

# *Looking to the Future*



## *Annual Report 2010*



# From the Executive Director

Every year at ESA seems to bring new opportunities for the Society to expand its programs and services to its members and to enhance the science of ecology. This past year was no exception. Most exciting was the launch of a new journal, *Ecosphere*, which ESA added to its outstanding suite of publications. This online-only, rapid publication, open access journal promises to provide an outlet for many excellent papers. *Ecosphere* is already attracting a rich assortment of papers covering such diverse topics as cougars and education.

In addition to the Society's immediate response to April's Gulf oil spill, ESA gave further attention to the accident during the Opening Plenary of the Annual Meeting, which offered perspectives on prominent environmental disasters and explored the ways people and collective society assess environmental risk. The Pittsburgh meeting, with its theme of climate change, drew 3,500 participants and provided a rich and stimulating environment for expanding our understanding of climate and many other issues and engaging with a wide range of colleagues.

In October, ESA and the National Education Association convened a conference in Washington, DC, "Environmental Literacy for a Sustainable World." The summit brought together a wide range of people involved in education – from those focused on green schools to those exploring ways to deepen interest in the environment using computer games, as well as religious leaders promoting Earth stewardship and social justice.

ESA has refocused its Millennium Fund as the Fund for the Future to allow for three major giving opportunities. Two are focused on the development of a new generation of ecologists (the award winning SEEDS program and the Real/Brown Student Travel Awards) and the third allows ESA to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities to pursue its goals. Our members give generously to these funds and their support is vital to ESA.

The highlights that follow in this annual report will give you a flavor of the many activities and actions that ESA conducted this year in its science, education, public affairs, publications, and annual meeting programs.

It is my honor to serve as your Executive Director and to work closely with the Governing Board and the many other dedicated members who serve ESA in so many roles – from section, chapter and committee chairs, to editors and reviewers for our journals. The staff of ESA continues to perform effectively with enthusiasm and commitment to fulfill the mission of ESA. I am proud to work with such a fine group of professionals.

I look forward to another year of new opportunities!



Credit: ESA file photo.

*Katherine S. McCarter*

# From the President

**I**t has been a privilege, a pleasure, and an education to serve as ESA President. Ecologists, and our colleagues in earth and atmospheric science, are grappling with the dual responsibilities of building the scientific basis for better predictions of what lies ahead for our ecosystems and planet and communicating our findings to decision makers and the broader public in a clear and timely manner. I'm very heartened that ESA has been playing useful roles here. Within 48 hours of the BP oil spill, members of ESA's Rapid Response Team had issued statements and were available to comment: eyes and voices on the ground with ecological expertise. ESA Student Section leaders organized a meta-database for pre-spill conditions of ecosystems in the directly affected states. More senior ESA members who had experience with restrictions on corporate-funded research on the Alaska Valdez spill were the impetus for a timely, multi-society letter led by ESA and sent to the Administration and Congress calling for publically funded oil spill related research.



Credit: ESA file photo.

As ESA engages in issues of societal concern, particularly politically charged crises, we have to keep rethinking what ESA is and is not. We are not an advocacy group. We are a rather large group of diverse members, wonderful staff, and rotating leadership that sustains a network for supporting and communicating rigorous, sometimes useful ecological science. ESA should be useful, but never used in a partisan fashion.

The *sine qua non* of rigorous science is peer-reviewed publication. ESA's journals are world renown for their quality. Recently, however, editors became victims of their own success as the stream of high quality submissions swelled to fire hydrant proportions. In a soon-to-be legendary fern bar, editors and leaders of the ESA publication committee hatched a plan for a new, author pays, online-only, open access, rapid publication journal, to broaden and deepen the scope of ESA publications. Within a year, *Ecosphere* was launched. How it evolves depends on how authors, readers, and our membership respond. A number of leading ecologists have published there already, and many express enthusiasm for letting the open scientific marketplace play a larger role in sorting out those papers with lasting influence.

One lesson I learned during my term is that values and science may not be as separable as I'd thought. The notion that values-free, detached objectivity increases as the scope of science expands from local to global flickers out as we consult our feelings about Earth's atmosphere reaching a non-benign tipping point, or reckless proposals for geoengineering it "back to health."

Three consecutive ESA Presidents, 2009-2011, now urge that we make Earth Stewardship (formerly Planetary Stewardship) a guiding framework for our Society. There is a groundswell of interest in finding ways humanity can realign its relationship with nature to better sustain the biosphere, inspired by Native activists, humanists, religious leaders, social scientists, and visionary political leaders, among others. As ESA engages with diverse partners we need to listen respectfully and speak clearly.

The Society's Annual Meeting was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a former steel manufacturing city re-inventing itself as a hub for green jobs. With a thematic focus of climate change, the meeting occurred only a week after the tragic loss of renowned climate scientist Steve Schneider. Many of Steve's friends, colleagues, and students were at the Pittsburgh meeting and honor his work by continuing it.

ESA is buoyed and propelled by dedicated members; talented, hard-working staff; and, increasingly, by our students. Our SEEDS program and the ESA Student Section have evolved into a strong, vibrant network of diverse young ecological leaders. Thanks to all who made my term as your president an inspiring experience. May we keep the spirit and the scientific fun and friendships of our Society strong as we face the considerable challenges ahead for scientific ecology and Earth Stewardship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary E Power". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Looking to the Future

## Science & Environmental Literacy

☀ The summit, “Environmental Literacy for a Sustainable World,” generated ideas and collaborations to develop a green workforce and society. It was co-chaired by ESA and the National Education Association and supported by more than 20 federal and non-profit partners.



Credit: Nadine Lynn.

Will Allen, urban farmer, addresses summit attendees.

☀ The Society’s journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* published a special, open access issue on communicating science that is relevant to environmental controversies.

☀ ESA partnered with the Science and Engineering Alliance and NEON Inc. to enhance engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and diverse audiences in continental scale ecology.



## Gulf Oil Spill

☀ Through members on its Rapid Response Team, ESA provided reporters with timely ecological perspectives on the BP oil rig accident.

☀ To assist with assessment and restoration efforts, ESA – with leadership from its student members – set up a data registry on pre-spill Gulf Coast conditions.



Credit: NOAA.

Oil on Grand Isle, Louisiana.



Credit: NOAA.

☀ ESA took the lead on a multi-society letter to the U.S. Senate, calling for public access to independent scientific research assessments of the Gulf of Mexico.

Heavy band of oil seen during an overflight on May 12, 2010.

## Advancing Ecological Science

☼ Featuring all sub-disciplines of ecological science, the Society launched a new online, rapid publication, open access journal called *Ecosphere*.

☼ ESA's first bilingual—Spanish and English—webinar debuted on SEEDSNet, a social networking site, and featured agroecology in Chiapas, Mexico. SEEDSNet keeps SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability) students and chapters connected, offering community blogs, virtual career fairs, and alumni advice.



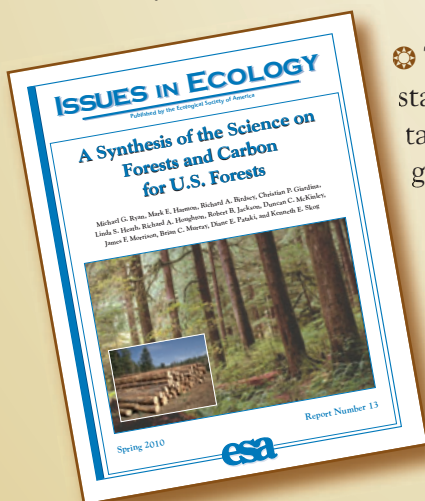
Credit: Nadine Lynn.

☼ The socio-ecological studies of Baltimore's long term ecological research site were featured during an ESA-sponsored field trip for representatives from science and education organizations, Congress, and federal agencies.

*Field trip participants hear about education aspects of the Baltimore Ecosystem Study.*

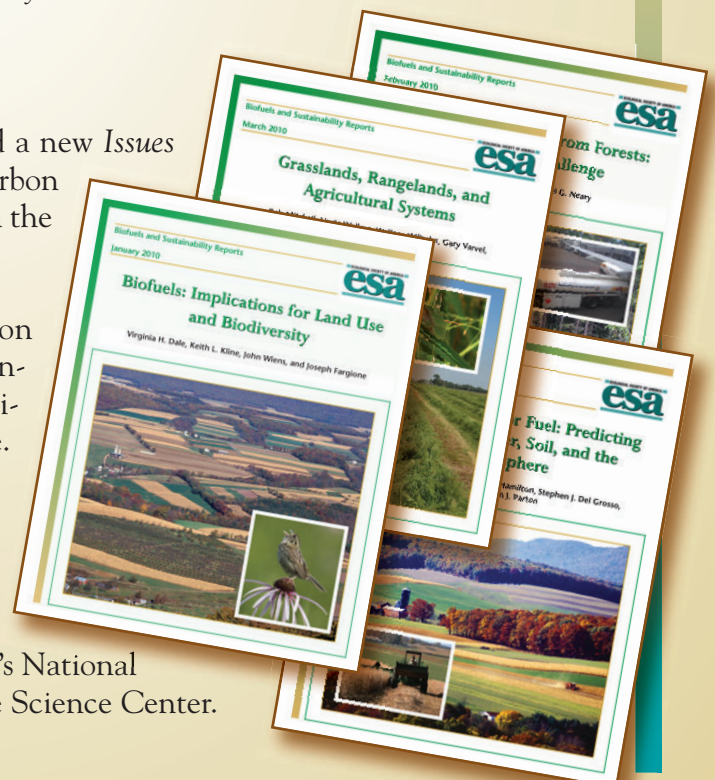
## Energy & Climate

☼ ESA produced four *Biofuels and Sustainability Reports* and a new *Issues in Ecology*: "A Synthesis of the Science on Forests and Carbon for U.S. Forests." These resources are all available for free on the Society's website.



☼ The Society issued a position statement on restoring and maintaining natural ecosystems to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

☼ Together with the Wildlife Society and the Meridian Institute, ESA provided recommendations for operation of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center.



# Communicating Research

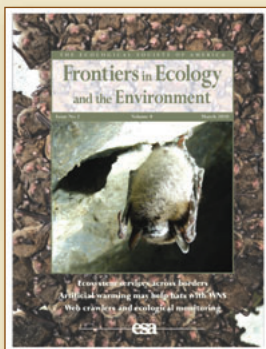
Ecologists, land managers, educators, and other scientists from around the world communicate the latest research in the field of ecology through ESA's scientific, peer-reviewed journals: *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Ecological Applications*, and *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. ESA journals enjoy high impact factors and are widely cited.

In 2010, ESA launched its newest journal, *Ecosphere*, a rapid publication, online-only, open access journal featuring all sub-disciplines of ecology.

Research featured in ESA's journals in 2010 included articles on white-nose syndrome in bats, marine protected areas, migration systems of New World birds, the indirect ecological effects between parasitoid wasps and rhizobacteria, and the range expansion of cougars.

In 2010, the *Associated Press*, *National Public Radio*, *The Sun*, *Greenwire*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, the *LA Times*, and many others covered research published in the Society's journals.

## ESA Journal Rankings and Impact Factors



“Ecology” Category (out of 127 journal titles)

- 4 **FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (6.922)**
- 10 **ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS (4.862)**
- 16 **ECOLOGY (4.411)**
- 25 **ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS (3.672)**

“Environmental Sciences” Category (out of 180 journal titles)

- 2 **FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (6.922)**
- 12 **ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS (3.672)**

Over 1,000 listeners tune in each month to *Beyond the Frontier* and *Field Talk*.

These ESA podcasts feature interviews with authors published in the Society's journals.



ESA's blog, *Ecotone*, showcases ecology and ecologists and draws about 700 visitors a day.



# Annual Meeting

The Ecological Society of America's 95th Annual Meeting, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, drew 3,500 attendees and featured keynote presentations from White House Science Advisor John Holdren, IPCC author and forest ecologist Steve Running, and risk communications expert Baruch Fischhoff. ESA's 2010 Regional Policy Award winner, Braddock Mayor John Fetterman, expressed his gratitude for the award which recognized his innovative approaches to use green technology to bolster the economy of the former steel mill town of Braddock. Covering topics as varied as ocean acidification and mountaintop mining, the ESA meeting was the usual whirlwind of more than a dozen field trips, over 800 posters, 37 workshops, 57 oral sessions, 22 symposia, and numerous social events, offering ample time for networking and reconnecting with colleagues.



Credit: Nadine Lynn.

President Mary Power presents Mayor Fetterman with ESA's Regional Policy Award.



Credit: Lorna Moreno.

ESA SEEDS students on the Roberto Clemente Bridge in Pittsburgh.

## 2010 Award Winners

**Eminent Ecologist:** Simon Levin  
**MacArthur Award:** Stephen Pacala  
**Odum Education Award:** Kenneth Klemow  
**Mercer Award:** Meghan Duffy and Spencer Hall  
**Cooper Award:** Jacquelyn Gill, Stephen Jackson, Katherine Lininger, Guy Robinson

**E. Lucy Braun Award (2009):** Jenise M. Bauman  
**Murray F. Buell Award (2009):** Divya Uma  
**Sustainability Science Award:** Martin Lindegren, Christian Möllmann, Anders Nielsen, Nils Christian Stenseth  
**Distinguished Service Citation:** Rosina Bierbaum



Credit: ESA file photo.

Mary Power congratulates Meghan Duffy.



Credit: Nadine Lynn.

The ESA Exhibit Hall.



Credit: ESA file photo.

Simon Levin.

# Finances

Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2010

"I am happy to report that ESA's finances have remained strong. Revenue from our journal program, membership and annual meeting are all stable. We continue to grow our "Unrestricted Net Assets" which will help to insure ESA's financial stability into the future."

*Bill Parton, VP Finance, ESA Governing Board*

## Revenues

Grants & Contributions	722,483
Membership Dues	623,821
Subscriptions	2,679,712
Manuscript Charges	474,577
Annual Meeting	1,026,668
Investment Income	53,340
Other Revenues	311,519
Net Assets released from restrictions	585,400
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>6,477,520</b>

## Expenses

Public Affairs	243,747
Science Program	512,591
Annual Meeting	781,863
Chapters & Sections	32,667
Journal Publications	2,607,173
Education	465,346
Member & Administrative Services	1,406,313
Fundraising	5,241
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,054,941</b>

## Change in Net Assets 422,579

Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2009	1,920,342
Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2010	2,342,921

## Assets

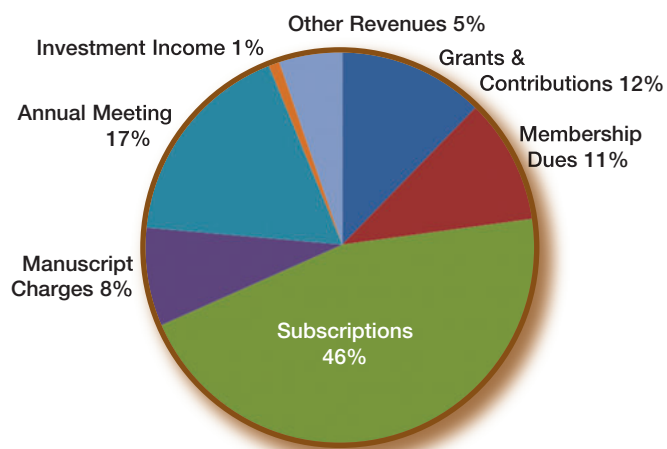
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,466,644
Investments	4,443,817
Accounts Receivable	259,720
Grants Receivable	161,119
Prepaid Expenses	174,975
Furniture & Equipment (less depreciation)	21,033
Deposits	24,616
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,551,924</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

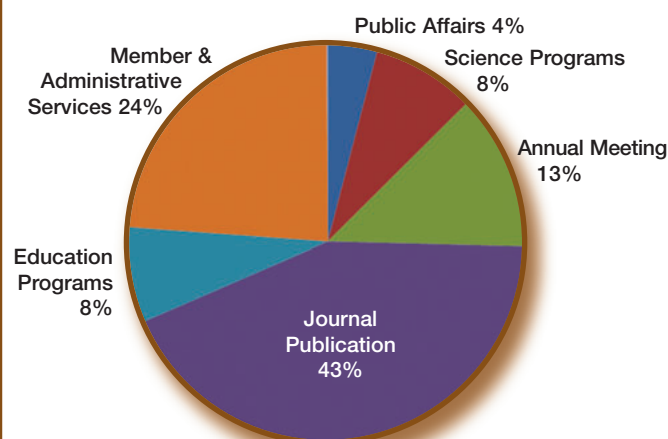
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	258,617
Deferred Revenue	2,544,653
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,342,921
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,355,733
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	50,000
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>6,551,924</b>

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

### 2010 REVENUES



### 2010 EXPENSES





# 2010 Fund for the Future

ESA thanks its generous donors who help support Society initiatives. If you would like to help the Society advance the science and profession of ecology, please consider making a donation at [www.esa.org/donate](http://www.esa.org/donate).

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## Grants, Contributions, and Sponsorships

ESA is grateful to the following organizations that provided funds to ESA activities and programs, including the Society's summit on environmental literacy and ESA's *Biofuels and Sustainability Reports*.

Appalachian State University	RTI International
Chevron Corporation	Springer Verlag
David and Lucile Packard Foundation	The Nature Conservancy
Energy Foundation	Tree Foundation
Environmental Protection Agency	USACE (SERDP)
Green Mountain Digital	USDA Forest Service
National Education Association	USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
National Environmental Education Foundation	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Geographic	US Geological Survey
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation	University of North Texas
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Wildlife Acoustics Inc.
National Science Foundation	Wildscreen USA Inc.

# About the ESA

Founded in 1915, and today the world's largest professional organization of ecological scientists, the Ecological Society of America represents 10,000 researchers, educators, natural resource managers, and students in North America and over 90 countries. Members work on a wide range of topics, from biotechnology to biological diversity, and share a passion for understanding the relationships between organisms and their past, present, and future environments. The Society's regional chapters and topical sections provide student travel awards and organize events at ESA's annual scientific conference which draws ecologists from around the globe to share research and ideas.



Credit: Brower Youth Award web site.

Ana Elisa, SEEDS student in Puerto Rico.



Credit: Ayzik Solomeshchik.

Members of the ESA Vegetation Panel.

The Society's publications include four highly ranked peer-reviewed journals, as well as our just launched, online, open access journal *Ecosphere* and the online *Bulletin*. In addition, ESA offers free, online publications which serve as outreach resources.



Credit: Loma Moreno.

Zakiya Leggett (Weyerhaeuser), Stephanie Cruz Maysonet (UPR-Bayamon), Kristin Peck (Smith College) at the Pittsburgh Annual Meeting.

Through its Headquarters Office in Washington, DC, the Society also represents the ecological community on issues such as resource management, ecological education, and public policy.



Credit: House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Lisa Graumlich, University of Washington, testifies on global climate change.

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*Cover photo: (from left to right):*

*Chinelo Okany, Marianne Pott, Lourdes Lastra-Diaz, Joey Johnson and Amanda Balarezo.*

*Credit: Charlee Glenn.*



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