



# TREMBLINGS

NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN BOARD

Vol. 9(1), February 2018

*“...partnering to preserve and restore healthy aspen ecosystems.”*

**NOTICE:** The WAA is a user-driven organization. Please send news items and announcements, contributions, **recent reports & publications**, photos, and commentary ideas or rebuttals to Paul Rogers, Director/Editor: [p.rogers@usu.edu](mailto:p.rogers@usu.edu). We encourage you to share *Tremblings* with your friends and colleagues. **New members welcome!**

donations in amounts appropriate to you. If you find value in the WAA, please consider [donating online](#). WAA services will remain open access to all whether you elect to contribute or not. Thanks!

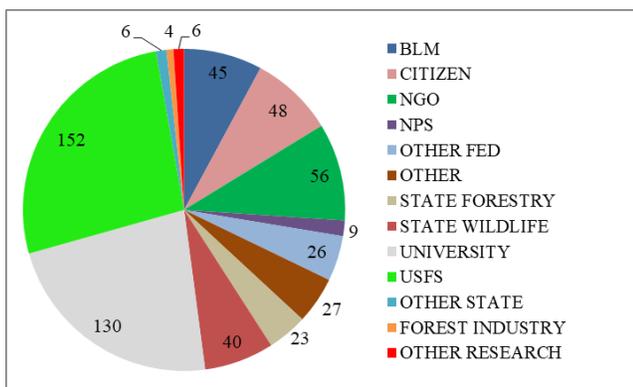
## WAA HAPPENINGS

**The WAA Celebrates 10 Years!**—With this issue of *Tremblings* we mark our 10-year anniversary (see Commentary). During this time we have grown from a scrappy upstart to a vibrant organization represented in 28 states, 5 provinces, and 8 countries. We have conducted 20 workshops and co-sponsored 7 webinars. We expect to continue producing topic Briefs, scheduling field workshops, compiling new aspen research, facilitating expert consultations, and connecting via [social media](#) for another 10 years. Thank you WAA members!



*Snow impacts the shape of young aspen stems by accumulating, sliding, and slumping over the years. And this trio of ramets shapes the snow, as well, over a period of hours and days. (Photo: Paul Rogers, Logan Canyon, Utah).*

**Current WAA Membership: 572**



**Member Funding Request**—The WAA has existed primarily on the basis of state and federal agency funding for a decade. Such funding streams are becoming more difficult to access, particularly under new priorities being advanced in 2018. Thus, we are coming directly to you, the WAA member family, to request donations. In the absence of institutional support, we’ve created a mechanism for you to make

**Online Spatial Bibliography Launch**—After 12 months of preparation, we are now announcing the launch of the first-ever aspen spatial bibliography. This tool was built under a partnership between Brigham Young and Utah State Universities. The map-based search engine builds directly off of the WAA’s Aspen Bibliography. The Spatial Bibliography allows users to search for past research based on the location of the study. While some entries without explicit geographic coordinates still present us with challenges, we hope to eventually add all ~6,000 records from our current citation database. We currently have ~1,500 entries in the Spatial Bibliography and it continues to grow! Please give it a [test drive here](#) and send us your [feedback](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aspen ‘Bugs & Crud’ Webinar**—US Forest Service Pathologist John Guyon will present “The Role of Insects & Disease in Aspen Biology.” Quaking



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Aspen hosts a large number of insects and diseases. However, only a few are agents of significant impact that can cause or warn of substantial changes in the condition of aspen clones. Environmental conditions, particularly drought stress, also play an integral role in the life cycle of the important aspen insects and diseases, and regional droughts have been the triggering factor in the initiation of the most notable instances of substantial aspen dieback and decline. [Register here.](#)

**Aspen Workshops 2018**—An aspen workshop will take place in Laramie, Wyoming under the banner of “Aspen Days.” This will be the seventh annual in the Wyoming Aspen Days series. Tentative plans are also being made to hold workshops in eastern Oregon and northern Nevada. Please contact the [WAA Director](#) or local agency personnel if you would like to take part in these events. Each workshop features regional aspen experts, case studies, and extensive field-based discussions.

**Arrange a 2018 Aspen Workshop**—Winter is the time to begin planning 2018 workshops and conferences. WAA’s basic objectives include holding workshops in every western state. While some states hold annual events and others have hosted more than one workshop, there are some states we haven’t been to: TX, NV, CA, OR, WA. To date there have been six workshops in WY; two ID, UT, NM; and one AK, AZ, CO, MT. Contact the [WAA Director](#) if you have an idea for a field location or a local speaker.

## COMMENTARY

### Ten Years of Aspen Science Outreach

**Paul C. Rogers**, Director, Western Aspen Alliance, Utah State University, Logan, Utah



Like any 10-year-old, we still have a lot of growing up to do. We’re full of energy, regularly enduring bruises and bumps. What parent doesn’t look at their child after a decade and see great

potential with a dash of trepidation? Still, 10 years is a significant landmark even after the candles are blown out. Let’s take a brief look at where the Western Aspen Alliance (WAA) has been and where we’re heading.

The idea of a virtual alliance sprung from the minds of noted aspen ecologist Dale Bartos, plant physiologist Ronald Ryel, and myself in 2007. Our thinking went something like this: agency budgets that formerly supported aspen research were shrinking while issues surrounding management and restoration of this species appeared to be mounting. Further, many field practitioners were relying on outmoded and sometimes inaccurate information. Previously, the U.S. Forest Service, for example, relied on a research program of several scientists based here in Logan, Utah to keep managers apprised of disciplinary developments, while simultaneously conducting novel research. In the absence of such a program, we initiated a cooperative approach that relied on input from a range of institutional locales and perspectives. The WAA began in January 2008 with a seed grant from Utah State University.

While enumerating a litany of accomplishments is standard fair for such milestones, I’ll forego that listing and simply say that we’re proud of our record of disseminating contemporary aspen science. Our method has been to use a variety of mediums to link researchers and practitioners. Thus, we organized webinars, workshops, this newsletter, social media, WAA Briefs, technical reports and peer-reviewed science, media articles and videos, and individual consultations. Additionally, we hope the online Expertise Database and Aspen Bibliography have made both human and published knowledge more accessible. One measure of success is the continuing growth and diversity in members. The level of interest among geographically dispersed wildlife professionals has been a pleasant surprise.

So where is the WAA headed and what might the future look like? The simple answer is that is entirely up to you, the members. As a user-driven organization our hope always was to build strength through diversity in expertise. The more active that community is, the stronger this alliance will become and the richer the resources we have to share. So the plea remains for you to “get in the game.” Give us feedback, send us reports and publications, organize an event, or write one of these commentaries!

An honest concern for the future is funding the WAA. As you can see from this issue, we are exploring individual and private funding avenues, including a website and Facebook Donate button. This may be unappealing to some, but until public funding for science and technology transfer improves, this is our new reality. Please help out where your institution or agency may be unable to. Your suggestions for alternative resource campaigns are always welcome.

Developing and communicating aspen ecology is my unbounded passion which I hope to serve for years to come. I aim to do that as a member of a broad community, not as an individual. I hope you’ll join me in this community that considers science-based aspen ecology and management a priority!

### 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.

**Fall Meadow**  
(oil on canvas)



**Scott Bushman, Hyrum, Utah**

*Inspiration for this painting came from a montane scene in Logan Canyon, northern Utah, USA.*

### RECENT ASPEN PUBLICATIONS

- Ahn, J., S. B. Franklin, and V. Douhovnikoff. 2017. Epigenetic variation in clonal stands of aspen. *Folia Geobotanica* 52:443-449.
- Bates, J. D., and K. W. Davies. 2018. Quaking aspen woodland after conifer control: Herbaceous dynamics. *Forest Ecology and Management* 409:307-316.
- Bates, J. D., and K. W. Davies. 2018. Quaking aspen woodland after conifer control: Tree and shrub dynamics. *Forest Ecology and Management* 409:233-240.
- Caldwell, B., and K. O’Hara. 2017. Correlation of Leaf Area Index to Root Biomass in *Populus tremuloides* Michx. supports the Pipe Model Theory. *Journal of Biodiversity Management & Forestry* 6. [Online Here.](#)
- Call, A. C., and S. B. St. Clair. 2017. Outbreak of *Drepanopeziza* fungus in aspen forests and variation in stand susceptibility: leaf functional traits, compensatory growth and phenology. *Tree Physiology* 37:1198-1207.



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- Carroll, C. J., A. K. Knapp, and P. H. Martin. 2017. Dominant tree species of the Colorado Rockies have divergent physiological and morphological responses to warming. *Forest Ecology and Management* 402:234-240.
- Conway, A. J. 2017. Mammalian herbivory slows the growth of broadleaf species in the post-fire, early successional forests in interior Alaska. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Biology Department [PhD Dissertation].
- Correia, K. 2017. Assessment of stable aspen communities on the Roan Plateau, Colorado. Colorado State University. Libraries, Fort Collins, CO [MS Thesis].
- Grady, A. M. 2017. Oystershell Scale Impacts and Mitigation Options on the Kaibab and Coconino NF's. USDA, Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Flagstaff, AZ. AZ-FHP-17-3.
- Heroy, K. Y. 2017. The influence of aspen chemistry and the nutritional context on aspen herbivory. Utah State University, Wildland Resources Dept., Logan, UT [PhD Dissertation].
- Heroy, K. Y., S. B. S. Clair, E. A. Burritt, and J. J. Villalba. 2017. Plant Community Chemical Composition Influences Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) Intake by Sheep. *Journal of chemical ecology* 43:817-830.
- Lastra, R., N. Kenkel, and F. Daayf. 2017. Phenolic Glycosides in *Populus tremuloides* and their Effects on Long-Term Ungulate Browsing. *Journal of chemical ecology* 43(10):1023-1030.
- Randlane, T., T. Tullus, A. Saag, R. Lutter, A. Tullus, A. Helm, H. Tullus, and M. Pärtel. 2017. Diversity of lichens and bryophytes in hybrid aspen plantations in Estonia depends on landscape structure. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 47:1202-1214.
- Rhodes, A. C. 2017. Impacts of a Mixed Ungulate Community on Aspen Forests: From Landscape to Leaf. Brigham Young University, Plant & Wildlife Sciences Provo, UT [PhD Dissertation].
- Rice, J., T. Bardsley, P. Gomben, D. Bambrough, S. Weems, A. Huber, and L. A. Joyce. 2017. Assessment of Aspen Ecosystem Vulnerability to Climate Change for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache and Ashley National Forests, Utah. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-366. US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO. 67 p.
- Sivadasan, U., T. Randriamanana, C. Chenhao, V. Virjamo, L. Nybakken, and R. Julkunen-Tiitto. 2017. Effect of climate change on bud phenology of young aspen plants (*Populus tremula* L.). *Ecology and evolution* 7:7998-8007.
- Sobuj, N., V. Virjamo, Y. Zhang, L. Nybakken, and R. Julkunen-Tiitto. 2018. Impacts of elevated temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration on growth and phenolics in the sexually dimorphic *Populus tremula* (L.). *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 146:34-44.
- Soderquist, B., K. Kavanagh, T. Link, M. Seyfried, and A. Winstral. 2018. Simulating the dependence of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) on redistributed snow in a semi-arid watershed. *Ecosphere* 9. [Online Here](#).
- Yang, H., and R. Man. 2018. Effects of partial harvesting on species and structural diversity in aspen-dominated boreal mixedwood stands. *Forest Ecology and Management* 409:653-659.

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