Hillside Annual Meeting 2013 — Summary

The meeting was held on October 26, 2013 at Allerton Park after the closing of PLoP 2013.

Agenda
- Welcome
    - New Hillside Members
- Annual Reports from the Hillside Board
    - Elections Information
    - Financial Results
    - ACM Digital Library Update
    - Patterns in Numbers
- Brief *PLoP® Reports
- PLoP 2014
- Proposal on PLoP publications
- Hillside activities for 2014 and onwards (brainstorming)

Attending members: Joe Yoder, Ademar Aguiar, Bob Hanmer, Rebecca Wirfs-Brock, Richard Gabriel, Lise Hvatum, Christian Kohls, Dirk Riehle, Christian Köppe, Ward Cunningham, Joshua Kerievsky, Kyle Brown, Dave West, James Noble, Takashi Iba, Son Youngsu, Jiwon Kim, David Mundie, Filipe Correia, Daniel Cukier, Alex Nowak, Philipp Bachmann, Christopher Preschern, and Hiro Washizaki, and new members (see list below).
Visitors: Ronald van Broeckhuijsen, Antonio Mana, Michael John, Thomas de Cortie

Welcome
The Hillside President Joe Yoder wished all welcome to the meeting and introduced the agenda and the Hillside Board Members. The following new members joined Hillside at the meeting or at PLoP 2013: Andi Fiesser, Brahim Hamid, Michael Mehaffy, Dibyendu Goswami, Juan R. Reza, Alfredo Goldman, Yan Li, Paul Chalekian, Mauricio Aniche, Toby Ayers, Roland Bijvank.

Hillside Reports
Finances: In 2012, the Hillside Group had a net income (loss) of -$4,469.20 and is maintaining a cash and cash equivalents balance that allows proper operation of our usual activities. Program revenues of $2340.00 were from our two conferences, PLoP and ChiliPLoP. PLoP 2012 was co-located with the SPLASH conference in Tucson, Arizona. ChiliPLoP 2012 was held in Las Vegas, New Mexico. A complete breakdown of expenses for 2012 and projections for 2013 are included in the Financial Report for 2012.

Board elections: the Hillside Board is preparing the 2014 elections which will be done by e-mail later in 2013. Terms are 2 years. The number in parenthesis after the name indicates possible terms left on the board according to the bylaws. Current board members up for election are Christian Kohls (3) and Lise Hvatum (1), while the remaining board members are Robert

Hanmer (.5), Joe Yoder (.5), Ademar Aguiar (1.5), Robert Biddle (1.5), and Rebecca Wirfs-Brock (2.5). Grady Booch, Richard Gabriel, Neil Harrison, Dirk Riehle and Linda Rising are Board Member Emeritus. The board welcomes suggestions for new members.

ACM Digital Library: the copyright situation is resolved. The 2011 papers are ready for upload, and we hope to catch up to reduce the waiting time for the authors. Part of the delay is the effort to get the papers from the authors correctly following the ACM format.

Patterns in Numbers: Rebecca Wirfs-Brock and Joe Yoder published in the Nov-Dec edition of IEEE Software (back-cover column) on "20 years of Patterns Impact". A conservative estimate of published patterns today is over 7500 and growing. The numbers are based on the number of papers per year per *PLoP conference (about 100 papers per year) plus publications by Martin Fowler, on UI Design patterns, various web sites, other books etc. Linda Rising had 1000 patterns in her book (The patterns Catalog) in 2000. The rate of publication has not dropped off. From PLoPs the overall number of papers is stable.

Brief *PLoP® Reports

The 20th PLoP went back to its' roots and was held at Allerton Park. 33 papers for Writer's Workshops plus 2 papers accepted for the Writing Group. 72 participants. In total a successful conference, with several early PLoP participants returning.

GuruPLoP (report by Rebecca Rikner) was co-located with Agile India at the Sheraton in Bangalore. Linda Rising, David West, Rebecca Rikner and Hironori Washizaki participated from the PLoP community. Indian participants were 25-30 people. 22 papers were submitted, need more numbers. Very nice group, good discussions. Next year the event will be in Cheney co-located with AISEC. It all started with a 2006 roadshow by Alan O'Callaghan.

EuroPLoP (report by Chris Kohls who was the Program Chair). Long evenings discussing patterns. Uwe Van Heesh was conference chair. 36 submissions, 30 accepted. 4 workshops: Design & Architecture, People, Education, Research & Experience. No on-site shepherding because schedule was so tight. 8 papers per group, 48 participants, 13 countries. 4 focus groups (get list from program). Open space. 30 min. Shepherding Award went to Klaus Marquardt. Sponsors – publishers Springer, Wiley, DPunkt. Sponsoring was books used as awards.

VikingPLoP (report by Christopher Preshern) was held close to Tampere, Finland in March. 8 people attended. Most were experts on embedded systems. One Writer's Workshop, and of course it included time in the Sauna. Next year VikingPLoP will be in Estonia in April (VikingPLoP can be organized in any countries where Vikings have been established).

AsianPLoP (report by Hiro Washizaki) 2nd AsiaPLoP in 2011 is postponed until 2014 due to several reasons (including the Tsunami). It is open to all – in Tokyo next to Imperial Palace. There is a planned excursion to the Eishin School designed by Christopher Alexander. Hiro expressed a thank you to the people supporting AsianPLoP from the overall community.

SugarLoafPLoP (report by Joe Yoder) took place as a mini-PLoP with 50 people in Brazilia, mostly students, live band sax player awesome. Focus was on mentoring in writing patterns. The goal is to have a full PLoP every 2 years and a mini-PLoP in the alternate years. It will be the 10th full SugarLoafPLoP in 2014 – special event. It follows all PLoP traditions, including games. Submissions are in Portuguese and English (earlier had in Spanish as well). Normally good attendance. Expected to be in September 2014.

ScrumPLoP (report by Ademar Aguiar) is a special PLoP designed to develop patterns for using Scrum. Gertrud and Cope act as Scrum Master and Product Owner for the activity. ScrumPLoP has a web page explaining the goals and activities. 13 participants from 10 countries attended (by invitation). The overall goal is a book that will have the Scrum framework in more detail than what exists today. Currently the publication form (book, map etc.) is under discussion. About 200 patterns are identified, and the material is mostly getting very mature.

Ward Cunningham and Michael Mehaffy are working with Rick Robinson in IBM UK who is interested in a pattern language for urban planning. They are considering a conference for patterns related to Smart Cities, and may ask Hillside for some backing and use of the PLoP conference trademark. A proposal should be sent to the Hillside Board when the plans are more concrete, but in general the Hillside members are positive to supporting this activity.

PLoP 2014

Next year is the 20th year anniversary (but 21st event) for PLoP (while the Hillside organization was 20 years in 2013). The board needs to decide where to place the next event – either at Allerton or again co-locating with a conference. A general raise of hands showed 30 members in favor of returning to Allerton. Richard Gabriel raised a proposal of having a full PLoP at Allerton followed by a mini-PLoP at Splash (Portland). At Splash we can expect no revenue (Splash is currently under tremendous pressure not to lose money and any minor revenue from PLoP organized co-located with Splash will therefore not give us any income), but we are also covered if we lose money. A new vote showed about 50 percent for the proposal from Richard, 30 % against, and about 20% indifferent. The board is left to make the final decision, and need to take into account that the people present at Allerton may be the most positive of the members on a return to Allerton.

PLoP Proceedings

A proposal was raised by the Hillside Board to adopt the same publication approach as recently adopted by Hillside Europe/EuroPLoP. This approach was explained by Andi Fiesser (EuroPLoP Chair 2011/2012) who (together with Allan Kelly) was instrumental in working out this solution for EuroPLoP. The solution was driven by the high cost of earlier proceedings, recognizing that practitioners want low cost proceedings, while academics depend on proper publications that can be referenced. The current solution is a two-step proceedings process: Companion proceedings compiles together all papers into one pdf file available on the EuroPLoP pages which can be printed from Lulu, is visible on Amazon, and has an ISBN number. Selected proceedings that have good quality and are suitable for ACM (must be in ACM format) are accepted into the ACM

Digital Library. It is OK to have it in two places from a copyright perspective (formalities are sorted out). This proposal was positively accepted by the members present at the meeting. Christian Köppe will work with Andi and other EuroPLoP organizers for the 2013 PLoP proceedings following the proposed method.

Hillside Member Ideas (Brainstorming/Open Discussion)

The remained of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for the future of Hillside and patterns.

Shepherding

Rebecca Rikner suggested a better organizing of the shepherds, especially in the light of additional patterns conferences sharing the same pool of shepherds. Create a catalog of shepherds that shows their interest and what papers they have shepherded/are actively shepherding. After some discussion this turned into a proposal for allowing people to create a Hillside member profile with interests, papers, shepherding experience etc. We could start profiles from data we already have and allow people to update their data. This would be great for keeping in touch as well as people can enter contact information if they are open to be contacted. One idea was to use the pasture system – we already have a lot of this data there. We would need to improve the system and make it available for all conferences. Pasture is currently a one man effort by Michael Weiss – tailor made for what we do, but it has some usability issues. Since the code is open source it should be possible to do some collaborative effort.

Richard Gabriel brought up the need to treat our shepherds better with more acknowledgements and possibly with a discount at PLoP. He noted then when bringing the role of the shepherd up at a SigPlan meeting they could not believe that there are humans on the planet that would do this…

Josh Kerievsky suggested to add the list of papers in the shepherding invitation to make it easier for potential shepherds to find interesting papers to shepherd.

Chris Kohls suggested providing on-line training for shepherds. New shepherds could shadow experienced shepherds. We could also collect and post exemplar shepherding activities from experienced shepherds. The PC member overseeing shepherding should be notified about new shepherds to make sure they monitor the shepherding closely and act as mentors for the shepherd.

We need to expand the pool of shepherds. Alex and Juan volunteered to join the shepherding list.

Patterns Application

This discussion was around how to grow the application of existing patterns and to make a higher awareness in the software community of the value of patterns.

Josh brought up the need for pattern analytics – who are using the patterns – they are documented and then what? In a lean startup you need to know if people are using your software to know if you are bringing value. So what is the new material an where is it being used? Can we build a body of knowledge? How to mine patterns usage?

Hillside could develop a yearly report on the industry usage of patterns. Daniel Cukier will help the Hillside board with questions for an annual questionnaire to prepare the report.

Another idea is to establish a patterns experience award.

Reaching Out/Growing the Community

To get involvement on additional topics we could nominate people to hunt in interesting candidates on specific subjects. Kyle said this was done successfully in the past.

Another idea is to create open courseware, for example as a Coursera course, or as Kahn academy style videos. Patterns courses can contain information about Hillside. We could ask Dough Schmidt if he can add a reference to Hillside in his Coursera course.

Takashi suggested instructing teachers and trainers through boot camps on pattern usage, followed by participation in writer's workshops to learn how to improve solutions using patterns.

We should develop a questionnaire about what Hillside can bring, and what our web pages should contain.

Interaction and Communication

Daniel Cukier brought up the use of social media to spread the word about PLoP. The Hillside board will discuss how to promote the knowledge sharing by taking better advantage of modern technologies/social media. There was little trace of PLoP 2013 on Twitter etc.

Today PLoP and Hillside is a once a year thing – we get excited but then wait a year again to continue our discussions and activities. There are things we can do in-between: webinars, more dynamic communication etc. Weekly hangouts online may have few people but can be very social. We can create PLoP oriented circles (Ward). Tweeting – extra obligation to reflect on high points of the week (blog, twitter) and use the Hillside mailing list. There is nothing wrong with asking your friends to participate.

PLoP Attendee roster

Bob Hanmer has been working with Helen and Javier to develop a database of past-PLoP attendees. Work has been slow but progress such as a database schema. Something will be in place by PLoP 2014.

The members were urged to contact the board with any additional suggestions.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned by Joe Yoder.