



Fall 2007

RMA Newsletter

Resource Modeling Association

www.resourcemodeling.org

From the President

In June we enjoyed another of our international conferences that are characterized by the opportunity to visit in a relaxed setting with other RMA friends. The Craigville Conference Center was an excellent location for this type of gathering. Catherine Roberts did a superb job in organizing the conference and selecting an outstanding group of invited speakers. This was a huge undertaking, and she managed it most efficiently. Thank you, Catherine, for providing the RMA with such a wonderful conference.

Cape Cod Recollections

—Krishna P. Paudel

The World Conference of the Resource Modeling Association was held on June 19-22, 2007 at the Craigville Conference Center in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA. If you were accustomed to attending conferences done in fancy, modern facilities, then this was not your usual place. However, immediately after disembarking from the car, I was taken by the beauty of this serene location overlooking the Nantucket Sound and surrounded by forested woodlands and historic cottages. Yes, you are correct: the conference's location is a place of retreat and probably not the likely venue for a professional meeting such as ours. However, this location proved to be a great venue for both learning and the cultivation of friendships and camaraderie with fellow conference atten-

dees. Attendees were placed in different cottages with either shared cottages or rooms – making the stay quite enjoyable and providing numerous opportunities to learn more about fellow attendees. An often important component in any meeting is food. Food was well-provided in the dining hall at the conference center. The conference was designed similar to a retreat, so, from breakfast to dinner time, there were additional opportunities for interaction with fellow attendees. In combination, the meetings, dining and accommodations all provided great opportunities for interaction among colleagues.

On the evening of June 19, the conference kicked off with a reception at the Craigville Inn. This early reception was well-received due to the long journey some of the attendees made –

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Journal Moves to New Publisher

Significant changes lie ahead for the Resource Modeling Association. Beginning January 1, 2008, the publishing of our journal *Natural Resource Modeling* will be handled by the Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Company from its offices in Boston, Massachusetts. Editorial control of the journal will remain with RMA. In addition to the publication of NRM, Wiley-Blackwell will also be in charge of marketing the journal, promoting RMA, and handling the membership in the association.

Rollie Lamberson, Catherine Roberts, and Bob Fray met with representatives of Wiley-Blackwell at their offices in Malden, MA on August 28 to work out details of the copyright transfer, publication and marketing of our journal, and managing membership

in the association. This meeting was the culmination of conversations that began more than a year ago with Blackwell Publishing Company.

Initially the print version of NRM will display only minor revisions from its current form. The size of the journal, the color of the cover, and the quality of the paper will probably remain unchanged in the short term. Volume 21, the 2008 volume, will consist of four issues, as has been the case in the past. The number of issues will be increased to six per year within the next few years.

Wiley-Blackwell plans a major relaunch of *Natural Resource Modeling*. For the first couple years the journal will be marketed on its own, but later it will be packaged with other journals

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I would like to announce that Brandy Wieggers has been appointed Secretary of the RMA. This is the position of recording secretary which was previously held by Bill Chivers, not Executive Secretary, the position held by Rollie Lamberson. Brandy is currently a graduate student at the University of California, Davis. At the Cape Cod meeting Brandy was instrumental in organizing a successful program for graduate students.

Over a year ago Catherine Roberts initiated a conversation with Blackwell Publishing Company about publishing

RMA BOARD

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the association's journal *Natural Resource Modeling*. The conversations were suspended when John Wiley and Sons purchased Blackwell last fall. After the publisher's reorganization these conversations resumed, and at the Cape Cod meeting the Board of Directors met with a representative from Wiley-Blackwell. After further communications, Catherine, Rollie, and Bob Fray met in Malden, MA with personnel from the publisher. Based on the agreement reached at this meeting, we foresee major changes ahead for both RMA and NRM that will be very beneficial. An accompanying article describes some of these changes; others will be reported in this newsletter when they are realized. The people from Wiley-Blackwell who will be working with us are very enthusiastic about our journal and our association and are eager to promote both. We look forward to collaborating with them to strengthen our organization.

—Bob Fray



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offered by the publisher and marketed as a bundle to libraries. When this occurs, the number of institutions subscribing to NRM should increase dramatically. Although no major changes are planned for the appearance of the journal, some slight changes will be made in the design of the cover, and one or two pages will be included providing information about the association and its annual conference.

One major change that will occur before long is that the NRM web pages will reside on the Wiley-Blackwell website and will be listed on the Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, and Ecology subject sites. Until the end

of this calendar year, online access to current and back issues of NRM will remain available on the RMMC website. Another major change is that production of the journal will be organized utilizing the publisher's OnlineEarly system, which will enable authors, reviewers, and editors to monitor the progress of the publication of their papers. This system will also make it possible for papers to be published electronically several months before appearing in print. And, a strict production schedule will ensure that the journal is published on time.

The marketing division of Wiley-Blackwell will promote NRM subscriptions and RMA memberships

through electronic and print media to readers of the publisher's many journals in related subject groups and at scientific conferences world-wide. NRM will be advertised in relevant Blackwell journals, co-marketed with Blackwell books, and included in Blackwell's subject catalogues. Our international conferences will also be promoted through Blackwell publications and in displays at meetings of other professional societies.

Membership in the Resource Modeling Association will now be managed electronically through the publisher. Renewal notices will be automatically sent to current members

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some journeying from as far as Russia and Australia. The conference finally began on Tuesday morning at an old tabernacle which was converted into the conference room. Although a somewhat rustic building, the tabernacle's wooden walls and surrounding doors made for an attractive venue. With a cool, gentle breeze continuing to blow throughout the day, a relaxing feeling of solace was provided for the attendees.



The first presentation was a keynote speech by Marc Mangel, from the University of California, Santa Cruz, who highlighted the significant problems faced by natural resource model-

sions were excellent opportunities for students to showcase their respective research. As a board member, I think the association can utilize a poster ses-

attendance. The weather was beautiful – ensuring the enjoyment of the supplied view of the Atlantic Ocean. With yet another amiable opportunity to interact with fellow attendees, this opportunity was indeed visually-stunning AND relaxing. Upon returning from the cruise, attendees were ready for pizza (which was at the ready) and the awards ceremony. John Hearne, RMIT, always presents said ceremonies in both entertaining and creative ways. Various awards were presented – ranging from bottled Coca Cola to wheat flour (the latter of which was awarded to our keynote speaker Marc Mangel for his presentation on the current problems facing natural resource mod-

ers. Using the example of flour beetle competition, Dr. Mangel's talk demonstrated the need to address uncertainty in natural resource modeling. This speech was then followed by another keynote speaker and newly-minted RMA-fellow Colin Clark from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Clark's presentation covered about the individual transferable quota in fisheries as a solution for fisheries management. The afternoon's presentations and poster ses-

ion in the future to attract more students to the conference. Student programs, specially organized by Brandy Wiegers, were well-attended. The first day's meetings concluded with lobster dinners in the venue's dining hall followed by entertainment provided by Jim Scott in the tabernacle.



The soothing music ended the day in style. After a full day of intellectual stimulations and culinary delicacies, no one would have asked for better entertainment. On Thursday, the conference continued with another keynote speaker – Alan Ek from Oregon State University. Dr. Ek discussed methods of investing in forestry resources. In the afternoon, participants set off for a sunset cruise where the true beauty of the Nantucket Sound was enjoyed by those in

eling.

Friday's meeting was originally scheduled to start with the fourth and the final keynote. Instead, Bob McKelvey and Peter Golubtsov gave an outstanding presentation covering the difficulty of harvesting the resources of shared fisheries. The conference ended on Friday afternoon with presentation of a paper from an exciting tag-team of two Australian researchers. Papers presented in the conference covered issues such as water quality, forestry, pest and disease spread, roo shooting, and fisheries. These presentations represented the width of natural resources topics covering quality, control, modeling, growth, and harvesting concerns. Fellow participants bid farewell to the Craigville Conference Center and thanked Catherine for a job well done. In conclusion, fellow attendees and colleagues

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The Student View

Brandy S. Wieggers

An exciting addition at this year's RMA conference was a series of presentations designed for the professional development of RMA students. Over the course of the week, students heard from several current RMA members including academic and industry workers, administrators and special project organizers, new researchers and those who are veterans of the profession. Together they provided insight into the academic tenure and promotion process, opportunities in industry and government, research program development, sharing science with the general public and the RMA.

Excerpts from the presentations:

- The key to any success (for being hired, successful annual evaluation, promotion or tenure) is very similar: sell yourself, don't be too pompous but toot your horn and share your achievements. It's especially important to put your accomplishments into context. Don't just list the papers that you've published, if you published an article in the best journal in the discipline and it won and award call that to attention.
- An interview is very much like a blind date because it provides a chance for both parties to try each other out and see if they can work together.
- Be selective about what jobs you apply for, make sure you are eligible for the job and explain your eligibility in your application. Also take the time to check your spelling and your grammar because these small things can make all the difference.
- We need to be aware of the business of science, this is a reality that faces all researchers and becomes a larger component when you become the administrator of a research group. Although the grant process is different in industry and academia, the funding process does guide the research.
- One of the differences of industry/ government positions vs academia is the professional review process and the different expectations/ types of personal freedom available in the positions.
- Create a good research focus that keeps the ball rolling. Don't jump your dissertation; stretch it by applying the same techniques to other topics. Read

articles (1 hour everyday) in other fields related to your work. You're looking for 9-15 good publications (3/ year) for tenure so you need to stay on top of things.

- If you're planning to try a new field after graduation, then show interest before you get a job in that field-talk to people, read journals and go to meetings, don't just start something new. Committees are looking to hire people with initiative that can deal with curriculum changes, can create new programs, can publish papers and will contribute overall to the department.

Additional student program highlights

The Killer Whale educational video presentation by Diane Beres had beautiful orca footage and was a nice overview of the general experience of sharing science with the public, a good follow-up to the afternoon session on climate change and global warming which recommended the need to communicate more science to the general public.

Bob Fray, RMA President, met with students about increased student involvement in the RMA. Right now, RMA needs students who are interested in helping write articles for the RMA newsletter and who are interested in creating RMA website content. If you're interested in helping you should contact Bob or Diane.

Overall the 2007 RMA student programming was a success, with great participation of students and non-students. Students especially appreciated the networking time provided by the opportunities and the chance to talk more one-on-one with some of the many RMA experts. We hope to continue this program in the future, supporting more informal interactions with students and leaders of the RMA. Thank you to our presenters: Keith Criddle, Diane Beres, Bob Fray, John Hearne, Jason Link, Krishna Paudel, and Bill Smith.

Resources for additional professional development

Academic Job Hunting Resources (created by Brandy Wieggers)

<http://galois.math.ucdavis.edu/UsefulGradInfo/HelpfulAdvice/>

JobHuntingResources

Slides from Krishna Paudel's research program presentation

<http://math.ucdavis.edu/~wieggers/Research/Conferences/>

RMA_Paudel_ResearchNotes.pdf



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and appeals will be sent to those individuals who have allowed their memberships to lapse. Members will be able to renew their membership either online or through a 24-hour phone customer service operated by the publisher.

As a result of these changes we can expect to see a large expansion in the readership of our journal and an increase in the membership of the association. Although we welcome a healthy growth in our organization, we do not aspire to become so large as to lose the personal interaction among our members that we currently experience.

—Bob Fray



Student Poster Winners

Awards for the best student posters presented at the 2007 World Conference on Natural Resource Modeling were given to two students, Andy Kanarek and Stacy DeRuiter. Andy's poster was titled Predicting Invasion Success by Modeling Ecological and Evolutionary Dynamics, and Stacy's was Continuous-time Markov Chains to Model Sperm Whale Foraging Behavior.

Andy is a first-year Ph.D. student at Colorado State, working on invasion biology under Colleen Webb. He did his undergraduate work at Rutgers, majoring in biomathematics. He recently completed a master's degree at Humboldt State, working under Rollie Lamberson. He is working on weed species in Rocky Mountain National Park, coupling invasion biology with evolutionary dynamics. He has received an N.S.F. Fellowship and a PRIMES grant. He also enjoys hiking with his dog, visiting the local brewery, and playing the saxophone.

Stacy is a graduate student at MIT/WHOI in biological oceanography, under Peter Tyack. She did her undergraduate work at St. Olaf, in biology and environmental studies. She is working on toothed-whale foraging and echo-location, particularly behavioral changes due to noise. In her spare time, she likes to run in marathons and make pottery.

More NRM Changes

Catherine A. Roberts, Editor

Changes to the Editorial Board

We welcome two new members to our editorial board. Rick Horan joins us from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University and Keith Criddle joins us from the School of Fisheries and Ocean Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Thank you for agreeing to serve!

We say goodbye and thank you to two editors, as well. E.J. Milner-Gulland, who handled papers in conservation since 2000 and Jim Cushing, who handled papers in mathematical biology since 1997, have stepped down from our editorial board.

In 2008, we will be expanding the Senior Advisory Council for the journal, which currently consists of Bob McKelvey and Rollie Lamberson. Although more names are anticipated, I am pleased to announce that Marc Mangel from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at the University of California Santa Cruz and Colin W. Clark from the Mathematics Department at the University of British Columbia in Canada will join the Senior Advisory Council of Natural Resource Modeling.

Status of the Journal



In 2007 (Volume 20), our first issue was a special issue titled "Economic Ecology Modeling" edited by J. Tschirhart. Our second issue was titled "Economic Effects of Climate Change on Fisheries" edited by R. Hannesson and R. Arneson. The two remaining issues of 2007 will be regular issues, with 7 papers slated to

appear in each. In 2008 (Volume 21), the first two issues will contain papers from the 2005 World Conference on Natural Resource Modeling, edited by R. Lamberson and S. Brown. The remaining issues will be regular issues. We have 20 manuscripts in active review as of August 2007, which is almost twice what we had one year ago. A paper accepted today will appear in Volume 21 in 2008.

The move to Wiley-Blackwell will provide our journal with an updated look. We are developing a plan with Wiley-Blackwell to increase our circulation so that more people will have access to our journal. Our plan will target both individual subscriptions through membership in the Resource Modeling Association, as well as institutional subscriptions. We are optimistic that substantial improvements will be seen in the next few years.