



# Meeting Tomorrow's Needs



**esa**

Annual Report 2008

# From the Executive Director

*Two thousand eight marked another exciting year for the Society.*

*Frontiers* began a new online prepress publication site, *Frontiers e-View*, to allow more rapid publication than is possible in print. Reports in *Ecology* and Communications in *Ecological Applications* were given new looks and papers in these sections routinely appear less than a year from submission. These sections are now Open Access and there is no charge for color figures. ESA Journals Online also has a fresh look and greater functionality. We now offer pay-per-view and “mini-subscription” options for non-subscribers. All our journals can be found in JSTOR, where the moving wall has been reduced from four to two years. And ESA’s journals are now certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, meeting their rigorous standards for using paper stocks that foster sustainable use of forest resources. *Beyond the Frontier* and *Field Talk* podcasts featuring journal authors discussing their research are a popular new feature as well.

ESA’s biofuels conference drew more than 350 experts in ecology, industry, agriculture, forestry, socio-economics and policy from around the globe and was followed by a two-day workshop for 45 participants. An exciting first product of those efforts was a paper, titled “Sustainable Biofuels Redux,” published in the October 3 issue of the journal *Science*.



Credit: ESA file photo

ESA Headquarters.

A variety of ESA House and Senate briefings provided timely and critical information for congressional staff on cellulosic biofuels and the ecology of wildfires, and ESA press releases to the media throughout the year highlighted ecological research advances.

Our 2008 Annual Meeting featured a special day designed for educators that provided a series of activities for high school teachers to help them explore how to use ecological issues in classroom research. In the fall, an education workshop introduced continental-scale data in undergraduate courses and explored the opportunities for teaching and learning that large-scale data can offer.

ESA’s membership is solid, our programs expanding, our publications evolving, and our finances sound. We are in a solid position to face the challenges of the future.

In March, ESA merged its *Frontiers* and Education offices—which had been located in Silver Spring, Maryland—with the rest of Headquarters in new downtown DC office space. Now ESA members visiting DC can find all the Headquarters staff in one metrorail-convenient location. We hope you’ll stop by.

Our 2008 Annual Meeting featured a special day designed for educators that provided a series of activities for high school teachers to help them explore how to use ecological issues in classroom research. In the fall, an education workshop introduced continental-scale data in undergraduate courses and explored the opportunities for teaching and learning that large-scale data can offer.

Our 2008 Annual Meeting featured a special day designed for educators that provided a series of activities for high school teachers to help them explore how to use ecological issues in classroom research. In the fall, an education workshop introduced continental-scale data in undergraduate courses and explored the opportunities for teaching and learning that large-scale data can offer.



*Katherine S. McCarter*



## From the President

In August, The Ecological Society of America convened its 93rd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and it was by all measures a great success. The meeting theme, “Enhancing Ecological Thought by Linking Research and Education,” was echoed in several plenary sessions and in many symposia and contributed paper sessions. It was especially evident in the attendance and participation of numerous high school teachers and Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) students and alumni. Linking ecological research and education is indeed the very core of ESA’s mission.

In 2015, our Society will celebrate its centennial. I am quite certain that the attendees at ESA’s founding meeting in Columbus, Ohio, would be astonished and very pleased to see the realization of their vision. Even in 1915, the world was clearly changing and the need for a scientific society dedicated to research and education “embracing every phase of the relation of organisms to their environmental condition...” was obvious. Since that inaugural meeting, Earth’s human population has increased four-fold. Affluence and technology have magnified our impacts on Earth’s ecosystems considerably beyond the mere increase in our numbers. Ecological research and education have never been more compelling, and ESA is playing a central role in meeting our planet’s most significant environmental challenges.

SEEDS is ESA’s flagship program aimed at diversifying and advancing the profession of ecology through opportunities that stimulate and nurture the interest of underrepresented students. I had the great pleasure of attending the SEEDS annual Leadership Meeting in February of this year. Undergraduate and graduate students presented their independent research and discussed a variety of emerging ecological issues. It was immediately obvious why this program received prestigious awards for mentoring from the American Institute of Biological Sciences and none other than the President of the United States.

ESA’s commitment to the combination of ecological research and education was nowhere more evident than in its Conference on the Ecological Dimensions of Biofuels held in Washington, DC in March. Spearheaded by ESA’s Science Office, the products of this conference will play a significant role in the development of future policy related to biofuel production. Just as important, this event will serve as an excellent model for ESA’s involvement in other policy-relevant issues. This commitment was also evident in the meetings between ESA members and congressional staffers focused on timely ecological issues and sponsored by our Public Affairs Office.

Our founders viewed ESA’s journals as the most tangible evidence of our impact on the world, and they would be pleased to find that, by a variety of measures, our journals are judged among the best. We continue to work to keep pace with changes in the ways scientists and educators access and use information.

Certainly the founding ESA members would be pleased to know that our Society is financially sound. Over the past several years, ESA has not only balanced its budget, but has been able to build its reserves and endowment. Thank you for your continued support of the ESA Millennium Fund, which has catalyzed so many important initiatives.

It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve as ESA President this year. I am grateful for the wonderful staff that so ably supports all of the Society’s activities. I am especially grateful for the passion and commitment that motivates our membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Meeting Tomorrow's Needs

## Bioenergy

- ❖ ESA's conference and workshop on the ecological dimensions of biofuels drew over 350 participants and resulted in a Policy Forum article in *Science* magazine and presentations at national conferences.
- ❖ The Society issued a position statement on biofuels sustainability that garnered attention from around the globe.
- ❖ Over 100 congressional and federal agency staff attended ESA's House and Senate briefings on the sustainability of cellulosic biofuels.



Credit: Christine Buckley

ESA congressional briefing on biofuels.

## Climate

- ❖ A special issue of *Ecological Applications* featured research on arctic marine mammals and climate change, as well as a corresponding podcast.



Credit: iStockphoto.com

Walrus are among those Arctic marine mammals threatened by melting ice.

- ❖ ESA recognized Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's leadership on climate and related issues with the Society's first-ever Regional Policy Award.

- ❖ The Society co-sponsored a congressional briefing with the U.S. Geological Survey on climate and invasive species.



Credit: ESA file photo

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle (left) holds ESA's Regional Policy Award, shown with Wisconsin member Stan Temple.

*Honeybee collecting nectar and pollen.*



*Credit: iStockphoto.com*

## Sustainable Ecosystems

❖ *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* offered a special, open access issue on ecological globalization and a corresponding podcast, 'Ecologists Connect the Dots.'

❖ Under its cooperative agreement with the National Biological Information Infrastructure, ESA developed a pollinators web site ([pollinators.nbi.gov](http://pollinators.nbi.gov)), which includes images, guides, datasets, and monitoring protocols.

❖ Hundreds of congressional staff viewed a Capitol Hill exhibit sponsored by ESA that showcased research undertaken by a graduate student member studying African savanna ecosystems.

## Science Education

❖ ESA's SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability) program received the American Institute of Biological Sciences' Diversity Leadership Award. Three SEEDS Fellows completed their research and six more started this year.

*SEEDS 2008 Award Winners.*

❖ EcoEdNet, ESA's digital library, now features 329 entries, including 123 images, 7 simulations, and 43 lab activities.

❖ The Society organized a pilot workshop to introduce continental-scale data in undergraduate courses and investigate corresponding teaching opportunities in collaboration with NEON Inc. and with support from the National Science Foundation.



*Credit: Jui Shrestha*

# Communicating Research

Ecologists, land managers, educators, and other scientists communicate the latest research in the field of ecology through ESA's scientific, peer-reviewed journals. ESA journals enjoy high impact factors and are widely cited. All the journals are printed on paper stocks that meet the Forest Stewardship Council's rigorous standards.

*Ecology*, the Society's flagship journal, and *Ecological Monographs* offer superb research studies and are some of the most highly cited journals in their field.

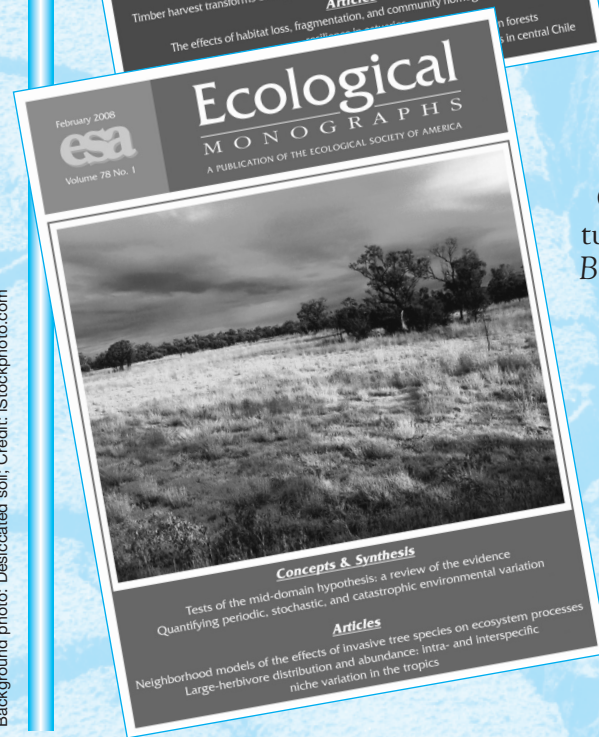
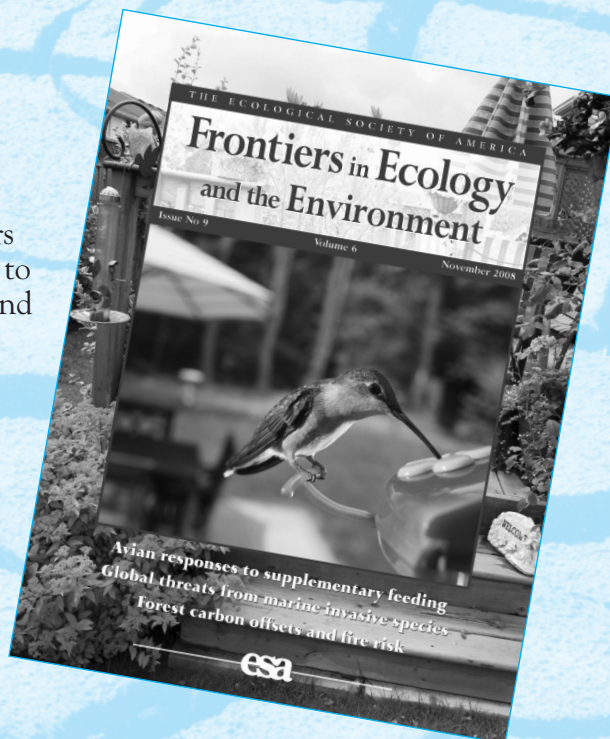
*Ecological Applications* is a popular outlet for research at the interface of ecology and management.

*Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* is full-color, has a broad, interdisciplinary appeal, and is designed to be accessible to those reading outside their area of expertise.

Last year, research featured in ESA's journals included aquatic diversity, climate change, disease ecology, desertification, and pollinators, among many other topics. ESA journals attract global media attention that, in 2008, included coverage by *BBC World News*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Nature News*, *The Sunday Times*, *Science*, *The Australian*, and many other local, national, and international news outlets.



Over 1,000 listeners tune in each month to *Beyond the Frontier* and *Field Talk*. New in 2008, these ESA podcasts feature interviews with authors published in the Society's journals.





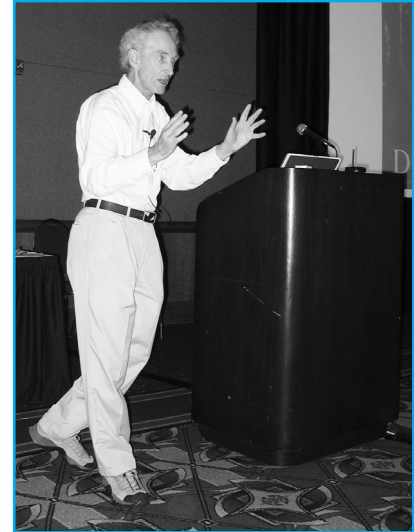
# Annual Meeting

With topics ranging from citizen science to fire ecology, the Ecological Society of America's 93rd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin drew 3,300 participants. Thomas Lovejoy, President of the Heinz Center, and Lord Robert May, University of Oxford, gave the Opening and Scientific Plenary addresses, respectively. The meeting also featured a High School Educator's Ecological Literacy Day with sessions focused on helping teachers use ecological issues for research in the classroom. Thirteen field trips, over 800 posters, 31 workshops, more than 120 oral sessions, and 24 symposia gave attendees much from which to choose.



Credit: Rui Zhang

K-12 educators learn research techniques on the impact of invasive mussels.



Credit: Nadine Lynn

Lord May delivers the Scientific Plenary.

## 2008 Award Winners

**Eminent Ecologist:** Michael Rosenzweig

**Odum Education Award:** Stuart Fisher

**Cooper Award:** Campbell Webb

**E. Lucy Braun Award (2007):** Jacquelyn Gill

**Sustainability Science Award:** Terry Yates (2007) Stuart Chapin (2008)

**Distinguished Service Citation:** Katherine Gross

**Mercer Award:** Jonathan Chase

**MacArthur Award:** Monica Turner

**Murray F. Buell Award (2007):** Charles Price



Credit: ESA file photo

Robert Holt, Eminent Ecologist Awardee Michael Rosenzweig, President Christensen (left to right).



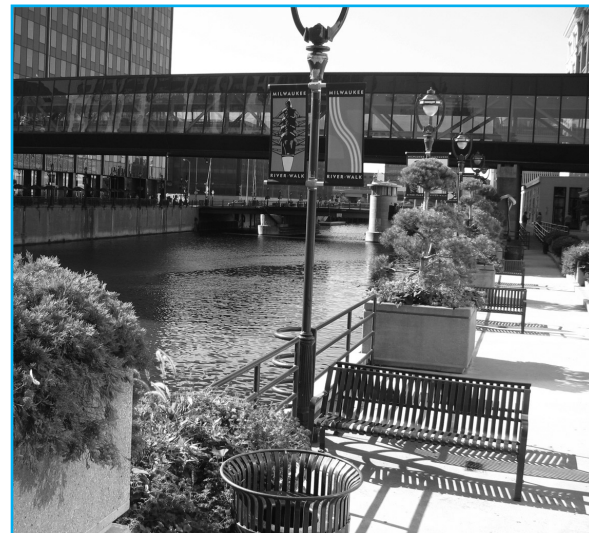
Credit: ESA file photo

Deborah Goldberg, MacArthur Awardee Monica Turner, President Christensen (left to right).



Credit: ESA file photo

Distinguished Service Awardee Katherine Gross and President Christensen.



Credit: Rui Zhang

Milwaukee Riverwalk.

# Finances

Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2008

“As the VP for Finance I am happy to report that ESA continues to be in excellent financial health. Membership and journal subscriptions remain strong, and our annual meetings have been well attended. This has allowed ESA to build up our “Unrestricted Net Assets” from negative numbers a decade ago, to a positive balance of over \$1,874,000 at the end of fiscal year 2008. These funds constitute our “rainy day fund” and are available to help ESA to remain strong and stable during uncertain economic times.”

*Bill Parton, VP Finance ESA Governing Board*

## Revenues

Grants & Contributions	125,766
Membership Dues	606,367
Subscriptions	2,494,791
Manuscript Charges	342,771
Annual Meeting	1,209,594
Investment Income	108,573
Other Revenues	327,720
Net Assets released from restrictions	1,163,141
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>6,378,723</b>

## Expenses

Public Affairs	240,744
Science Programs	478,612
Annual Meeting	961,134
Chapters & Sections	28,028
Journal Publications	2,524,183
Education Programs	563,320
Member & Administrative Services	1,393,760
Fundraising	100,605
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,290,386</b>

## Change in Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2007	1,785,729
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2008	1,874,066

## Assets

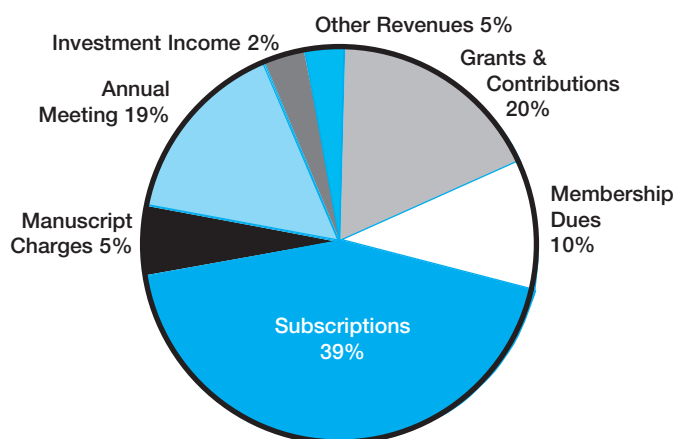
Cash and cash equivalents	1,974,869
Investments	3,963,348
Accounts receivable	183,703
Grants receivable	254,414
Prepaid expenses	172,569
Furniture & Equipment (less depreciation)	30,640
Deposits	34,691
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,614,234</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

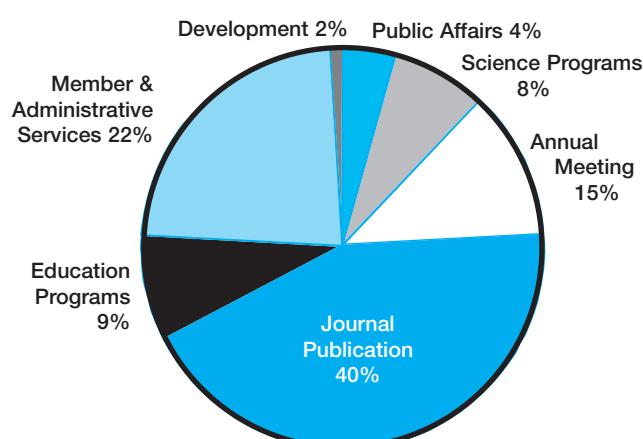
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	248,360
Deferred revenue	2,366,613
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,874,066
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	2,075,195
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	50,000
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>6,614,234</b>

Audited by Gelman, Rosenberg, Freedman.  
For a complete audit report please contact ESA's Washington DC office.

### 2008 REVENUES



### 2008 EXPENSES





# 2008 Fund for the Millennium

ESA thanks its Millennium Fund Donors who help support bold new initiatives such as the Millennium Conference series. If you would like to help the Society advance the science and profession of ecology, please consider a donation at [www.esa.org/donate](http://www.esa.org/donate).

## \$1000+

Anonymous  
Jill Baron and Dennis Ojima  
Lawrence Bliss  
Carol Brewer and Paul Alaback  
Stephen Carpenter  
Norman Christensen  
Alan Covich  
The Doris Duke Charitable  
Foundation  
Christopher Field and Nona  
Chiariello  
Nancy Grimm  
Edward Johnson  
Margaret Lowman  
James MacMahon  
William Parton  
Alison Power  
Mary Power  
Matching Contribution  
Andrew Mellon Foundation

## \$500-999

Mary Barber  
Jayne Belnap  
Erie Community Foundation,  
Fred Mason Fisher Memorial Fund  
Louis Gross  
Jeffrey Herrick  
John Howieson  
Nancy Huntly  
David Inouye  
Robert Jackson  
Katherine McCarter

Kiyoko Miyanishi  
Alicia and William Robertson

## \$250-499

Ann Bartuska  
James Coleman  
Arthur Cooper  
Clifford Duke  
Katherine Gross  
Laura Huenneke  
Ann Kinzig  
Nadine Lymn  
Robert Peet  
Louis Pitelka  
Michael Ryan  
William Schlesinger  
Gaius Shaver  
Frederic Wagner  
Milton Weller

## \$100-249

Warren Abrahamson  
Juan Armesto  
Kenneth Armitage  
Jane Bain  
Alan Berkowitz  
John Briggs  
Dale Brockaway  
Joseph Cech  
Brian Chabot  
Peter Chen  
Sharon Collinge  
Scott Collins  
Ramona Crawford  
Jeffrey Dukes

Alexander Flecker  
Harold Fritts  
David Gates  
Deborah Goldberg  
Robert Greenbank  
David Hart  
Bruce Hayden  
Mark Hixon  
Boyd Hutchison  
Jill Johnstone  
Linda Joyce  
Brian Keller  
Kenneth Klemow  
Alan Knapp  
William Kodrich  
Edward Kormondy  
Simon and Carol Levin  
Richard Lindroth  
Jane Lubchenco  
Jason McLachlan  
Sean Michaletz  
George Middendorf  
Steven Miller  
Gordon Orians  
Sonia Ortega  
Robert Paine  
Chong-Hwa Park  
Peter Price  
Ronald and Janice Pulliam  
Safianu Rabi  
Seth Reice  
Wayne and Monica Richter  
Victor Riemenschneider  
Philip Robertson  
Richard Root

Osvaldo Sala  
Joshua Schimel  
Timothy Schowalter  
Stephen Sillett  
Emily Stanley  
Boyd Strain  
William Tietjen  
Carl Von Ende  
Diana Wall  
Weixing Zhu

## \$50-99

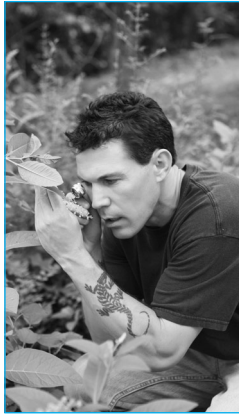
Carol Baird  
Kyle Barbehenn  
Theresa Bucher  
Martyn Caldwell  
Mark Davis  
Carlos De La Rosa  
Linda Deegan  
Frank Egerton  
Jessica Gurevitch  
Christopher Hertz  
Beatrice Horne  
Richard Newsome  
Richard Norby  
Alison Perkins  
James Randolph  
Dave Rugg  
Donald Shure  
James Sweeney  
Elliot Tramer  
Genevive Tvrdik  
Susan Ustin  
David Voigts  
Thomas Wentworth

## Grants, Contributions, and Sponsorships

ESA is grateful to the following organizations that provided funds to ESA activities and programs, ranging from the conference on ecological dimensions of biofuels, to the SEEDS program, to *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*:

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Forest and Paper Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Petroleum Institute  
Cell Press  
Chevron Corporation  
Energy Biosciences Institute  
Energy Foundation  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Environmental Security Technology Certification Program  
H. John Heinz III Center  
Marine Science Institute  
Mellon Foundation  
Moore Foundation  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
National Resources Defense Council  
National Science Foundation  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Ocean Optics  
Springer Verlag  
US Geological Survey  
Union Of Concerned Scientists  
University of Chicago Press  
US Forest Service  
USACE Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Agricultural Research Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service  
UT Battelle  
Utah State University  
Western Governors Association  
Wisconsin Energy Foundation

# About the ESA



Credit: ESA file photo

Charles Price

Founded in 1915, and today the world's largest professional organization of ecological scientists, the Ecological Society of America represents researchers, educators, natural resource managers, and students in North America and 90 other countries. Members share a passion for understanding the relationships between organisms and their past, present, and future environments and are engaged in a wide variety of endeavors that further our collective knowledge about the world in which we live. Members can join any of over 20 Sections, including aquatic to microbial ecology and can participate in regional activities through the Society's six Chapters.



Credit: Karen Kivinen

Rafael Otfinowski



The Society's publications include four highly ranked peer-reviewed journals, as well as the online *Bulletin*, and a range of free, online publications that serve as outreach and teaching tools. ESA's Annual Meeting draws ecologists from around the globe to share research and ideas.

Through its Headquarters Office in Washington, DC, the Society also gives voice to ecological concerns including integrating ecological science into resource management, enhancing diversity within the community and improving ecological education, and informing policy decisions with ecological science.



Credit: David Kipper

Jonathan Chase and Ruth Poland collect amphibians and invertebrates for a pond survey.



Credit: Bete Pfister

Bahia de Kino middle schoolers (Sonara, Mexico) explore an intertidal pool with Prescott College's Andrea Galindo (center, white sleeveless shirt).



Credit: Jui Shrestha

Frederick Abbot and Israel Del Torro

# ESA Governing Board & Staff

## GOVERNING BOARD 2007-2008

### President

Norm Christensen, Duke University

### President-Elect

Alison Power, Cornell University

### Past-President

Alan Covich, University of Georgia

### Vice President for Science

Robert Jackson, Duke University

### Vice President for Finance

Bill Parton, Colorado State University

### Vice President for Public Affairs

Richard Pouyat, Baltimore Ecosystem Study

### Vice President for Education and Human Resources

Margaret Lowman, New College of Florida

### Secretary

David Inouye, University of Maryland

### Members-at-Large

Juan Armesto, P. Universidad Catolica Chile

Jayne Belnap, US Geological Survey

Ann Kinzig, Arizona State University

## ESA HEADQUARTERS

1990 M Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 833-8773 Fax: (202) 833-8775

**Executive Director:** Katherine McCarter

**Financial Officer:** Elizabeth Biggs

**Director of Development:** Ramona Crawford

**Associate Director, Information Systems:** Thet Khaing Oo

**Administrative Assistant/Governance:** Marie Fredlake

**Finance & Accounting Associate:** Win May Kyaw

**Meetings Planner:** Michelle Horton

**Meetings Associate:** Tricia Crocker

**Membership/Database Manager:** Rachel M. Dellon

**Webmaster:** Zaw Aung

## Public Affairs Office

**Director:** Nadine Lynn

**Communications Officer:** Christine Buckley

**Science Policy Analyst:** Piper Corp

## Science Office

**Director:** Clifford Duke

**Program Manager:** Corrie Mauldin

**Program Assistant:** Aleta Wiley

**NBII Project Manager:** Devon Rothschild

Editor: Nadine Lynn

Cover: Top left: Soil ecologist Jayne Belnap; *credit: ESA file photo*; Bruno Rosado and Patrick Ellsworth at sinkhole in pine rocklands; *credit: Amartya Saha*; Enclosure experiment in Gull Lake, MI; *credit: Orlando Sarnelle*; Marlem Rivera with crab; *credit: Ocean Discovery Institute*.



The 2008 ESA Annual Report is printed on recycled paper  
Design/Layout: BJ's Print & Graphic Services Ltd  
Printing: PeakeDeLancey

## Education and Diversity Programs Office

**Director:** Teresa Mourad

**Education Coordinator:** Jennifer Riem

**Diversity Programs Manager:** Melissa Armstrong

**Diversity Programs Coordinator:** Erin Vinson

## Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment

**Editor in Chief:** Sue Silver

**Assistant Editor:** Ken Ferguson

**Assistant Editor:** Peter Mooreside

**Marketing and Advertising Manager:** Eric Gordon

## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

127 West State Street, Suite 301, Ithaca, NY 14850

Tel: (607) 255-3221 Fax: (607) 273-3294

**Managing Editor:** David Baldwin

**Data Archives Manager/Features Editor:** Jane Bain

**Associate Technical Editor:** Gail Blake

**Office Assistant:** Heather Carlo

**Copy Editor:** Tracey Cranston

**Associate Managing Editor:** David Gooding

**Copy Editor:** Dooley Kiefer

**Copy Editor:** Rachel Lodder

**Editor Emeritus:** Lee Miller

**Graphics/Production Editor:** Regina Przygocki

**Office Manager:** Jane Shaw

**Technical Editor:** Margaret Shepard

**Copy Editor:** Nancy Sorrells

**Editorial Assistant:** Linda Stoddard

**Publications Coordinator:** Anne Marie Whelan



ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
1990 M STREET, NW, SUITE 700  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
[WWW.ESA.ORG](http://WWW.ESA.ORG)

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
PERMIT NO. 6507