



# TREMBLINGS

NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN BOARD

Vol. 10(1), February 2019

*Partnering to preserve and restore healthy aspen ecosystems*

**MEMBER REQUEST:** The WAA is a science-based virtual community. Send us items of interest and we'll help spread the word. Contact Paul Rogers, Director: [p.rogers@usu.edu](mailto:p.rogers@usu.edu).

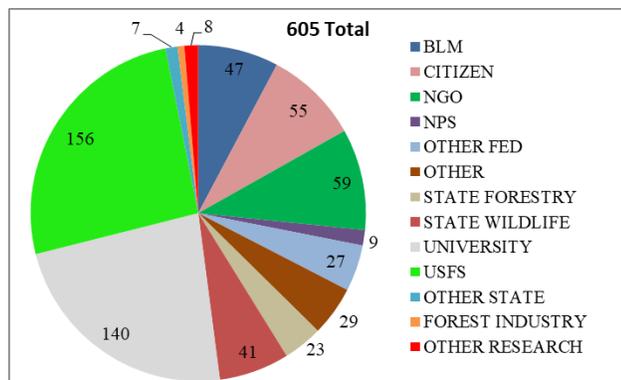
Share *Tremblings* with your friends and colleagues.

**New members welcome!**

## WAA HAPPENINGS

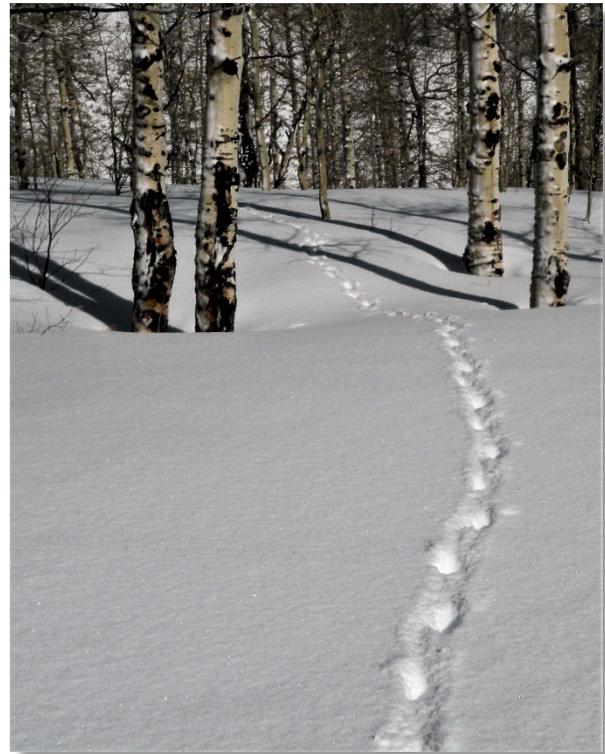
**The WAA Makes National News**—On Feb. 3, 2019 [PBS NewsHour Weekend](#) ran a feature story on WAA Director Paul Rogers' work at the Pando aspen clone in Utah. This media attention stems from work published there in 2017 ([Ecosphere](#)) and 2018 ([PLOS ONE](#)) draws attention to wider aspen science and management issues around the western region.

**Current WAA Membership:** We're growing steadily and we thank you for helping bring aspen science and management developments to your area. Our current members recently topped 600!



**New WAA SAP Chairperson:** The WAA is rotating leadership on our Science Advisory Panel. We thank [Dominik Kulakowski](#) (Clark University) for his service in this position and welcome [Samuel St. Clair](#) (Brigham Young University) into the driver's seat. The SAP provides scientific oversight and recommends under-recognized areas of aspen research to the Director and greater WAA

community. The current roster of SAP and Steering Committee members can be found [here](#).



*Seasonal greetings! Signs of winter and a deep snowpack in northern Utah this year. Decades-old research (e.g., Strain & Johnson 1963. Ecol. 44:581-584) from this region suggests that aspen photosynthesize through bark tissue in winter...a topic worthy of further exploration? (Photo: Paul C. Rogers.)*

**An Aging WAA:** You may notice some cosmetic changes to *Tremblings* with the start of our 10<sup>th</sup> volume. We now pass into our second decade as the premier network for sharing advances in aspen science and management. But the WAA is you, too! As we strive to improve, please let us know how we're doing or what we're missing.

**Send Your Flashy Photos**—We'd like to post your best aspen photos on the [WAA Facebook](#) site. [Send](#)



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[us](#) pictures that are artistic, unique, ridiculous, or sublime.

**Donate to the WAA**—We value your professional input through this first decade and now we’re asking for your financial contributions. If you value this service, please consider [donating here](#) in an amount you can afford. Thank you.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NAFEW Comes to Flagstaff**—The [12<sup>th</sup> North American Forest Ecology Workshop](#) will be held in Flagstaff, AZ June 23-27, 2019 and the WAA will be there with our traveling exhibition table! This biennial conference features the practical intersection between research, management, and restoration across the continent. Featured topics will include wildlife, climate change, disturbance ecology, social science/forest policy, and forestry applications. **In the wake of the recent government shutdown, the abstract deadline date for proposed papers and posters is Feb. 15, 2019.**

### **Aspen Workshops 2019, Planning Phase**—

- **Wyoming-South Dakota:** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Aspen Days will move to the Black Hills region, with Wyoming and South Dakota sharing the program. Details to follow. Expected dates are Sept. 17-20. Contact [Shelly Deisch](#), South Dakota Game, Fish, Parks for further information.
- **Utah:**
  - Summit County aspen workshop hopes to examine aspen issues and science at the borderlands between public and private land. Preliminary planning is underway. For details, contact [Dusty Morgan](#), Utah State University Extension Specialist.
  - Pando Populus is gearing up for a “barn raising” of sorts at Pando in 2019. We hope to get our hands dirty repairing fence, cleaning up debris, and potentially assisting with interpretive facilities. Check the [Pando Populus](#) website for further developments.
- **Nevada:** Plans are now materializing for a July 16-18 Great Basin Aspen Ecosystems training

based out of Ely, NV. We will specifically address issues related to Great Basin aspen ecology with an emphasis on climate, fire, pathogens, and herbivory. We anticipate participation from USFS, BLM, NRCS, USGS, NPS, state wildlife, state forestry, NGOs, and citizens.

- **Other Aspen Events in Your Area?** Contact the [WAA Director](#) and let us know your plans.

## COMMENTARY

### **Staying Alive: Community and Quakes in Idaho**

**Jenny Gonyer**, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, Salmon Valley Stewardship (SVS), Salmon, Idaho  
**Toni Ruth**, Executive Director, SVS, Salmon, Idaho



Aspen stands expand and contract, flourish, fade away, and rebound, and similarly so do collaborative working groups (a.k.a., collaboratives). In 2006, the Central Idaho Aspen Working Group (CIAWG) formed with the mission to promote and perpetuate diverse, sustainable aspen communities near Salmon, Idaho. Within a few years, the group entered into its own Lotka-Volterra model oscillations with momentum rising and falling with available funding sources, personnel, shovel-ready projects, and budgets. After momentum waned, we at Salmon Valley Stewardship (SVS) were asked to reconvene the group in 2016. SVS is a community-based conservation organization that acts as a convener around a host of social and environmental issues, bringing people together toward sustainable outcomes. In 2017, SVS brought agency partners, NGOs, and community aspen enthusiasts together to finalize the Aspen Group charter and host an aspen workshop addressing current aspen science with Drs. Paul Rogers of the WAA and Eva Strand from the University of Idaho.

Scarce funding sources for collaboratives may slow group momentum, but the enthusiasm for



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restoring aspen has continued to grow. The CIAWG meets biannually for local updates on projects, with ongoing goals to prioritize landscape-scale monitoring and adaptive restoration. We continue to work through difficult agency and ownership disparities while also focusing on public outreach surrounding aspen, the incredible biodiversity they support, and consequences of potential aspen loss.

Utilizing funding from the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Idaho Native Plant Society, and in-kind support, we have two hands-on programs underway. First, the city of Salmon recently approved designation of a Community Aspen Grove (photo 1) at the [Sacajawea Interpretive and Educational Center](#)



with the intention of elevating civic and tourist understanding of aspen ecology and restoration. Our high school intern, Kelsey Stansberry (photo 2, with bear claw

markings), designed the Aspen Grove interpretive signs for her senior practicum. Having our youth see collaboratives at work is crucial to showing them the importance of a community working together to sustain resources for generations to come. Our second project is to place mobile interpretive signs at restoration sites on BLM and Forest Service lands to explain the ecological and social value of restoration to increase public understanding of natural resource and land use issues.



Slated for 2020, we look to establish a large-scale crowdsourcing aspen inventory and long-term monitoring through an “Adopt an Aspen Stand” program. We believe the people who live, work, and play across 5.5 million acres of central Idaho provide an untapped resource to document trends of aspen stands. This “Adoption” program invites the community to learn about aspen, participate in restoration, and invest in long-term conservation. Ideally, we will export the “successes” from this pilot work regionally.

Initiating and coordinating citizen involvement and partnerships is foundational to SVS’s mission and, we believe, is crucial to finding common ground solutions that benefit our land, our communities, and future generations. Our organization acts as the “collaborative glue,” but as with stems in an aspen stand, collaboratives can only survive if participants prioritize continuity, remaining connected by our common roots.

## WAA Creates

“WAA Creates” showcases artistic aspen-related contributions. We encourage fiction, folklore, poetry, drawings, paintings, photography, and other artistic expressions that may be captured in a brief-form newsletter. Please [contact the Director](#) with suggestions, submissions, or feedback on this feature.

### **Aspen Grove** (oil on canvas)



**Jordan Daines**  
Park City, Utah



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The artist: *Jordan paints with bold strokes using her palette knives to explore color theory. Her linear abstract oil paintings lead you to become deeply immersed within an Aspen Grove. She has always found inspiration in nature, drawing heavily on her love of aspen. Jordan doesn't seek to replicate an exact location, but rather the feeling and connection she feels while walking among the aspen.*

Jordan's art is displayed at [Pando Fine Art](#), Park City, UT

## RECENT ASPEN PUBLICATIONS

- Carroll, C. J., P. H. Martin, A. K. Knapp, and T. W. Ocheltree. 2019. Temperature induced shifts in leaf water relations and growth efficiency indicate climate change may limit aspen growth in the Colorado Rockies. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 159:132-137.
- Hayward, M. W., S. Edwards, and B. A. Fancourt. 2019. Top-down control of ecosystems and the case for rewilding: does it all add up? *Rewilding*: p.325.
- Heinen, J. T., and B. Castillo. 2019. Browse-Mediated Succession by Deer and Elk 40 Y After a Clearcut in Northern Lower Michigan. *The American Midland Naturalist* 181:81-92.
- Hou, Z., Z. Wang, Z. Ye, S. Du, S. Liu, and J. Zhang. 2018. Phylogeographic analyses of a widely distributed *Populus davidiana*: Further evidence for the existence of glacial refugia of cool-temperate deciduous trees in northern East Asia. *Ecology and Evolution* 8:13014–13026.
- Kay, C. E. 2018. The Condition and Trend of Aspen, Willows, and Associated Species on the Northern Yellowstone Range. *Rangelands* 40:202-211.
- Kohl, M. T., D. R. Stahler, M. C. Metz, J. D. Forester, M. J. Kauffman, N. Varley, P. White, D. W. Smith, and D. R. MacNulty. 2018. Diel predator activity drives a dynamic landscape of fear. *Ecological Monographs* 88:638-652.
- Kweon, D., and P. G. Comeau. 2019. Factors influencing overyielding in young boreal mixedwood stands in western Canada. *Forest Ecology and Management* 432:546-557.
- Maxwell, J. D., A. Call, and S. B. S. Clair. 2019. Wildfire and topography impacts on snow accumulation and retention in montane forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 432:256-263.
- Özel, H. B., S. Ayan, S. Erpay, and B. Simovski. 2018. The New Natural Distribution Area of Aspen (*Populus tremula* L.) Marginal Populations in Pasinler in the Erzurum Province, Turkey, and its Stand

Characteristics. *South-east European forestry* 9:131-139.

- Usoltsev, V., O. Shobairi, and V. Chasovskikh. 2018. Climate-Induced Gradients of *Populus* sp. Forest Biomass on the Territory of Eurasia. *Journal of Ecological Engineering* Vol 19:218-224.
- Zheng, H., L. Fan, R. I. Milne, L. Zhang, Y. Wang, and K. Mao. 2017. Species Delimitation and Lineage Separation History of a Species Complex of Aspens in China. *Frontiers in plant science* 8:375-375.

## CONTACT WAA:

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**Website:** <http://www.western-aspen-alliance.org/>

