

Meetings of Interest*

5–10 August

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) and the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SER) are planning their biennial joint meeting, “Ecology-based Restoration in a Changing World,” to be held in San Jose, California. Symposia are the scientific centerpiece of the meeting and will encompass setting goals for ecological restoration and measuring its success. As the ESA Web site (<http://www.esa.org/sanjose/>) explains, paleoecology, long-term studies, and ecological modeling call attention to the fundamentally dynamic nature of ecological systems, which can make predicting change difficult. Baselines are not easily defined and the effects of climate change and human land use further complicate the matter. Conference organizers stress that “new scientific insights call for more sophisticated consideration of the goals and standards of restoration and, perhaps, of conservation of natural systems generally.” They ask, what ecosystem attributes are to be restored, conserved, or preserved? How should ecological research inform these priorities? How can the effectiveness of restoration be assessed? The meeting will delve into these issues of identifying ecosystem attributes to be restored and conserved, the role of research in setting these priorities, and assessing the effectiveness of restoration. Additional information is available at the SER Web site (<http://www.ser.org/events.asp>).

22–26 September

The Wildlife Society is planning its annual conference to be held in Tuscon, Arizona. Sessions, papers, and posters will explore recent research on the conservation of mammals, birds, and reptiles in a wide variety of settings, including along the U.S.-Mexico border. Discussions are planned on the topics of conservation genetics for wildlife biologists and managers and benefits and detriments of sharing wildlife and habitat data online. Symposia will examine numerous topics such as landbird conservation; species, community, and ecoregion responses to rapid climate change; wildlife diseases; wind energy development and wildlife; restoration of wildlife; and many more. The conference Web site (<http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm>) has further details.

9–12 October

The Natural Areas Association will hold its 2007 annual conference, “Some Assembly Required: Preserving Nature in a Fragmented Landscape,” in Cleveland, Ohio. Ecosystem fragmentation has altered biodiversity and intrinsic processes that are critical to natural area function. One of the primary challenges for conservation organizations and agencies involves the selection, acquisition, and subsequent management of fragments containing core ecosystems. The program will examine a variety of topics related to conservation of fragmented ecosystems, ranging from invasive species management to fire ecology and global climate change. The conference Web site (<http://www.naturalarea.org/07conference/>) shares more details.

28–31 October

The Geological Society of America (GSA) will hold its annual meeting, “2007 Earth Sciences for Society,” in Denver, Colorado. One of the core missions of GSA is to advance the geosciences in the service of humankind. In that spirit, the program for this meeting will explore themes germane to the proclamation of the year 2008 by the United Nations General Assembly as the “International Year of Planet Earth.” Organizers are planning a rich program to explore ways in which geoscience can help realize a safer and more prosperous world, including the search for oil and gas, conservation of water resources, understanding of natural hazards, planetary exploration, the application of information technology, and more. Presentations will describe both pure and applied research. The meeting aims to improve communication among geoscientists, the public, planners, managers, and decision makers. Further information is available at the meeting Web site (<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2007/>).



*Readers with access to the NPS Natural Resources Intranet can review a longer list of upcoming meetings, conferences, and training courses at <http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov/NRMeet/>.