration in all that we do – we are transparent to our members and model dialog and collaborative work in our actions as a Society.
- We take a trans-disciplinary approach.
- We are flexible in delivery systems.
- We are culturally sensitive.
- We have a message of hope and want to promote hope.
- We strengthen volunteers and are supportive and respectful of volunteers.
- We are supportive and respectful in all our dealings with people in all levels of the organization and in all parts of the world.
- We are striving to make “ecological restoration” as commonly-heard a phrase as “climate change”.
- We are agents of change.

### **Strategic Initiative 1: Legislation and Policy**

**We advocate and influence policy and legislation change globally to make ecological restoration a priority.**

Who we want to influence:

- Local chapters/affiliates/resource centers; influence at the local level
- Non-governmental organizations
- National governments
- European Union

- Global financial institutions
- United Nations, and other international organizations and bodies
- Industry

Outcomes:

- We see our influence in legislation and industry practice around the world.
- Ecological restoration is recognized by funders and decision makers as one of the principal approaches to mitigating and reversing climate change.
- We have established an advocacy program/process at all tiers.
- We will seek to address international goals regarding environmental sustainability as part of our agenda.

### **Strategic Initiative 2: Standards of Practice**

**The applied practice of ecological restoration is recognized as a professional discipline throughout the world.**

How:

- Certification and Accreditation
- Global Restoration Network (GRN)
- Conferences, Workshops
- Policy papers
- Publications – books, journals
- Recognition
- Training and capacity building

Outcomes:

- SER has a successful practitioner certification program that is desired by governments, industries, institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals.
- Feasibility of project certification is determined.
- The practice of ecological restoration is recognized as essential to sustaining human well being.

### **Strategic Initiative 3: Becoming a Global Network**

**We strengthen local communities around the world (including Chapters and Affiliates) to help develop advocacy, on-the-ground practice and partnership in a global restoration network.**

Outcomes:

- We have established a global restoration network composed of local communities

throughout the world.

- We are thoughtful and strategic about where we offer our support and partnership.
- Chapters and SER work for a common purpose on every continent.
- With our influence there is an increase in the number and scale of restoration projects globally.

### **Strategic Initiative 4: Communication**

**We will effectively disseminate information relevant to the restoration community by embracing and developing emerging technologies to remain at the cutting edge of discourse.**

Who we want to influence:

- Scientists/Researchers
- Practitioners
- Volunteers
- Policy makers/Regulators
- Industry
- Donors/Financial Institutions
- General Public

Outcomes:

- SER has Restoration Resource Centers around the world to facilitate learning and implementing restoration best practices.
- SER has a fully functioning journal of practice.
- SER generates hypotheses that are tested by researchers in the field.
- GRN and our website are major portals for exchange of information internationally.
- All SER publications, products, websites are in at least four languages.

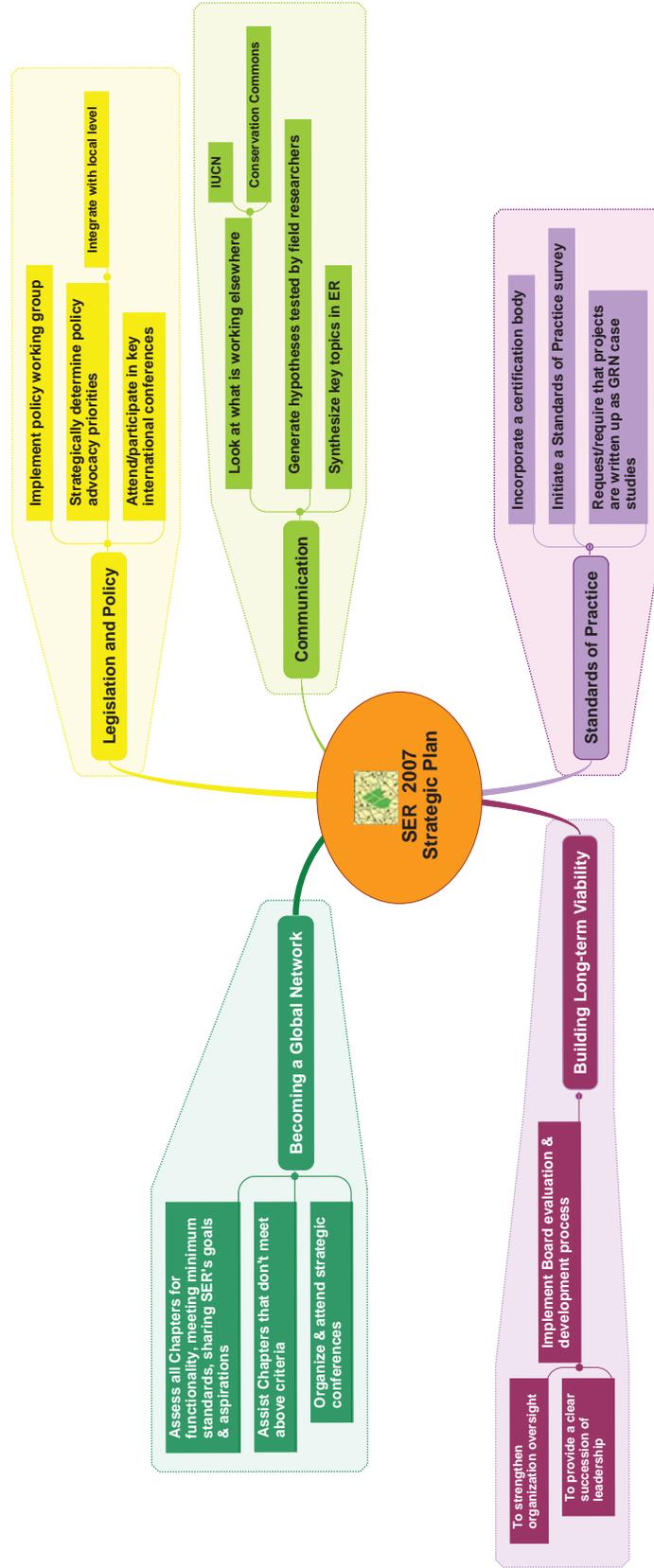
### **Strategic Initiative 5: Building Long-Term Viability**

**In order to effectively serve the field of ecological restoration, we will be an enduring, robust and resilient organization.**

Outcomes:

- The income produced by our \$25 million capital endowment sustains SER's daily operations.
- The Board evolves from day-to-day management of SER to a role of strategic oversight.
- We have a clear leadership succession plan.

# SER Strategic Plan Mind Map for 2007



# SER Student Guilds

We are introducing a new opportunity for the next generation of restoration professionals to become more knowledgeable and connected in the global restoration world, while being on the cutting edge of the latest developments in the field. Your department, institute, University or training center can sponsor a SER Student Guild and gain valuable benefits for you and your students. The cost is \$250 (U.S.) per year, and that fee covers every student – graduate and undergraduate – who is studying ecological restoration in your institution.

## Benefits

### Your SER Student Guild Receives:

- Listing on the SER International Student Guild web page
- Permission to use the SER International Student Guild name and logo
- Your own Student Guild listserv, sponsored and maintained by SER International, as well as access to the SER International Main Student Guild Listserv
- Free Speaker's Bureau services to help you find guest speakers on restoration topics
- Discounts on SER International's embroidered logo hats (\$5 each)
- Free printed copies of the world-respected *SER Primer* for distribution to students
- Unlimited volunteer postings on [www.ser.org](http://www.ser.org)
- Unlimited submissions to SER's online calendar, newsletter, website and RSS news feed

### Each Student in Your SER Student Guild Receives:

- Free subscriptions to SER International's weekly *RESTORE* e-bulletin, our monthly updates and quarterly *SER News*
- Free access to members-only listservs on dozens of restoration-related topics
- Access to SER International's online Career Center, where students can search job postings and post their resumes for free
- Discounts on Island Press's Restoration Series books and discounts on subscriptions to *Restoration Ecology* journal, *Conservation* magazine, *Ecological Restoration* journal and *Ecological Management & Restoration* journal

### The University Department/Program Sponsoring Your SER Student Guild Receives:

- 2 subscriptions to SER's weekly *RESTORE* e-bulletin, plus our monthly e-newsletters and quarterly *SER News*
- 2 print/online subscriptions to SER's quarterly academic journal, *Restoration Ecology*
- 2 votes in SER membership elections
- Access to members-only listservs on a variety of restoration-related topics
- Member discounts on Island Press Restoration Series books and subscriptions to *Conservation* magazine, *Ecological Restoration* journal and *Ecological Management & Restoration* journal
- Free Expert Profiles in the searchable database on [www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org)
- Free Organizational Profile in the searchable database on [www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org)
- Free large ad in the online Restoration Marketplace
- Member discount on job postings on SER's online Career Center
- Unlimited free internship postings on our website

## Qualifications

- The SER Student Guild agrees to support SER's mission of promoting ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and reestablishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.
- The SER Student Guild agrees to adopt, in principle, SER's foundation documents (available for download on our website), including:
  - *SER Primer on Ecological Restoration*
  - *Guidelines for Ecological Restoration*
  - *Ecological Restoration – a Means of Conserving Biodiversity and Sustaining Livelihoods*
  - *SER Environmental Policies*
- Participating students must be currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program.

**Apply for SER Student Guild status today!**  
For more information, contact Cynthia Taylor,  
Membership Director, at [cynthia@ser.org](mailto:cynthia@ser.org).

# Ecological Restoration and Global Climate Change

In August, SER International issued a position statement on global climate change during its joint conference with the Ecological Society of America (ESA), “Ecological Restoration in a Changing World,” held in San Jose, California. The position statement was endorsed by ESA’s governing board.

The position statement calls attention to the vital role played by terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in supporting humanity, and the need to protect and restore these habitats in order to mitigate global climate change and its effects.

SER’s subsequent press release about the position statement led to numerous broadcast and print news articles and blogs, including an interview on *Earth & Sky* radio program.

*Earth & Sky: A Clear Voice for Science* is a series broadcast on the radio and the web. Its sister station, Cielo y Tierra, broadcasts to American audiences in Spanish. Since 1991, *Earth & Sky* has worked with thousands of scientists to produce more than 5,000 radio spots on night sky astronomy, and on sustainability needs and strategies for the 21st century.

*Earth & Sky* spoke with microbiologist **Jim Harris**, SER Board Member and Chair of SER’s Science and Policy Working Group, at the recent San Jose conference. Harris pointed to recent efforts at Wicken Fen, a wetland nature reserve in the United Kingdom, where more than 3,000 acres are being restored.

The SER position statement also was covered in more than 20 media outlets, news services and online blogs, including Science Daily news aggregator, *Innovation Watch* newsletter, Care2 News Network, Environmental News Network, and the First Science news aggregator.

## SER POSITION STATEMENT

### Ecological Restoration: A Global Strategy for Mitigating Climate Change

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that global climate change is a real and immediate threat that requires action. Defined as “an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its functions, integrity, and sustainability,” ecological restoration is one of many tools that can help mitigate climate change.

Humanity depends upon the services provided by ecosystems. These services include products such as food and timber, regulating services such as carbon sequestration, disease control, and flood protection, and cultural benefits, such as places to recreate. As an example of a regulating service, forests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in their biomass, thereby capturing a gas that contributes to global climate change. In order to continue to obtain ecosystem services, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems need to be protected and, where possible, restored.

SER strongly urges local, regional, and national governments, international development banks and non-governmental organizations, as well as private institutions to work to maintain ecosystems and to plan, finance and coordinate ecological restoration projects and programs as part of a comprehensive global strategy for mitigating climate change and its effects.

Developed nations should actively support restoration programs throughout the world by providing financial support, sharing technology and committing expertise.

[www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/gm/climate-change-position-statement](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/gm/climate-change-position-statement)

## What You Can Do in Your Community

Use SER’s press release, position statement and background paper to bring attention to the vital role played by terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in supporting humanity, and the need to protect and restore these habitats in order to mitigate global climate change and its effects.

Contact your local media, educational institutions and civic groups to discuss the material presented in “Ecological Restoration: A Global

Strategy for Mitigating Climate Change.” Send out the press release, write a letter to the editor, or volunteer to speak about the topic in your community. If you receive a response from the media or other local groups, please let us know so we can add this information to our file on this important initiative.

This grassroots effort to spread the message of ecological restoration is vital to the public discussion about global climate change.

For more information, please visit SER’s website at [www.ser.org/pdf/ClimateChangePosition.pdf](http://www.ser.org/pdf/ClimateChangePosition.pdf). ☞

# Society News

## 2007 World Conference Held in San Jose, California

The 2007 SER International World Conference, held jointly with the Ecological Society of America, featured more than 400 sessions on ecological restoration and attracted 4,500 attendees to San Jose, California.

Incoming board chair **George Gann** of the Institute for Regional Conservation in Miami, Florida, moderated a symposium on “Key Concepts and Research Questions in Restoration Ecology.” The symposium assessed the current status of the science of the field and how best to advance it. Co-organizers included **Richard Hobbs**, editor of SER’s journal *Restoration Ecology* and a professor at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, and **Jim Harris**, Chair of SER’s Science and Policy Working Group and a professor at Cranfield University in the United Kingdom. Gann also served on a panel discussion at the closing plenary lunch to discuss general reflections on the history and future of the Society’s meetings

The SER membership booth in the exhibit hall featured live on-

line tours of the Global Restoration Network, and SER chapter members had a chance to brainstorm ideas and network at a chapter caucus meeting. The annual membership meeting featured board elections, an unveiling the board’s five-year Strategic Plan, and updates on important Society work such as certification, workings groups and more. The awards reception and banquet honored three award recipients, including Bill Halvorson, James Aronson and Edward Redente.



Edward Redente

## Congratulations to SER’s 2007 Awards Recipients!

There is no finer moment at an SER International conference than its tribute to individuals and organizations whose exemplary work led the restoration movement to higher levels of achievement and cultural prominence. The SER Board of Directors, the SER Awards Committee, led by chair **Al Unwin**, and the SER staff salute this year’s recipients.

**James Aronson**, co-founder of the Restoring Natural Capital Alliance,



Bill Halvorson and Al Unwin

was presented with the prestigious Communications Award for his work as a passionate and effective advocate of ecological restoration.

**Edward Redente**, Emeritus Professor of Restoration Ecology at the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, was presented with the prestigious Theodore M. Sperry Award. The award recognizes achievement in elements and approaches that improve restoration programs.

**Bill Halvorson** was presented with the John Rieger Award, recognizing those who have dedicated their time and skills to the advancement of ecological restoration and/or to the development of the Society. Bill has been one of SER’s most active members, practically since the founding of the organization in the mid-1980s. A botanist and plant ecologist, Bill has particular expertise in arid and semi-arid ecology and restoration of natural ecosystems. He retired from SER board service after the San Jose conference.



Al Unwin and James Aronson

# Society News

## 2007 SER Board Elections

Congratulations to the following volunteers who were elected at the 2007 annual meeting by the SER membership to serve on the SER Board of Directors!

- Africa Representative: **Oliver Enuoh**, African Ecological Restoration Network in Nigeria
- Representative-at-Large: **Jim Harris**, Chair in Environmental Technology at Cranfield University in the UK
- Southeast U.S. Representative: **Bobby Keeland**, USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, Louisiana
- Representative-at-Large: **Carolina Murcia**, Fundacion EcoAndina in Colombia
- Pacific Northwest U.S./Southwest Canada Representative: **Cara R. Nelson**, College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana at Missoula



Outgoing Chair Keith Bowers (left) and incoming Chair George Gann

- Board Secretary: **Karen Rodriguez**, based in Chicago, Illinois
- Northeast U.S./Southeast Canada Representative: **Jim Thorne**, Natural Lands Trust in Pennsylvania
- Europe Representative: **Katalin Török**, Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Board Treasurer: **Suzanne**

**Tuttle**, Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge in Texas

- Midwest U.S./Canada Representative: **Al Unwin**, Center for Environmental Training at Niagara College in Ontario

- Representative-at-Large: **Steve Whisenant**, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University

- Rocky Mountains/Great Plains U.S./Canada Representative: **Vivienne Wilson**, Golder Associates Ltd. in Calgary, Alberta

The board gives its sincere thanks to **Don Eastman** and the other volunteers on the Board Development Committee for putting together this year's election slate.

## Continuing SER Board Members

SER International also is pleased to be working with the following board members whose terms are continuing: **George Gann** (now Board Chair), **Keith Bowers** (now Board Vice Chair), **Kingsley Dixon** (Pacific/Asia Representative), **Lucinda Jackson** (Representative-at-Large), **Francisco Comin** (Representative-at-Large), and **Don Eastman** (Representative-at-Large).

## Western U.S. Board Rep Needed

SER International currently is seeking a volunteer to fill the vacant position of Western U.S. Regional Representative. This region includes the states of California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. Applicants must reside within the region.

This is a board-appointed position to serve through the end of the current one-year term, which ends in August 2008, at the time of the next annual membership meeting and board elections. For more information, please contact Don Eastman, Board Development Committee Chair, at [deastman@uvic.ca](mailto:deastman@uvic.ca).



Project Director Sasha Alexander at the SER Exhibit Booth at the World Conference in San Jose

# Society News

MEMBER-IN-THE-NEWS

## Urban Stream Restoration Project Earns Award

The engineering firm of **Loiederman Soltesz Associates Inc.** has been recognized with a Maryland National-Capital Building Industry Association Environmental Award for its urban stream restoration project on Carroll Creek in Baker Park.

The primary goal of the Frederick, Maryland, project was to incorporate innovative and ecologically sound bio-engineering practices to restore stability to stream banks experiencing erosion and to prevent new areas from becoming unstable. The creek had been degraded from excessive storm-water runoff and bank erosion from land development in the watershed. This restoration project complements an ongoing Carroll Creek revitalization effort that includes volunteers planting nearly 1,500 trees along the stream.

The challenge of enhancing the natural features in a high-use public park required close collaboration in project planning and design among Loiederman Soltesz Associates Inc., the Maryland Eastern Shore Conservation and Development Council Inc., local citizens and the City of Frederick.

## SER Primer Translated into French and Chinese

Thanks to James Aronson, one of the *Primer's* principal authors, we now have the *SER Primer on Ecological Restoration* available in French (*L'ABCDAire Sur L'ecologie de la Restauration*) at [www.ser.org/pdf/SER\\_Primer\\_in\\_French.pdf](http://www.ser.org/pdf/SER_Primer_in_French.pdf). In addition, Professor Li Junqing of the Beijing Forestry University has translated the *Primer* into Mandarin Chinese at [www.ser.org/pdf/PrimerMandarin.pdf](http://www.ser.org/pdf/PrimerMandarin.pdf).



*Baker Park Urban Stream Restoration (courtesy Loiederman Soltesz Associates)*

The *Primer* also is available in English, Spanish (*Principios de SER Internacional Sobre la Restauración Ecológica*) and Italian (*Fondamenti di Restauro Ecologico della SER*). All SER publications are available for free download at [www.ser.org/reading\\_resources.asp](http://www.ser.org/reading_resources.asp).

## Volunteer Opportunities with SER International

SER, like all nonprofits, relies heavily on volunteers to lend us their skills and expertise. With our volunteer Board of Directors and volunteer Working Groups we have put on conferences, produced a book series on the science and practice of restoration, created the *Primer* on restoration, and are now reaching out globally with new international partnerships.

Participating in a committee or working group is a good way to get to know – and become one of – the movers and shakers in the field of ecological restoration. Opportunities for involvement abound on the following

SER working groups: Awards, Board Development, Conference, Development, Communications, Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network, Membership, Publications, Science and Policy.

For information on how to get involved in any of these Working Groups, please contact us at [info@ser.org](mailto:info@ser.org) or (001) 520-622-5485.

## Subscribe to SER's RSS News Feed

Visit our homepage, <http://www.ser.org/>, and subscribe to the RSS news feed. Instead of visiting our website everyday to see what's changed and searching for the latest news, your RSS news reader will automatically download any recent news from your subscribed sites so you won't miss any important developments, or waste time surfing the web.

To download a free RSS news-reader and begin subscribing, visit [www.sharpreader.com](http://www.sharpreader.com) or [www.rssreader.com](http://www.rssreader.com).

# Restoration Funding

## New Mexico Forest Restoration Grant Proposals Due Nov. 19

The Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Public Law 106-393) established a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico to provide cost-share grants to stakeholders for forest restoration projects on public land to be designed through a collaborative process (the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program).

Projects must include a diversity of stakeholders in their design and implementation, and address specified objectives, including: wildfire threat reduction; ecosystem restoration, including non-native tree species reduction; reestablishment of historic fire regimes; reforestation; preservation of old and large trees; increased utilization of small diameter trees; and the creation of forest-related local employment.

The deadline for submitting nomination packets is November 19, 2007. For more information, applicants are encouraged to visit the CFRP website at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/cfrp). Application materials can be obtained from the CFRP website or from the USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region.

## American Rivers Restoration Grant Proposals Due Dec. 3

American Rivers seeks proposals for river restoration project grants as part of its partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program. Program funding is provided through NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, which seeks to enable environmental and economic renewal in local communities through the removal of stream barriers.

This Partnership funds stream bar-



rier removal projects that help restore riverine ecosystems, enhance public safety and community resilience, and have clear and identifiable benefits to diadromous fish populations. "Diadromous" fish migrate between freshwater and saltwater during their life cycle. Examples include alewife, American eel, American shad, blueback herring, salmon, steelhead, shortnose sturgeon and striped bass. Projects in the Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, DC), Northwest (WA, OR, ID), and California are eligible to apply.

Eligible applications will be evaluated based upon four priority criteria: (1) ecological merits of the project, (2) technical feasibility of the project, (3) benefits provided to the local community, and (4) financial clarity and strength of the application. Grants are provided for three distinct project phases: Feasibility Analysis, Engineering Design and Construction. Average grants are \$25,000 - \$50,000. Successful applicants for one project phase will not be eligible to receive additional funding for that same project phase in future grant rounds. See

the Funding Guidelines for additional details.

Potential applicants should contact American Rivers to discuss potential projects prior to submitting an application. Applicants can expect notification about funding decisions in early March 2008. Obtain the Application for Financial Assistance and Funding Guidelines on the American Rivers website [www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants](http://www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants) or contact Serena S. McClain, American Rivers, 1101 14th Street, NW Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005; email [rivergrants@americanrivers.org](mailto:rivergrants@americanrivers.org).

### More Funding Opportunities at [GlobalRestorationNetwork.org](http://GlobalRestorationNetwork.org) and in Weekly RESTORE

SER International's GRN website has a special section dedicated to funding resources available for ecological restoration efforts – for more info, visit [www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/funding](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/funding).

The weekly *RESTORE* e-bulletin, free to members, also has a restoration funding section. Info at [www.ser.org/content/restoration\\_network.asp](http://www.ser.org/content/restoration_network.asp).

# Chapter Updates

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter Prepares for January Conference in Philly

The SER Mid-Atlantic Chapter's annual conference will be held Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at Philadelphia University.

For more information, contact chapter president **Dennis Burton** at [dburton@schuylkillcenter.org](mailto:dburton@schuylkillcenter.org) or visit [www.ser.org/midatl](http://www.ser.org/midatl).

## Ontario Member Discount Available on Landscape Design Book

A new book called *Regenerative Landscape Design*, published by CRC Press, was released in October and is available to SER Ontario members at a 20% discount!

The book addresses the following topics: integrated solutions to ecological restoration, resource management, and cultural revitalization; remediation strategies with design needs for creating a sustainable community on repaired lands; how to integrate community needs from a divergent range of stakeholders into design strategies; benefits of systems-based strategies for ecological restoration and urban planning on future generations; and case studies drawn from innova-

tive restoration projects worldwide, including in-depth coverage of the unique challenges faced by the city of Venice.

For a limited time only, until June 1, 2008, the purchase price is \$111.96. To purchase the book, print the discount order form at <http://serontario.org/publica.htm> and mail with payment to the address on the order form.

## British Columbia Chapter Sells Out October Conference

The SER-BC conference held Oct. 11-13, 2007, in Cranbrook, B.C., was sold out, with an attendance of more than 180 people! Themes covered at this conference included restoration of grassland and adjacent forests, rehabilitation of mine spoils, and restoration of riparian areas. The proceedings of the conference will be posted soon on the chapter website.

For more information about the SER British Columbia Chapter, visit [www.ser.org/serbc](http://www.ser.org/serbc) or contact **Lehna Malmkvist** at [lehna@swell.ca](mailto:lehna@swell.ca).

## New England Chapter Sponsors Martha's Vineyard Field Trip

The SER New England Chapter sponsored a field trip on scenic Martha's Vineyard Island in Massachusetts on Oct. 13, 2007. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program restoration ecologist **Tim Simmons** organized the field trip to Martha's Vineyard, with the collaboration of The Trustees of Reservations, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Polly Hill Arboretum.

TTOR has been restoring scrub oak, oak savanna and heath land habitats at Long Point Wildlife Refuge for 20 years and plant and animal popula-

tions are showing a terrific response.

TTOR's Regional Ecologist, Greg Whitmore, guided participants through Long Point and Menemsha Hills, where restoration for broom crowberry habitat has begun more recently. Long renowned for the development and conservation of many horticultural varieties, Polly Hill Arboretum currently is under the direction of Tim Boland, who displayed the various efforts they are making on behalf of native flora, including the development of an on-Island herbarium in addition to habitat management, including invasive species education and control.

Submit future calendar items to communications committee chair **Sarah Watts**, [swatts@neamaine.com](mailto:swatts@neamaine.com), cc to Aimlee Laderman, [aladerman@mbl.edu](mailto:aladerman@mbl.edu), at least one month prior to the event. The preferred format for calendar submissions is: title, brief description, date, time, location, sponsor(s), contact name & phone number, and website, if available. If you would like to be removed from the SER-NE calendar mailing list, please email [swatts@neamaine.com](mailto:swatts@neamaine.com).

Don't forget to use GoodSearch.com, and put SER New England as the recipient: Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), New England Chapter (Stow, MA), ID 803731. Using GoodSearch.com raises money for our chapter!

For more information about the SER New England Chapter, visit [www.ser.org/serne](http://www.ser.org/serne) or contact **Aimlee Laderman** at [aladerman@mbl.edu](mailto:aladerman@mbl.edu).

Note: Current members of SER International are noted in **bold**.

## Regional Members Explore Re-Launch of Ohio Chapter

This proposed group is in the planning stages and is expected to apply for chapter status through the SER Board of Directors this fall.

For more information or to get involved as a volunteer, please contact **Jen Lyndall** at [jlyndall@environcorp.com](mailto:jlyndall@environcorp.com) or **Rocky Smiley** at [smiley.50@osu.edu](mailto:smiley.50@osu.edu).

---

# Chapter Updates

## Northwest Chapter Wraps Up 2007 Regional Conference

The SER Northwest Chapter just completed its 7th major regional conference in Cascadia in the last 10 years. During that decade of time, it also has held several “Design to Dirt” Workshops, a Plant Specification Workshop, and a Reed Canary Grass Symposium.

For this most recent conference, held Sept. 25-28 in Yakima, Washington, SER Northwest was joined by The Society for Wetland Scientists, the Washington Native Plant Society, Yakama Nation, Columbia Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and a host of other agencies. We offered more than 150 presentations and almost 30 posters, along with 28 exhibitors over the four days of the conference. We also conducted six workshops and seven field trips. Most importantly, we had more than 500 participants in attendance. The conference program and minutes of the general membership/board meeting are available online at [www.ser.org/sernw](http://www.ser.org/sernw).

Also at the conference, the chapter recognized several award winners, including John Lombard, Gary Smith and Frank Reckendorf.

For more information about the SER Northwest Chapter, please visit [www.ser.org/sernw](http://www.ser.org/sernw) or contact **Jake Jacobson** at [info@sernw.org](mailto:info@sernw.org).

## Northwest Chapter Honors Annual Award Recipients

**John Lombard** was honored by SER Northwest as Conservationist of the Year, for his efforts to preserve, protect, restore or enhance environments necessary for healthy ecosystems. John is the Senior Policy Analyst at Steward and Associates, an environmental consulting firm, where he advises local governments, environmen-

tal groups and attorneys on salmon conservation and regulatory compliance issues. He is currently a guest lecturer at the University of Washington, co-teaching Oceanography 260, “The Puget Sound Ecosystem,” cross-listed with the interdisciplinary Program on the Environment. He is the author of “The Keys to Success: A Landscape Approach and Making Economics Work for Conservation,” a chapter in *The Salmon 2100 Project: Alternative Futures for Pacific Salmon*, published by the American Fisheries Society in August 2006. He also wrote “The Politics of Salmon Recovery in Lake Washington,” published Fall 2002 by the University of Washington Press as a chapter in *Restoration of Puget Sound Rivers*.

**Gary Smith** was honored with the President’s Award. Gary retired as the Northwest Deputy Regional Director for NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service in 1995. He’s a marine fish biologist by formal training. After retiring he wanted to get involved in the volunteer movement supporting ecological protection and restoration. He does volunteer work on community-based restoration projects, vegetation monitoring and mentoring school children in restoration education. In 2005 Gary was moderator for the Community-Based Restoration Session at the Seattle SER-NW Conference, and then joined in as session chair for the SER-NW “Design To Dirt” Workshop (round 2) held at McCollum Park later that year. In February of this year we recruited him to serve as Technical Programs Chair. With 180 different abstracts (and presenters) to coordinate, our annual meeting owes much to his efforts these past six months!

**Frank Reckendorf** was honored with the Special Award, to the SER-NW member who has contributed time, talent and outstanding service to the chapter. Frank is a fluvial geomor-

phologist with Reckendorf and Associates in Salem, Oregon, who currently serves on the SER-NW Board. Frank has logged a conservative 400 hours of volunteer time during his board tenure. He volunteered to do an all day workshop for the 2006 joint conference with SWS-NW, and otherwise helped out at the conference for three days. He currently serves on the Plenary and Technical Session Committees for the 2007 annual meeting, and is a session chair, a presenter, and jointly with another person is leading a sold-out workshop and field trip. His focus has been and will continue to be providing a forum for low cost meetings and training for members of the ecological community.

## Northwest Chapter Elects New Volunteer Board Members

Congratulations to the 2007 election winners! Please join us in welcoming some returning and some new faces to the SER-NW board: **Jake Jacobson**, president, Watershed Steward for Snohomish County; **Ali Wick**, executive vice president, biologist and environmental scientist with Anchor Environmental; **Allison Warner**, secretary, wetland ecologist with the Jay Group, Inc. in Marysville; **Lisa Dunham**, board member at large, master’s degree candidate in Resource Management; **Frank Reckendorf**, treasurer, fluvial geomorphologist with Reckendorf and Associates in Salem, Oregon; and **Lauren Urgenson**, board member at large, Graduate Research Assistant and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources. Also, **Lily Wescott** will be taking over the publications position for the remainder of the term.

For more information about the SER Northwest Chapter, please visit [www.ser.org/sernw](http://www.ser.org/sernw) or contact Jake Jacobson at [info@sernw.org](mailto:info@sernw.org).

---

# Chapter Updates

## Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting Explores Strategy for Invasives

The SER Ontario Chapter's annual meeting was held October 26, 2007, in conjunction with the Ontario Terrestrial Invasive Plant Council's general meeting, "Speaking with One Voice," at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington.

The Council builds on work that SER Ontario contributed to the publication on Restoring Biodiversity, "2000 Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Plants in Southern Ontario," which is viewable online at [www.serontario.org/pdfs/sustain.pdf](http://www.serontario.org/pdfs/sustain.pdf). It is time not only to update this but also broaden the audience and, as the theme states, to coordinate efforts and "speak with one voice." This collaboration is a great educational and professional opportunity to implement an effective strategy for invasives – a big problem in ecological restoration.

For more information about the SER Ontario Chapter, please contact **Stephen Murphy** at [info@serontario.org](mailto:info@serontario.org) or visit [www.serontario.org](http://www.serontario.org).

## Europe Chapter Plans for 2008 Conference in Belgium

Mark your calendars for the 6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration. The 2008 conference will be held in Ghent, Belgium, 8-12 September, 2008.

The conference, titled "Toward a Sustainable Future for European Ecosystems," will focus on providing restoration guidelines for Natura 2000 – specifically the areas, habitat types and species designated under the Habitat and Bird Directive. Natura 2000 is the cornerstone of EU nature policy. Hundreds of plant and animal species and 231 habitat types are legally protected, and, for many of them, the

member states have designated more than 18,000 Special Protection Areas and Sites of Community Importance, covering one-fifth of Europe's land and water surface.

The main objectives of the conference are improving the exchange of knowledge between science and policy-makers, practitioners and stakeholders on the subject; learning from approaches and experiences in different EU-countries; stimulating trans-boundary contacts and use of good practices; and exploring socio-economic and legal issues of nature restoration in the Natura 2000 context.

The conference will be organized by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (Brussels), in collaboration with different government bodies and international non-governmental organizations.

For details as they become available, visit [www.ser2008.be](http://www.ser2008.be) or contact **Kris Decler** at [kris.decleer@inbo.be](mailto:kris.decleer@inbo.be).

## Field Days for Europe Chapter Members at Germany Meeting

The annual meeting of the Specialist Group "Restoration Ecology" of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland will be held 3-6 April, 2008, in Bernburg (Saxony-Anhalt), Germany.

The meeting will focus on the restoration of non-forest Natura 2000 sites in cultural landscapes and areas strongly influenced by human activities. During the meeting, field days for SER Europe members and students will be organized. We kindly invite you to join our meeting and the excursions.

For more information, visit [www.ser.org/europe/events.asp](http://www.ser.org/europe/events.asp) or contact **Sabine Tischew**, [tischew@loel.hs-anhalt.de](mailto:tischew@loel.hs-anhalt.de).

## SER Europe Field Training on Grassland Restoration

"Restoration of Sandy Grasslands in Hungary" will be held in Fülöpháza, Hungary, 12-17 May, 2008.

The aim of the field training is to introduce to the participants restoration experiments, which have been carried out in the Kiskunság region for more than 10 years, and to compare the experimental outcome with results from other countries. The training will include field sampling of vegetation data with different methodologies at three experimental areas, in order to find the most sensitive one to detect the effects of restoration treatments.

The site is an International Long-Term Ecological Research Site. The ALTER-net project network can provide links to results from biodiversity assessments in other areas. Drafting of a joint paper is planned based on the sampled data.

More information about the field training can be found online at [www.ser.org/europe/events.asp](http://www.ser.org/europe/events.asp) or by contacting **Rebeka Szabó**, [rebeka@botanika.hu](mailto:rebeka@botanika.hu).

## Other SER Europe Meetings and Workshops

Conferences and workshops on ecological restoration arranged by other organizations in Europe for 2008 are announced on our website under [www.ser.org/europe/events.asp](http://www.ser.org/europe/events.asp)

For more information about the SER Europe Chapter, visit [www.ser.org/europe](http://www.ser.org/europe) or contact **Norbert Hölzel**, Chapter President, [norbert.hoelzel@agr.uni-giessen.de](mailto:norbert.hoelzel@agr.uni-giessen.de), or **Kathrin Kiehl**, Chapter Secretary, [ser.europe@wzw.tum.de](mailto:ser.europe@wzw.tum.de).