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**Penetration to the meaning of a thing  
or process, as distinct from the ability to  
describe it exactly, involves a participation  
by the knower in the known.**

Owen Barfield

*The Rediscovery of Meaning*

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Contributions are welcome and should be sent the Editor, UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711 (608) 262-9591, e-mail: [ecorest@mhubsaff.wisc.edu](mailto:ecorest@mhubsaff.wisc.edu). Instructions to contributors are printed at the back of each issue.

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*Ecological Restoration* serves the Society for Ecological Restoration, an international organization of restorationists. They can be contacted at 1955 W. Grant Road #150, Tucson, AZ 85745, U.S.A., phone (520) 622-5485, fax (520) 622-5491, e-mail: [info@ser.org](mailto:info@ser.org).

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**Cover Photo:** Planting needlegrass at a restoration site near Davis, California. The reintroduction of extirpated species, often the key element in a restoration project, raises basic questions about the way a biotic community develops, and may actually preclude development of alternate, ecologically appropriate communities. Exploring these questions, ecologists have developed two similar, yet subtly different, ways of thinking about community dynamics—succession and assembly. Truman P. Young, Jonathan M. Chase and Russell T. Huddleston explore these two paradigms and their implications for restoration in an article on page 5.

*Photo by Dan Leroy*

*Ecological Restoration* (ISSN 1522-4740) is published quarterly by the University of Wisconsin Press, 2537 Daniels St., Madison, WI 53718-6772. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI and at additional mailing offices.

**Subscriptions:** \$37 individuals (please pre-pay); \$105 institutions. Foreign subscribers please add \$8; \$25 if air-mail delivery is desired. All correspondence regarding subscriptions, advertising, and related matters should be sent to: Journal Division, 2537 Daniels St., Madison, WI 53718, U.S.A.

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