

Society for Ecological Restoration in Ontario (SERO)

Board Composition

Please provide a list of the most up-to-date information on chapter leaders and members: (*can also submit in a separate file if that's easier*)

Executive Board:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Sal Spitale	Chair	6	salspitale@hotmail.com
Stephen Murphy	Past Chair	6	Stephen.murphy@uwaterloo.ca
Steve Smith	Treasurer	4	Stephen@ufora.ca

Other Board Members:

Name	Title	Board Term	Email
Dale Leadbeater	Continuing Education	6	dleadbeater@slrconsulting.com
Ash Baron	Membership	4	Baron.a@aquaforbeeceh.com
Megan Ihrig	Publications	6	meihrig@gmail.com
Nigel Finney	Field Trips	4	nfinner@hrca.on.ca
Rachel Voros	College/University Outreach and Scholarships	4	locavoros@gmail.com
Jeff Warren	AGM and Workshops	4	warren@mmm.ca
Beth Anne Fischer	Communications Coordinator	< 1 year	bafischer@hrca.on.ca

Strategic Plan

Please indicate your strategic plan for the coming year. If you do not have an official strategic plan, please provide a written summary of your chapter's plans for growth and continued success. If you have a strategic plan, please attach the plan to your email.

- We are participating in the Go Wild, Grow Wild Expo hosted by Carolinian Canada Coalition. <http://gowildgrowwild.ca/expo>. We will have a booth and will be promoting our organization to the public to increase our membership.
- We will have two field trips at restoration sites.
- We will be hosting a “Waterfront Restoration” Symposium and AGM in September
- We will be awarding the 2016 scholarship, worth \$2000, to a well deserving student.

Events

Please provide the name of any major events your chapter held this year (e.g. annual meetings/conferences, field trips, workshops) along with a brief description of each. *Please include any images from these events in your email. Title images descriptively with the name of the event, date, and a description of what is occurring in the photo.*

1. 2015 SERO AGM: Novel Ecosystems, Saturday, November 14, 2015, University of Waterloo

The realities of climate change, altered landscapes, new and modified chemical inputs, introduced species and ultimately changes to the interactions between biota and abiotic processes, have led restoration ecologists to reconsider conventional approaches to ecological restoration. The emergence of the concept of novel ecosystems, that is “ecosystems that exist without historical precedents and are self-sustaining” (Hobbs et. al. 2013) “is becoming more common practice in light of ecological constraints to traditional approaches to ecological restoration.

The Society for Ecological Restoration in Ontario (SERO) is pleased to host a workshop on Novel Ecosystems at the University of Waterloo on November 14, 2015. The workshop will provide attendees with an opportunity to:

- Hear from academics and practitioners on the recent trends and knowledge surrounding novel ecosystems
- Develop an understanding of what is meant by “novel ecosystems”
- Identify how and when to implement the novel ecosystem approach to ecological restoration
- Hear about previous and upcoming projects where novel ecosystems has been the approach to ecological restoration

2. Field Trips

Terra Cotta and Upper Credit	Credit Valley Conservation	Sherwin Watson-	Stream, online pond removal,	Monday July 6
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Conservation Areas	Authority	Leung & Rod Krick	invasive species, grassland	
Various – Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savannah Restoration	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Graham Buck	Prairie and Savanna	Monday September 21

Communications

Please indicate any communications tools launched and/or publications produced by your chapter in 2014:

Name of communication/publication (e.g. social media platforms, newsletters, books, guides)	Brief description (include link to websites)
<i>none</i>	

Other Major Accomplishments

Provide a brief description the accomplishment

<p>Awarded a scholarship worth \$2000 to a well deserving student. William Twardek from Queens University.</p>
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Year-End Chapter Summary

Each chapter will need to provide a short summary of their activities in 2014 for SER’s Annual Report. In each Annual Report the SER head office includes a section on the activities and accomplishments of each chapter/section from the year.

Please Note: Summaries should be no more than 250 words. Summaries should be written with care as they will appear in the Annual Report (please use third person).

SERO Ontario (SERO) had a successful year including the awarding of the annual SERO scholarship, a Symposium/AGM with the theme *Novel Ecosystems*, as well as two field trips.

Each year SERO offers a non-renewable scholarship of \$2000 to a student enrolled in an Ontario community college or an undergraduate student at an Ontario university. William Twardek, was our scholarship winner.

SERO held two field trip opportunities this summer. Our first field trip included a tour of the Terra Cotta and Upper Credit Conservation Areas where attendees had an opportunity to see the results of stream restoration, online pond removal and woodland invasive species study plots. Our second field trip took place at two locations in Brant County looking at a tallgrass prairie restoration site and oak savannah restoration.

SERO held a symposium/AGM titled *Novel Ecosystems*. The emergence of the concept of novel ecosystems, that is “ecosystems that exist without historical precedents and are self-sustaining” (Hobbs et. al. 2013)” is becoming more common practice in light of ecological constraints to traditional approaches to ecological restoration. This event was held at the University of Waterloo and featured presentations by academics and practitioners on the recent trends and knowledge surrounding novel ecosystems, how and when to implement the novel ecosystem approach to ecological restoration and case studies where adopting the novel ecosystems approach has guided ecological restoration.

Greatest Accomplishment & Photo

Please provide one sentence of your chapter/sections greatest accomplishment, or of a fun memory/activity, in 2014. Please attach in the email containing your annual report one high quality photo to accompany this sentence or that represents your group/membership. Photo should be from 2014.

Chapter Challenges

Please describe any challenges your chapter is currently facing and ways you are trying to overcome them. *Please include any comments on how you believe the SER head office could assist in supporting your chapter with these challenges.*

Volunteer Hours

Please provide the number of volunteers and an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours contributed by your chapter (*estimate if you're unsure*):

14 volunteers –total of 400 hours

Additional comments? Please provide any additional comments that you have for the SER staff, Board, or just general comments you wish to include.