Gary W. Barrett
Terry L. Barrett
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# History of Landscape Ecology in the United States

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# Foreword

Three decades after the seminal workshop at Allerton Park, IL, landscape ecology has developed into one of the most vibrant branches of ecological science, with exceptionally strong links between theory and practice. Indeed, it is hard to think of any area in ecology where theory has had a greater impact on application, or where applications have done more to stimulate creative theory. Allerton represented a milestone in launching the field; and this book, by bringing together many leaders in landscape ecology who have done so much to shape the field, represents another milestone.

The editors of this volume have asked me to provide a personal perspective, tracing my own involvement in and perspective on events before and after Allerton. I was fortunate to begin my career at Cornell University in the 1960s. Cornell was a powerhouse in ecology, and indeed in the areas of ecology that were to form a foundation for landscape ecology; but I had no idea of that when I went there. I was a mathematician, with a strong nascent interest in issues like succession, fire, and the linkages between ecological science and the management of parks; but I really knew nothing of the subject. It was my good fortune, however, that my wife, Carole, and I decided to audit lectures by Dick Root as part of his introductory course in ecology, and Dick and we became fast friends. Indeed, I dedicate this foreword to Dick; though he has been in failing health, his contributions to ecology in general and to landscape ecology in particular, through so many of his publications, continue to grow in importance.

I learned a lot from Dick and our interactions; but an added bonus was that he also introduced me to the ecology community at Cornell, and especially to Bob Whittaker. Whittaker was one of the greats of landscape ecology though he preferred to call what he did synecology. Bob revolutionized the application of ordination methods to plant community ecology, but had a broader view that blended ecological and evolutionary theory, and revitalized the subject. His many contributions to ecology, and to biology more generally, are legendary, but we interacted most on understanding the mosaic nature of ecological communities, and on the notion of the ecotope of a species. Gene Likens was another member of the Ecology and Systematics Department, which I joined in 1970, and his integration of population, community, and ecosystem perspectives, together with Herb Bormann, and complemented by

Whittaker, helped build the scientific foundation for addressing the first two of the grand challenges of landscape ecology, "How are fluxes of organisms, of material, and of energy related to landscape heterogeneity?" and "What formative processes, both historical and present, are responsible for the existing pattern in a landscape?" Peter Marks, a Bormann student, also joined the department, and Art Lieberman, a landscape ecology pioneer, was already at Cornell; Zev Naveh spent a sabbatical working with Art. So Cornell was a hotbed of landscape ecology, and the perfect place for me to be.

The richness of Cornell attracted many visitors, but five in particular deserve mention here. Dick Forman, another pioneer and a contributor to this volume, visited Bob Whittaker, and we began discussions that have continued over the years; Dick Levins also visited and shared his ideas on metapopulations, among other things. Metapopulation theory, of course, has become a cornerstone of conservation biology, especially in the work of Ilkka Hanski and others. For me, combining metapopulation theory with island biogeography, which I had started to learn about, perhaps in an explicitly spatial context, helped put community dynamics in a framework where explicit predictions could be made that could aid understanding, and guide conservation.

I had been introduced to island biogeography earlier, through two other visitors. One day, probably in early 1970s, Dick Root told me I really should come to the *Ecology and Systematics Seminar Series* to hear Dan Simberloff, a most recent graduate student of Ed Wilson, speak about his experimental testing of the ideas of MacArthur and Wilson; it was immediately clear that these were critical experiments, and that the ideas of island biogeography had much broader relevance, for example, to islands of vegetation in terrestrial landscapes; so Whittaker and I began to work together on developing these ideas. Robert MacArthur also visited to lecture in Bob Whittaker's course, and Bruce Wallace and I developed a seminar course on the landmark MacArthur and Wilson book entitled, *The Theory of Island Biogeography*. For me, a number of independent building blocks were fitting together, and an emergent pattern of landscape ecology was taking shape. I became fascinated with spatial processes and patterns, trying to weave these ideas together. Bob Paine was the fifth, and for me the most crucial visitor. Hearing him decorate profound ecological theory with the facts of the intertidal, I knew that this was the system and the collaborator in which and with whom to take these ideas further, which we did. The British Ecological Society presidential lecture given by Alexander Watt was a rich source of ideas for us; Watt was clearly a pioneer of landscape ecology, and helped shape our thinking on two key pillars of landscape ecology: disturbance and patch dynamics.

In the very early 1970s, I paid my first visit to Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL); Bob O'Neill and Hank Shugart came to my talk, and we had great discussions afterward. I became an advisor to the terrific group that Stan Auerbach had built there, through which also passed other pioneers of landscape ecology—Monica Turner, Virginia Dale, Bob Gardner, Don DeAngelis, and Bill Emanuel among them. Many of these have key chapters in this book. My connections with Oak Ridge folks shaped many of my views going forward, but Bob O'Neill was

especially key in helping me to appreciate the importance of scale, and the indeterminacy of the definition of an ecosystem. This crystallized in my thinking later, but I owe much to my ORNL interactions for whatever insights I had.

The 1970s and 1980s were key periods in the development of landscape ecology, especially for me. At a conference on ecosystem analysis and prediction I organized in Alta, UT in 1974, a remarkable collection of seminal figures attended. I interpreted that to be evidence of the interest among ecologists and others, coming from different perspectives, to find a unifying framework for what later fused into landscape ecology. Orie Loucks was one who took part, and we developed a strong interaction for a number of years after. Orie did me a huge favor by sending me his student Jianguo Wu to be a postdoc a number of years later, and Jianguo of course has become one of the key players in landscape ecology. Another key conference for me, but one that flies below the radar of landscape ecology, was one organized by John Steele and others in Sicily, focused on pattern formation in the plankton. John was another pioneer, and especially committed to building bridges between the marine and terrestrial ecological communities. That meeting introduced me to ideas, like the Stommel diagram, which have become cornerstones of landscape ecology. John and his co-organizers—Trevor Platt, Gunnar Kullenberg, and my late and dear friend Akira Okubo—decided that they should have a couple of token terrestrial ecologists at the meeting, who turned out to be Bill Clark, now at Harvard, and me. Bill was a student of Buzz Holling, producing a thesis on the dynamics of the spruce budworm, and he encouraged me to come spend my next sabbatical at the University of British Columbia (UBC), which I did with great intellectual profit. The ideas that Holling, Clark, and Don Ludwig were developing, based on the budworm, on resilience, system flips, and critical transitions, have had tremendous influence. They not only profoundly influenced the development of landscape ecology but also have given birth to sister organizations to the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) like the Resilience Alliance, and helped foster the current interest in resilience and in critical transitions. The budworm also was a prime example of how disturbances could spread in landscapes, relevant to the third grand challenge from Allerton Park, IL, "How does landscape heterogeneity affect the spread of disturbance?" Of course, I would be remiss if I did not mention here the keystone meeting that inspired this book and included many of its contributors, the Allerton Park Workshop in 1983, organized by Paul Risser.

Landscape ecology in the United States, as well as globally, is a vibrant science today, as evidenced by the chapters in this book. The IALE and the journal *Landscape Ecology* have played a wonderful catalytic role. The foundational subjects mentioned already will continue to flourish, but I predict expansion in a number of directions that I think are currently underdeveloped and stronger linkages with a number of other disciplines. From a theoretical perspective, great progress is being made and will continue to be made in making connections across scales, especially from the microscopic to the macroscopic and back. This is the essential challenge in dealing with complex adaptive systems; methods from statistical physics, fluid dynamics, and elsewhere are proving invaluable. These considerations relate fundamentally to issues like the robustness and resilience of systems, and the contagious

spread of disturbances; but I think that of special interest to landscape ecology are the management issues associated with problems of the commons. For this reason as well as because of increasing attention to ecosystem services, I foresee much greater interactions between ecologists on the one hand, and economists and other social scientists on the other.

Secondly, I think that John Steele's dream of a unification of landscapes and seascapes is here. Approaches such as those of Mick Follows and his colleagues to build up from the individual level to models of the dynamics of marine communities, and complementary approaches of Dan Botkin, Hank Shugart, Dean Urban, Steve Pacala, and others scale from individuals to ecosystems and seascapes/landscapes. Furthermore, the explosion of metagenomic data, mainly currently from marine ecosystems but ultimately clearly from terrestrial ecosystems, together with theoretical advances in evolutionary ecology, will lead to closer linkages between molecular biology and landscape ecology and the ability to address the emergence of ecosystem patterns and nutrient cycling from an evolutionary perspective. Many of these also involve problems of the commons: nitrogen fixation, nutrient retention, and prudent resource use all benefit the collective, but at cost to the individual.

Thirdly, a focus on resilience and robustness has made clearer than ever the potential for systems to lose resilience, and flip from one domain of behavior to another. We have the ability now to combine data from remote sensing and field work with mathematical models to elucidate landscape dynamics, and explore the potential for mechanisms like fire to shift systems from one basin of attraction to another. Critical transitions of systems, from physics to economics to the biosphere, are properly attracting great attention today, and there will be benefits for the science of landscape ecology.

These are just a few of the areas where I predict major advances. Obviously, there will be others, like the linkages to conservation biology and reserve design, to climate change science, and to movement ecology. The connections with management are crucial, and will continue to see positive developments, in accord with the fourth Allerton Park grand challenge, "How can natural resource management be enhanced by a landscape ecology approach?" We have come a long way since the Allerton Park Workshop, but the fun is just beginning.

Simon A. Levin

# Preface

The initial premise of this book was an archival account of 25 years of history in landscape ecology within the USA. In 2007, a poster entitled, "USIALE: The First Twenty-five Years of Landscape Ecology in North America (1983–2008)," was presented by Gary W. Barrett and Terry L. Barrett at the Seventh World Congress, International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) held in Wageningen, the Netherlands (see Chap. 11). What precipitated this concern was the research of past and at that time present USIALE documents of record found scattered in a loose web of redundancy. This was due to the fact that each consecutive administration had separately recorded its unique contribution to the USIALE records for the most part irrespective of past entries. Accordingly, the continuity of the organizational documents appeared as a trace of interrupted information through no fault of any one administration. The poster was one of the first public attempts to accurately assign USIALE a consistent referent title (United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology), timeline, and ordered accomplishments from selected USIALE documentation. "… The poster will attempt to summarize the themes and sites of the US-IALE annual meetings, award recipients, and officers of the association. In addition, a forthcoming paper will attempt to quantify topics, principles, and advances in the field of landscape ecology based on publications in the journal, *Landscape Ecology*." This volume is in answer to this promised paper.

The inceptive timeframe concerning this volume was drawn from the meeting of USIALE held at the University of Georgia during January 1986 (see Chap. 3) through the 25th year celebration, which took place at the University of Georgia during April 2010. However, when researching the chapters that follow, it becomes apparent that USIALE was conceptualized during the Allerton Park Workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), held in Piatt County, IL from 25 to 27 April 1983. Therefore, the book now describes a 30-year history of landscape ecology in the United States (i.e., 1983 through 2013).

This volume outlines the mission of USIALE, link between IALE and USIALE, and effort to promote transdisciplinary research and training among colleagues across continents and disciplines. Landscape Ecology, as readers will become increasingly aware, is a holistic and an integrative science as scholars in landscape

ecology address agrolandscape, environmental education, pollution abatement, resource allocation, or global climate change with a slide rule of scales.

Scientific disciplines typically have a charter, by-laws, annual meeting, journal describing findings for its membership, and approved committees to guide its future. However, landscape ecology is being revalued to address multiple facets of the plane of traditional landscape (see Chap. 8). For example, not only the surface of Earth but the substance of celestial bodies becomes apparent with new technologies. Ecological and anthropological processes linked to Earth can no longer be exclusively juxtaposed with celestial observations. Customary strategy alone can be equally inadequate when approaching the tests of expanding global agendas of governments and individuals—such as planetary mining or bandwidth regulation. Similarly, where inquiry cannot be limited to a preset of questions, refreshed thinking is required to approach ever-increasing complexities in a vignette of economy, politics, security, and society. It is rare during a lifetime to witness a paradigm evolve into a comprehensive and integrative science such as Landscape Ecology.

Gary W. Barrett
Terry L. Barrett
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We thank Paul the late G. Risser, then Director of the Illinois Natural History Survey, for helping to organize the workshop, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), held at Allerton Park, IL during April 1983. We appreciate his cooperation and distribution of the special publication entitled "Landscape Ecology: Direction and Approaches" published by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Thanks are extended to each author, or coauthor, of each chapter supplied in this volume. We thank Simon A. Levin for contributing the Foreword to this book. In addition to her contribution as writer and organizer of this volume, Jingle and Gary recognize Terry L. Barrett regarding the initial copyediting, extensive correction of references, and adherence to *Springer* publishing format within each contributing chapter as needed.

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# About the Editors

**Gary W. Barrett** holds the Eugene P. Odum Chair of Ecology in the Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia (UGA). He is the coauthor of eight books and has published over 190 articles in professional journals. Until 1994, he was Distinguished Professor of Ecology, Miami University, Oxford, OH. At Miami University, he was recipient of the 1986 Sigma Xi Researcher of the Year Award. From 1994 through 1996, Barrett was the Director of the Institute of Ecology, UGA. He was the Ecology Program Director with the National Science Foundation (1981–1983). Barrett is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1990). He served as President of the United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (USIALE) (1988–1990), Association for Ecosystem Research Centers (1995–1996), and American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) (1998). He received the 2000 AIBS Presidential Citation Award in recognition of leadership and contributions to the biological sciences, and the prestigious Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award in 2001 from USIALE. Barrett was the recipient of the 2005 Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award, UGA.

**Terry L. Barrett** holds an MA in art and an MFA in painting from Miami University, Oxford, OH. Barrett continues to contribute to the field of landscape aesthetics with 12 publications in professional journals, including 2 edited books. She served as Cohost and Program Cochair of the 2010 Twenty-fifth Anniversary Symposium of the United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (USIALE), University of Georgia, Athens, GA. As independent scholar, she received the 2012 Purple Heart Award given by graduate students within the Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, for extraordinary fidelity and dedication to graduate education.

**Jianguo** (Jingle) Wu is Dean's Distinguished Professor in the Oxford, School of Life Sciences and School of Sustainability, Arizona State University. He received his BS from Inner Mongolia University, his MS and PhD from Miami University, Oxford, OH, and did his postdoctoral work at Cornell University and Princeton University. His current research areas include landscape ecology, urban ecology, and sustainability science. He has published over 250 scientific papers,

including 12 books. Wu has been the Editor-In-Chief of *Landscape Ecology* since 2005. He has been the Program Chair and Councilor-At-Large of United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (USIALE), and was recipient of 2012 USIALE Distinguished Service Award, 2011 IALE Outstanding Scientific Achievements Award, 2010 USIALE Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award, and 2006 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Award for International Scientific Cooperation. He was elected AAAS Fellow in 2007 and Leopold Leadership Fellow in 2009.

# Chapter 1
# Thirty Years of the United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology: The Evolution of Its Organization and Science

**Gary W. Barrett, Jianguo Wu and Terry L. Barrett**

## Introduction

This book accounts the early history of the United States Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (USIALE). In Chap. 1, we describe the revision in mission of USIALE that was influenced by officers during the first 30 years since its conception, recipients of society awards, timelines of annual symposia, and hosts for these annual events.

Chapter 2, prepared by Richard T. T. Forman, traces the USIALE evolution from and early relationship to the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE). This chapter describes early meeting sites of IALE, and individual leadership that emanated from the United States during these formative years.

Chapter 3, prepared by Gary W. Barrett, outlines his role as ecology program director with the National Science Foundation during the early 1980s, when he recommended funding for the Allerton Park Workshop held in Piatt County, Illinois from 25 to 27 April 1983. This workshop became the catalyst and a milestone in the establishment of landscape ecology in North America (Risser 1995; Wiens 2008; Risser and Iverson 2013; Wu 2013a).

Monica G. Turner, in Chap. 4, describes the first meeting of USIALE held at the University of Georgia from 15 to 16 January 1986. The late Frank B. Golley

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interacted with Turner in hosting this initial symposium entitled "The Role of Landscape Heterogeneity in the Spread of Disturbance." The USIALE 25th anniversary symposium returned to the University of Georgia from 5 to 9 April 2010 with Gary W. Barrett and Terry L. Barrett as co-program chairs and cohosts. The theme of this 25th symposium was "Is What Humans Do Natural?"

The first volume of the journal *Landscape Ecology* was published in 1987 with Frank B. Golley serving as founding editor-in-chief. In Chap. 5, the current editor-in-chief of *Landscape Ecology*, Jianguo (Jingle) Wu, provides a historical perspective of the evolution of this quintessential transdisciplinary journal.

Chapter 6 provides a glimpse of the numerous challenges faced by several past presidents of USIALE; they also describe benchmark events, policy changes, and administrative directions during their tenure as president. Chapter 7, prepared by Gary W. Barrett and Herman (Hank) Shugart, presents an overview of landscape-level research developments during the past 30 years; they briefly address how landscape-level ecological changes, instrumentation refinement, and large-scale perturbations have changed the field of landscape ecology. They relate these changes to significant theories, principles, and approaches that have emerged in landscape ecology during the past three decades (i.e., since the Allerton Park workshop).

Terry L. Barrett and Gary W. Barrett, in Chap. 8, consider fields of study relevant to landscape ecology, organizational models, and changing parameters of landscape study. John A. Wiens and Richard J. Hobbs in Chap. 9 provided a holistic perspective contrasting the evolution of landscape ecology between two continents—namely, North America and Australia.

Robert V. O'Neill, in Chap. 10, describes how scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) have made major contributions to the development and evolution of landscape ecology during these past three decades. O'Neill discusses the leadership, research environment, close collaboration, and interdisciplinary approaches that made ORNL a "hotbed" of advanced theories, integrative research, and holistic approaches in the field of landscape ecology. ORNL perhaps has been one of the leading centers for landscape ecology in training, productivity, and interdisciplinary research; O'Neill describes the history and reasons for this success.

In Chap. 11, the coeditors of this volume discuss a future of USIALE, including collaborative possibilities, research foci, and a broaden universe of landscape.

## Mission and Actions of USIALE

Permit us to now note the purpose of USIALE. The purpose of the Regional Association of the IALE shall be to foster landscape ecology in the United States; provide a link among persons concerned with landscape ecology in the United States and IALE, and other Regional associations of IALE; and promote interdisciplinary research and communication among scientists, planners, and other professionals concerned with landscape ecology in the United States and colleagues in other countries under the aegis of IALE.

**Table 1.1** USIALE Presidents and terms of service

| Name of the president | Term of service |
|---|---|
| David M. Sharpe | 1986–1988 |
| Gary W. Barrett | 1988–1990 |
| Joan I. Nassauer | 1990–1992 |
| Thomas R. Crow | 1992–1994 |
| Monica G. Turner | 1994–1996 |
| Louis R. Iverson | 1996–1998 |
| Jack Ahern | 1998–2000 |
| Virginia Dale | 2000–2002 |
| Eric J. Gustafson | 2002–2004 |
| Peter August | 2004–2006 |
| Robert H. Gardner | 2006–2008 |
| Jianguo Liu | 2008–2010 |
| Dean L. Urban | 2010–2012 |
| Kurt Ritters | 2012–2014 |

The president of USIALE is responsible for the leadership to carry out this mission. Above are the 14 presidents of USIALE who have served this leadership position with distinction (Table 1.1).

Perhaps the next most challenging leadership task is hosting the annual symposia, including selecting the theme for this annual event. Below is the record of USIALE symposia, the location of each symposium, and the local host responsibilities for this special event (Table 1.2).

USIALE presents two annual awards for those individuals who have served with distinction in the field of landscape ecology. The prestigious awards are the Distinguished Landscape Ecologist (Fig. 1.1), and Distinguished Landscape Practitioner (Fig. 1.2). These awards represent the highest USIALE honor bestowed on these recipients. The recipients of these awards are listed in Tables 1.3a and b, respectively.

Other USIALE special awards include the Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Paper in *Landscape Ecology*, which may be accessed in the *USIALE Executive Committee Handbook*.

We would remiss if we did not recognize the outstanding services contributed to USIALE by Forest Stearns (1995 Distinguished Service Citation), Richard T. T. Forman (1997 Outstanding Book Published in Landscape Ecology) for *Land Mosaic,* Cambridge Press, 1995, Frank B. Golley (1998 Outstanding Service Award), Eugene P. Odum (1998 Distinguished Service Award), Jerry F. Franklin (2001 Leadership Action Award) David J. Mladenoff (2005 Distinguished Service Award), Garik Gutman, William Taylor, Jianguo Liu (2006 Distinguished Service Award), Monica Turner (2010 Distinguished Service Award), and Jianguo Wu (2012 Distinguished Service Award).

**Table 1.2** Timeline of USIALE Symposia from 1986 through 2013

| Year | Location | Host | Theme of symposium | Program chair |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1986 | University of Georgia<br>Athens GA | Monica G. Turner | *The Role of Landscape Heterogeneity in the Spread of Disturbance* | Frank B. Golley |
| 1987 | University of Virginia<br>Charlottesville VA | William E. Odum | *The Influence of Land-Use Pattern on Landscape Function: Ecological Theory and Management Implications* | Monica G. Turner |
| 1988 | University of New Mexico<br>Albuquerque NM | Bruce T. Milne | *Observations Across Scales: The Structure, Function, and Management of Landscapes* | Monica G. Turner |
| 1989 | Colorado State University<br>Fort Collins CO | Ingrid C. Burke | *Linking Landscape Structure to Ecosystem Processes* | James F. Thorne |
| 1990 | Miami University<br>Oxford OH | John L. Vankat,<br>Gary W. Barrett | *The Role of Landscape Ecology in Public Policy-Making and Land-Use Management* | James F. Thorne |
| 1991 | Carleton University<br>Ottawa ON | Gray Merriam | *Farming Landscape and Natural Values*<br>Combined with third IALE World Congress | Louis R. Iverson |
| 1992 | Oregon State University<br>Corvallis OR | Robert Lackey,<br>Michael Cairns | *Regional Landscape Change: Impacts of Climate and Land Use* | Louis R. Iverson |
| 1993 | Oak Ridge TN | Monica G. Turner | *Pattern and Process in Landscape Ecology* | Margaret M. Moore |
| 1994 | University of Arizona<br>Tucson AZ | Guy R. McPherson | *Spatial and Temporal Models for Analyzing Pattern and Process in Landscapes* | Margaret M. Moore,<br>Jeffrey C. Klopatek |
| 1995 | University of Minnesota<br>Minneapolis MN | Joan I. Nassauer,<br>Lucinda Johnson | *Working in a World Dominated by Humans* | Jeffrey C. Klopatek,<br>Dean L. Urban |
| 1996 | Galveston TX | Robert G. Coulson,<br>Robert Giordano | *Integration of Cultural and Natural Ecosystems Across Landscapes: Applications of the Science* | Dean L. Urban,<br>Kevin Gutzwiller |
| 1997 | Duke University<br>Durham NC | Dean L. Urban | *The Pace and Pattern of Landscape Change* | Kevin Gutzwiller,<br>John A. Wiens |
| 1998 | Michigan State University<br>East Lansing MI | Jianguo Liu,<br>William Taylor | *The Role of Landscape Ecology in Natural Resource Management* | John A. Wiens,<br>Fred Sklar |
| 1999 | Snowmass CO | John A. Wiens | *Landscape Ecology: The Science and the Action*<br>Combined with Fifth IALE World Congress | Fred Sklar |

**Table 1.2** (continued)

| Year | Location | Host | Theme of symposium | Program chair |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | Fort Lauderdale FL | Fred Sklar, Yegang Wu | *Integration of Societal and Landscape Heterogeneity: Problems and Solutions* | Fred Sklar |
| 2001 | Arizona State University Tempe AZ | Jianguo (Jingle) Wu | *Pattern, Process, Scale, and Hierarchy: Interactions in Human-Dominated and Natural Landscapes* | Laura Musacchio |
| 2002 | University of Nebraska Lincoln NE | Jim Merchant, Geoff Henebry | *Landscapes in Transition: Cultural Drivers and Natural Constraints* | Geoff Henebry |
| 2003 | Banff AB | Marie-Josée Fortin, Bruce T. Milne | *Beyond Borders: Linking Landscapes* | Bruce T. Milne |
| 2004 | Las Vegas NV | Nita Tallent-Halsell, K. Bruce Jones | *Transdisciplinary Challenges in Landscape Ecology* | K. Bruce Jones |
| 2005 | SUNY-ESF Syracuse NY | Jim Palmer | *Landscape Ecology: At the Intersection* | George Hess |
| 2006 | San Diego CA | Janet Franklin | *Linking Landscapes and Seascapes: Conservation and Ecosystem Management at the Land-Sea Interface* | Sarah C. Goslee |
| 2007 | University of Arizona Tucson AZ | Don McKenzie, Robert Keane, John Dibari | *Disturbances Across Gradients: From Desert Sears to Mountain Islands* | Robert Keane |
| 2008 | University of Wisconsin Madison WI | Monica Turner, Phil Townsend | *Landscape Pattern and Ecosystem Processes* | Sarah C. Goslee |
| 2009 | Snowbird UT | John Bissonette, Tom Edwards | *Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscapes* | Tom Edwards |
| 2010 | University of Georgia Athens GA | Gary W. Barrett, Terry L. Barrett | *Is What Humans Do Natural?* | Terry L. Barrett, Gary W. Barrett |
| 2011 | Portland OR | Anita Morzillo, Rob Scheller | *Sustainability in Dynamic Landscapes* | Rebecca Kennedy |
| 2012 | Newport RI | Pete August, Ann Kuhn-Hines | *Informing Decisions in a Changing World* | Jeff Hollister |
| 2013 | Austin TX | Wendy S. Gordon, Timothy H. Keitt | *Landscape Dynamics Along Environmental Gradients* | Timothy H. Keitt, Kenneth R. Young |