

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

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**GLOBAL**  
**RESTORATION**  
**NETWORK**

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

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# SERNews

The Newsletter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International  
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## SER International's 2008 Strategic Plan in Action

Three months into the new year, staff at SER International headquarters has been busy implementing exciting new initiatives, using the Board's five-year strategic plan as our roadmap. The plan's goals are in italics below, and descriptions of our new initiatives follow.

*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.*

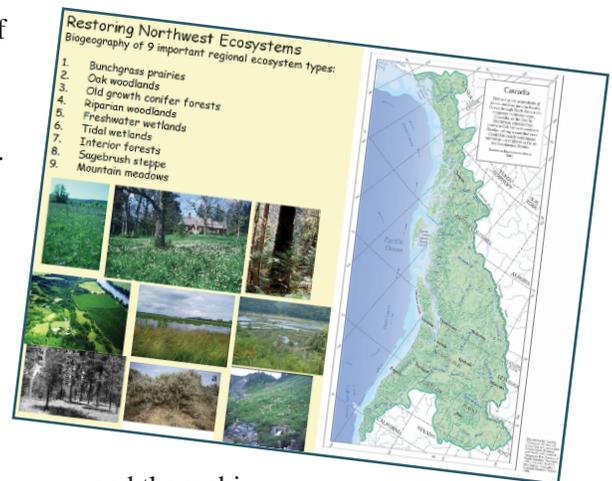
### WEBINARS

The Society's first-ever virtual seminar -- called a "webinar" -- debuted on February 21, 2008. More than 80 members from around the world called in and logged on to the webinar to hear SER International member Dean Apostol speak about his book, *Restoring the Pacific Northwest*, which he edited for the SER/Island Press Book Series on ecological restoration. While they listened to the speaker over the phone, attendees logged on to the webinar website and followed along as Apostol presented his PowerPoint slides and other visual material. Attendees were able to submit questions



Dean Apostol

online, and Apostol had time to answer ten of them. Restorationists from Brazil, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, Canada, and the U.S. participated, and the majority gave both the presentation



and the webinar format rave reviews.

Webinars are your newest member benefit. There is no charge to members to participate; the only cost to attendees is the long-distance phone call needed to access the presenter's live narration. SER International is planning to offer at least 12 webinars in 2008. Co-sponsored by Island Press, each webinar will focus on a different book in the SER/Island Press Book Series. The April webinar will be presented by David Bainbridge, author of *A Guide for Desert and Dryland Restoration*. The May webinar will be presented by James Aronson, author of *Restoring Natural Capital*.

Along with the 12 webinars already scheduled to cover the book series on ecological restoration, we hope to schedule even more on a wide variety of topics. Contact MK LeFevour at [MKL@ser.org](mailto:MKL@ser.org), and let her know what topics and presenters are of interest to you and what topic you might be interested in presenting for a webinar.

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## MEMBER LISTSERVS

When we first introduced members-only listservs, more than 1,000 members joined at least one of the 22 topic groups. Members used these online communities to hold open conversations about practice issues, ethical questions or to compare and share research.

Five years later, we see that the listservs could be more useful as networking communities for our members. Now, instead of 22 discrete topics, we offer three listserv communities that members can join for free: Restoration in Practice, Community Restoration and Students in Restoration. Members may subscribe to any or all of them.

**Restoration in Practice** -- This listserv is a forum for SER International members to discuss all aspects of the ethics and practice of ecological restoration in every ecosystem, as well as urban environments. To subscribe, visit this link: [http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/restoration-in-practice\\_sernews.org](http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/restoration-in-practice_sernews.org)

**Community Restoration** -- This listserv is a forum for SER International members to discuss ecological restoration at the community level. Topics may include volunteering, working with local governments and NGOs/nonprofits, grant funding, social marketing, public relations, social entrepreneurship, etc. To subscribe, visit this link: [http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/community-restoration\\_sernews.org](http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/community-restoration_sernews.org)

**Students in Restoration** -- This listserv is a forum for SER International student members and restoration educators to discuss issues related to the study of ecological restoration. Topics may include educational opportunities, career tracks, academic programs, internships, preparing for employment in the restoration field, and other student-related issues. To subscribe, visit this link: [http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/students-in-restoration\\_sernews.org](http://sernews.org/mailman/listinfo/students-in-restoration_sernews.org).

If you would like to be a volunteer moderator who can help keep these listservs informative and on-topic, please contact MK LeFevour at [MKL@ser.org](mailto:MKL@ser.org).

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

See SER International Board Chair George Gann's "View from the Chair" on page 3 of this issue, which details the relevant policy statements SER International is crafting to help make restoration a priority of environmental action around the world.

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

Our organization is moving closer to making a certification program in ecological restoration a reality. In early March, staff sent out a call for the SER ad hoc Certification Committee members to participate in a one-year process leading to the establishment of an Ecological Restoration Practitioner Certification Program. An April meeting in San Francisco of the Certification Committee will establish a timeline for creating the program.

*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.*

Soon, your city, village, university or region could have its own SER Restoration Resource Center. Staff is working on designing a flexible and user-friendly structure for these much-needed centers that will share resources, knowledge and information. While promoting the mission of SER International at the regional, national and local levels, the SER Restoration Resource Centers will also be a great way to attract new members, and they will be sites for conferences and workshops that will inform local practitioners and policy makers. In the next few months, we will be inviting appropriate NGOs to apply to become SER Restoration Resource Centers.

– MK LeFevour, Executive Director

## ERRATA

In the last issue of *SERNews*, we inadvertently omitted the Institute for Regional Conservation in our listing of Friends of the GRN. We sincerely apologize for this error. A complete list of 2007 GRN Sponsors and Friends appears on page 3 of this issue.

# View from the Chair

By George Gann | SER International Board Chair

Welcome to the March 2008 issue of *SERNews*. I believe that when we look back on this year, we will recognize it as a pivotal year for SER and for ecological restoration in general. First, I would like to recap some of the decisive events of 2007 that have helped to shape our current trajectory.

In April 2007, the SER Board and staff met for a two-day strategic planning retreat in Jacksonville, Florida, in order to develop and formalize our vision for the next five years. The resulting Five-Year Strategic Plan includes various initiatives aimed at elevating SER's profile in the escalating debate on climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Among our priorities will be a concerted effort to inform, educate and influence policymakers and their constituents at the local, national and international level. In July, we received notice of an anonymous bequest that will help us to carry the strategic plan forward with significantly more resources than we otherwise would have had.

In August, our joint conference with the Ecological Society of America in San Jose, California, was a great success and provided us with an excellent platform from which to launch our first Policy Position Statement on global climate change. The statement was endorsed by the ESA Board of Directors and was picked up by a number of media outlets, including an extended interview with SER Board Member Jim Harris, featured on



the popular radio series "Earth & Sky." The SER Board of Directors also met and approved the Strategic Plan drafted in Jacksonville and subsequently shepherded through an intensive editorial and vetting process by SER Treasurer Suzanne Tuttle, SER Executive Director MK LeFevour and many others.

This quickly brings us to the transformative year of 2008 and to the efforts of the SER staff, Board, and volunteers, all of whom will be critical in translating our ambitious goals into reality. The newly re-energized Science & Policy Working Group in particular will fulfill many of the vital functions needed to raise public awareness of the accelerating need for ecological restoration in the coming decades. This includes issuing regular Policy Position Papers, Briefing Notes, and press releases, which will be coordinated by Sasha Alexander, Program Director for SER. As many of you know, the long-standing Science & Policy Working Group was instrumental in developing the *SER Primer on Ecological Restoration* as well as other key SER foundation documents.

We also intend to increase our participation at major conferences and conventions. In May, we will be co-sponsoring the Society of Wetland

Scientists' annual conference in Washington, DC. On the first day of the meeting, we will present an afternoon panel discussion titled "Global Climate Change and the Future Direction of Wetland Restoration." We hope that you can join us for this exciting event.

Also in May, we plan to issue our first Briefing Note on the convergence of conservation and restoration practices at the Convention on Biological Diversity, Conference of the Parties (COP), to be held in Bonn, Germany. I will personally be representing SER as a delegate to the COP. SER's participation as an NGO Observer will be a first for us at this important event.

In September, the SER Europe Chapter will host the 6th European Restoration Ecology meeting in Bruges, Belgium. Our first Policy Position Paper of 2008 will address the serious problem of habitat fragmentation and landscape connectivity in an increasingly urbanized environment. It will be released in October at the 4th World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain. As a member of the IUCN, we will be participating fully in the public forum, commission meetings, and the members' assembly.

These are only a few examples of how we are increasing SER's visibility and stature. Other events this year where we will have a presence include meetings of like-minded societies, government agencies and of course our other chapters around the world. We hope to see you there!

— George Gann

## 2007 GLOBAL RESTORATION NETWORK SUPPORTERS

### Sponsors of the GRN (\$5,000 or more)

Biohabitats, Inc.  
Wiley-Blackwell Publishing  
Chevron  
Island Press  
Temper of the Times Foundation, Inc.  
USDA Forest Service

### Friends of the GRN (\$500 or more)

Anchor Environmental LLC  
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Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
JFNew  
Gerald H. Markowitz, Attorney  
Urban Forest Associates Inc.

GIVE ONLINE AT

[www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/donate](http://www.GlobalRestorationNetwork.org/donate)

# Plan Ahead to Restore the Future

What kind of legacy will you leave behind? Creating a sustainable future for our Earth requires generations of commitment and resources. A beautiful way to create a legacy that will continue long after you are gone is to make a Planned Gift to SER International. We would be happy to talk to you about how a Planned Gift can also be beneficial in your estate planning.

Planned Gifts are not just for the wealthy. People of all means remember SER International in their estate plans, and their generosity allow us to provide better information and programs to develop and advance the field of ecological restoration. They make a big difference in SER's ability to make a difference.

In the past six years, we received two anonymous bequests that have contributed immensely to SER's financial stability. Because of these kinds of gifts, we can offer the Global Restoration Network for free to all users throughout the world. Because of these kinds of gifts, we can keep our membership dues affordable and reach more practitioners. And because of these kinds of gifts, SER International has the ability to create more opportunities to get the word out about the vital work of restoration.

## Outright Gifts

You don't have to wait until you are gone to make a Planned Gift to SER International. You can enjoy the satisfaction of your generosity right now by making an Outright Gift. While you support SER's programs, you can be maximizing your income tax savings. Cash gifts are welcome, but don't forget that a gift of long-term appreciated property such as securities can enhance your tax benefits. A gift of appreciated security is an effective way to make a meaningful gift while sidestepping the capital gains tax drain or rid your portfolio of an out-of-favor stock. If you need guidance on

any of this, please don't hesitate to call our office.

## Real Estate and other Personal Property

If you own a home, it has probably appreciated in value over the years so that its sale would result in a sizable capital gains tax. By making a gift of property to SER, you may avoid capital gains taxes altogether. Under certain circumstances, the donor may reserve the right to continue to occupy the home for a specified number of years or for the donor's lifetime and still receive the tax deduction. Gifts of tangible personal property, such as art, antiques, rare books, stamps, jewelry, or other valuables are another way to give to SER.

## Charitable Lead Trusts

Assets that generate an income, or that are likely to appreciate substantially, can be put to good use as the principal of a charitable lead trust. A lead trust transfers the income from these assets to SER for a designated period of time (typically 10 to 20 years). At the end of that time, the assets are returned to the donor, his or her heirs, or any other persons designated. In this manner, donors can direct a sizeable amount of annual income to SER, while guaranteeing that their heirs will ultimately benefit from the asset.

## Bequests

You may include SER International in your will, indicating a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the total estate or the residuum remaining after all debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been paid. Specific bequests of property such as real estate may also be made this way.

## Tax-Deferred Retirement Plan

What has become very popular in recent years is naming a nonprofit as

a beneficiary in one's tax-deferred retirement plan, such as an IRA, Keough Plan, 401(K) and 403(b) plans. The distribution from any of these plans would take place after the donor's death and may be very tax-wise for the donor's family.

## Life Insurance

Policies that are no longer needed for family protection or business purposes make excellent charitable gifts, regardless of whether or not all of the premiums have been paid. When ownership of the policy is irrevocably assigned to SER, the cash value of the policy is a tax deductible gift, as are all future premium payments. By establishing new life insurance policies specifically for SER, a donor is able to make a substantial gift for a relatively modest annual outlay.

## Life Income Gifts

Charitable remainder unitrusts or annuity trusts enable you to make a significant gift to SER while protecting or greatly improving your personal financial position. You and/or another named beneficiary will receive the income from the trust for your lives and you also receive an immediate income tax deduction. Tax savings are increased if appreciated securities are used to fund the trust because of capital gains tax considerations.

## To Learn More

Thank you for considering ways to leave a lasting legacy at SER International.

To find out which gift plan may be best for you, please call SER's Executive Director, MK LeFevour, at 520-622-5495, or email her at [MKL@ser.org](mailto:MKL@ser.org). She will be happy to provide additional information on gift plans and ideas.

# Chapter News

## SER Coastal Plain Chapter Conference Set for March

The SER Coastal Plain Chapter has scheduled its annual conference for March in Clemson, South Carolina. The 2008 annual symposium and membership meeting, Legacy Landscapes: Ecological Restoration in Post Industrial Settings, will be co-sponsored by the The Clemson University Restoration Institute.

Participants will be provided current project and research updates from the Southeastern U.S. during two days of presentations and an evening poster session. A third day, March 20, is scheduled for field trips or workshops in the upstate region of South Carolina.

For more information, visit the chapter website at [www.ser.org/cpc](http://www.ser.org/cpc).

## SER Northwest Chapter Seeks Conference Volunteers

Want to get involved? Help us with conference planning! Contact Jim Hansen the SERNW Conference Chair: [jimbobtoo@aol.com](mailto:jimbobtoo@aol.com)

## SER Texas Chapter Plans Annual Meeting for August

The SER Texas Chapter will hold its annual meeting and conference at Fort Davis State Park in August. This is a joint conference with the Native Prairie Association of Texas. The call for abstracts will be coming in February.

For more information, visit the chapter website at [www.ser.org/txser](http://www.ser.org/txser).

## SER Europe Chapter Hosts 6th European Conference

The SER Europe Chapter presents the 6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration, "Towards a Sustainable Future for European Ecosystems," in Belgium this September.



You are invited to register and to submit an abstract or workshop proposal addressing any of the themes of the conference at the conference website: [www.ser2008.be](http://www.ser2008.be). We especially welcome contributions of general importance to both scientists and practitioners active in the framework of the Natura 2000 network.

Themes include restoration of Natura 2000 habitat types, restoration of habitats and conditions for Natura 2000 species, fragmentation and connectivity in networks of protected sites, in particular the Natura 2000 network, and from a static habitat to a dynamic ecosystem approach.

The event is organized by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest and co-organized by the EU Commission (DG Environment), the Flemish Agency of Nature and Forest, and the Flemish Land Agency. Partners include Ghent University, the University of Antwerp, Catholic University of Leuven, Free University of Brussels, and Natuurpunt.

For more information, contact Kris Decler, email [ser2008@inbo.be](mailto:ser2008@inbo.be) or phone +32 (0)9 235 22 96. Download the event flier at [www.ser.org/pdf/2008EuropeConference.pdf](http://www.ser.org/pdf/2008EuropeConference.pdf).

## SER Coastal Plain Chapter Conducts Member Survey

To provide optimum benefits to our membership, the Coastal Plain Chapter of SER would like to get your valued opinion on relevant existing chapter activities and issues and potential activities/benefits the chapter could provide.

Your responses will be analyzed and used to formulate a long-term strategic plan for the chapter. The survey only takes 5-10 minutes to complete - please take a moment to follow the attached link to the survey. Thank you in advance for assisting with the further development of our chapter.

For more information or to take the survey, go to [www.ser.org/cpc](http://www.ser.org/cpc).

### For More Information

The Society for Ecological Restoration International has 11 regional chapters around the world. To find out more about their activities and how to join, please visit our website at [www.ser.org/content/regional\\_chapters.asp](http://www.ser.org/content/regional_chapters.asp).

# 2008 Conference Events

**SER Coastal Plain Chapter  
Annual Symposium and  
Membership Meeting**  
March 18-20, 2008  
Clemson, South Carolina  
“Legacy Landscapes: Ecologi-  
cal Restoration in Post Indus-  
trial Settings  
[www.ser.org/cpc](http://www.ser.org/cpc)

**SER Texas Chapter Annual  
Meeting and Conference**  
August 8-10, 2008  
Fort Davis State Park  
[www.ser.org/txser](http://www.ser.org/txser)

**6th European Conference  
on Ecological Restoration**  
September 8-12, 2008  
Belgium  
“Toward a Sustainable Future  
for European Ecosystems”  
[www.ser2008.be](http://www.ser2008.be)

**SER International World  
Conference**  
August 23-28, 2009  
Perth, Western Australia  
[www.seri2009.com.au](http://www.seri2009.com.au)

## Global Climate Change and the Future Direction of Wetland Restoration: New Perspectives from SER

**Society of Wetland Scientists Conference - Washington, DC  
May 26-30, 2008**

SER is co-sponsoring the Society for Wetland Scientists annual conference in Washington, DC from May 26-30 through a panel discussion (see description below) that includes Kevin Erwin, William Mitsch, Keith Bowers and William Platt. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear from the luminaries in our field.

**PANEL DISCUSSION #4:  
Global Climate Change  
and the Future Direction of  
Wetland Restoration - New  
Perspectives from SER**

*Organized by: Kevin Erwin  
and Sasha Alexander*



Climate change can be expected to act in conjunction with a range of other stressors, many of which, depending on the region, are a concern for wetlands and their water resources. Wetland systems are vulnerable and particularly susceptible to changes in both the quantity and quality of water supply. It appears that climate change will have its most pronounced effect on wetlands through alterations in hydrological regimes - specifically, the nature and variability of the hydroperiod and the number and severity of extreme events. As the underlying fundamentals of wetland ecosystems and mega-watersheds continue to experience change, restoration scientists and practitioners have begun to re-examine the concepts of planning, goals, and wetland management.

The effects of climate change probably will be exacerbated by other human-induced stressors, such as unsustainable development and agricultural conversion, to increase the loss, degradation and transformation of wetlands around the world. As a result, important provisioning and regulating services provided by both coastal and interior wetlands are being threatened as never before. In the future, wetland restoration may become a critical management tool to mitigate the impacts of climate change by replacing lost ecosystems and providing buffers to damaged ecosystems. The Society for Ecological Restoration International is now in the process of revisiting a number of important concepts and paradigms for ecological restoration in the face of global climate change and other anthropogenic disturbances. The intent of this panel is to address the role of restoration and adaptive management techniques in promoting ecosystem resilience given the increased levels of stress and uncertainty due to climate change and unrelenting human pressures. The panel will feature short presentations, case studies, and audience participation.

**For more information, visit [www.sws.org/2008\\_meeting](http://www.sws.org/2008_meeting)**

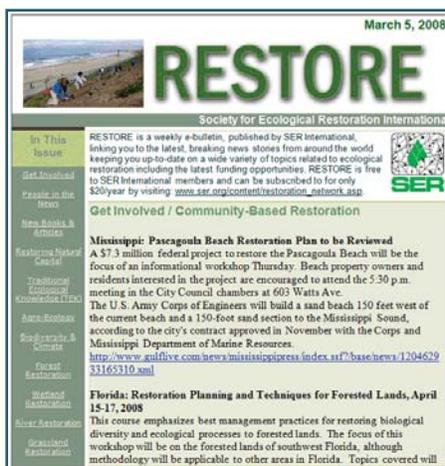
# Society News

## SER Launches Redesign of Weekly E-Bulletin

Starting January 30, 2008, SER's weekly e-bulletin has a new look and is now distributed using technology from Constant Contact, one of the leading email marketing services that nonprofit organizations use to easily keep in touch with their supporters.

This electronic publication is delivered for free directly to the email inboxes of SER members at the Basic level and above, as well as to other subscribers for an annual fee of \$20. Past issues of *RESTORE* are archived in the SER Membership Room on our website at [www.ser.org/membership](http://www.ser.org/membership).

*RESTORE* links you to the latest, breaking news stories from around the world keeping you up-to-date on a wide variety of topics related to ecological restoration. SER's Project Director Sasha Alexander combs dozens



of sources each week and compiles items of interest for restoration professionals and community restorationists.

The emailed digest of restoration news around the world includes information about ecosystem-specific restoration, new books & articles, restoring natural capital, Traditional Ecological

Knowledge (TEK), agro-ecology, biodiversity & climate, extractive industries, invasive species, urban restoration, recreation & tourism, and funding opportunities, people in the news, and ways to get involved with restoration. The digest format provides brief summaries of restoration-related news as well as links to websites to visit for more information.

We welcome content submissions from SER members. To submit a news item for consideration, contact SER's Project Director, Sasha Alexander, at (520) 622-5485 or [sasha@ser.org](mailto:sasha@ser.org).

For subscription questions, or to find out how your organization can reach approximately 2,000 restoration professionals for as little as \$25 per issue with a *RESTORE* sponsorship, contact SER's Membership Director, Cynthia Taylor, at (520) 622-5485 or [cynthia@ser.org](mailto:cynthia@ser.org).

## Does your organization have two or more restoration professionals?

Make the most of your partnership with SER International by upgrading your membership today!

\$125 SER Professional Membership

*For ONE employee, includes a subscription to SER's journal, Restoration Ecology*

\$250 SER Organizational Membership

*Includes FIVE employees, PLUS a marketing package designed to promote your group and its work to the ecological restoration community around the world*

\$500 SER Affiliate **BEST DEAL!**

*Includes Organizational membership, Associate SER membership for ALL of your group's members, FOUR restoration book titles for your library, a special section on SER's website, PLUS the use of SER's Affiliate logo, and MORE!*

*For more information, contact SER's Membership Director, Cynthia Taylor, at (520) 622-5485 or [cynthia@ser.org](mailto:cynthia@ser.org).*