Reaching the Future



Annual Report 2007



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) unveiled a new look for its website this past year, designed to make members proud of their professional organization and to make navigating the site easier. In addition, the Society launched a blog that has attracted a wide range of submissions from student observations to exchanges about the meaning of ecological restoration. Podcasting, begun this winter, is the latest addition to our communication resources.

ESA continues to enhance its publications program. As a founding member of OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment), ESA's journals are now available online in over 100 countries in the developing world for no cost or for a nominal fee. The project is an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Yale

University, and scientific and technical publishers such as ESA. In addition, ESA signed an agreement with Portico, a permanent archive of electronic scholarly journals, to archive the electronic copies of all our journals, including the *Bulletin*. Portico will also provide post-cancellation access of our journals in order to meet library demands for perpetual access to electronic versions of journals for all the years that they subscribe.

Members and non-members alike now have the opportunity to purchase individual articles or "blocs of docs" from ESA journals, and a featured article in each journal is open access to all readers. Submissions to ESA's outstanding journals continue to rise, as do impact factors.



ESA has raised its profile in China. Our publications are distributed online to over 400 libraries and have been displayed at book fairs throughout the nation. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment published a special issue written by Chinese scientists working in China, with a special distribution to more than 600 institutions and individuals in China. ESA co-sponsored EcoSummit 2007, which took place in Beijing, China. President Alan Covich was a plenary speaker, I participated in a panel discussion, and ESA had a very popular booth at the conference. Frontiers Editor-in-Chief Sue Silver and editors from two other societies conducted two extremely well attended workshops in China about how to publish in international journals.

All of our program activities are thriving. New initiatives in science programs include a sustainability science focus and plans for a conference on biofuels. Projects that maintain ESA's reputation as a source of scientific expertise include an assessment of forest decline in the southeastern United States (U.S.), a series of articles about the effect of conservation practice on ecosystem services provided by wetlands on agricultural landscapes, and a series of peer reviews for two U.S. federal agencies.

SEEDS, ESA's high profile education program, won the Presidential award for mentoring, the highest award of its kind. There are now 42 Campus Ecology Chapters and an increasing pool of students who are involved in SEEDS activities. The program hosted its first international field trip to Mexico this year and held a second leadership workshop attended by former and current fellows. ESA provides its members and others involved in ecology resources through its digital library and online teaching materials.

Public Affairs efforts to bring ecological information to policy makers and the media involve a broad range of members. ESA's Rapid Response teams were called to action to develop policy statements, participate in briefings, respond to media queries, and analyze proposed legislation. This year alone, ESA hosted two congressional briefings and numerous targeted meetings with key congressional offices, on issues ranging from environmental monitoring to federal support for the biological sciences.

ESA has an excellent professional staff and strong support from its leadership and members. Together, we are growing the Society and making it more effective and visible as we pursue our mission of promoting the science of ecology.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

t was a great honor and immense pleasure to represent ESA as President this past year. As I noted this summer, we have come a long way since ESA began December 28th, 1915, in Columbus, Ohio, at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At that first meeting, 50 people adopted a constitution, and set the next meeting to be held in New York City. In 2015, we will celebrate our 100th anniversary and will see

many innovations continue to develop. This year we saw our membership exceed 10,000 ecologists during our annual meeting in San Jose, California. This joint meeting with the Society for Ecological Restoration was attended by over 4,000 individuals. Numerous joint sessions provided opportunities to communicate with our colleagues, who actively apply a wide range of ecological concepts and help to validate the usefulness of our science.

We continue to develop new ways for members to participate in diverse activities such as the Regional Knowledge Partnerships, which was initially developed as our first pilot program with help from the Southeastern Chapter. We expect to replicate these activities throughout the country by 2015. The ESA Governing Board also initiated the Millennium Conference Series to highlight emerging ideas of wide interest in the ecological community.

This year, we attracted a record number of international members to join us in our meetings and to publish in our journals. More than half of the contributing authors to papers published by ESA were international ecologists. We also continue to develop cooperation among other ecological societies through the Federation of Americas, which started during ESA's 2003 meeting in Savannah, Georgia. We are currently working with INTECOL to make its next Congress a great success in Brisbane, Australia, in 2009.

A major event for ESA was receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in recognition of the Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability (SEEDS) program. ESA was honored with this award, the highest of its kind in the United States, at a White House reception in November.

Our Meetings Committee and the Governing Board have emphasized ways to provide a "green" approach to meetings and other ESA activities. As the world's largest ecological society we will provide leadership in evaluating and reducing our environmental footprint.

ESA is increasingly being called upon to assist in resolving environmental conflicts. Our Rapid Response Teams continue to provide information on a wide range of issues ranging from climate change, hurricane impacts, invasive species, and biofuels. ESA provides a certification program to recognize professional ecologists who have met certain standards in education, experience, and ethics. This certification is widely recognized by practitioners who work to use the best science that assists in decision making.

Our educational, science, and policy efforts this past year contributed to development of the National Ecological Observatory Network by surveying our members about their interests and by hosting open discussions at our Annual Meeting and during a national webcast. We also represented our members at reviews and workshops dealing with the selection of core sites and activities that will lead to a 30-year research program of continental scale studies. ESA will assist with educating students to use data-archiving methodologies and related technologies.

I urge all of you to continue your active support of ESA, to contribute to the Millennium Fund, and to help ESA in any way you can to ensure its success in the coming years. We have much to look forward to in the years ahead as we prepare for 2015 and our 100th anniversary!

alan Plonth

THE NEXT GENERATION



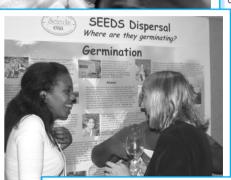
Each student has [had] a unique perspective which has caused me to reflect on why, and sometimes how, we do research. They have challenged me to explain the relevance of our work to diverse populations in the US and around the world. Science is a dynamic process, which thrives on diversity of all types.

 Jeff Herrick, USDA Agricultural Research Service, ESA Member, SEEDS Mentor

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

- Henry David Thoreau





Credit: Annie Drinkard



Credit: ESA file photo

The SEEDS program allowed me the freedom to ask questions, seek the in-depth answers I wanted, and created a comfortable, fertile environment that allowed me to grow.

Sophi Beym, Bishop Paiute Tribe
 Environmental Specialist



Oredit: ESA file photo

Credit: ESA file photo

EDUCATION & DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

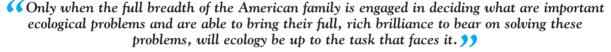
Sedit: Annie Drinkard

SEEDS Students at the Helm

As a testament to the growth of the Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability (SEEDS) program, four SEEDS alumni leaders, now in graduate school, coordinated their first public outreach event at the 2007 ESA meeting. The students were awarded funding from Project Learning Tree to organize a field trip and workshop for high school teachers and their students.

EcoEdNet: ESA's Digital Library

EcoEdNet is a portal to locate, contribute, and disseminate ecology education resources. In 2007, teaching resources were transferred into Dewey, a new cataloging program that will improve ESA's ability to manage collections.



 Alan Berkowitz, Institute for Ecosystem Studies, former ESA Vice President for Education and Founder of SEEDS

Presidential Award

redit: ESA file photo

The Ecological Society of America was honored at a White House reception in November 2007 for receiving the nation's highest award in science mentoring, the 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. ESA's program, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability (SEEDS), garnered the award, which the National Science Foundation supports and administers.

Managed by ESA's Office of Education and Diversity Programs, SEEDS activities



★ESA Executive Director Katherine McCarter (4th from left) representing ESA joins other PAESMEM awardees and President Bush at the White House.

include ecology clubs and chapters, research fellowships, group field trips, and travel to the ESA Annual Meeting, where students are assigned a mentor for the duration of the meeting. SEEDS directly serves over 200 students and its chapters serve nearly 2,000 students. The Society plans to dedicate the Presidential Award to supporting ESA Annual Meeting travel for underrepresented students.

Sredit: White House file photo

SCIENCE, POLICY, and the MEDIA

Communicating ecological science



◀ Former ESA Education Director Jason Taylor (far left) and former ESA Education Vice Presidents Carol Brewer and Alan Berkowitz participate in congressional visits to foster support for science education.

Senator Ted Kennedy (2nd from left) meets with constituents, including ESA member Tom Morrison (far right).



ESA Rapid Response Team member Gary Lovett discusses environmental monitoring with Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand, his congresswoman from New York.



exhibition featuring NSF-sponsored projects.

Rapid Response Team member Laura Huenneke talks with National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Arden Bement at a Capitol Hill

≪ Sustainability Science workshop participants.



Sredit: Nadine Lymn

Credit: David Blockstein

Credit: Mindy Destro

ver the year, the Society's Rapid Response Team members participated in Capitol Hill events that advocated for reversal of proposed cuts to critical federal water monitoring programs, provided expertise on climate and invasive species issues, and demonstrated the importance of federal funding of science and education.

ESA co-sponsored a congressional briefing: "Agriculture, Biology, and Conservation: The ABCs of How Nature serves the Nation." Three prominent scientists—among them former ESA President Kay Gross—presented at House and Senate briefings to discuss the key role of ecosystem services in the nation's food production and overall quality of life. Timed close to reauthorization discussions of the Farm Bill, the briefings drew an attendance of 70 congressional and federal agency staff.

Media coverage of ecological research presented in the Society's journals and at the Annual Meeting spanned the globe, including: ScienceNow, Nature and Nature.com, United Press International, Scientific American, ABC News, USA Today, Seattle-Post Intelligencer, Deutschlandfunk, and Science Daily.

₹ Forest Health workshop attendees tour Fort Benning, Georgia.



Agricultural and Ecosystem Service
Food, fiber and fuel important ecosystem services provided by agricultural systems

Conventional agricultural practices have focused for an an increase asystem service

asystem service

★ Kay Gross briefs congressional staff on the role of ecosystem services in food production.

Throughout the year, ESA organized or participated in various workshops addressing data sharing, forest health, and sustainability science. A two-day workshop, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), explored common ground on data sharing among the ecology, evolution, and organismal biology communities.

Forty-five scientists in Atlanta, Georgia, gathered to determine the degree of consensus on the nature and extent of the concerns about the health of southeastern yellow pine forests. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Pro-gram, the

workshop resulted in recommendations for short-and-long-term management responses.

As part of ESA's Sustainability Science Initiative, NSF sponsored a workshop that reviewed recent advances in ecological theory. Entitled "Ecological Foundations of Sustainability in a Constantly Changing World", the workshop set the stage for a symposium of the same title at the Annual Meeting.

Credit: Annie Drinkard

Credit: Mindy Destro

CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

ESA journals attract some of most important science papers of our time

The large volume of submissions, extensive circulation, and consistently high impact factors for ESA journal articles reflect the esteem with which professionals view ESA publications.

ESA's flagship journal, *Ecology*, continues to be ranked head and shoulders above all other journals in ecology in terms of total citations: 36,555.

In 2007, Ecological Applications increased to eight issues per year, speeding up the time in which papers appear in print or online after acceptance. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Ecological Archives continued to publish digital appendices and supplements linked to online versions of ESA journal articles, making ESA one of the leaders in using digital archiving in conjunction with its publications. Submissions to the Society's journals continued to climb. Ecological Applications saw a 13 percent increase in manuscript submissions while Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment witnessed a 30 percent rise. Ecologica ECOLOGY

pproximately 50 percent of papers submitted to ESA journals are from authors outside the United States.

The ESA *Bulletin* now averages over 400 pages a year and features a new department called "Ecology on the Web."

In August, the new online pre-press publication site, *Frontiers e-View*, was launched. Each paper is fully citable and freely accessible to ESA members and institutional subscribers. Non-members have free access to the abstract and the option of purchasing the article through pay-per-view.

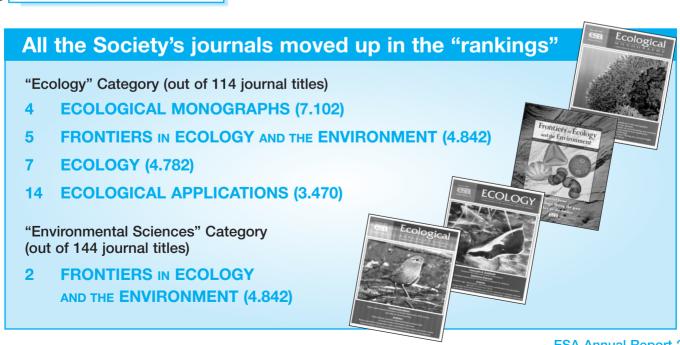
Ecological Applications special issues included the supplement on Nutrient Enrichment and Estuarine Eutrophication. Frontiers special issues included Ecology in an era of Globalization (funded by the National Science Foundation), and Paleoecology: Using the Past as a Key to the Future. All the Society's special issues are entirely open access, free and available to the public.





Following attendance at the EcoSummit 2007 conference in Beijing, China, *Frontiers*' Editor-in-Chief and colleagues from the Wildlife Society and the British Ecological Society presented two workshops to 300 Chinese researchers, editors, and students, aimed at helping them achieve publication in high-impact, international journals.

∢ Giant Panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca)



2007 FUND FOR THE MILLENIUM

ight years ago, the ESA Annual Fund for the Millennium was established to support bold new initiatives advancing the science and profession of ecology. Since then, the Fund has launched the Society's Rapid Response Teams, made possible the translation of Issues in Ecology into Spanish, and helped launch the Federation of the Ecological Societies of the Americas - just to name a few. We thank all supporters of the Millennium Fund for making it possible for the Society to embark on these projects.

\$50-99

Michael Allen Theresa Bucher Peter Chesson Virginia Dale Alexander Dewdnev J. Emmett Duffy Jeffrev Dukes Peter Frank Gary Gellern Anne Giblin Richard Goodwin Nelson Hairston Cadet Hand **Bret Harvey** Christopher Hertz Gail Irvine Thomas Johnsen Stephen Johnson William Lidicker Svata Louda Richard Miller Gretchen North David Parkhurst Thomas Peterson Mary Power Safianu Rabiu James Randolph Heather Revnolds Valerie Ryden Shannon Scroggins Jack Secor **Donald Shure** James Sweeney Jason Taylor Thomson Black Jean Thomson Black William Tietjen Jan Topercer Francesco Trama

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\$1000+

Anonymous Lawrence Bliss Carol Brewer & Paul Alaback Norman Christensen Alan Covich Christopher Field Nancy Grimm William Parton

Matching Contribution

Andrew Mellon Foundation

Mark Walbridge

Thomas Wentworth

ANNUAL MEETING

held its 92nd Annual Meeting jointly with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) in San Jose, California. Bridgett Luther, with the Office of Governor Schwarzenegger, welcomed attendees and Science Editor-in-Chief Donald Kennedy gave the Opening Plenary. Over 4,000 ecologists attended the meeting, which featured 26 workshops, 20 field trips, 24 symposia, 51 organized oral sessions, 163 contributed oral sessions, 30 special sessions, and 71 poster sessions.



★ ESA/SER San Jose meeting site.

2007 Award Winners

Eminent Ecologist:

For outstanding body of ecological work - Otto Lange

Distinguished Service Citation:

For outstanding service to the ecological community – *Frank Egerton*

Honorary Member Award:

In recognition of exceptional contributions to ecology - Marilyn Ball

Corporate Award:

For sustainable business practices – Ray Anderson, Interface, Inc.

Corporate Special Recognition Award:

For sustainable business practices - Ecofish, Inc.

Odum Education Award:

For outstanding work in ecology education - Carol Brewer

Mercer Award:

Outstanding ecology paper: "Asymmetric co-evolutionary networks facilitate biodiversity maintenance" (2006, Science) - Jordi Bascompte

Cooper Award:

Outstanding article: "Herbivores promote habitat specialization by trees in Amazonian Forests" (2004, Science) - Paul Fine, Phyllis Coley, Italo Mesones



E. Lucy Braun Award (2006):

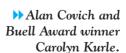
Most outstanding student poster presentation - Daniel Laughlin



Most outstanding student paper presentation - Carolyn Kurle



← From left: President Alan Covich, Eminent Ecologist Award winner Otto Lange, and Awards Committee member Jayne Belnap.





★ Exhibit hall.





SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Agroecology: Section Chair Fabian Menalled traveled to Washington, DC to participate on ESA's behalf in a stakeholders' meeting held by the US Department of Agriculture.

Applied Ecology: The Section gave three \$300 travel awards to students Catherine Ravenscroft (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Ilyas Siddique (University of Queensland), and Brian Allan (Washington University).

Aquatic Ecology: The Section provided eight \$200 travel awards to students and awarded the 2006 Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research to Wendy Palen, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.

Asian Ecology: Members of the Section organized three symposia for the 2007 EcoSummit in Beijing, China and held a joint 3-day editorial and publishing workshop involving journal editors and scientists in ecology and the environmental sciences. The Section continued to assist ESA on the Chinese version of the ESA web site: http://www.esachina.cn/

Education: The Section sponsored a symposium featuring Richard Louv, noted author of "Last Child in the Woods", and organized oral sessions on diagnostic assessment and electronic learning.

Long Term Studies: A joint mixer with the Rangeland and Applied Ecology sections took place again in 2007 and the Section provided partial support for two students to attend the ESA Annual Meeting.

Microbial Ecology: The Section sponsored a symposium on microbial ecology and ecosystems and held its first competition for the best talk and best poster on microbial ecology by a graduate student or post-doc.



★ Workshop participants in Beijing, including Frontiers EIC Sue Silver (8th from front left).

Credit:

Paleoecology: The symposium, "Environmental Change, Extinction Risk, and the Maintenance of Biodiversity through Time" was sponsored by the Section, which also awarded a \$1,000 travel grant to one the of symposium's speakers.

Physiological Ecology:

The Section sponsored a symposium focused on linking physiological ecology, evolutionary biology, and functional genomics to better understand biotic responses to a changing environment.

Rangeland:

A very timely organized oral session was developed by this Section and held at the San Jose Annual Meeting: "Biofuels from Rangelands: Boon or Bane?"

Statistical Ecology: The Section again held its competition for the E.C. Pielou Student Award and sponsored a workshop on structural equation modeling.



Student: Seventeen Real/Brown Student Travel Awards—including six to international students—were awarded. Student members organized seven sessions and workshops for the San Jose meeting and worked with the *Frontiers* Editor-in-Chief to start a new student column in that journal.

Theoretical Ecology: The Section sponsored a symposium at the ESA Annual Meeting: "Ecological and Economic Theory in Analyzing Risk in Biological Invasions."

Traditional Ecological Knowledge:

Three sessions were organized by members of this Section that focused on sense of place, bridging western science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and restoring sustainable landscapes.

Vegetation: Members of the Section developed the symposium, "The Success of Succession: The Development of a Fundamental Ecological Theory and its Application in a Changing World" for the 2007 ESA Annual Meeting.

ESA Annual Meeting session.

Credit: Annie Drinkard

ABOUT THE ESA



Credit: Colleen Fahey

ounded in 1915, the Ecological Society of America is the world's largest professional organization of ecologists, representing more than 10,000 scientists in the United States and over 90 other countries. ESA welcomed its 10,000 member, Walter Heady, during its 92nd Annual Meeting in San Jose, California.

Members range from undergraduate students to professors emeriti, and include researchers, educators, natural resource managers, and a number of other professions. Areas of expertise range from agronomy to zoology and all of the life and environmental sciences in between. ESA members share a passion for the natural world and a desire to communicate that passion to others.



New President Norm Christensen congratulates ESA's 10,000th member, Walter Heady.

Through its Annual Meeting, Sections, and Chapters, ESA offers members numerous networking opportunities. ESA publishes four highly ranked peerreviewed journals, Ecology, Ecological Monographs, Ecological Applications, and Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment.



★ Purple Striped Jellyfish (Chrysaora colorata)

The Society's online *Bulletin* offers members another outlet for sharing information.

The Society is a leader in enhancing diversity within the ecological community and in ecology-related professions, as well as to improve the quality of ecology education. ESA also links the ecological research and management communities, ensures that ecological science informs policy decisions, and garners support for ecological research.

2007 Chapter Highlights

Canada

The Chapter continued to develop its website, adding an environmental policy bulletin board intended to provide information about Canadian environmental policy issues.

Mexico

The ESA Governing Board approved the Chapter's proposal to reduce by 50 percent the registration costs for ecologists from developing countries attending the Society's Annual Meeting. The Chapter also awarded its first \$200 travel grant to a Latin American student member.

Mid-Atlantic

Designed to encourage students to present their research, the Chapter held its annual scientific meeting at York College of Pennsylvania with the theme of "Management of Landscapes and Ecosystems."

Southeastern

Two awards were presented to six students at the 2007 Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting. The Chapter also became involved in ESA's Southeast Knowledge Partnership.

FINANCES Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2007

As the VP for Finance, I am happy to report that ESA is in excellent financial health Membership is growing, our journals remain strong, and our annual meetings have been well attended. This has allowed ESA to build up our "Unrestricted Net Assets" from negative numbers a decade ago, to a positive balance of over \$1,700,000 at the end of fiscal year 2007. These funds constitute our "rainy day fund" and insure that ESA will remain strong and stable and can continue to publish journals and provide services even in the event of an unexpected financial downturn.

Bill Parton, VP Finance ESA Governing Board

Revenues

Grants & Contributions	365,524
Membership Dues	580,476
Subscriptions	2,395,750
Manuscript Charges	325,338
Annual Meeting	783,593
Investment Income	182,341
Other Revenues	170,681
Net Assets released from restrictions	1,198,742
Total Revenues	6.002.445

Expenses

Total Expenses	5,564,992
Fundraising	53,682
Member & Administrative Services	1,280,506
Education	475,826
Frontiers	634,438
Journals	1,778,813
Chapters & Sections	17,363
Annual Meeting	659,325
Science Program	424,652
Public Affairs	240,387

Change in Net Assets 437.453

Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2006 1,348,276 Unrestricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2007 1,785,729

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	1,873,232
Investments	3,939,997
Accounts receivable	116,419
Grants receivable	96,476
Prepaid expenses	175,899
Furniture & Equipment (less depreciation)	36,546
Deposits	10,075
TOTAL ASSETS	6,248,644

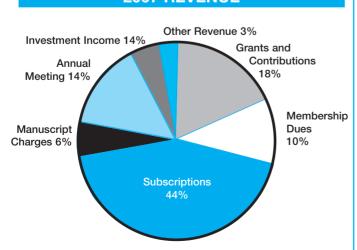
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	256,153
Deferred revenue	2,410,532
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,785,729
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,746,230
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	50,000

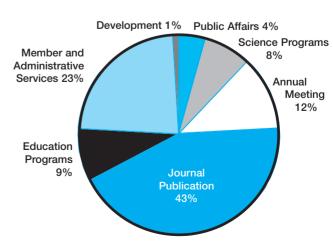
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS 6.248.644

Audited by Gelman, Rosenberg, Freedman. For a complete audit report, please contact ESA's Washington, DC office.

2007 REVENUE



2007 EXPENSES



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Education Coordinator: Jennifer Riem

Diversity Programs Manager: Melissa Armstrong Diversity Programs Coordinator: Erin Vinson Diversity Programs Assistant: Jui Shrestha

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Marketing and Advertising Manager: Eric Gordon

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Publications Coordinator: Anne Marie Whelan



Editor: Nadine Lymn Cover picture: Tundra Swans *Cygnus columbianus*. The 2007 ESA Annual Report is printed on recycled paper Design/Layout: BJ's Print & Graphic Services Ltd Printing: PeakeDeLancey



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