

38th Annual BSSG Conference

April 8-10, 2008

Applying Basic Science to Challenges in Energy Supply and Natural Resources Conservation

Registration Information

Register online at:

<http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/bssg08/>

Direct questions to:

bssg08@brc.tamus.edu

Registration Fees:

On or before February 29: After February 29:

Full \$250	Full \$300
Student \$120	Student \$150

Refund Policy: Cancellation notice must be received in writing by 5:00 pm, March 7th for a refund less \$50.00 processing fee. Substitute attendees will be accepted.



Biological Systems Simulation Group

The BSSG is in its 38th year and brings together an international group of scientists interested in using integrated systems approaches to study agricultural and natural systems. Topics range from basic physiological and biological systems to ecosystem simulations of field-level flows of water, carbon, energy, and nutrients to regional analysis of the impacts of climate variability and global change. This includes a strong focus on the study and dynamic simulation of effects of climatic, biotic, and abiotic factors on agricultural and natural systems performance.

Background

The complexity of agricultural and natural systems management and their social, environmental and economic interactions poses challenges for scientists, stakeholders and policy makers. The potential of these systems as sources of biofuel increased the need to understand the limits of biomass production and its composition, and the impact of bioenergy production on environmental integrity at both field and watershed levels. Rangelands, which occupy a significant part of the US and the world, pose a challenge for simulating plant communities that, unlike homogenously managed crops, have extreme spatial variation at several scales. Climate change poses a challenge in understanding plant responses to biotic and abiotic factors affecting plant productivity particularly under extreme events such as temperature stress. Simulation models have a major role in helping to manage this complexity. We hope this workshop will help the modeling community focus their innovative modeling efforts in important issues for science while addressing critical issues for the society.

Invited Speakers

Bruce Kimball, USDA-ARS

Cesar Izaurralde, University of Maryland – PNNL

Mark Weltz, USDA-ARS

Call for Papers / Summary Submission

The workshop will consist of oral and poster presentations and hands-on software demonstrations. All submission relevant to biological systems simulation are welcome and can address plant, animal, and soil processes as they related to agricultural and natural systems performance and environmental integrity conservation and improvement. **Submit presentation titles by January 31st, 2008.**

Summaries (1-2 pages) must be submitted in electronic format. Format requirements are specified at the conference website. Software demonstrations will be on participant's laptop computers. **Submit summaries by February 29th.** Questions? E-mail: bssg08@brc.tamus.edu

Sessions will run from 8:00 to 5:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:00 to 12:00 on Thursday. Catered breaks, continental breakfasts, lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday and dinner on Wednesday will be provided as part of the registration fee.



Post-Conference Tour

On Thursday afternoon, participants will have an opportunity to visit the CO₂ gradient experiment at the ARS Grassland, Soil, and Water Research Laboratory, and the vegetation and erosion control efforts led by BREC at the Fort Hood Military base at Killeen (tentative). There is no additional fee for these tours.

Hotel Accommodations:

(Please reference "Simulation Conference" when making your reservation)

Hilton Garden Inn
1749 Scott Blvd
Temple, TX
254-774-0200
Rate \$70.00 per night

La Quinta Inn
1604 W. Barton Ave.
Temple, TX
254-771-2980
Rate: \$59.00 per night
Deadline March 17th for these rooms.



Climate:

Temperatures in Central Texas in April are temperate (77°/54°F; 25°/12°C) and highly variable. Visitors should bring layered clothing and a light coat.

38th BSSG Simulation 2008 Conference –At A Glance...

Conference Web Site:

<http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/bssg08/>

Key Dates:

- January 31: Presentation Titles Due
- February 29: Summaries Due
- February 29: Early Registration Ends
- March 17: Hotel Cut-off Date
- March 30: Online Registration Ends
- April 8: On-site Registration
- April 8-10: Conference

Conference Location:

Blackland Research and Extension Center
720 E. Blackland Rd.
Temple TX 76502

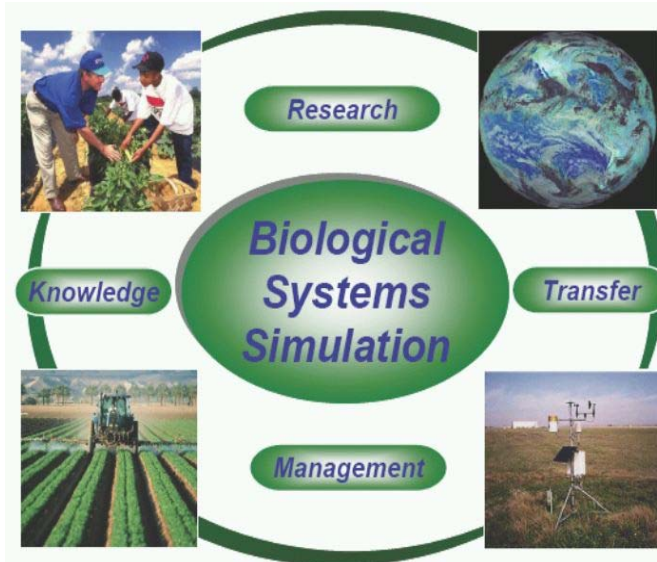
Main Topics of the Workshop:

- Simulating biomass production and composition in bioenergy crops
- Simulating spatially variable plant and hydrological processes in rangelands
- Interactive effects of climate change: from field to watershed levels

Presentations on a broad range of topics related to the simulation of biological systems are welcome.

Conference Organizers

Armen R. Kemanian, Texas AgriLife Research
Jim R. Kiniry, USDA/ARS
Wesley Rosenthal, Texas AgriLife Research
Colleen H. Green, USDA/ARS
Philip A. Fay, USDA/ARS
Yubin Yang, Texas AgriLife Research
William Fox, Texas Water Research Institute



38th Biological Systems Simulation Conference April 8-10, 2008 Temple, Texas

Texas AgriLife Research

(Formerly Texas Agricultural Experiment Station)

Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory, USDA ARS



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