

Behold the man: landscapes for wildlife AND people

Humans modify landscapes. We manage them, dissect them, homogenise them, fragment them, and even occasionally restore them. Often the emphasis of landscape ecology is conservation. As landscape ecologists, we are concerned about the potential effects of habitat fragmentation and we want to know which species have declined, or which are likely to decline if such fragmentation continues. We are concerned about roadkills and whether such carnage on our roads are likely to affect the persistence of populations. We want to ameliorate any potential effects of landscape modification and, if necessary, put in corridors to facilitate the movement of any wildlife which are able to live in the bits between the barren wastelands we laughingly call farmland.

Thus, landscapes serve many functions. Roads are dispersal corridors for humans (and, according to a recent radio-tracking study, hedgehogs too!). Cities are habitats for people. Yet we are animals too and need refuges to escape in these overcrowded landscapes. Thus, we want landscapes to be aesthetically

pleasing; some we want to be spiritually uplifting; some we want to be playgrounds; or to provide many of these functions at the same time without conflicting with each other.

The human element in landscape ecology is often implicit. Yet, we are as much a part of landscapes as our native wildlife. Last year I had the opportunity to walk in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. I was amazed by the magnitude to which the Berber people had apparently modified their landscapes and yet maintained a high biodiversity. The flora is highly modified by human activities: grazing, collecting, and nearer to villages, cultivation, yet the biodiversity is such that uses have been recorded for 278 different plant species by Berbers people. It is linkages such as these between humans and our environment that landscape ecology is yet to really get to grips with. Understanding the patterns and processes of landscape modification in relation to human ecology offers a potentially rich area for landscape ecologists. People form the theme of next years IALE(UK) Conference - see below.

Duncan McCollin

Announcement and call for papers: IALE(UK) conference 2005

Next year's IALE(UK) conference will be held on September 12-16th, 2005 at University College Northampton. The theme is:

Landscape Ecology: Planning, People and Practice ***The landscape ecology of sustainable landscapes***

Special topics: linkages in the landscape; green corridor networks; planning landscapes for sustainability; PPS9 and ecological infrastructure; targeting landscapes; access and education; landscape-scale restoration; the wider countryside; cultural landscapes; the urban-country fringe

Please send short abstract to Duncan McCollin by February 25th 2005

Abstracts should contain the following information:

- Preferred type of presentation: poster/paper
- Title of presentation:
- Author(s):
- Organisation(s):
- Address of author(s):
- and a summary not exceeding 200 words.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by 25 March 2005 and invited to prepare a full manuscript by 30 June 2005.

Email: duncan.mccollin@northampton.ac.uk

IALE (UK) Postgraduate Christmas Meeting **2nd / 3rd December 2004** **Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill campus**

Email Bella Davies (brdavies@brookes.ac.uk) for further details.

There will be a number of small awards (max £40) available to IALE(UK) members to assist with travel, accommodation and food costs

- ★ Are you a postgraduate working in the area of landscape ecology?
- ★ Would you like to meet other postgrads in the same area?
- ★ Would you like to find out more about GIS, FRAGSTATS or Patch Analyst?

Then come to the IALE(UK) Postgraduate Christmas Meeting.

This is an informal annual event designed to bring together students of landscape ecology to exchange ideas and have some fun. This year it is also themed with workshops on GIS, FRAGSTATS and Patch Analyst giving you the chance to get to grips with software and have any questions answered. Professor Gary Fry from the Agricultural University of Norway will be coming to give a talk on "What it means to be a PhD student". Gary has been engaged in cultural landscape research in Norway since 1985, and from 2002, has focussed on interdisciplinary landscape studies involving a combination of visual, cultural and biodiversity interests in landscape assessment and planning.

This year's meeting is being held at Oxford Brookes University's Harcourt Hill campus (<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/findus/> Please note the campus as there are three Brookes' campuses in different parts of the city). We run the meeting free of charge and the only cost is £20 to cover accommodation, please bring extra money for meals and drinks. We will probably go out for dinner on Thursday evening. You do not have to be a member of IALE(UK) to come along, although we strongly urge you to join – it's only £10 for students! If you are a member you can apply for a small travel award (up to £40 max). It doesn't matter if you're not a member yet, you can join now or at the meeting and still apply.

The provisional programme is as follows (tea and coffee will be provided):

Thursday 2nd December

11:30 am Welcome and introduction
12:45 pm Lunch – there is a canteen selling sandwiches and hot food on site
1:15 pm GIS, FRAGSTATS and Patch Analyst: Computer Workshop I
4 pm Feedback and summing-up.
4:30 pm 'What it means to be a PhD student' Professor Garry Fry
6 pm Dinner / pubs in Oxford.

Friday 3rd December

9am GIS, FRAGSTATS and Patch Analyst: Computer Workshop II
11:15am Feedback; what else could we do for you
1pm Finish

If you have any queries, please email Bella Davies on brdavies@brookes.ac.

Woodland Trust- International Association for Landscape Ecology- UK region conference: Landscape Ecology of Trees and Forests

The Woodland Trust- IALE Conference 2004 was a great success: it was fully-booked and attracted an impressive range of people from different sectors that it had aimed for, with delegates from the policy community, policy implementers

and advisers, local government representatives, conservation practitioners, foresters and academic researchers from the field of landscape ecology and other relevant disciplines. The format of the conference was also diverse, including a range of presentations, meetings, questions, debate at mealtimes and a field excursion to two Woodland Trust woods in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Lineover Wood and Barbour Wood.

The conference offered a forum for debate and discussion of key concepts in Landscape Ecology: a process essential in a developing science in which theory underlying ecological processes is being tested and is developing and evolving. Initial questions outlined at the start of the conference, which became important cross-cutting themes throughout many of the presentations, were: habitat fragmentation at site-level and landscape scales, mechanisms for maintenance of ecological functionality, re-establishing landscape-scale dynamics: initiatives to implement principles of landscape ecology, and policy drivers for action.

Concepts on which landscape ecology is based, and their more specific effects on organisms, that we are still developing a further understanding of, were highlighted in presentations: the potential role of corridors in reversing fragmentation; buffering by ecotones and the effects this has on different species; interactions between different semi-natural habitat types; conditions for long-distance dispersal events; evaluating threats, risks and thresholds; effects of human activities on the landscape, and predicting changes under climate change scenarios. If this isn't enough to encourage reading the conference proceedings, discussion of key points from a practitioner's perspective might. For example: prioritising conservation actions and restoration efforts, new woodland creation vs. restoration of ancient degraded woods, and recognition of the value of a continuum of semi-natural habitats through buffering.

The end note to the conference was one of optimism; several trends being highlighted that are currently moving towards effective implementation of landscape-scale restoration, management and conservation programmes that delegates would like to see, future success being hinged on effective communication between different groups, more public awareness and engagement in projects, and a political climate sympathetic to, (and perhaps active or environmentally-minded enough!) to plan programmes ambitious enough to achieve nature conservation in a socially appropriate way. Future research priorities and issues identified through the summing up from Bob Bunce, President of The World (IALE-International), were:

- interdisciplinary research able to incorporate knowledge on social wants and needs,

- whether and how to manage woodlands: the landscape and how we use it has changed, but woodlands may still require management: referred to as landscape ghosts,
- the effects of corridors at different scales: referring to habitat corridors in Meso-America, for example, where projects to create and maintain corridors for migratory species cross several nations, compared to corridors in the UK linking ancient woodlands, the effects of which may be less noticeable,
- changes to the Common Agricultural Policy in light of an enlarged EU, and the effect of these changes of systems of agriculture based on transhumance, reforms may make things worse in both of these contexts, due to increased intensification
- the effects of a nature reserve network biased towards Western parts of the country where wild landscape types are preferred,
- conserving semi-natural habitat outside of special sites.

It is now essential that we as landscape ecologists (and indeed all those who care about our natural habitats and ecosystems) recognise the huge social significance and potential benefits to be gained by implementing landscape-scale habitat protection and creation, and work to demonstrate to colleagues and associates that such projects are not only a desirable contribution to the long-term persistence of our native flora and fauna, but can also encompass wider objectives, related to a wide range of issues such as flood defence, food safety and nutrition, animal welfare, social inclusion and rural development, human health, wellbeing and education, if such ideas can more successfully engage wider audiences, and convey this message, along with continuing interdisciplinary research that allows that full range of potential benefits from sustainable landscape management to be developed. It is crucial that we don't see the landscape, wildlife habitats within it, and indeed ourselves as practitioners or researchers 'fragmented' and working in boxes, but also that landscape restoration isn't just an en masse planting of trees, seeding of meadows, or digging of reed beds: it is a human reconnection with nature and the landscape, which is what gives value and meaning to existing cherished landscapes. Borrowing from Rod Leslie's presentation on putting theory into practice, what is needed is: Vision, Scale, Natural Processes, and People and Partnerships.

Julie Bygraves
MSc Student

The Landscape Ecology of Trees and Forests

Bella Davies and Sarah McKenzie

Bella writes:

This year's IALE(UK) conference, "Landscape Ecology of Trees and Forests", was held in the picturesque setting of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Around 200 delegates attended, including some from as far away as Australia and the USA. The programme was as diverse as the delegates, with over 35 talks and 25 posters presented on a range of topics from policy to theory, research and hard science to practice in the 'real world'.

Responses of both plants and animals to landscape-scale processes were examined with many interesting models being presented. As ever, it was heartening to hear that there are others out there undertaking equally enormous and bizarre tasks, such as sifting through what sounded like mountains of deer, rabbit and hare droppings and killing numerous invertebrates in the name of science and conservation!

As the conference continued, the debate on landscape thresholds was furthered and the importance and vulnerability of trees and forests in the modern landscape highlighted. It was then time to 'get real', with presentations showing how theory had been put into practice, in the final sessions detailing "spatial conservation strategies" and "landscape-scale action".

Sarah writes:

The third day of the conference was particularly interesting for me as I was giving my first theatre paper with my co-author, Tony Whitbread. It was an opportunity to get my PhD work known in the wider academic community. The usual pre-talk nerves were heightened so that I spurned the generous cooked breakfast that morning. George Peterken was a strict session chair regarding timing. The relief and sense of achievement was considerable when everything went well and we kept to time! There were a number of interesting questions asked and positive comments made to us later on. I cannot think of a better arena for research students to bite the bullet and give a paper on their work, so don't be shy, go for it!

The afternoon session included a barn-storming performance from Hans Kampf on Dutch Nature Policy, with stunning photographs of Heck cattle doing battle in the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. Having sorted out ecological networks in The Netherlands, Hans is turning his attention to the rest of Europe!



Downloaded from Hans's website:www.home.zonnet.nl/hanskampf/index4.html

Socially the conference was very enjoyable and provided a great opportunity to meet people working in landscape ecology. It was a great chance for those new to the field to chat with some of the well-established woodland players in such a friendly arena. The conference dinner celebrated the ending of Bob Bunce's time as president of IALE(UK), and wished him well as he takes on the presidency of IALE International.



The field trip on the final day was to two Woodland Trust Reserves, one of which was a beautiful ancient semi-natural lime wood on a limestone escarpment, east of Cheltenham. This 20+ha wood had 60 ancient woodland indicator species including Angular Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum odoratum*), a Cotswold speciality.

A huge thank you to Richard Smithers for organising such a successful and enjoyable conference and to IALE(UK) for providing us with the funds to be able to attend.

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Application deadline: 3rd Jan 2005

Course starts: 24th January 2005

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www.campusone.ulster.ac.uk/course_details.cgi/24

Student Conference Travel Award

The IALE(UK) awards a number of travel grants to students studying landscape ecology at a UK university. The award is open to all students with an interest in landscape ecology who are attending a taught course at Masters level or who are undertaking a degree by research. In general, awards are designed to assist postgraduate students to attend the annual conference of IALE(UK) and for research postgraduates to attend other meetings, including the European and International Meetings of the IALE.

Please apply to:

Dr G.H. Griffiths, Secretary IALE(UK)

Department of Geography

Whiteknights

Reading, RG6 6AB

Email: g.h.griffiths@reading.ac.uk

Recent Contents

Landscape Ecology

Volume 19, Issue 6 2004

Carmel Y, Flather CH. Comparing landscape scale vegetation dynamics following recent disturbance in climatically similar sites in California and the Mediterranean basin. pp. 573-590

St-Louis V, Fortin MJ, Desrochers A. Spatial association between forest heterogeneity and breeding territory boundaries of two forest songbirds. pp. 591-601

Maurice KR, Welch JM, Brown CP, et al. Pocono mesic till barrens in retreat: topography, fire and forest contagion effects. Pp. 603-620

Wang GX, Yao JH, Luo L, et al. Soil C and N content under evolving landscapes in an arid inland river basin of northwest China. Pp. 621-629

Wimberly MC, Ohmann JL. A multi-scale assessment of human and environmental constraints on forest land cover change on the Oregon (USA) coast range. Pp. 631-646

Saura S, Carballal P. Discrimination of native and exotic forest patterns through shape irregularity indices: An analysis in the landscapes of Galicia, Spain. Pp. 647-662

Houlahan JE, Findlay CS. Estimating the 'critical' distance at which adjacent land-use degrades wetland water and sediment quality. Pp. 677-690

Volume 19, Issue 5 2004

Petit S, Griffiths L, Smart SS, et al. Effects of area and isolation of woodland patches on herbaceous plant species richness across Great Britain. Pp. 463-471

Hietel E, Waldhardt R, Otte A. Analysing land-cover changes in relation to environmental variables in Hesse, Germany. Pp. 473-489

Spooner PG, Lunt ID, Okabe A, et al. Spatial analysis of roadside *Acacia* populations on a road network using the network K-function. Pp. 491-499

Sandin L, Johnson RK. Local, landscape and regional factors structuring benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages in Swedish streams. Pp. 501-514

Lawler JJ, O'Connor RJ, Hunsaker CT, et al. The effects of habitat resolution on models of avian diversity and distributions: a comparison of two land-cover classifications. Pp. 515-530

Calvete C, Estrada R, Angulo E, et al. Habitat factors related to wild rabbit conservation in an agricultural landscape. Pp. 531-542

Alados CL, Pueyo Y, Barrantes O, et al. Variations in landscape patterns and vegetation cover between 1957 and 1994 in a semiarid Mediterranean ecosystem. Pp. 543-559

Volume 19, Issue 4 2004

Nassauer JI, Corry RC. Using normative scenarios in landscape ecology. pp. 343-356

Santelmann MV, White D, Freemark K, et al. Assessing alternative futures for agriculture in Iowa, USA. Pp. 357-374

Qi Y, Henderson M, Xu M, et al. Evolving core-periphery interactions in a rapidly expanding urban landscape: The case of Beijing. Pp. 375-388

Li HB, Wu JG. Use and misuse of landscape indices. pp 389-399 2004

Caylor KK, Shugart HH. Simulated productivity of heterogeneous patches in Southern African savanna landscapes using a canopy productivity model. pp 401-415

Lookingbill T, Urban D. An empirical approach towards improved spatial estimates of soil moisture for vegetation analysis. pp 417-433

Neel MC, McGarigal K, Cushman SA. Behavior of class-level landscape metrics across gradients of class aggregation and area. Pp. 435-455

Volume 19, Issue 3 2004

Crow TR, Perera AH. Emulating natural landscape disturbance in forest management - an introduction. Pp. 231-233

Sturtevant BR, Zollner PA, Gustafson EJ, et al.. Human influence on the abundance and connectivity of high-risk fuels in mixed forests of northern Wisconsin, USA. Pp. 235-253

Baldwin DJB, Weaver K, Schnekenburger F, et al. Sensitivity of landscape pattern indices to input data characteristics on real landscapes: implications for their use in natural disturbance emulation. Pp. 255-271

Weaver K, Perera AH. Modelling land cover transitions: A solution to the problem of spatial dependence in data. Pp. 273-289

Bresee MK, Le Moine J, Mather S, et al. Disturbance and landscape dynamics in the Chequamegon National Forest Wisconsin, USA, from 1972 to 2001. pp. 291-309

Cleland DT, Crow TR, Saunders SC, et al. Characterizing historical and modern fire regimes in Michigan (USA): A landscape ecosystem approach. Pp.311-325

Gustafson EJ, Zollner PA, Sturtevant BR, et al. Influence of forest management alternatives and land type on susceptibility to fire in northern Wisconsin, USA. Pp. 327-341

Landscape & Urban Planning (selected papers)

Li X, Yeh AGO. Analyzing spatial restructuring of land use patterns in a fast growing region using remote sensing and GIS. Vol. 69 (4): 335-354 OCT 30 2004

Martin CA, Warren PS, Kinzig AP. Neighborhood socioeconomic status is a useful predictor of perennial landscape vegetation in residential neighborhoods and embedded small parks of Phoenix, AZ. Vol 69 (4): 355-368 OCT 30 2004

Pickett STA, Cadenasso ML, Grove JM. Resilient cities: meaning, models, and metaphor for integrating the ecological, socio-economic, and planning realms. Vol. 69 (4): 369-384 OCT 30 2004

Cornelis J, Hermy M. Biodiversity relationships in urban and suburban parks in Flanders. Vol. 69 (4): 385-401 OCT 30 2004

Chust G, Ducrot D, Pretus JL. Land cover mapping with patch-derived landscape indices. Vol. 69 (4): 437-449 OCT 30 2004

Wang DH, Medley KE. Land use model for carbon conservation across a midwestern USA landscape. Vol. 69 (4): 451-465 OCT 30 2004

Gobster PH, Stewart SI, Bengston DN. The social aspects of landscape change: protecting open space under the pressure of development. Vol. 69 (2-3): 149-151 AUG 15 2004

Dwyer JF, Childs GM. Movement of people across the landscape: a blurring of distinctions between areas, interests, and issues affecting natural resource management. Vol. 69 (2-3): 153-164 AUG 15 2004

Palmer JF. Using spatial metrics to predict scenic perception in a changing landscape: Dennis, Massachusetts. Vol. 69 (2-3): 201-218 AUG 15 2004

Stewart WP, Liebert D, Larkin KW. Community identities as visions for landscape change. Vol. 69 (2-3): 315-334 AUG 15 2004

Zhang LQ, Wu JP, Zhen Y, et al. A GIS-based gradient analysis of urban landscape pattern of Shanghai metropolitan area, China. Vol. 69 (1): 1-16 JUL 15 2004

Fernandez-Juricic E. Spatial and temporal analysis of the distribution of forest specialists in an urban-fragmented landscape (Madrid, Spain) - Implications for local and regional bird conservation. Vol. 69 (1): 17-32 JUL 15 2004

Jim CY. Spatial differentiation and landscape-ecological assessment of heritage trees in urban Guangzhou (China). Vol. 69 (1): 51-68 JUL 15 2004

Traut AH, Hostetler ME. Urban lakes and waterbirds: effects of shoreline development on avian distribution. Vol. 69 (1): 69-85 JUL 15 2004

Arriaza M, Canas-Ortega JF, Canas-Madueno JA, et al. Assessing the visual quality of rural landscapes. Vol. 69 (1): 115-125 JUL 15 2004

Petit S, Howard DC, Stuart RC. A national perspective on recent changes in the spatial characteristics of woodland in the British landscape. Vol. 69 (1): 127-135 JUL 15 2004

Li XZ, He HS, Wang XG, et al. Evaluating the effectiveness of neutral landscape models to represent a real landscape. Vol. 69 (1): 137-148 JUL 15 2004

Vaha-Piikkio I, Kurtto A, Hahkala V. Species number, historical elements and protection of threatened species in the flora of Helsinki, Finland. Vol. 68 (4): 357-370 JUN 15 2004

Stenhouse RN. Fragmentation and internal disturbance of native vegetation reserves in the Perth metropolitan area, Western Australia. Vol. 68 (4): 389-401 JUN 15 2004

Lofvenhaft K, Runborg S, Sjogren-Gulve P. Biotope patterns and amphibian distribution as assessment tools in urban landscape planning. Vol. 68 (4): 403-427 JUN 15 2004

Pedersen AO, Nyhuus S, Blindheim T, et al. Implementation of a GIS-based management tool for conservation of biodiversity within the municipality of Oslo, Norway Vol. 68 (4): 429-438 JUN 15 2004

International PhD Course "Landscape Ecology: Its Methods and their Applications"

Linked to the European IALE Congress 2005 in Faro, Portugal:

<http://www.apap.pt>

Aims:

- To explore the global aspects of Landscape Ecology
- To make contact with more established scholars
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If you are interested in this course get in contact with Marion Potschin asap!

Email: Marion.Potschin@nottingham.ac.uk

Tel +44/115/846 7398,

Diary

IALE Meetings:

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| 2005 | Landscape Ecology: Planning, People & Practice. The landscape ecology of sustainable landscapes. Annual Conference of IALE (UK), September 12-16 th , University College Northampton |
| 2005 | European IALE Congress, Portugal Landscape Ecology in the Mediterranean: Inside and outside approaches. See http://www.apep.pt/ |
| 2005 | Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE) 1st Regional Biannual Conference. |

- Elmina, Ghana (19 - 23 July 2005). Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges
- 2006 Water in the Landscape: the landscape ecology of freshwater and marine environments. Annual Conference of IALE (UK), September 2006, Oxford Brookes University
- 2007 World Congress, Wageningen, The Netherlands

See <http://www.landscape-ecology.org/events/regional.htm> for diary of future IALE events.

Other Meetings of Interest:

- 2004 From Knowledge Of Landscapes To Landscaping Action Conference: December 1-4, 2004 CEB -Cemagref conference - BP 55 - 33030 Bordeaux Cedex - France
<http://landscape.lyon.cemagref.fr/>
- 2005 EurEco 2005 'Ecology without Borders' 10th International Ecological Congress. (Includes landscape ecology as a topic) Pine Bay Holiday Resort Kusadasi, Turkey. November 1-6, 2005. Contact: Prof. Umit Email: erdem@ziraat.ege.edu.tr
- 2005 BES Annual Meeting 5-7 September, University of Hertfordshire.