Ecological Restoration

Volume 37, Number 2 June 2019

ABSTRACTS

Front Cover Feature:
Diver Grace Hanson searches for detached fragments of *Acropora cervicornis* (staghorn coral) that will be used to restore degraded reefs in the British Virgin Islands. These "fragments of opportunity" are small pieces of live coral accidentally detached from their parent colony by storms, boats, or people. In this issue, Forrester et al. compare the survival and growth of these *A. cervicornis* fragments following three different transplant treatments. The results offer practitioners guidance on the cost-effectiveness of each transplant approach. Image credit: Graham Forrester

Back Cover Features:
Top: In the absence of regular wildfires, the open-structured oak ecosystems once found extensively throughout the eastern U.S. have diminished. Prescribed fires are often used to restore these systems by targeting undesirable understory hardwoods. However, prescribed fires do not always kill target species. To develop guidelines for managers, Abella et al. identify characteristics of target and non-target trees capable of surviving a controlled burn. Image credit: Tabby Fenn.
Middle: Forest recovery is challenging in former pastoral systems of the tropics. Pastoral land practices leave soils nutrient-poor and compacted. Opportunistic climbing plants slow tree growth by competing with tree roots for underground resources and tree canopies for available sunlight. On the Pacific coast of Mexico, Mendez-Toribio et al. examined tree growth response to climbing plant removal and soil plowing. Their work offers perspective on restoration practice within dry forest old fields. Image credit: Moisés Méndez-Toribio.
Bottom: The badlands region of the United States is characterized by abrupt changes in land topography. This topography generates high environmental variability managers must consider when developing grassland restoration protocols for the badlands. In this issue, Geaumont et al. explore the interplay between seed mixtures for grassland restoration and environmental variability. Image credit: Benjamin Geaumont.