

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thoughts on ASLO Meetings

Linda E. Duguay

Since I became a member of the ASLO Board (2.2 yr ago) as your President-elect in July 2014, I have attended all three of the ASLO-associated meetings held since that time. I have truly been amazed at the variety and breadth of our ASLO Meetings. All three were very different in so many ways. But all three do have the common purpose of bringing limnologists and oceanographers together to present and discuss their cutting-edge research in advancing the sciences of limnology and oceanography.

In 2015, we held a single Aquatic Sciences Meeting (ASM). This was an international meeting held in Granada, Spain with a theme of "Global and Regional Perspectives — North Meets South." We had a much greater than anticipated turnout with over 2500 participants and 74% were non-U.S. The attendees came from 64 countries. This was an amazing turnout of our international colleagues and certainly a good sign that we are reaching one of our strategic goals in terms of the internationalization of ASLO. We also had a large contingent of students accounting for some 35% of the meeting attendees and many of those were new members from Spain and other European countries. I met many new colleagues and, in the sessions, learned a lot about many European water bodies. I even co-chaired two sessions. The wine and tapas were excellent.

This year ASLO sponsored two meetings both in the U.S.—the first in February—the biennial Ocean Sciences Meeting (OSM) co-sponsored with AGU and TOS and held in New Orleans with AGU as the lead for the meeting. The meeting attracted over 5000 attendees as has been typical of OSM meetings over the last 10 yrs and is, as the name denotes, a very ocean-focused meeting. ASLO-only members made up 12.5% of meeting attendees with another 8% joint members of either two or all three of the Societies and some 33% not members of any society. I was able to catch up with many of my ocean-oriented colleagues and former Federal science program managers. The plenary sessions were excellent and, to save travel, one of the plenary speakers presented from England via the web, which is something ASLO members have been requesting. Being New Orleans, there was lots of

great music, including an OSM-sponsored evening featuring many of our musically-talented colleagues. There was also a lot of great southern hospitality and Cajun food.

Most recently in June, we had an ASLO Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This turned out to be a relatively small meeting with slightly over 500 attendees and was very freshwater oriented, covering the broad spectrum of freshwater habitats and issues. ASLO members were 76% of the attendees and students constituted 29%. The first plenary led by President Elser featured a video presentation by Peter McBride, an award-winning photographer and film maker on chasing water and what happens to the Colorado River as it traverses the country to the Mexican Border. It brought tears to my eyes. There was also an evening session of movies produced by ASLO members and colleagues. The ASLO award recipients provided a series of outstanding plenaries on the various research/education activities for which their awards were given. I enjoyed much excellent southwestern food including, an ASLO-sponsored tapas and music evening.

We are now well into the implementation stage of our next Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Hawaii in February 2017 with a theme of "From the Mountains to the Sea", in which we hope to engage all our members from across the freshwater—ocean continuum. The selected sessions were announced 23 August and abstracts were due 14 October and notifications of acceptance will be out as this column is released in November. The meeting co-chairs and committee members, and ASLO committees are all busy working on the plenary sessions, various workshops, special sessions, and award selections. This will be our only ASLO-sponsored meeting this year.

We are currently in a pattern of a single Aquatic Sciences Meeting in odd years and two meetings in even years: a winter OSM meeting and a summer meeting either ASLO only or in conjunction with our sister freshwater societies, such as the very successful 2014 summer first Joint Aquatic Science Meeting (JASM) sponsored by the Consortium of Aquatic Sciences Societies (CASS). This pattern of 2/1 began back in 1997; prior to that, we did have a summer meeting every year.

The meeting venues and dates are established years in advance in order to lock in preferred venues and begin the overall planning. I just signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) with members of CASS to hold another JASM

meeting in 2022; the venue, meeting chairs, and committee are yet to be determined. That is a full 2 yrs after my service on the board ends and we won't elect the person who will be President at that meeting until 2018. If you would like to be a chair or committee member of a future ASLO meeting, please volunteer by contacting me at the emails below or the meetings committee Chair or members who can be found at (<http://aslo.org/committees/index.html>).

So a tremendous amount of work goes into either an ASLO-only or a joint meeting. I kind of knew that from my previous experience helping to organize two OSMs: one in San Diego and one in San Antonio in 1998 and 2000, respectively. But now that I am so intimately involved with all aspects of ASLO and its meetings—it's really striking how much more work by so many people is needed to pull these things together than I had ever appreciated. Thankfully, we have an excellent conference coordination team with Helen Schneider Lemay and the Schneider group leading our efforts for the last 18 yr. They have worked with the various boards and all of our partner societies over that time to develop an incredible series of very successful meetings from both a scientific and fiscal perspective.

Adrienne Sponberg, our Director of Communications and Sciences, conducted a brief survey (only six questions) in June 2015 on members perspectives on ASLO meetings with respect to timing (winter/summer), location (U.S./Europe/other international), and general thoughts of members. She presented her results of the survey to the ASLO Board at the OSM meeting in February and that is one of the things that stimulated me to focus this column on our meetings. She had a good response from 575 members across a broad spectrum of members and she divided the findings for us in terms of career stage, location, and frequency in attendance at an ASLO meeting. The responses represented a broad spectrum across all career stages (highest being mid-late career) and location as well (highest being U.S.A., followed by Europe, then Canada). February seemed to be the first choice with more responses in terms of very likely and moderately likely to attend and 62% of respondents had only attended February meetings, while only 9% attended only a summer meeting. Summer meetings in June were preferred over July by a large margin. So we do seem to currently have a good mix of meetings that are working for our members. The odd year Aquatic Sciences Meeting in February seems to well integrate our ASLO

membership across the fresh/salt continuum, while our even year meetings in February and June tend to integrate us across the interface with our other ocean and freshwater colleagues who belong to related societies. We had a lot of great comments from the survey as well. Some members would like to see a single ASLO meeting each year. A major issue with the February meeting seems to be teaching responsibilities, while in June members frequently commented that is their busy field season as well as other competing meetings sponsored by our sister freshwater societies. This year there were three annual meetings over a 3 week period, ASLO (5–10 June), Society of Wetland Scientists (31 May–04 June) and Society for Freshwater Science (21–26 May), which is most likely why this summer meeting was one of our smallest.

We do value your opinions with respect to meetings as well as many other issues. So please feel free to contact me about this column or my previous August column. I did get quite a few great responses to the August column in terms of enjoying the focus of the column as well what they are doing at their institutions to more broadly prepare students for careers both within as well as outside of academia. I do hope you read and enjoy the article by Hundey et al. in this issue of the *Bulletin* focused on “*Shifting tides: Gaps and strategies for science communication training.*” There are a lot of great recommendations for how a Department can proceed to develop a program for increasing graduate students communication skills.

If you have any other issues or concerns about our society, please feel free to write to me at president@aslo.org or simply duguay@usc.edu. It is only through your active participation and keeping us informed that I and the excellent ASLO Board you have elected can serve you and advance ASLO 2.0 and beyond. Please think about volunteering to be a Meetings Chair, Board Member, or member of many of the Board Committees (<http://aslo.org/committees/index.html>). Nominate your colleagues for our various awards. We would love to have your greater participation in your Society.

Finally—my February column is most likely going to be on Ethical Issues around bias (primarily gender) and harassment. Past-President Elser and I are planning a plenary presentation (a special speaker will be joining us) on this subject as well as a workshop/forum at the February meeting with a focus on behavior on research vessels and at field stations and marine laboratories. So if you have

ideas of speakers or would like to participate in the workshop, let me know as it is a work in progress.



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Interview with Bob Howarth on the Publication of the *L&O* Special Issue on Methane

Teresa Curto

Over its 60 year history, *L&O* has occasionally published special issues. The first such issue in 1962—a collection of oceanographic and biological studies from “Operation Wigwam”—published reports that were originally classified documents by the Atomic Energy Commission in August 1956. This special issue widely disseminated this important information to scientists after de-classification by the agency. The next special issue appeared in 1965, and it would be 23 years (1988) before the third *L&O* special issue would appear. The most recent special issue appeared seven years ago, in 2009.

Beyond the significant editorial planning and work required by the Editors and Guest Editors, special issues were historically challenging to fund. If significant subvention was not available in the form of grants or other financial sponsorship to fund copyediting, production, printing, and distribution, the ASLO Board of Directors was required to consider and approve these expenditures in the context of the overall annual operating budget or any reserve funds available. Such funding was challenging for any nonprofit professional association, particularly in leaner years and before organizations gave priority to developing and maintaining critical reserve funds.

One of the outstanding benefits of ASLO’s partnership with Wiley is the provision of an *L&O* special issue every year, equivalent to the current page count of a single issue of the Journal. Because subscribers (individual and institutional) are not charged for this significant additional content, and page charges and open access fees do not cover the costs of producing, printing, and distributing it, the underwriting of these charges by Wiley has transformed special issues from a financial consideration to a purely editorial one.

I sat down with Bob Howarth, Editor-in-Chief of *L&O*, to talk about the first special under his tenure, and his plans for future special issues.

ED: WELCOME, BOB. ASLO IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS FIRST SPECIAL ISSUE UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP OF *L&O*! TELL US ABOUT THE IMPETUS FOR THE SPECIAL ISSUE, HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED, AND WHEN READERS CAN EXPECT TO SEE THE COMPLETED ISSUE.

BH: Hi Teresa. First, let me say how excited I am to be producing special issues for *L&O* on a regular basis. You mentioned the special issue from 1988: I had two review articles published in that issue, a great issue edited by Scott Nixon that compared freshwater and marine ecosystems. I also was a special editor for an *L&O* issue in 2006 on eutrophication in freshwater and marine ecosystems, along with Mandy Joye, Val Smith, Roger Bachmann, Jim Cloern, Bob Hecky, and Dave Schindler. And while EiC at *Biogeochemistry*, I helped put out four special issues on various aspects of the nitrogen cycle. I am a big believer in the power of special issues to bring together some exciting papers and focus close attention on some timely topic.

For this first issue since 2009, we decided to focus on the importance of methane emissions from aquatic systems. Methane is a critically important greenhouse gas, 100-fold more potent than CO₂ compared mass to mass, and by far the second largest contributor to global warming after CO₂. Although human emissions now dominate the global methane cycle, natural emissions are also important, and these are dominated by fluxes from wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs. There are also enormous stores of methane in the oceans, “frozen” as methane clathrates, with some potential that this methane may be released and reach the atmosphere as global warming progresses. The consequences in terms of runaway global warming would be staggering, if that were to occur. The last several years have seen marked improvements