

ED SIG news: Autumn 2005

The Environmental Dynamics Special Interest Group (ED SIG) is entering its fourth year of activity, with some encouraging statistics: membership (Illustration 1) and message traffic (Illustration 2). Two SIG meetings were held at the 2005 ISDC, in Boston: a discussion roundtable and the annual administrative meeting.

Roundtable

The Environmental Dynamics Roundtable was chaired by Wayne Wakeland, and attended by *circa* 35 people. The theme was "*What is Environmental Dynamics?*", and the resolutions taken are noted below:

1. The SIG shall define its scope more precisely. Suggestions for particular interests are: environmental policy and planning, ecology, environmental resources, sustainability, interaction of humans with the natural environment, environmental impact of urban sprawl, energetics, hierarchical organization of the environment, resource consumption patterns, population and community dynamics, ecological risk assessment (more specific to the dynamics of the biota), environmental risk assessment (more specific to the abiotic environment), and other similar areas.
2. As with SD in general, the ED SIG seeks to find: (a) feedback explanations/ understanding of dynamic behavior; (b) beneficial interventions in our human created and managed ecosystems, recognizing, of course, that such interventions create new feedback loops; (c) sustainable implementation processes for these interventions; (d) generally, though not always, the scale of our analysis is at a relatively high level of human activity – society – rather than at the level of a specific organization or individual.
3. The ED SIG is eager to find ways to connect with other groups outside our SIG, such as environmental economists, and many others we want our work to be integrative. We are willing to accept the risk that by calling our group "environmental" we could be labeled as "liberals" and "greenies".

Administrative Meeting

The Environmental Dynamics Administrative meeting was chaired by Richard Dudley, and attended by *circa* 30 people. The resolutions taken are noted below:

1. The SIG shall change its name to "Environmental" – i.e. eliminate the word "Dynamics", which is implied through its association with the SDS; this change will be reflected in the SIG's communications once approved by the SDS
2. The use of the word "environment" in relation to the SIG refers to the "natural environment"
3. The ED SIG website will be modified, featuring more information and more HTML documents. Tom Forrest and Ines Winz volunteered to assist in this operation.
4. The ED SIG "officers" system was modified: there are now three (3) officers who will each have a three (3) year period each moving up to the next slot each year. Thus, we need to elect one new person each year, and we will always have two who are "experienced". At present, the list is:
 - **Anastásios Perdicoúlis**: third year ends at the meeting in 2006
 - **Richard Dudley**: third year ends at the meeting in 2007
 - **Tom Forest**: third year ends at the meeting in 2008

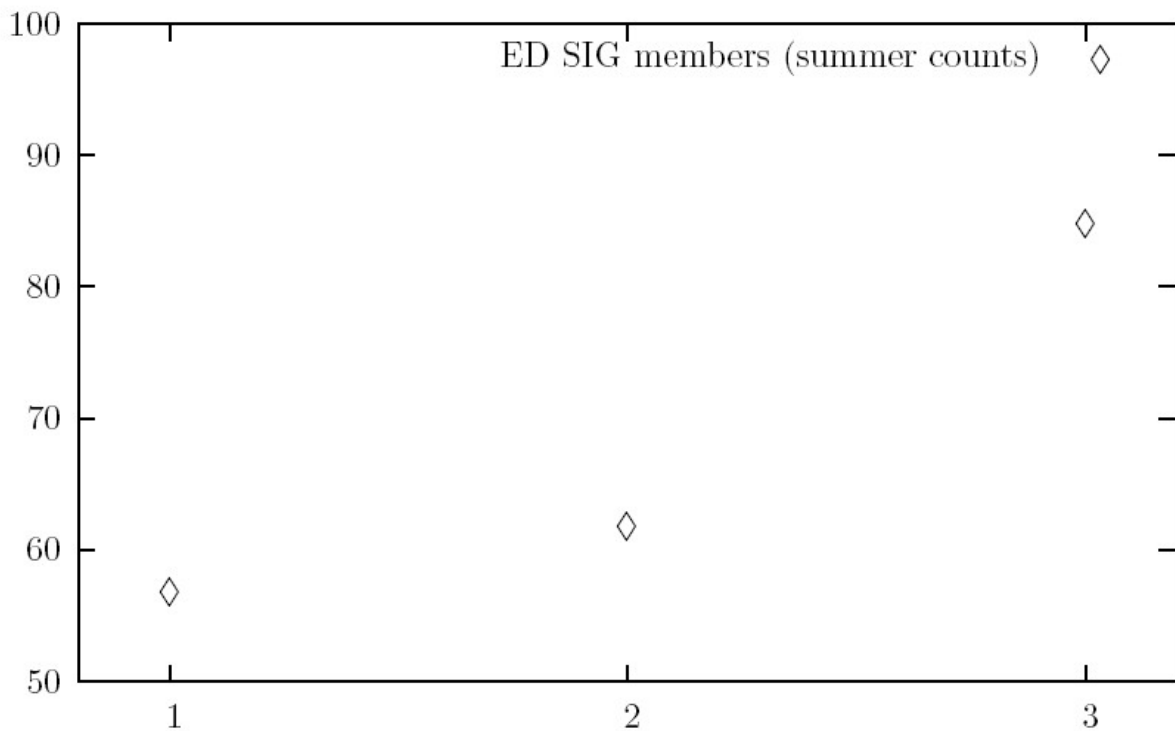


Illustration 1: ED SIG membership (Starting point: summer 2003); Source: ED SIG archives

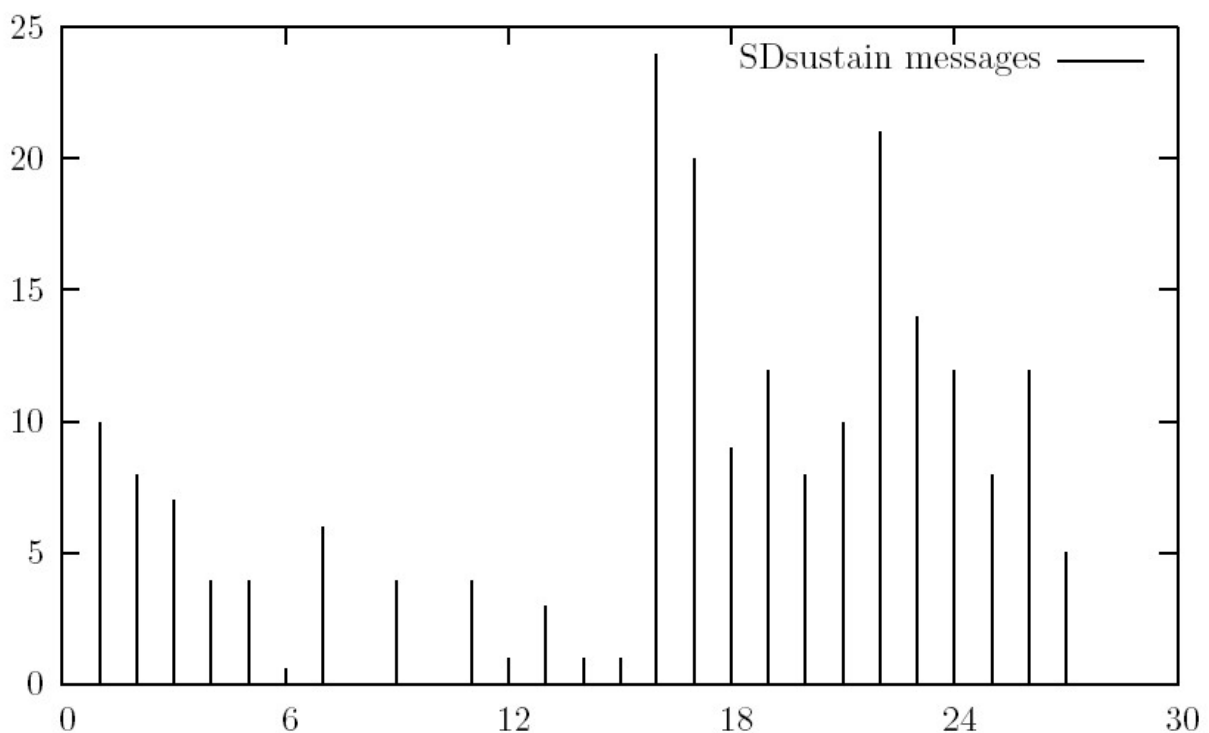


Illustration 2: SDsustain message traffic (monthly counts: March 2003 – May 2005); Source: SDsustain archives (<http://pobox.une.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/sdsustain>)

Newsletter article prepared by Anastássios (Tasso) Perdicoulis (tasso@utad.pt), with information from Richard Dudley (rgd6@cornell.edu), Wayne Wakeland (wakeland@pdx.edu), and the ED SIG and SDsustain archives