

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

When I took over as managing editor of *Fire Ecology* five years ago from Michael Medler, he stated in his message from the editor that a beginning is a very delicate time. That beginning has blossomed, and we feel that *Fire Ecology* is well on its way to becoming the journal of choice for fire ecologists to share their findings and explore new ideas. In the past seven volumes, there have been 15 issues, 119 articles, and over 360 authors. These authors hail from 13 countries from five continents and represent the state of the science in their areas. *Fire Ecology* is now indexed by SCOPUS, and we expect a decision on our application for indexing by Thomson Reuters (ISI) Web of Knowledge by the end of the year.

All of this would not have been possible without the help of many people. In particular, I want to thank Michael for getting the journal off to a good start, Laurie Burk, our production manager, for formatting and editing every article, and Jacob Lesser for making sure each issue gets posted to our web site. In addition, I want to thank each of our associate editors who coordinated the review process, and each of the reviewers without whom the entire process would not be possible. Finally, the Board of Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology has been very supportive of our efforts to produce a quality journal. All of these people have all made *Fire Ecology* the success it is today.

With this issue, I will be stepping down as managing editor and handing over the reins to Jim Agee. I have known Jim for over 40 years as both a colleague and a friend. Jim is an acknowledged expert on fire ecology, particularly in the US Pacific Northwest and California. He will bring his considerable expertise to bear on the journal and will take *Fire Ecology* to the next level of excellence. I am proud to be able to have Jim take the helm.

As I step down, I want to ask each of you to submit your fire ecology research papers, short communications, book reviews, practices and applications, and articles for the forum. Only through your support will *Fire Ecology* continue to be the premier journal for our science.

Jan van Wagtendonk