



# Keeping in Touch

A newsletter for members of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR)

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## Notes From the Executive Director

As I write, we are reflecting on two very successful recent meetings: the ISSRM in Hannover, Germany last spring and the IASNR Council retreat held in San Antonio last month. Meanwhile we are looking forward to an amazing ISSRM in Charleston next June. Let me comment briefly on each of these meetings.

The Hannover meeting was a resounding success with 366 in attendance, 391 presentations and 70 posters. This compares favorably even with the successful meeting in Edmonton and was *one attendee short* of the attendance at the Madison symposium where we feted our founder Don Field. The Hannover meeting also boasted 44% attendance by students, a fact that bodes well for the future of our Association. Another feature of the Hannover meeting was that we added a goodly number of European members thus adding to our international stature. Eick and the whole crew who put on the symposium deserve our thanks.

Speaking of Hannover, while having our regular Council meeting there, we observed that we had so much on our plate as a Council and an organization in terms of assessment and needed future planning that two hour meetings were just not enough right



now. So what we came to was the idea to hold a two day retreat to really focus in on the future of our organization. The main activity of the retreat held in San Antonio in October, was to digest and draw implications from the assessment process that we have had underway for the last year (see the last "Keeping in Touch"). The results of the assessment are discussed elsewhere here, but among our more important decisions was to disband (with great thanks for a job well done) the assessment committee (at least for now) while creating two new ones: Policy (chaired by Dave White) and professional development (chaired by Courtney Flint). The former committee is charged with figuring out how to more effectively communicate, both internally and externally the policy implications of the

work that so many of our members do. The latter committee is charged with coming up with new activities and processes to serve the cause of professional development in our membership in the future (see details of both elsewhere in this document). Both of these committees can use your help and input so please contact the respective chairs if you have either to offer.

Looking forward to next June, Tom Fish and crew have a great meeting in store for us in Charleston South Carolina. Charleston is the seat of so much history (not to mention breathtaking vistas and wonderful food) that I have a feeling that while this is the first, it may not be the last time we go to that lovely city for an ISSRM. I don't want to steal Tom's thunder, (see pg. 7) but I can assure you he and his crew have a great meeting coming together for us in Charleston.

We are also looking forward to June 22-26 of 2016 when our colleagues at Michigan Tech will be hosting ISSRM in Houghton. More details on that to come. I also want to remind folks that our site selection committee has a call for proposals on the street for 2017 and beyond.



# ISSRM 2014

Submitted by Eick von Ruschkowski,  
ISSRM 2014 Conference Coordinator

20th ISSRM Conference -  
"Challenges of Rural and Urban  
Transformation"  
Hannover, Germany, June 9-13, 2014

Thank you to all organizers, supporters, and participants for making this year's ISSRM a huge success. We had 366 participants from 44 countries. 161 attendees (44%) were graduate students, mostly at PhD level. Altogether, 411 presentations and posters by research scientists, government agency managers, graduate students, non-profit employees, and private consultants from the fields of natural resource management, social sciences and environmental planning as well as urban and regional planning were featured in the conference.

The conference was supported by several state and research funding agency grants. Four keynotes from internationally esteemed colleagues (Reinhard Honert, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Tom Heberlein and Andreas Rechkemmer) covered questions of resource management in developing countries, the role of attitudes for the decisions of humans with respect to nature, and the increasing societal relevance of sustainable resource management. The annual Student Forum was held on the first day of the conference with a total of 36 attendees from 28 different countries. The forum was held in

a World Café-style format and addressed early career issues in academia. Both the forum and the quiz bowl event were co-organized by local IUP faculty members together with the IASNR Student Affairs Committee.

Under the conference theme "Challenges of Urban and Rural Transformation", the ISSRM 2014 did put a focus on these changes and their societal impacts and the potential to mitigate their effects on natural resources and humankind. Oral presentations were held in 66 parallel sessions which included relevant topics such as urban-rural transformation, social aspects of natural resource management, protected area management, recreation/tourism and environmental economics. We are looking forward to a great 2015 ISSRM Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, USA!

## Congratulations to the 2014 ISSRM Student Paper Award Winners:

### PhD Paper:

**James J Patterson,**  
School of Agriculture and  
Food Sciences, University  
of Queensland, Brisbane,  
Australia, "*Collective  
action in catchments: un-  
packing local responses to  
the 'wicked problem' of  
nonpoint source pollution  
in coastal subtropical  
Australia*".

### Master's Paper:

**José Guerrero Vela,**  
School of Arts and Social  
Sciences, Australian Na-  
tional University, Can-  
berra, Australia, "*Sumak  
Kawsay and biodiversity  
conflicts in the Galapagos  
Islands: case study of the  
relation between local  
fishermen, sea lions and  
the gaps with State envi-  
ronmental discourses in  
the Galapagos Islands*".



IASNR members enjoying the local culture



# ISSRM 2015

Submitted by Tom Fish, ISSRM 2015  
Conference Coordinator:

The 2015 ISSRM will be held in [Charleston](#), South Carolina – selected this year for the fourth consecutive time by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers as the #1 destination city in the U.S. As the official host, the [College of Charleston](#) (est. 1770) is located in the heart of downtown, nestled between spectacular historic buildings and grand oaks and the inner workings of a modern cosmopolitan coastal city. Celebrated for its history and culture, Charleston is also widely known for its outstanding public spaces, outdoor recreation, award-winning cuisine, and centuries of live theater, music, and fine arts. Next year's meeting will be the first ISSRM held in the southeastern U.S. and will offer excellent opportunities to engage a diverse community of scholars, practitioners, and decision-makers and experience lowcountry heritage firsthand.

The theme for the 2015 ISSRM centers on understanding and adapting to change in multiple social, cultural, political, ecological, and geographic contexts. Charleston is one of the fastest growing cities

in the U.S., with increasing urbanization, shifting demographics, rapid economic and industrial development, and dynamic social and natural landscapes. Along with the typical complement of activities – e.g., student forum, quiz bowl, poster and organized sessions – the 2015 ISSRM will foster creativity and disciplinary integration through a number of stimulating plenaries, media presentations, social events, field excursions, and innovative information exchange formats. Visit the 2015 ISSRM [website](#) for more information.



## IASNR Constitution and By-Laws

Submitted by Tom Fish:

The IASNR Council has reviewed the IASNR Constitution and By-Laws for currency and consistency and plans to propose a number of minor amendments to enhance clarity of specific policies and practices and improve operational efficiency for the organization. An email will be distributed pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws inviting member

review and comment in advance of a vote to ratify proposed changes at the 2015 ISSRM general assembly meeting next June.





Approximately a quarter of respondents (not just students) were **interested in being mentored** (via an IASNR mentoring process). About a third of respondents indicated **willingness to serve as a mentor**. There was greater preference for a **structured one-on-one mentoring program and/or a one-day mentoring workshop**.

**Want Additional  
Information About the  
Assessment Survey?**  
**Contact Courtney Flint**  
[courtney.flint@usu.edu](mailto:courtney.flint@usu.edu)

For **student respondents**, findings indicate interest in **student chapters** (over 50% interested) and utilizing the **IASNR Facebook page for ISSRM information and alerts for jobs and recently published papers**.

## Assessment Committee

Submitted by Courtney Flint:

An Assessment Committee was formed to take the pulse of current and past members regarding various aspects of IASNR. Committee members were Courtney Flint, Greg Brown, Gina Depper, Amanda Boyd, Paige Fischer, and Steve Selin. The major focus of this effort was a survey conducted in spring of 2014. An online survey was sent by Jessica Burk at the IASNR Office at Sam Houston State University to the full IASNR database of current and past members (4,270 people). We received completed surveys from 449 people (with 1,742 undeliverable emails) yielding a response rate of 18%. Accounting for missing data in various places, approximately 330 cases formed the basis for the findings.

Based on the average respondent scores from the survey, IASNR is generally doing important work and performing above average, particularly:

- **Providing a high quality journal to publish in and read; and**
- **Providing opportunities for learning and for students to engage with other students, faculty and professionals who share common interests.**

By examining responses in rank order, we get some insights into where we might consider devoting some energy:

- **Providing solutions to natural resource management issues; and**
- **Informing natural resource policies and decisions.**

In general, respondents rate the **annual ISSRM meeting, free online SNR access, and the discounted student membership fee** as the three most important current member services. Not surprisingly, students rated the student discount more important than non-academics. Students rated the discount for 3 additional journals lower than others.

The most important elements of ISSRM (across all groups) were:

- **Quality and diversity of presentations**
- **Travel cost**
- **Registration fee**
- **International participation**
- **Attendance by non-academics**
- **Reduced registration fee for students**
- **Networking with NGO representatives and government agency personnel**
- **Host location aesthetics and amenities**

The most influential factors in deciding to attend ISSRM were **cost, timing, and location**.

The ***Society & Natural Resources Journal*** was rated good to excellent by 87% of respondents. Two-thirds of respondents had neither published in nor reviewed for SNR.

The most highly rated potential new services were:

- **Web access to videos on society and natural resource topics or lectures;**
- **Instructional resources available online;**
- **Policy briefs and/or white papers in response to current policy issues; and**
- **Webinars (with methodological and interdisciplinary topics being the most highly rated)**

There was strong support for considering **co-meetings with other organizations** (over 75% interested across all groups) and **regional meetings with virtual options** (over 60% interested across all groups).

Respondents indicated they would like to have regular information on:

- **ISSRM Conference**
- **Funding Opportunities**
- **New Issue/Content Alerts for SNR**

The preferred mode of information by far was **email newsletters**. Respondents indicated the IASNR website is mostly used for:

- **ISSRM Info**
- **IASNR Membership Info**
- **Job Postings**

Following this assessment effort, the IASNR Council voted to disband the Assessment Committee and move related efforts into committees to focus on providing services to members.

## SNR Editor News

Submitted by David Sonnenfeld:

With the forthcoming *Society & Natural Resources* vol. 28, issue 1 (January 2015), David A. Sonnenfeld and Peter Leigh Taylor commence their role as Editors-in-Chief of the IASNR's journal. They want to express their profound thanks to outgoing editors, Jill Belsky and Dan Williams, for their strong and innovative leadership of the journal over the last three years, and to both them and Assistant Editor Brianna Ewert

for their support over the last six months of editorial transition.

David and Pete look forward to serving the IASNR/ *Society & Natural Resources* community as editors over the next several years.



## Communications Committee

Submitted by Joan Brehm:

The Communications Committee continues to work on ways to improve communication both among members and between the IASNR leadership and members. During the IASNR Council Retreat in San Antonio in early October, the Council approved an update of the current website to allow for more interactive features that will help to improve communication and sharing of information among members. We anticipate having the new website ready for a preview shortly after the 2015 ISSRM meeting. The Assessment data indicated that vectors such as the newsletter, email, and the list-serve remain as the most preferred mechanisms for communication. The Committee will continue to research how we can improve those avenues of communication. Although Facebook was not the most popular mechanism for communication with all members, students (and in particular student chapters) did appreciate this mechanism as a way to stay informed on more current issues related to IASNR. The

Council also discussed the importance of having a social media presence to help elevate the work of IASNR and its members to the broader public. Therefore, we will continue to maintain the IASNR Facebook page and the Communications Committee will be working to develop a social media strategy to help guide its future use.

As always, if anyone has any comments or suggestions for the communications committee, please contact Joan Brehm at [jmbrehm@ilstu.edu](mailto:jmbrehm@ilstu.edu).



## Site Selection Committee

Submitted by Gene Theodori:

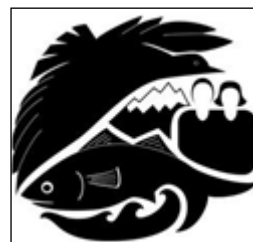
The ISSRM Site Selection Committee is pleased to announce that the 22<sup>nd</sup> ISSRM will be hosted by Michigan Tech University in Houghton, Michigan, USA, June 22-26, 2016.

Michigan Tech University is located in Houghton, Michigan on the Keweenaw Peninsula, which projects out into Lake Superior (the largest surface area of fresh water on earth). The immediate area serves as the gateway to and headquarters for Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historic Park (chronicling the area's historic copper era). The Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forests are also nearby. The Porcupines Wilderness State Park (a 2 hour drive) and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (a 3 hour drive) are other regional destinations as well as vast stretches of public lands, trails, and Lake Superior beaches in both the immediate and surrounding area. Mark your calen-

dar. More information will be forthcoming.

Also, the Site Selection Committee is actively seeking host institutions for future symposia. The call for proposals to host the 2017 ISSRM (and beyond) is located on pg. 8 of the newsletter. Click below to access the electronic Call for Proposals to Host ISSRM 2017 (and beyond) on the IASNR Website.

**Call for Proposals  
to Host  
ISSRM 2017,  
and Beyond**



**Due Date for  
Proposals:  
January 15th, 2015**

## Professional Development and Member Services Committee

Submitted by Courtney Flint:

At the recent IASNR Council meeting in San Antonio, Texas, a new committee was formed to address **Professional Development & Member Services**. This committee is chaired by Courtney Flint and committee members include Becky Schewe, Eick Von Rushkowski, and Brian Eisenhauer.

The Professional Development & Member Services Committee will focus on the fol-

lowing issues in the coming years:

- Developing a webinar series;
- Creating an archive for web-based videos;
- Facilitating connections between academic and non-academic members and issues;
- Providing professional development opportunities such as mentoring, leadership training, etc.; and
- Facilitating interaction and access to instructional materials.

## Elections Committee

Submitted by Tom Fish:

IASNR strives for the organizational leadership to be “broadly representative of the membership reflecting a balance of: (1) disciplinary orientations in the social sciences; (2) natural resource management fields; and (3) professional practice” (e.g., academic and agency scientists; resource managers; domestic and international scholars; mid-career and seasoned professionals).

Service on the IASNR Council

affords members the opportunity to contribute substantially to current operations and future directions of the organization.

During the last election, four Professional Council members and a new Student Representative were elected. The new Council members began their terms of service following the 2014 ISSRM and participated in the recent Council meeting in October. The next Council election will be held in the spring of 2016, with a call for

nominations issued in late autumn 2015. For additional information, visit the “Governance” tab on the [IASNR](#) website or contact the Elections Committee c/o Tom Fish (Tom\_Fish@nps.gov).



## Student Affairs Committee

Submitted by Rose Verbos:

Greetings! My name is Rose Verbos, and Chad Kooistra and I currently serve as your IASNR Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Co-Chairs. The SAC is charged to increase student involvement and membership in the association, enhance student experiences at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM), and contribute to professional development of students.

Moving forward, Chad and I are interested in exploring new opportunities for the SAC to serve as a resource for IASNR student members throughout the year. We are excited to have 20 members this year, mostly graduate

students and post-docs, from several countries and universities including: the University of Utah, Utah State, Oregon State, Clemson University, Texas A&M, University of Maine, North Carolina, Virginia Tech, Colorado State, Arizona State, Portland State, and several Australian Universities including Monash University, Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, Charles Sturt University.

Serving with the SAC is a great way to gain professional experience, make connections, and help other students. Here are some of the committees students are working in this year.

**Communication** - Students are working to develop a social media presence for IASNR student members and possibly for the entire association. Additionally, students in this sub-committee explore the feasibility of a virtual Student Forum for on-going discussion of topics relevant to graduate student life / work / career throughout the year. Students are assisting with the Student Forum at the 2015 ISSRM.

**Collaboration** - Students are working to connect with existing IASNR Student Chapters and help establish chapters in and beyond North America. Students in this sub-committee are promoting dialogue on resources for research and continuing to assist with the

*(Continued on page 10)*



# Call For Proposals - ISSRM 2017 & Beyond

The site selection committee seeks host institutions for the annual meeting of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) for 2017 and beyond. The annual meeting is called International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) and should be promoted as such.

## **Dates:**

The meeting should be held between June 1-30. Although specific meeting dates are open, the conference should extend across three to four days to accommodate a full program of paper sessions, poster sessions, plenary speakers, business sessions, and social events. Scheduling over a weekend is desirable. Pre- or post-meeting workshops or organized tours may also be included as means of encouraging attendance.

## **Facilities:**

We require a conference facility with an auditorium for plenary sessions that will seat at least 400-500 persons, 12-14 break-out rooms, several small conference rooms or classrooms, and space for at least 50 posters/exhibits. Living quarters for 400-600 persons should include the option of relatively spartan accommodations for those desiring inexpensive housing. Cafeteria food service is acceptable; on-site beer and wine service is desirable.

## **Accounting:**

The registration fee will be set by the host institution in consultation with the site selection committee representatives and the IASNR Executive Director's office. Registration fees must be commensurate with other professional societies' registration costs. Between 300 and 600 persons are expected to attend the symposium. The tradition of low student registration fees must be adhered to so that student participation in the conference will remain affordable. Active pursuit of grants and sponsorships to raise funds in support of the annual meeting is important.

The IASNR Business Office will be responsible for collecting all registration fees, student scholarship funds, and other donations. The host institution will be responsible for maintaining appropriate accounts for grants and contracts obtained at their institution in support of the annual meeting. The IASNR and host institution will share the costs and profits for a given annual meeting. IASNR will if necessary underwrite financial losses of a conference, but organizers are expected to exercise due diligence with respect to budget planning to avoid this outcome and clear any significant changes to original approved budget with the IASNR site selection committee. Fifty percent of net profit will be returned to IASNR Business Office. All costs for the meeting should be budgeted and accommodated within the registration fees, grants, contracts, scholarships, and in-kind donations.

The host institution may seek funds to support on-site hospitality and excursions. Due to currency exchange issues, the capability of charging registration fees, accommodations, and other fees to Visa and MasterCard is a requirement.

## **Social Events:**

The costs of the opening reception and at least one group meal (e.g. a picnic, barbeque, or banquet) as well as daily refreshments during morning and afternoon breaks are normally included in the registration fee. Other social activities, meals, and excursions may be billed separately as appropriate.

## **The Proposal:**

Each potential symposium host will prepare a proposal to be submitted to the IASNR site selection committee. The proposal will contain the following:

- Title, Authors and their affiliations
- Description of the host organization site
- Subtitles might include such items as "Environmental novelties of the region", "sustainable tourism projects", "local arts, products and foods"
- Discussion of the proposed symposium theme
- Description of housing options and costs
- Travel arrangements available for participants and estimated costs from airport to contracted accommodations



- Description of host institutional support (financial, in-kind, and staff support allocations, for example)
- Recruitment of volunteers' plan for the conference, if applicable
- Proposed schedule, including possible field trips
- Student events
- Room rates for students
- Student forum pre-session, quiz bowl competition, and student mixer is advised
- Proposed committee members
- Executive committee
- Planning committee
- Proposed budget
- Justification for fee structure

The proposal should include a Proposed Budget outlining both anticipated revenue and expenses. Suggested budget categories include:

**Revenue:**

- Registration fees (by type and projected numbers of registrants)
- Contributions from institutions and agencies and private funding sources

**Expenditures:**

- Conference services (food, beverages, and registration)
- Printing
- Program costs (swag, AV costs, poster boards, etc.)
- Personnel (Coordinator, secretarial, student hourly, etc.)
- Supplies, telephone, postage, web site
- Speaker honoraria and travel expenses
- IASNR fee (see accounting section)

**Mailings and Publications:**

The host institution will assume responsibility for the following:

1. Preparation, printing, and distribution of the call for program ideas and call for papers and posters.
  2. Preparation, printing, and distribution of the preliminary program and registration materials (to be available on line in advance to potential registrants). Previous meeting mailing lists will be provided to host institutions.
  3. Preparation and printing of the final program (distributed on site). Note: listing of participants in the final program is normally contingent upon the completion of registration; all symposium participants are expected to be registered for the meeting.
  4. Design and execution of a web site for the annual meeting.
  5. Preparation and printing of the list of attendees (distributed on site).
- Publication of paper and poster abstracts to be distributed on site.

**Other Notes:**

1. The host institution, IASNR leadership and Council, and the program committee will be jointly responsible for raising funds for student scholarships and making decisions about allocation of registration fee waivers.
  2. A spousal registration rate will be provided.
  3. A one-day registration rate will be provided.
- A named site chairperson as well as a proposed local steering committee must accompany the proposal.

**Who to Contact:**

Please send your proposal to Matt Carroll, Executive Director of IASNR, [carroll@wau.edu](mailto:carroll@wau.edu). If you have questions about the Symposium, the preparation of the proposal, or wish to express interest in preparing a proposal, contact an ISSRM Site Selection Committee Co-Chair, Naomi Krogman at [Naomi.krogman@ualberta.ca](mailto:Naomi.krogman@ualberta.ca), Ph: 780-492-4178 or Gene Theodori at [gl002@shsu.edu](mailto:gl002@shsu.edu), Ph: 936-294-4143.



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[www.iasnr.org](http://www.iasnr.org)

## Student Affairs Committee Cont.

ISSRM Student Forum coordinators. They are exploring additional opportunities for an annual webinar for students as a way to connect between symposiums, review current literature on a particular topic and discuss resources for research.

Quiz Bowl – New to the Student Affairs Committee, students are assisting with the 2015 Quiz Bowl working with the site-selection committee and Council members to put together an unforgettable quiz bowl in Charleston. There are a number of directions this year's Quiz Bowl can take, and we are excited to be involved in assisting with this event.

Professional Development – Students are discussing opportunities to provide SAC members

with resources and information about professional development opportunities. This includes working with editors to discuss options and feasibility for students to feature their IASNR Student Chapter, publish a book review, insights, etc. within Society and Natural Resources (SNR). Students in this subcommittee are helping re-establish the IASNR Mentor Program.

In sum, the Student Affairs Committee is busy cranking away on a number of initiatives. If you are reading this and excited to get involved or having any questions, feel free to email Chad Kooistra, [chad.kooistra@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chad.kooistra@oregonstate.edu) or Rose Verbos, [Rose.verbos@utah.edu](mailto:Rose.verbos@utah.edu)

