



The Asian Ecology Section Newsletter

ESA-AES/SINO-ECO JOINT GATHERING DURING THE 2014 ESA ANNUAL MEETING

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THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECOLOGIST FORUM, HENAN UNIVERSITY, HENAN, CHINA

Several AES members were invited as one of the keynote speakers to present at the 5th International Forum for Young Ecologists : How to Design and Conduct Ecological Research at Henan University, Henan, China on May 16-18, 2014. (Read more on Page 7)

THE LAUNCH OF SEAHORSE DIVER SPECIALTY COURSE

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AES MEMBERS PUBLISHED NEW PAPERS

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AES IN MEMORIAM OF DR. RUSONG WANG

The Asian Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America is mourning the loss of Dr. Rusong Wang, a renowned ecologist who passed away on November 28, 2014 at the age of 67. (Read more on Page 9)

AES GATHERING AT THE 2015 ESA ANNUAL MEETING AT BALTIMORE, MD

We plan to meet at 5:30 pm, on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, during this year's ESA Annual meeting. More details coming soon.

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WORDS FROM THE ESA-AES CHAIR

Dear AES Members and Friends:

I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Asian Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America (ESA-AES). Asia is the home not only to half of the world's human population, but also to the great diversity of organisms and many fragile ecosystems. Many ecologists and scientists in related disciplines across the world have broad interests in ecological and environmental issues in Asia. Since its inception in 1994, AES has facilitated communications and collaborations among the ecologists within the ESA and throughout the world, who are interested in ecological research in Asia. The AES has since been striving to promote ecological research in Asia, which has been highlighted by the recent success in establishing the AES Outstanding Graduate Student Award and the AES Early Career Ecologist Award in 2012.

The Asian Ecology section is founded to serve ecologists, scientists in related disciplines, and the public who have interests in the ecology and environment of the Asia countries. I am committed to working hard to enhance the impact of AES in stimulating collaborative interactions between ESA ecologists and others in Asian countries. In particular, I will continue the ongoing efforts of AES to enhance the participation of ecologists from Asian countries. I will also work to maintain the financial sustainability of the Section through increased membership. Two scientific groups that I believe could add significantly to AES are interna-

tional ecologists and agronomists who have research projects in Asia. I will strive to identify sources of revenue to sustain and expand the existing programs to enhance student participation in the annual ESA meeting and to reward excellence in student research. I will also focus on increasing the visibility of the Asia Ecology section within the Asian countries. Specifically, I plan to raise the section profile by sponsoring symposia or international meetings in Asian countries. Finally, I will support the on-going improvement and expansion of the Asian Ecology website as a means for disseminating ecology research (new advancement, resources, and tools) to students, educators, scientists, and citizens across the Asian countries.

Now I am cordially inviting you to join in the AES. If you are interested, you may also nominate yourself or others as the Chair of the next term and apply for our two AES awards! Please see the announcements in this newsletter.

I am looking forward to meeting you (again) in Baltimore, MD in August. Let us gather together to celebrate the 100th year of the Ecological Society of America!

Yours sincerely,

Shuijin Hu,

Chair, ESA-AES

Professor, North Carolina State University

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF ESA-AES

Chair

Dr. Shuijin Hu

Dr. Hu is a professor of ecology at the North Carolina State University. He received his BS in Agronomy from Hefei Institute of Science and Technology (1983), MS in genetics from Nan-jing Agricultural University (1987), and PhD in ecology from the University of Georgia (1994).

Email: shu4@ncsu.edu



Secretary

Dr. Bin Zhu

Dr. Zhu is an associate professor of environmental science at the University of Hartford. He received his B.S. (1997) and M.S. in Ecology (2000) from Nanjing University and Master in Public Administration (MPA 2005) and Ph.D. in Biology (2006) from Syracuse University. Dr. Zhu was also a post-doctoral associate at Cornell University.

Email: zhu@hartford.edu



Liaison Officer

Dr. Lingli Liu

Dr. Liu is a Principal Investigator at the State Key Laboratory of Vegetation and Environmental Change, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Liu obtained her B.S. in Environmental Biology from Nanjing University in 1999, M.S. in Ecology from Peking University in 2002, and Ph.D. in Forestry from the North Carolina State University in 2007.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF ESA-AES

Newsletter Editor



Dr. Jiaqi Tan

Jiaqi received his BS from Fudan University in 2008 and PhD from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2014. He is now a research scientist at Georgia Tech. His research centers on the causes and consequences of biodiversity at broader temporal and spatial scales. He has published his studies in *Ecology* and the *American Naturalist*, and was a recipient of the AES Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2013.

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Web Administrator



Anny Chung

Anny is a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico studying plant-microbe interactions and plant coexistence. For her dissertation, she investigates these questions in a desert grassland ecosystem at the Sevilleta LTER. She is from Taiwan and received her bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. She is looking forward to developing and maintaining the website for AES.

Email: yyachung@gmail.com

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ESA-AES CHAIR AND SECRETARY

The Asian Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America is calling for nominations for Chair for the next term of two years.

The next ESA annual meeting is approaching. According to the bylaws of the AES, it is the time to elect the next term's AES chair. Under the ESA-AES bylaws, the office of ESA-AES is comprised of two officers: Chair and Secretary.

You can nominate another AES member or yourself for the Chair and the Secretary. Please identify the nominee by full name and office(s) for which the member is being nominated. Please email all nominations to Dr. Shuijin Hu (shu4@ncsu.edu) and Dr. Bin Zhu (zhu@hartford.edu) by 5 pm Eastern Time, Sunday, May 31, 2015.

Following by the close of nominations, we will confirm each nominee's interest in running for each specific office, and obtain Candidate statements. Candidate statements will be forwarded to all members before the end of June, and the officers will be elected by email ballot by a majority vote of the current ESA-AES before the end of July.

2014 AES AWARDS

EARLY CAREER AWARD

Dr. Lingli Liu

Dr. Liu is a Principal Investigator at the State Key Laboratory of Vegetation and Environmental Change, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Liu obtained her B.S. in Environmental Biology from Nanjing University in 1999, M.S. in Ecology from Peking University in 2002, and Ph.D. in Forestry from the North Carolina State University in 2007. After her Ph.D., she received the ORISE Postdoctoral fellowship, and worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Environmental Assessment, US Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Liu joined the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2011, and was selected by the national “Young Thousand Talent Program” by the Central Government of China in 2012. Her research interest focuses on the impacts of global environmental changes, especially air pollution, on carbon and nitrogen cycles. Dr. Liu has published her research in high profile journals, such as Ecology Letters, Global Change Biology and PNAS. Dr. Liu also serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Plant Ecology-UK.

(Please find a picture of Dr. Liu in Page 3)

Dr. Xiaofeng Xu

Dr. Xu is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso, TX. He received his doctoral degree in Forest Biology and Ecology from Auburn University in 2010. Previously, he studied at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China for a M.S. degree in Environmental Sciences awarded in 2004. His B.A. degree



in Biotechnology was from Henan Normal University in 2000. Dr. Xu’s research mainly focuses on land-atmosphere interaction in the framework of Earth system modeling. He successfully received multiple grants to conduct research on regional studies in China and the US, and on global analysis for land-atmosphere interaction in the context of global environmental change. Dr. Xu published extensively in scientific journals, such as Ecology Letters, Global Ecology and Biogeography, Global Change Biology, Global Biogeochemical Cycles, Environmental Research Letters, Environmental Science and Technology etc. The cumulative impact factor of all his 43 publications to date in international journals is 170.6, and the total number of citations of his publications is greater than 1100.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

ESA-AES/SINO-ECO JOINT GATHERING DURING THE 2014 ESA ANNUAL MEETING IN SCRAMEMTO, CA



On August 12, 2014, during the ESA meeting at Sacramento, CA, ESA-AES and Sino-Eco held a successful joint gathering. Nearly sixty members and their family met at the P.F. Chang Restaurant. Our AES Chair, Dr. Shujing Hu, and Sino-Eco President, Dr. Yushun Cheng, both attended the gatherings.

Dr. Hu, and Dr. Cheng thanked members, especially those who were all the way from Asia, for coming to the gathering. They also thanked Dr. Bin Zhu, AES Secretary, Dr. Charlie Huang, Senior Research Scientist at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Dr. Qinqin Liu, Senior Research Scientist at the California Department of Water Resources, for assisting organizing this event.



The gathering was followed by a discussion panel about career path options, which was led by Dr. Yushun Cheng, Dr. Yiqi Luo, Dr. Charlie Huang, and Dr. Yianda Zhang. This was well received by the attendees.

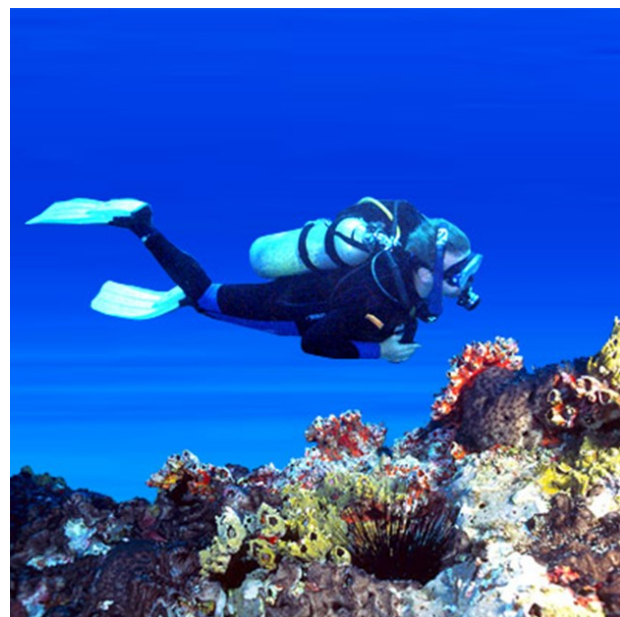
THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECOLOGIST FORUM, HENAN UNIVERSITY, HENAN, CHINA

Several AES members, including Drs. Jiquan Chen, Yiqi Luo and Shuijin Hu, were invited to the 5th International Forum for Young Ecologists: How to Design and Conduct Ecological Research, organized by Drs. Shiqiang Wan and Jianwu Tang at Henan University, Henan, China on May 16-18, 2014. This forum aimed to strengthen the collaboration among ecologists at different career stages from China and other countries, and to promote ecological research skills and development for young ecologists. The invited speakers shared their thoughts in conducting modern ecology studies. Their discussion covered skills needed in designing ecological studies and general research and data analysis methods in various ecological issues. They also provided the audience with their insights in writing scientific articles in English and successful project proposals.



THE LAUNCH OF SEAHORSE DIVER SPECIALTY COURSE

In the summer of 2014, marine conservationists from the Project Seahorse and John G. Shedd Aquarium, along Kiwidiver.com and the PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors), the world's largest SCUBA diving training organization with more than 23 million certifications issued to date, launched a Seahorse Diver Specialty course for the divers in Phuket, Thailand. "This is an exciting program for recreational divers. With a cohort of trained surveyors, we can track the vulnerable seahorse populations and inform management strategies for fisheries, seahorse trade and marine protected areas," says Dr. Tse-Lynn Loh, postdoctoral research associate at Shedd Aquarium and Project Seahorse, and co-author of the Seahorse Diver Specialty.



NEWS FROM MEMBERS

DR. JIANWU TANG AND COLLEAGUES PUBLISHED A PAPER IN PNAS



Dr. Jianwu Tang from the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, and his colleagues recently published an article, titled “Steeper declines in forest photosynthesis than respiration explain age-driven decreases in forest growth”, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in June 2014. In this study, Dr. Tang and colleagues presented a new quantitative model to describe the forest dynamics, which can be incorporated into the network of ecosystem models. This study advances our understanding on how and why forests change dynamically in their productivity.

DR. BIN ZHU AND COLLEAGUES PUBLISHED A PAPER IN FRESHWATER SCIENCE



Recently in 2015, Dr. Bin Zhu from the University of Hartford and his collaborators at Cornell University published an article, titled “Effects of invasive European frogbit and its two physical control methods on macroinvertebrates”, in Freshwater Science. This study revealed the impact of European frogbit cover on macroinvertebrates, and the effects of two physical control methods—hand pulling and shading—on macroinvertebrate assemblages. These findings improve our understanding of this invasive aquatic plant, and provides insights to its control strategies in the future.

IN MEMORIAM OF DR. RUSONG WANG

The Asian Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America is mourning the loss of Dr. Rusong Wang, a renowned ecologist who passed away on November 28, 2014 at the age of 67. Dr. Wang was a Research Professor at the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences and the founder and chair (1986-1996) of the State Key Lab on Urban & Regional Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in urban ecology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1985.



Dr. Wang had long been working on integrative methodology for urban & human dominated ecosystem planning & management since 1981 and developed the theory of "Social-Economic-Natural Complex Ecosystem" (SENCE), a theory that combines ancient Chinese human ecological thoughts with modern eco-systematics, in the cooperation with his Ph.D. advisor, Prof. Shijun Ma. By working closely with decision makers from different levels, from towns, counties, cities to provinces, he successfully applied the SENCE theory to different scales' urban and industrial sustainability case studies in China, from eco-towns, eco-counties, eco-cities to eco-provinces, and received 15 national academic awards.

Dr. Wang published more than 150 scientific papers and 16 books on urban and human dominated ecosystems. He was the leaders of many national and international academic organizations, and organized several international and domestic research projects and academic conferences. He was elected for two terms as the Delegate of the National People's Congress of China (2003-20012), Member of Beijing People's Political Consultation Conference (1998-2007), appointed as the Mayor's Counselor of the city of Beijing (2007-2012), the Scientific Advisor of the Ministry of Environment (2007-2010).

"I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love." - Leo Buscaglia

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 ESA-AES AWARDS

The Asian Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America is calling for nominations for two awards in 2015 to promote the recognition of young ecologists who contribute substantially to the Asian ecological research development. Two awards will be conferred: (1) AES Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and (2) AES Early Career Ecologist Award. The awards will be presented at the ESA Annual Meeting of 2015, held in August 9-14 in Baltimore, MD.

ELIGIBILITY

At the time of nomination, nominees must be an ESA member; and must be holding a citizenship of an Asian country, or conducting research related to ecological issues in Asia. Both self-nominations and being nominated by an AES member may be permitted.

At the time of nomination, nominees of the AES Outstanding Graduate Student Award must be a graduate student, and will present his/her research at the 2015 ESA Annual Meeting.

At the time of nomination, nominees of the AES Early Career Ecologist Award must be an ecologist who completed his/her PhD study in less than eight years, and has a notable publication record in the general field of ecology.

PROCEDURES

Applications from nominees for each award should include the followings:

- 1) A one-page statement that addresses the significance of research and other accomplishments;
- 2) Curriculum Vitae;
- 3) One letter of recommendation; and
- 4) This is for the AES Early Career Award only: applicants must submit one to three publications that best reflect his/her academic achievements.

Application materials must be in English and in a single PDF document. They should be sent to Dr. Shuijin Hu (shu4@ncsu.edu) and Dr. Bin Zhu (zhu@hartford.edu) by 5 pm Eastern Time, Friday, June 19th, 2015. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of established ecologists.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER

The AES newsletter is a forum for members to communicate their updates. We therefore expect your contributions for our next newsletter. Potential contributions may be, but not limited to:

1. Your recent achievements, awards, promotions, relocations and publications;
2. Advertisements for conference and symposium information;
3. Your willingness to accept interview about your career path and research story by the AES;
4. Your experiences and suggestions on ecological research to fellow and future ecologists;
5. Thoughts and ideas on broader issues, including environmental issues, higher education and outreaches.

Contributions should be sent directly to Jiaqi Tan (jtan@gatech.edu). High quality photographs are always encouraged with all the submissions.