Greetings from the Board!

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter. We’ve been busy planning our 20th anniversary event, preparing for the board election, and developing our new Restoration Walks initiative. Read below for details and additional announcements! Also check out the latest article on the history of SERNW and find out what our student guilds have been up to.

SERNW 20th Anniversary Celebration

We will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary on Friday, March 1, 2013 from 6-10pm at the Mountaineers Program Center in Seattle. Special guests Jerry Franklin and David Batker will discuss restoration accomplishments and challenges over the last twenty years and what the next twenty years of restoration may bring. There will be live music, local food and refreshments, plus special recognitions for our founding members. Restoration Walks highlighting regional restoration projects will also be held. Check our website here for availability of tickets in advance. Interested in volunteering? We welcome your involvement! Please contact Allison or Janice at SERNW20@gmail.com.

Nominate the SERNW Conservationist of the Year

The Conservationist of the Year Award is given in recognition of year-long efforts to preserve, protect, restore, or enhance environments necessary for healthy ecosystems.

This year the award will be given to individuals whose efforts have spanned a significant portion of the 20 year timeline of the SERNW chapter.

The award will be presented at the SERNW 20th Anniversary Celebration on March 1, 2013. Nominations require a letter of support (or detailed email) documenting the nominee’s contributions in the field of ecosystem restoration. Please send the required nomination material to SERNW20@gmail.com by February 4th.

2013 Discount Opportunity: New members get $10 off when they join SER & a SER chapter

SER is offering a discount to new members until March 31, 2013. New members simply need join both an SER chapter and SER international to receive $10 off their total. New members can use discount code ChapPromo2013 at the end of their member form to receive the discount. With 14 regional chapters serving members locally around the world and SER’s upcoming 5th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, now is the time to get your friends, family, and restoration colleagues involved in the Society. To find out more about the chapter in your region, click here. To receive the discount you must be a new member, join an SER chapter, and join SER international. Email leah@ser.org with questions.

Student grants available

SERNW is offering grants of up to $750 to support student research intended to improve restoration of natural systems (e.g. forests, wetlands, shrub-steppe) within the Pacific Northwest ecoregion (WA, OR, MT, ID, Northern CA). Preference will be given to applications from student members of SERNW or a SER student guild. Social or natural science graduate students and upper-level undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.
Proposals must be electronically submitted by March 1, 2013. Application details are available [here](#).

**SERNW 2013 Board Elections**

We are excited to announce that the following SERNW Board of Director positions are up for election in spring 2013. Open positions include:

- President
- Secretary
- Executive Vice President
- Director at Large Position 1
- Director at Large Position 2
- Student Guild Board Member

We welcome you to join our team promoting the science and practice of ecological restoration. We encourage all members to consider candidacy for these positions—anyone working or studying in any field that relates to restoration ecology are welcome to apply.

We also encourage past board members, whether working or retired, to consider running and returning to the SERNW board.

The term for each position is two years, with a limit of two terms per position. All new officers will receive guidance from current board members. For a more in-depth description of board positions and duties, please see Article V of the SERNW bylaws, available on our website [here](#). Contact us at [sernwelection@gmail.com](mailto:sernwelection@gmail.com) if you are interested in running or would like to know more about each position’s responsibilities and duties. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to connect with others who have common professional interests, and promote the exciting and ever-changing field of ecological restoration in the Pacific Northwest.

**New Restoration Walks initiative**

We are pleased to announce our new Restoration Walks initiative to promote dialogue between practitioners and to introduce the public to notable restoration efforts that are occurring in their backyard. The inspiration for this effort comes from SER-BC through Val Schaefer’s successful walking program in Victoria. The Restoration Walks vision includes:

- Organizing short (1-2 hour), accessible walks led by restoration practitioners
- Promoting these walks within the larger community
- Providing a graphic brochure for each walk that will provide a record of each restoration site and encourage future self-led visits

There are many people working to restore natural habitats and ecosystem function in our cities and towns; often this work can go unnoticed. The Restoration Walks series will provide a firsthand look at the progress that is underway. The series will kick-off in the spring of 2013 following SERNW’s 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Would you be interested in leading a restoration walk in your town? Would you like to nominate a restoration site to be showcased? Would you like to help organize and promote restoration walks? Please contact Betsy at [bbermingham@anchorqea.com](mailto:bbermingham@anchorqea.com) to get involved.

**SERNW Student Chapters Update**

**University of Montana Student Guild (UMSER)**

UMSER is gearing up for a busy spring. UMSER will be organizing its annual Mt. Sentinel Restoration Workday, an event which draws over 100 volunteers to assist the repair of University of Montana’s famous M-Trail on Earth Day. UMSER will also plan a Restoration Walk in the Missoula area in honor of SERNW’s 20th anniversary.

**Submit your Restoration Highlights**

Attention restoration practitioners and students! Here is your opportunity to get the word out about your restoration project or research!
We are currently soliciting contributions to *Restoration Highlights*, an online publication that showcases restoration work in the Pacific Northwest. This is a wonderful forum for sharing your knowledge, successes, challenges, and questions with other PNW restoration ecologists.

We are seeking three types of articles:

**Restoration Updates**, which focus on current ongoing works – see example [here](#)

**Case Studies**, which focus on completed works, with more detail – see example [here](#)

**Student Offerings**, which focus on our future restoration practitioners and their works, projects, or research in the field of restoration – see example [here](#)

Visit our website at [sernw.org](http://sernw.org) for information about our publishing guidelines and how to submit your article.

This is a fascinating and rapidly-changing field, and only through sharing our experiences can we improve and enhance our understanding of restoration across its many disciplines.

Thanks for your help in getting the word out about *Restoration Highlights*. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Upcoming events**

**SERNW 20th Anniversary Celebration**
March 1, 2013 | Seattle, WA

**Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership Regional Conference**
March 20-22, 2013 | Portland, OR

**31st Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference**
March 13-16, 2013 | Fortuna, CA

**National Native Seed Conference**
April 9-12, 2013 | Santa Fe, NM

**5th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER)**
July 29-August 2, 2013 | Greater Chicago, IL

**Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**
August 4-9, 2013 | Minneapolis, MN

**SER 2013 World Conference on Ecological Restoration**
October 6-11, 2013 | Madison, WI

**Job opportunities**
Check out current listing [here](#) on our website.

**SERNW 20th Anniversary 1993-2013-SERNW History- Third Installment**

Until our anniversary in June 2013, we will have quarterly articles on the history of SERNW. In this edition, we feature an article from one of the chapter’s co-founders, **Dennis Martinez**. If you have insights or knowledge to share about SERNW’s beginnings or evolution, please contact Allison at [SERNW20@gmail.com](mailto:SERNW20@gmail.com)

**REFLECTIONS ON RESTORATION AND THE BEGINNING OF THE SERNW CHAPTER- PART 1**

I have been asked to stir-up my memory and shake out some reflections on the beginnings of SERNW. Most of you probably do not recognize my name. I have not been involved with the chapter since around 1996 and have since moved south from Oregon to the Klamath Mts. in NW California—still, I should add, part of Cascadia as David McClosky saw it. I remember arguing for including NW California in the chapter but the bureaucratic issue of state boundaries (and SERCAL) spoiled that. I have also been spending most of my time with international Indigenous organizations like the Indigenous Peoples’ Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative (IPCCA) [community adaptation work], First Peoples Worldwide (FPW), and TILCEPA, the Indigenous working group of IUCN, specifically the WCPA Task Force [where I advocate for not evicting Indigenous peoples from protected areas]. And more involvement with the Ecological Society of America (ESA). This is my 44th year in restoration, spending most of these years as a field practitioner.
I remember the 1990s as an exciting period for the exchange of ideas among a much smaller group of restorationists. Today I see a kind of class system emerging in our ranks that has both possible good and bad aspects. One important contemporary difference that reflects this perception is the greater proportion of restorationists who have academic degrees but lack field experience. Some of course will gain experience later but many will probably stay in academia. Since SER has now embraced professional certification, I am wondering if we are in effect imposing a premature ceiling at a time when SER is still defining restoration and without a much needed revision of the SER Primer.

I was one of the co-founders of SERNW, together with Sono Hashisaki and Tim White. [Sono and I first called a meeting to discuss forming the chapter in 1992 at the SER Waterloo conference in Canada, but few showed up and it did not happen until the following year at the 1993 SER Irvine Conference.] I served most of two SER board terms representing the chapter. I have also been Science and Policy Working Group chair, co-chair (with my friend Eric Higgs), and plain member until the present; served on the International Awards Working Group; and have presented as keynoter and in other capacities in every SER conference since the beginning in 1989—while facilitating the involvement of a number of Native speakers since then in SER (and other science society) annual meetings.

I am also chair of SER’s Indigenous People’s Restoration Network (IPRN). IPRN was founded at the 1995 SER conference in Seattle at the University of Washington. I want to explain its importance from my view as a Native American restorationist against the backdrop of the emerging fields of mainstream ecological restoration and ecosystem management of the 1990s and beyond. I especially want highlight and clarify some essential differences buried in common Western assumptions about the role of competent human stewards in natural systems. My discussion of this, I think, will reveal serious discrepancies between what the average restorationist says he or she believes but is contradicted by those buried assumptions I have referred to [See the opinion survey in the October, 2012 issue of Cascadia].

Seattle 1995 is widely recognized as an amazing SER conference. Over 1000 attendees. And, most important from my point of view, the first (and still unequalled) major presence of Indigenous peoples at any U.S. mainstream non-Native environmental or restoration conference. Augmenting Indigenous presenters from as far away as Kyrgyzstan and Georgia in Central Asia were a significant number of non-Indigenous environmental activists from Cascadia. All told, I brought in approximately one fourth of conference presenters. The SERNW planning team, led by, I think, Sono and Tim with assistance from Dean Apostle and crew, pulled off one heck of a conference.

Typical of those early days of Indigenous presentations in science conferences, we were initially given rooms too small to hold all of the conference delegates who had heard about our sessions and wanted to attend. We asked for and got larger rooms. Non-Indigenous restorationists knew that they could get restoration information in the literature but not what we were presenting. At one point several Native Hawaiian women friends showed up unexpectedly and I put them into our session. They came in the room singing. The Indigenous presence infected the entire conference. Spirits were high. We just could not believe what was happening. I still meet Indigenous brothers and sisters who have vivid memories of Seattle ’95. A few of the presenters had talk titles with strongly worded references to social justice. Some of the conference sponsors spotted them on the agenda. Two firms (one was a logging company) dropped their support.

And the concept of restoration got out to Indigenous persons in Native America and other places who were eager to begin their own projects. For example, I was invited to Hawaii soon after to consult with the State of Hawaii and Native Hawaiian “Protect Kaho’la’we Ohana” doing restoration of dry tropical forest on the island. I was also invited to organize a United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) “Human Values of
Biodiversity conference, held at San Xavier Tohono O’odham reservation in Arizona and attended by indigenous presenters from all over North America, Mexico, Guatemala, and Hawaii a few months after Seattle. Indeed, this was one of the primary aims of IPRN: to bring ecological restoration to the attention of Indigenous communities and, reciprocally, to teach SER restorationists about Native ways of knowing and cultural land practices, i.e., ecocultural restoration. It is a two-way educational process that emphasizes the complementarity of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Western science.

SER has continued to welcome Indigenous presenters who have been coming to SER world and chapter conferences since 1989, when I and three other Indians walked into SER’s first conference at the historic Claremont Hotel in the Oakland Hills. I created such a ruckus speaking impromptu from the back of session rooms that it caught the attention of SER co-founder Bill Jordan; he later invited me to be on the SER board, which is how I ended up representing the NW chapter a couple of years later. I was then elected for my 2nd term.

Interest in Indigenous peoples and issues has certainly increased since the early 90s [The 1990s were designated by the UN as the Decade of Indigenous Peoples]. In fact, Indians in North America are enjoying (or perhaps not enjoying) a high level of popularity among a large segment of the discerning classes. Science societies, like some environmental groups [I have been involved in ESA’s Mentoring program for minorities, SEEDS.], have been trying to make people of color welcome and encourage “diversity”. But little progress has been made. [How many white people would feel comfortable walking into the Apollo Theater in Harlem?] A growing minority of ecologists, geographers, restorationists, and other Western scientists have recognized TEK as a viable and valuable complement to Western science. But it is still a relatively small minority. While interest in Indigenous peoples and cultures generally has grown and while TEK is now more widely known and better understood—I have observed a trend among restorationists, both in North America and Europe, to increasingly discount the relevance of TEK and ecocultural restoration [a term first used by myself and Jeffrey Thomas of the Puyallup Tribe in 1993: Jeffery found it via Google] to ecological restoration. This is partly because rapid environmental change brought on by climate destabilization, many now think, has made restoration less predictable. This has thrown doubt on the reliability of historical reference ecosystem models and has encouraged the concept of “novel ecosystems”.

Now, if it is true that Indigenous peoples over much of the world have had a major role to play in the development of vegetation structure and composition, not to mention function, [which I believe is true], then restoration needs at least a beginning historical baseline for constructing a reference restoration model. Too many restorationists, and even more ecologists, do not recognize this well-documented fact. Many now feel ecological processes and function, not structure and composition, are important. But a critically important question yet to be addressed by SER restorationists is this: How will this change in emphasis affect Indigenous cultures and wildlife? And even more relevant to non-Natives: How will it affect ecosystem services and function? Stay tuned for a continuation of this article in the spring newsletter.

Keep up with our latest happenings on SERNW’s facebook page! Like us at SERNW! Any member can share items of interest on the facebook page, but you can also submit topics to SERNW20@gmail.com.

Your Strategic Communication Team,
Allison Warner, Adrien Elseroad, and Jim Hallett

P.S. Don’t forget to renew your membership on the SERNW webpage.