



In This Issue...

- **Urban landscape ecology Winter Workshop**
- **Ecological Networks in Buckinghamshire**
- **Postgraduate Workshop**
- **Landscape Metrics Resources**
- **Upcoming conferences and events**

And more...

IALE International - <http://www.landscape-ecology.org/>

IALE(UK) - <http://www.iale.org.uk>

Landscape ecology is the study of the interactions between the temporal and spatial aspects of a landscape and its flora, fauna and cultural components.

The core objectives of IALE (UK) are to promote communication, inter-disciplinary research and the development of knowledge and interaction between scientists and those engaged in the planning and management of the landscape.

Name The Newsletter: The Big Vote

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our recent requests for a name for the newsletter. In the modern spirit of audience participation here are the front runners, so please let me know which you prefer and I will make the change for our Spring newsletter. In the case of a tie the newsletter editor will have the casting vote. So in no particular order the suggestions are:

Connections

Tract

Platform

Landlines

Please vote by sending your e-mail to: newsletter@iale.org.uk.

Forthcoming Conferences

Landscape ecological topics often fall within many different potential areas, though increasingly landscape ecological themes appear in major mainstream conferences in geography, ecology and planning. There are a large number of conferences globally which may be of interest to members, below is a small selection that you may wish to attend.

5th Council of Europe conference on the European Landscape Convention (March 30-31, 2009, Strasbourg, France) http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Conventions/Landscape/default_en.asp

Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscapes (April 12-16, 2009, Utah, USA) The 2009 annual conference of US-IALE. <http://www.usiale.org/snowbird2009/>

International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology Ecosystems Interfacing with Groundwater and Surface Water. (20-23 April, 2009 Vienna) <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/hydroeco2009/index.php>

Living Landscapes (June 18-21, 2009 Aberystwyth) Transdisciplinary conference. <http://landscape.ac.uk/2009conference.html>

Landscape, enclosure and rural society in post-medieval Britain and Europe (June 25-26, 2009 University of Hertfordshire) <http://www.landscapeandenclosure.com/conference09.html>

International Conference on Landscape Economics (July 2-4, 2009, Vienna, Austria) Conference organised by the European Consortium for Landscape Economics, CEEP. <http://www.ceep-europe.org/>

European IALE 2009 (July 12-16, Salzburg) 70 years of Landscape Ecology in Europe: "European Landscapes in Transformation - Challenges for Landscape Ecology and Management" <http://www.iale2009.eu/>

Latin American IALE Conference (Oct 4-7, 2009, Campos do Jordão, São Paulo State, Brazil) "Landscape Ecology in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives." <http://www.usiale.org/pubs/iale.2009.brazil.pdf>

World Congress 2011 (August 18-23, Beijing) "Landscape Ecology and its role in sustaining culture and the environment"

The IALE (UK) website now includes an events diary holding details of forthcoming landscape ecology events including IALE international conferences. If you are organising an event related to landscape ecology, you can request a free listing by sending an email to events@iale.org.uk

Follow this link to view the landscape ecology events diary <http://iale.org.uk/landscape-ecology-events>

LANDECOL - Landscape Ecology Discussion List

The LANDECOL discussion list has been established to facilitate communication and debate amongst those interested in landscape ecology, particularly academics and practitioners. LANDECOL is open to all and can be used via email or a web browser. You can access the page via the IALE(UK) website, where you can also find succinct instructions for using the list. The web link is at: <http://iale.org.uk/discussion>.

Winter Workshop 2008, Wolverhampton: Urban Landscape Ecology

This year's Winter Workshop was held on Thursday 18th December at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park. The theme of Urban Landscape Ecology proved popular with over 30 colleagues from academia, NGOs, the public sector and industry coming together to discuss issues of landscape ecology within the specific context of the urban area. The morning session was a series of presentations while the afternoon session concentrated on debating three key themes. Particularly useful was the perspective provided by colleagues from outside the existing IALE-UK membership.

Presentations (More details about the talks can be found on the IALE-UK website.)

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND THOUGHTS

Summary: There are key features of urban landscapes which lend them a particular distinctiveness. These range from particular site microclimatic characteristics through to a highly fragmented landscape mosaic. Traditionally landscape ecology has not truly engaged with urban landscapes at appropriate scales or at the level of detail that their variety demands. Landscape ecologist researchers and practitioners now have an increasingly common language of landscape and a need to engage with each other as the political agenda changes. Those people working in and with urban landscapes have a series of challenges to address, e.g. landscape 'quality', that if tackled effectively can help provide the necessary details to decision-makers about the issues needed to properly address the urban landscape

Contact: Dr Christopher Young, Senior Lecturer in Geography, School of Applied Sciences, University of Wolverhampton, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1LY UK

c.h.young@wlv.ac.uk

<http://www.wlv.ac.uk/Default.aspx?page=15858>

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING LANDSCAPES

Summary: An overview of the BCLL project, its current priorities and future directions.

Contact: Richard Nyirenda, Project Officer, Black Country Living Landscape, The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country 28 Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3AA.

Richard.N@bbc.wildlife.org.uk

<http://www.bcll.org.uk/>

URBAN LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY: LESSONS LEARNT FROM URGENT

Summary: In the late 1990s NERC created a thematic programme examining the science of the urban environment (URGENT). Several research projects in the programme used a combination of fieldwork and modelling to investigate links between the landscape ecology of a conurbation (West Midlands) and the plant and animals that inhabited the city. Research attention focused on habitat patches, their location and connecting linear features and a wide range of organisms.

The results of the studies indicated that species diversity was affected by urbanization in a number of ways but that this varied markedly according to individual species traits. For invertebrate (beetles and butterflies) on brownfield and wetland sites it was habitat quality rather than connectivity that governed species assembly – there was little evident spatial structuring. Woodland carabids, however, showed patterns related to isolation. Results for mammal were different; theoretical models suggested that water voles depend on their linear habitat for dispersal. On the other hand, the characteristic and often beautiful flora of derelict sites was better developed when other derelict sites were present nearby, suggesting that proximity to nearby derelict sites is important.

The results were consistent with the hypothesis that most urban species are able to move freely around the city. However, there are groups of species (with particular traits) and habitats with particular characteristics (e.g. more stable such as woodlands) where the impact of urbanization is extremely negative. These findings are augmented by more recent work to identify areas where further research is needed.

Contact: Dr Jon Sadler, Reader in Biogeography, Department of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

j.p.sadler@bham.ac.uk

<http://www.gees.bham.ac.uk/staff/sadlerjp.shtml>

Winter Workshop (cont'd)

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY – URBAN MORPHOLOGIES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Summary: Landscape ecology is a holistic science that aims to develop a scientific basis for analysis, planning and management of landscapes. As such this science has much to offer in the context of the continuing urbanization seen across the globe. The concept of ecosystem services has recently come to the fore in national and local government policy and is increasing visible in initiatives such as regional and sub-regional green infrastructures. However, the literature regarding the assessment of ecosystem services, particularly within urban settings is sparse. Addressing this paucity of guidance is a challenge which landscape ecologists are well placed to address. In order to stimulate debate on this issue this presentation will contain a summary of two studies conducted in Salford and Manchester that assess open natural space in urban cores and examines relationships between urban morphologies and ecosystem services. The second example leads to some initial thoughts on assessing ecosystem services at the neighbourhood scale.

Contact: Dr Philip James, Director, Urban Nature, Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Salford, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, Greater Manchester, England, M5 4WT.

P.James@Salford.ac.uk

<http://www.els.salford.ac.uk/urbannature/index.htm>

ACCESSIBLE NATURAL GREENSPACE STANDARDS IN PRACTICE

Summary: Since its creation Natural England has been committed facilitating opportunities for more people to enjoy the outdoors more often. However the evidence to support the importance of access to the natural environment has been patchy.

Natural England believes that day to day access to nature and greenspaces is important for health and wellbeing. In order to test and promote a number of pilot projects focusing on the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard developed in the 1990's.

The pilot projects have been chosen can deliver one or all of the following themes, enhancing naturalness, enhancing access and enhancing connection, or any combination, or all three. Further, in line with Natural England's ethos, the pilot projects have been chosen that have the values exhibiting equitable provision of green space; hence, everyone including the most disadvantaged and under-represented communities will benefit from easy access to natural green space close to home. Projects have also been given preference in locations where there is a deficiency in the provision of access to nature

In his presentation Chris briefly outlined the Natural England policy context for Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards; introduced the standards and the pilots; highlighted some of the baseline results and highlighted a few questions this work raises.

Contact: Chris Gordon, Senior Recreational Specialist, Senior Specialist Scenarios, Strategy & Environmental Futures Team, Natural England, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA

Chris.Gordon@naturalengland.org.uk

POST INDUSTRIAL PATCH RECOVERY IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

Summary: A case study of work completed in the USA looking at issues of public space and ecology.

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timcollins@wlv.ac.uk

<http://3r2n.cfa.cmu.edu/>



▲ Small-scale change: an everyday occurrence in urban landscapes (photo © Chris Young).

Winter Workshop (cont'd): Outcomes

IALE Workshops outcomes:

The points below summarise the main outcomes of the Winter Workshop breakout discussion groups. Thanks to all the participants who contributed their views.

Theme 1: Is there a particular UK perspective on landscape ecology?

- Definitely the planning system.
- Lack of landscape ecological skills among (practitioners and researchers).
- Failure to value industrial heritage. Example given of Germany where industrial landscapes have been kept rather than re-modelled and built on.
- Distinctive character of British cities.
- How to connect people with nature – we have a distinctive X-Box culture.

Theme 2: What do researchers need to know from practitioners and what do practitioners need to know from researchers?

Researchers from practitioners. Researchers need to know...

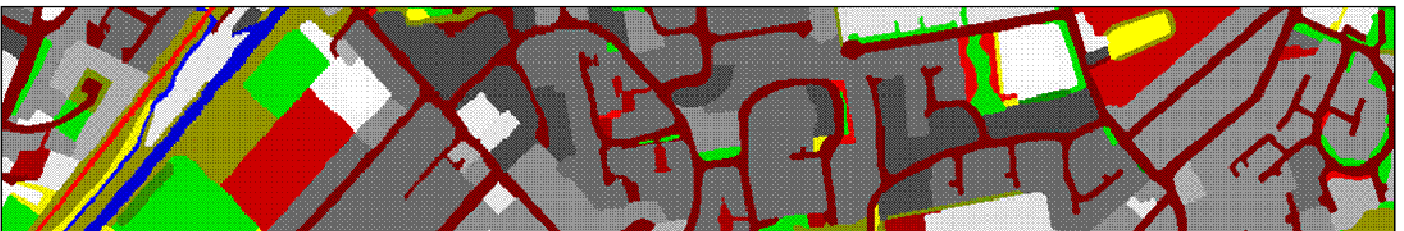
- What practitioners already know.
- How effective the research is. Feedback and monitoring of research and identification of where the problems are so that they can be addressed..
- Information on local issues.
- What is a good platform to disseminate research and how/in what way might researchers engage with this most effectively.
- Understanding the practice can be research..

Practitioners from researchers. Practitioners need to know...

- The value of the different parts of the landscape.
- How to manage the landscape – though this is not always possible. What to do with all the different components.
- Evidence about what is good and what is not: in order to demonstrate the complexity of being able to say this works/does not work.
- How to incorporate different attitudes so projects are a success.
- Researchers can provide context – the background of concepts/theory.

How to take these things forward...

- Exchange information effectively. This is difficult as both practitioners and researchers have different agendas. Need therefore to tailor meetings that tick all boxes, e.g. fulfil RAE targets and give practitioners something specific to take away.
- Target gaps through themed workshops.



Winter Workshop (cont'd): Outcomes

Theme 3: What are the barriers to the implementation of landscape ecological ideas in urban areas?

- There tends to be a site-based focus rather than a landscape-focus (though this is changing).
- "Landscape" term not well recognised in an urban context.
- Data sets are often poor so decisions cannot be made based on sound evidence.
- Difficult to engage the private sector, but a better quality urban environment is better for business.
- Politics rules, therefore individuals have little power to influence change.
- There is a lack of expertise in general and a lack of a skill-base in the topic areas needed, e.g. taxonomy, for a full assessment of landscape ecological phenomena.
- The social perception of natural areas as being 'messy' may well inhibit the most effective ecological approaches within a landscape ecological setting. Trees are often the flagship feature though they are often not the most appropriate element.
- A lack of recognition of the role and importance of landscape ecological principles in general (though again the situation is improving).
- Understanding planning is essential to understanding landscape ecology.

Opportunities:

The greening of businesses, especially through greenspaces and water issues, and the selling of ecosystem services as an important role for urban green spaces at site-to-landscape scales.

Note: In all the groups the discussions were wide-ranging and involved considerable debate and interaction. Any omissions, misunderstandings or incorrect emphasis in the list are entirely my fault in writing-up the conclusions and are not due to the session chairs.

Dr Chris Young (Jan 09)

Butterfly Conservation 6th International Symposium

Call for papers and notice of meeting:

Butterfly Conservation's 6th International Symposium "The 2010 target and beyond for Lepidoptera" to be held at Reading University, UK. 26-28th March 2010.

The meeting will address the key target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 which was set across Europe almost a decade earlier. There will be reviews of progress from the UK, Europe, and countries throughout the world, as well as the latest science on how to reverse declines and conserve habitats. The Symposium will conclude with an analysis of future challenges, including the impact of climate change.

For further details and regular updates go to: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/symposium>



▲ Silver-Studded Blue, Prees Heath (photo © Chris Young).

Ecological Networks informed by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Habitat Map

Ecological networks for nature conservation

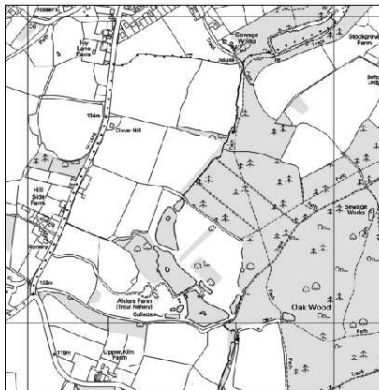
Traditionally, nature conservation has been focused on designated sites. However, estimates show that 84% of broad-leaved woodlands, 45% of heathlands, 14% of grasslands and 26% of mires, fens and bogs currently lie outside SSSI and SAC¹. In Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, 1.4% of land is covered by such designations, with a further 2.7% under wildlife site designation, leaving 95.9% of the county without designations for nature conservation.

The substantial distribution of land outside designated areas, combined with issues over the sustainability of individual and non-linked habitats has identified the importance of habitat networks. Models of the potential effects of climate change on species and habitats have further emphasised the importance of habitat networks as they allow for species to disperse as the climate changes.

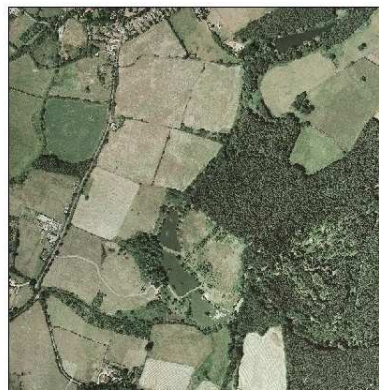
Habitat mapping to inform ecological network placement

The absence of a landscape-scale habitat dataset has so far prevented us from effectively identifying areas where such networks can be placed for optimum benefit for habitats and species. In order to address these issues Buckinghamshire County Council in partnership with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre (BMERC) have adopted the Integrated Habitat System (IHS)² and begun a mapping exercise for areas administrated by Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes (BMK).

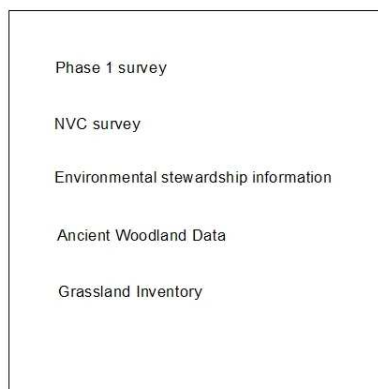
Ordnance Survey Map



Aerial Photo



Example of data sources



IHS Habitat Map



Figure 1. Steps in the creation of the BMK habitat map

Ecological Networks in Buckinghamshire(cont'd)

The mapping exercise is based on rapid assessment of habitats from aerial photographs supplemented with documentary evidence including survey reports, site citations, and where feasible some 'ground-truthing' to ensure consistency and accuracy. The IHS method allows a hierarchical assessment of habitats and their importance to be mapped, taking into consideration EU Habitats Directive Annex 1 Habitats, UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and designated sites. Also mapped are sites showing potential for restoration and the broader habitat types covered by the Phase 1 Habitat Survey method. In addition to capturing details on habitats the map will include data on management and formation types, as well as other relevant information. The mapping exercise is expected to be completed by the end of March 2009 when a map covering BMK will be available representing habitat and management types down to a scale of 0.25ha.

The ability to recognise not only broad habitat types but also internationally designated and UKBAP Priority Habitats will represent a major step forward. It will create an important tool for informing a range of processes to enable the conservation of the natural environment at a time when it is coming under increasing pressure. Underlying habitat data with physiographic data allows us to identify factors fundamental for specific habitats, enabling us to determine where additional habitats are most likely to be found or created. The identification of areas with most potential for habitat creation and maintenance will inform placement of ecological networks and their boundaries both locally and nationally.

For more information about the project please contact:

Mai Nielsen, Buckinghamshire County Council. Email: mnielsen@buckscc.gov.uk. Phone no: 01296 383138

1 Catchpole, R.D.J. (2007). England Habitat Network Briefing Note. Natural England. Unpublished
2 Developed by Somerset Environmental Records Centre

Postgraduate Travel Awards

With a range of conferences coming up this year it may be useful to remind our postgraduate and student members about the resources available via the student pages on the IALE-UK website. Not only are there links to various useful pieces of information requested from student workshops, but importantly there is also information about student conference travel awards to help in paying for you to attend these frequent get togethers.

IALE(UK) awards a number of travel grants each year to students with an interest in landscape ecology. The award is open to all students registered at a UK University who are attending a taught course at Masters level or 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 travel to other meetings, including the European and International Meetings of the IALE. Funds of up to £250 can be applied for. Successful applicants will be expected to provide a short report of their conference attendance for the IALE(UK) newsletter.

Students should use the SCTA application form (available on the website) and send it to:

Dr Janet Jackson, The Secretary of IALE(UK), Environmental Science, The University of Northampton, Park Campus, Boughton Green Road, Northampton, NN2 7AL. E-mail: janet.jackson@northampton.ac.uk

Landscape Metrics Resources Available

One of the outcomes of the recent Postgraduate workshop was a request for some additional resources on landscape metrics. These may also be useful for those of us not currently studying and can be found via the IALE-UK student pages at: <http://www.iale.org.uk/student-postgrad+workshop>. The documents were put together by Dr Ben Allen for a previous postgraduate workshop and provide an excellent starting point when thinking about landscape metrics and their use in landscape ecology research:

Introduction to Landscape Measurement Landscape Metrics Considerations What is Fragstats?

Additional material is available on request and includes a FRAGSTATS and Patch Analyst tutorial and information on Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

LCN Workshop: From Historic Landscapes to Future Landscapes

From Historic Landscapes to Future Landscapes Landscape Character Network Workshop Wednesday 18th March 2009, 10am – 3:30pm (9.30am registration) Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester. M2 5DB

We live in landscapes that have been changed through the centuries by people modifying their environment. The European Landscape Convention, which came into force in the UK in 2007, defines a landscape as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Our landscapes continue to change; people's perceptions change all the time too.

The Convention highlights the need to identify and assess landscapes. To do this requires an understanding of how landscapes have changed throughout history. This understanding is needed to inform work with local communities or developers to shape continuing landscape change.

This workshop will cover recent developments in characterisation techniques for landscapes in country, town and at sea. It will include presentations by people shaping policies for historic landscape and applying the latest techniques to their work. It will also look ahead to future landscape change. There will be opportunities to pose questions to the speakers and for open discussion.

Speakers include:

Peter Herring, English Heritage

Andy Wigley, Shropshire County Council

Lesley Mitchell / Karl Lunn, Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit

Graham Fairclough, English Heritage

Vicky Hunns, Natural England



The workshop is the latest of a popular series of topical workshops organised by the Landscape Character Network. The workshop will appeal to anyone with an interest in landscape protection, management and planning. The workshop will include presentations by practitioners and opportunities for open discussion. It is organised for Natural England and English Heritage and administered by Countryside.

This event is open to all. Numbers attending the workshop will be limited to around 60 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis on receipt of payment. Cost of registration is £139.00 (plus VAT).

To register, follow the link below, and you will be directed to an online registration form.

<http://landscapecharacter.org.uk/historic-future>

For any enquiries regarding this workshop or the work of the LCN contact Laura Jagota, LCN Administrator Email: support@landscapecharacter.org.uk Telephone: 0161 236 3432.



Landscape Ecology

(ISSN: 0921-2973 electronic 1572-9761)

Landscape Ecology (2008) 23(9) :

Landscape Ecology (2008) 23(10) :

Research Papers

Madsen, J. & Boertmann, D. **Animal behavioral adaptation to changing landscapes: spring-staging geese habituate to wind farms** (pp. 1007-1011)

Fialkowski, M. & Bitner, A. **Universal rules for fragmentation of land by humans** (pp. 1013-1022)

Thompson, S.D. & Gergel, S.E. **Conservation implications of mapping rare ecosystems using high spatial resolution imagery: recommendations for heterogeneous and fragmented landscapes** (pp. 1023-1037)

Anderson, L. & Burgin, S. **Patterns of bird predation on reptiles in small woodland remnant edges in peri-urban north-western Sydney, Australia** (pp. 1039-1047)

Peters, J., Verhoest, N. E. C., Samson, R., Boeckx, P. & De Baets B. **Wetland vegetation distribution modelling for the identification of constraining environmental variables** (pp. 1049-1065)

Viaud, V., Monod, H., Lavigne, C., Angevin, F. & Adamczyk, K. **Spatial sensitivity of maize gene-flow to landscape pattern: a simulation approach** (pp. 1067-1079)

LaCroix, J.J., Li, O., Chen, J., Henderson, R. & John, R. **Edge effects on fire spread in a disturbed Northern Wisconsin landscape** (pp. 1081-1092)

Read, C.F., Duncan, D.H., Vesk, P.A. & Elith, J. **Biological soil crust distribution is related to patterns of fragmentation and landuse in a dryland agricultural landscape of southern Australia** (pp. 1093-1105)

Ostapowicz, K., Vogt, p., Riitters, K.H. Kozak, J. & Estregui, C. **Impact of scale on morphological spatial pattern of forest** (pp. 1107-1117)

Zheng, D., Heath, L.S. & Ducey, M.J. **Modeling grain-size dependent bias in estimating forest area: a regional application** (pp. 1119-1132)

Book reviews

Kracker, L. **River and Stream Ecosystems of the World** by C. E. Cushing, K. W. Cummins, G. W. Minshall (eds):

He, H.S. **A changing world, challenges for landscape research** by F. Kienast, O. Wildi and S. Ghosh. (eds)

Research Papers

Special edition: **Applying landscape ecological principles in urban environments**

Breuste, J., Niemelä, J. & Snep, R.P.H. **Applying landscape ecological principles in urban environments** (pp. 1139-1142)

McDonnell, M.J. & Hahs, A.K. **The use of gradient analysis studies in advancing our understanding of the ecology of urbanizing landscapes: current status and future directions** (pp. 1143-1155)

Blair, R.B. & Johnson, E.M. **Suburban habitats and their role for birds in the urban-rural habitat network: points of local invasion and extinction?** (pp. 1157-1169)

Croci, S., Butet, A., Georges, A., Aguejedad, R. & Clergeau, P. **Small urban woodlands as biodiversity conservation hot-spot: a multi-taxon approach** (pp. 1171-1186)

Pouyat, R.V., Yesilonis, I.D., Szlavecz, K., Csuzdi, C., Hornung, E., Korsós, Z., Russell-Anelli, J. & Giorgio, V. **Response of forest soil properties to urbanization gradients in three metropolitan areas** (pp. 1187-1203)

Vallet, J., Daniel, H., Beaujouan, V. & Rozé, F. **Plant species response to urbanization: comparison of isolated woodland patches in two cities of North-Western France** (pp. 1205-1217)

Gledhill, D.G., James, P. & Davies, D.H. **Pond density as a determinant of aquatic species richness in an urban landscape** (pp. 1219-1230)

Millard, A. **Semi-natural vegetation and its relationship to designated urban green space at the landscape scale in Leeds, UK** (pp. 1231-1241)

Cilliers, S.S., Williams, N.S.G. & Barnard, F.J. **Patterns of exotic plant invasions in fragmented urban and rural grasslands across continents** (pp. 1243-1256)

Hepinstall, J.A., Alberti, M. & Marzluff, J.M. **Predicting land cover change and avian community responses in rapidly urbanizing environments** (pp. 1257-1276)

Snep, R.P.H. & Ottburg, F.G.W.A. **The 'habitat backbone' as strategy to conserve pioneer species in dynamic port habitats: lessons from the natterjack toad (Bufo calamita) in the Port of Antwerp (Belgium)** (pp. 1277-1289)

Book reviews

Goslee, S **Landscape Ecological Applications in Man-Influenced Areas: Linking Man and Nature Systems** by S.-K. Hong, N. Nakagoshi, B. Fu & Y. Morimoto (eds.)

Articles concerning landscape ecology applications are increasingly being found in a range of journals. For practitioners in the UK some of the more useful ones are: *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Landscape Research*, *Conservation Biology*, *Biological Conservation*, *Environmental Management* and *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Message From The Editor

For IALE-UK Winter means workshops and meetings, and this year has been no exception. We had a successful Winter workshop in Wolverhampton and a similarly successful post-graduate workshop held at Oxford Brookes. As usual although they are good events to participate in and there is satisfaction when they are over, there is also a huge sigh of relief when they pass off successfully. It isn't the technical content that causes the anxious moments, it is getting the important things right, like the number of lunches and teas appearing in the right places and at the right times.

Despite these logistical challenges these occasions give us all an opportunity to meet up and discuss ideas and thoughts and also to meet up with colleagues from all over the UK. A particularly pleasing aspect of the Winter Workshop was the number of people who were not members of IALE-UK who came along and participated. On one level it would be good to get these on-board as members (and I think a couple did join), but on another level it was reassuring to see that landscape ecological principles and activities are practiced outside the more formal landscape ecological community. As a footnote it is worth mentioning that the theme of urban landscapes is reflected in the special December issue of Landscape Ecology...it is almost like we planned it!

Looking forward now and this year's conference is hopefully moving North to Edinburgh in early September, so again it could well be an opportunity for some colleagues who are not familiar with the work of IALE and its members to come along and get involved. There is also the IALE European conference in Salzburg in July, so there are plenty of opportunities this year to catch up with colleagues and friends from the UK and beyond. I hope that people are able to make at least one of this year's events.

As usual I am always on the lookout for articles so please send any comments/articles/snippets etc. to: newsletter@iale.org.uk. Thanks to all of you who have supplied such articles over the last year...keep them coming.



▲ *Urban back gardens: one of the most significant habitat types and landscape components in urban areas as well as the home to some of our more charismatic wildlife . (photos © Chris Young).*

IALE(UK) Membership

A reminder to any colleagues who are not yet members of IALE(UK) that joining can bring multiple benefits. Not only does it keep you in touch with fellow practitioners of landscape ecology from the UK and beyond but it also brings money-saving rates on conferences and publications.

For full details check out the IALE(UK) web site at: www.iale.org.uk/join

Alternatively contact Membership Secretary Bella Davies at membership@iale.org.uk or complete the membership form at the back of this newsletter.

IALE(UK) Membership

ialeUK would like to encourage members to use Standing Orders for Membership fees. The annual subscription rate for ialeUK membership is £20 (£10 for students); this includes €13,50 for regular members and €6,75 for students for membership of IALE International. Membership runs on a calendar year basis, January to December.

My name: _____

My address is: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

This is used for most contacts and for dispatch of the Newsletter. If you do not have an email address, please ensure the address above is where you wish ialeUK material to be sent. If your details change, please notify the Membership Secretary

Please tick the following, as appropriate:

I apply for membership of ialeUK for the calendar year 2009

I am a new member of ialeUK

I am an existing or previous member, renewing my membership, my Membership No is:

Please remind me of my membership number

I enclose a cheque for full membership for £20.00

I enclose a cheque for student membership for £10.00

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ as an adjustment to my Standing Order

I am amending my Standing Order for the 2009 calendar year

Indicate here if you do not wish your details to be included in the IALE Directory

Payment by bank transfer is preferred. Please send £20.00 as a one-off payment immediately to cover membership for 2009 and then contact your bank to set up a Standing Order for £20 on the 5th January starting on 5th January 2010 to the ialeUK account. Bank: **Lloyds TSB**, Account Name: **ialeUK**, Account Number: **03086687**, Sort Code: **30-94-47**. Make cheques payable to **ialeUK**.

Please send this form to:

ialeUK Membership Secretary, c/o Nicola McHugh, SELU, School of Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BP

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