

**Turner, Monica G. 2010. Things change and remain the same: US-IALE then (1994-96) and now.** Past-president's symposium, US-IALE Annual Landscape Ecology Symposium, Athens, Georgia, April 5-8, 2010.

Abstract: US-IALE provides a valuable network for landscape ecologists and a forum for sharing new ideas and promoting interdisciplinary research. During my term as president (1994-96), the primary challenge faced by US-IALE was membership. Despite tremendous enthusiasm for landscape ecology as a discipline, the society was still small, and membership turnover was high. Results of a membership analysis, member survey and report from an ad-hoc committee produced recommendations to improve growth and retention of members. The first US-IALE web site emerged from this effort. The second challenge was to solidify the administrative structure, institutional knowledge and records of the society. The bylaws were updated in 1996, and the Executive Committee Handbook was developed for the governing board. The third challenge was planning and vision for the annual meeting to foster innovation while retaining features valued by the members. As landscape ecology became more mainstream, retaining the "cutting edge" flavor of the annual landscape ecology symposium required more effort. Aspects of these challenges persist today. As we look to the future, we should (1) consider the features of US-IALE that are unique among the professional societies to which we belong and strive to enhance these; (2) retain the strong focus on and opportunities for students and their professional development; and (3) engage more fully in the challenges facing social-ecological systems today.