



# ASLE News

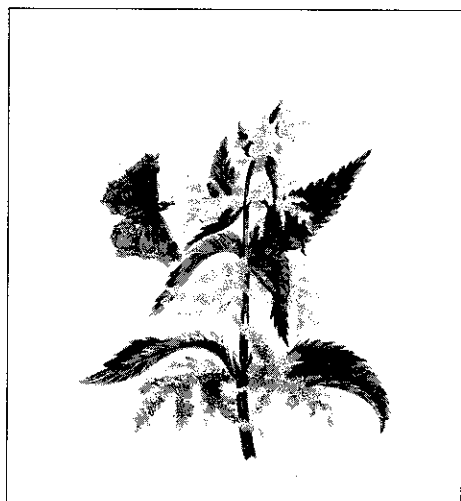
A Biannual Publication of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

Fall 2000

Volume 12, Number 2

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SueEllen Campbell, *Colorado State University*



You'll find just about all the news of note elsewhere in these pages—what happens in ASLE between our large conferences has little to do with the president and much to do with the other officers and members who volunteer for important jobs. Should I think up something to say in this slot anyway, something thought-

ful, engaged, encouraging, some gesture towards hope in a darkening world? Probably. But a spirit of frivolity has me in its grip. So instead, here's a modest offering of haiku:

Off-year president  
I hold reins like butterflies  
plum blossom e-mails

The new by-laws pass.  
Frog plops into clearer pond.  
If you voted, thanks!

This year's meetings: food,  
farms in Maine; deserts, Big Bend.  
London. Japan. Good!

ASLE elections:  
Nine candidates, three spaces.  
Leaves brighten, then fall.

Pines, scholars: ponder!  
Thoughts, canyon: grand and deep, too!  
Come! (Flagstaff, late June.)

—SueEllen Campbell, *Colorado State University*

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Randall Roorda, *University of Kentucky*

I have been consulting with our Program Committee and collaborating with Gioia Woods and her colleagues at Northern Arizona University to put together the program for our upcoming conference in Flagstaff. Gioia's description of the conference and its Call for Proposals are featured in this newsletter.

As the CFP notes, we are looking for session proposals exploring topics to be broached in plenary sessions. While all are of moment to our organization, I'd like to remark on a couple in particular. First, there's the topic of biology and ecocriticism—the relations between them. In pushing for consideration of this topic, we are taking up the call issued by Glen Love in recent articles in *ISLE* (6.1) and *New Literary History* (30.3, the Ecocriticism issue). Love insists that taking seriously the "eco" in this term entails coming to grips with the nonhuman creation as represented in the findings of modern science, especially evolutionary biology. Taken together, his articles comprise the latest of the lucid manifestos Love is known for, and a synthesis and gloss on sources essential to the endeavor he is promoting, that of effecting "consilience" between science and literature through interdisciplinary critical practices. We are fortunate that Love has agreed to moderate a session featuring two scholars his articles help introduce to us: the philosopher Maxine Sheets-Johnstone, who has pursued an understanding of human embodiment and a critique of "cultural reductionism" in a series of works including *The Roots of Power* and *The Roots of Thinking*; and the literary theorist Joseph Carroll, whose *Evolution and Literary Theory* seeks to neutralize poststructuralist corrosiveness through appeal to insights of evolutionary biology. Treatments of their work, as of Love's own and the work of related thinkers, will be most welcome on the program.

The other topic I'll highlight is of particular interest to me as a long-term comp guy turned all-purpose eco-promoter in English. Critical work on ecology and composition—inevitably becoming termed ecocomposition—is on the verge of a remarkable coalescence and, I hope, ascension, through some key works due for release soon. By our meeting in June, we can expect to see in print *Sustainable Composition* by Derek Owens (NCTE); we will also see a pair of books from Sidney I. Dobrin and Christian Weissner, a co-written monograph and co-edited collection, both on ecocomposition (SUNY Press). Owens and Dobrin will address us in plenary sessions; I hope their talks will trigger

(continued on page 3)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Column .....	1
Vice President's Column .....	1
Secretary/Treasurer's Report .....	3
"Food and Farming" .....	4
ASLE in Flagstaff, June 2001 .....	5
Conferences and Gatherings .....	6-11
Candidates' Statements .....	12-14
Membership Information .....	15

*stay together  
learn the flowers  
go light*

—Gary Snyder

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## ASLE News

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ASLE News is the biannual newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, reporting ASLE's business to and publishing letters from its membership. Items of interest, including news about conferences, forthcoming publications, and work in progress, should be sent to Ann Fisher-Wirth, English Department, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. E-mail: afwirth@olemiss.edu.



### Coming Nearer the Ground An ASLE Symposium on the South October 2001

Plans are afoot for the first ASLE Symposium located in the South, to be held October 24-27, 2001, at the University of Mississippi. Held in William Faulkner's home town, Oxford, the symposium will include a wide variety of plenaries, presentations, and activities to enable its participants, in Wendell Berry's words, to come "nearer the South." Watch the ASLE listserv, the web site, and the next issue of the ASLE Newsletter for further details and a call for papers.

—Ann Fisher-Wirth and Dixon Bynum, *University of Mississippi*

(continued from Page 1)

exchanges on how ecological precepts might inform an English studies practice not limited to or fixated on the regard of "literature" as such. We invite proposals that relate ecology to composition, literacy, rhetoric and pedagogy in ways surpassing vocation over what course reader to adopt.

One final program note. In the CFP, listed with conventional types of presentation such as papers and roundtables, you will find a reference to "field sessions." The idea here is to combine field trips and sessions into something—a presentation, a reading, a workshop, a discussion—that takes place outside the conference facility proper. For a half-day in the middle of our proceedings, we hope in effect to take the whole conference outdoors, to empty it out into the surrounding environs, into Flagstaff proper and the wild terrain beyond. Gioia's article describes some of the wonderful field sessions the NAU folks are assembling. But it is hard to plan enough to occupy a group of four hundred. And so we will be grateful for further proposals of this sort. Pool those rental cars; take a group to read poems, make field notes, build cairns and twig figures at Sunset Crater or Oak Creek Canyon or beyond. Then return cactus-scratched and happy for our banquet. If you provide premises, destinations, and tentative logistics, we will do what we can to help you publicize and enact your session outdoors.

—Randall Roorda, *University of Kentucky*

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Many, many thanks to everyone for being patient with the transition from veteran champion Allison Wallace to neophyte me. We're trying to streamline our operations to give you the best membership service possible, and to that end, we have a few additions and requests: first of all, you will notice in upcoming ASLE mailings (such as this newsletter) that the mailing label now has a date at the bottom (e.g. "Oct00"). This is your ASLE membership renewal date. When you renew your membership in a timely fashion, you continue getting all your ASLE goodies: the Newsletter, *ISLE*, Calls for Papers, the annual membership directory, publishers' announcements, etc. Unfortunately, if you don't renew within a month or so of getting your renewal notice, we sometimes lose track of you—and you lose out on your membership benefits. Second, in our efforts to save paper and postage, in the future we're going to try sending renewal notices electronically to everyone who has an e-mail address. If you have e-mail but think we might not have your e-address, please send this information to my very able assistant, Cheryl Branz, at [chbranz@davidson.edu](mailto:chbranz@davidson.edu), and she will update the membership database accordingly. And finally, the 2001 Membership Directory is currently under construction, so if you detect any errors in your mailing label, please let us know so we can fix it right away. Thanks!

—Annie Merrill Ingram, *Davidson College*

## BOOKSHELF

*Congratulations to ASLE members for all the following recent publications:*

Agee, Chris. *In Heart of Europe: Poems for Bosnia*. Dublin: Amnesty International, 1998.

Agee, Chris, ed. *Scar on the Stone: Contemporary Poetry from Bosnia*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England: Bloodaxe Books, 1998 (Poetry Book Society Recommendation).

\_\_\_\_\_. "Special American Double Issue" ("distinctly 'green'" poetry). *Metre: A Magazine of International Verse*. Dublin: Lilliput Press, Winter 2000.

Alaimo, Stacy. *Undomesticated Ground: Recasting Nature as Feminist Space*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000.

Barron, Patrick. *Circling Brooks: Transmogrifications*. New York: Universe, 2000.

Caduto, Michael. *All One Earth: Songs for the Generations*. (music and lyrics.) Norwich, VT: Lunablu, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Remains Unknown: The Final Journey of a Human Spirit*. Bennington, VT: Images from the Past, 2000.

Freeman, Charlotte. *Place Last Seen*. (novel.) Picador USA, 2000.

Hasselstrom, Linda. *Bitter Creek Junction*. (poems.) Glendo, WY: High Plains Press, 2000.

Hilberry, Conrad. *Taking Notes on Nature's Wild Inventions*. (poetry chapbook; lithographs by Karl Barnebey.) Bowling Green, IN: Snowy Egret, 1999.

Jacob, Greg. *Writing and Eco-Consciousness: Matters of Composition and the Environment*. Redding, CA: CAT Publishing Company, 1999.

(continued on Page 14)

# ASLE Symposium on "Food and Farming in American Life and Letters" Deemed a Delicious Experience

"We were a small community right from the beginning," wrote John Gourlie (Quinnipiac College), rather than individuals lost in the anonymity of a large conference. The weekend of June 15-17, John and twenty-four other scholars, teachers, writers, and farmers—hailing from parts of the northeast, South Carolina, Ohio, and as far away as Utah in one direction and England in the other—came together in Unity, Maine, to explore the significance of literature and language to our experiences of food and the farming that provides it. Held in the New England-style post-and-beam "Common Ground" conference center run by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), this symposium was ASLE's second effort to date at convening a handful of people deeply interested in a focused issue. (The first was the 1996 symposium on Japanese and American nature writing, held in Hawaii.)

Papers presented ran the gamut from ecocriticism of canonical authors (Robert Frost, John Burroughs, Ken Kesey, Willa Cather, and Wendell Berry, for example) to critiques of the language employed by biotechnology; from personal narratives on farming, gardening, cooking, and eating to an "ecofolkloric" study of the differing significances women of various ethnicities bring to their gardens in the American west; and from analyses of cookbooks to exposés of the genetically modified ingredients readily found in most natural-foods stores. During Q and A, over coffee breaks, and during meals—but of course!—symposium participants discussed these and many other related issues, from agriculture's heavy ecological toll to the ontological strangeness of eating itself. If British writer William Ralph Inge is right in commenting that all of nature is a conjugation of the verb "to eat," then we covered quite a lot of natural grammar among ourselves in a very short time.

And speaking of eating—oh boy, did we ever! Praise and glory to Unity caterer Melissa Bastien for her generous banquet-style luncheons featuring such organic foods as peas, spinach, beets, potatoes, portabello mushrooms, rhubarb, strawberries, all procured from local farmers, a list of whom graced every table. Even the flowers—chiefly tall, pink and purple lupines from Melissa's garden—were organic and local. Add to this the colorful tablecloths, "real" dishes and flatware, tinkling of wine glasses around the delectable hors d'oeuvre boards set out for the keynote authors' receptions, and it's no wonder one participant remarked afterward that the entire symposium felt like one long dinner party.

Other highlights from the weekend included readings by Jane Brox and Carolyn Chute. Brox is the author of *Here and Nowhere Else* and *Five Thousand Days Like This One*, nonfiction works on her family farm and the surrounding Merrimack (MA) Valley. Chute is the author of *The Beans of Egypt, Maine* and three subsequent novels, all of which concern rural northeasterners and the poverty imposed on them by contemporary economic trends. The Fertile Mind Bookstore from nearby Belfast, Maine, made these books and others available for purchase at two display tables. MOFGA's Executive Director, Russell Libby, led a walking tour of the 200+ acres of experi-



*Food and Farming Symposium participants tour Morris Farm in Wiscasset, ME, with garden manager Madeline Cantwell (left) and farm manager Christine James (center).*

mental garden plots surrounding the Common Ground Center, and local organic-vegetable farmer Tom Roberts presented a slide show on his efforts to educate (as well as feed) his customers in the importance of growing food in ecologically and socially responsible ways. Evenings included excursions to the Maine coast, and an impromptu visit by some of the group to the trial fields of world-famous Johnny's Selected Seeds, led by a JSS seed expert who numbered among the participants. On the symposium's final day, participants who were able to stay chose between—on the one hand—workshops and a solstice celebration sponsored by the local stoneworkers' guild, and—on the other—a trip to Morris Farm in Wiscasset, where a community non-profit group is demonstrating that a special family farm can survive the death of the last family member willing to farm it.

In a letter he sent me weeks afterward, symposium presenter Bill Conlogue (Marywood University) commented on the significance of the meeting to participants' efforts to widen the ecocritical lens, which some see as too narrowly focused on writing about wilderness and wildlife, to the exclusion of humanly inhabited environments: "We can't live in the world without using nature, and our use (and abuse) is most visible in our rural areas. And there are so many social justice questions at stake here. Ignoring food and farming as areas of literary study is to abandon our imaginative response and definitions of each to those who are more interested in commodifying than caring for them." I can think of at least twenty-four other scholars who couldn't agree more.

—Allison B. Wallace, *Unity College of Maine*

*(Watch upcoming issues of Organization and Environment, which is considering several of the papers presented at the symposium for publication. For a complete list of papers and contact information on presenters, write Allison at [awal-lace@unity.unity](mailto:awal-lace@unity.unity).)*

# **“MAKING A START OUT OF PARTICULARS”**

## **ASLE IN FLAGSTAFF, JUNE 2001**

In order to find Paterson, William Carlos Williams writes, we need “To make a start out of particulars . . . to be rained down and / regathered into a river that flows / and encircles.” Beginnings, as the word “particular” suggests, are both distinct and grounded. Here at Northern Arizona University, we are keeping Williams’s words before us as we plan ASLE’s fourth biennial conference. Here are some of the specifics.

We have lined up plenary speakers who are mindful of the relationship between language and place. Three dialogue plenaries will foreground how dialogue, not monologue, shapes our relationship with place. Tohono O’odham linguist and poet Ofelia Zepeda and Acoma poet Simon Ortiz will participate in a dialogue plenary on Language and Landscape. Derek Owens and Sid Dobrin, composition specialists noted for their attention to the influence of ecology on composition, will talk on ecocomposition. And finally, as Randall Roorda mentions in the Vice President’s Statement in this issue of the News, Glen Love will moderate a conversation between Maxine Sheets-Johnson and Joseph Carroll on biology and ecocriticism. A special plenary session in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the publication of Annette Kolodny’s *The Lay of the Land* is in the works. *The Lay of the Land* is a cornerstone of ecocriticism, and in many ways its publication makes ASLE’s existence possible. River rafter, writer, and folksinger Katie Lee, one of the first women to raft the Colorado and one of the last people to see Glen Canyon before the dam, will perform and read from her 1998 publication, *All My Rivers Are Gone*. Naturalist and environmental activist Janisse Ray will address ASLE members. Her 1999 memoir *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* poetically demonstrates the relationship between self and place.

In addition to engaging plenary events, we have field sessions and two pre-conference workshops planned. The field sessions will give us a chance to get outside and address themes important to ASLE members: diversity and interdisciplinarity. ASLE scholars have generously volunteered their time and expertise to make these excursions possible: Joni Adamson will chair a session on Social/Environmental Justice that will take participants to Black Mesa, and David Robertson will bring shuttles to local sites where nature and culture bump up against each other. Ethnobotanist and nature writer Gary Nabhan will lead an interpretive herb walk, and several Native American artists will gather at the Museum of Northern Arizona to chair a field session on indigenous art and place. The pre-conference afternoon will consist of two consecutive workshops, one on activism, run by Kathleen Wallace, and one on ecocomposition and service learning, run by Annie Ingram.

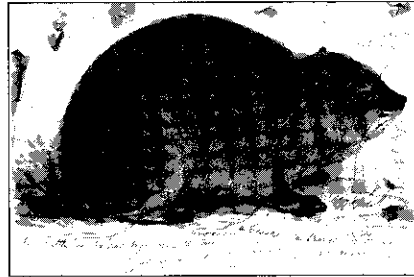
I should also mention that we are, of course, planning outdoor excursions. The extraordinarily competent Connie Bowles, program coordinator for Community, Culture, and Environment here at NAU, is on our local planning committee. Like many long-time Flagstaff residents, she has a past life as a river rat. Among the field trips you can choose from, Connie is organizing a Colorado float trip. We’ll also have guided tours of our arboretum, museum, and historic downtown. There are many hiking

### **Call for Papers, Panels, Field Sessions**

### **Fourth Biennial Conference of ASLE**

### **June 19-23, 2001**

### **Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff**



The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) invites proposals for its Fourth Biennial Conference, to be held June 19-23, 2001, at Northern Arizona University

in Flagstaff. Taking as our theme a phrase from William Carlos Williams’s *Paterson*—“To make a start / out of particulars”—we seek proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, field sessions, workshops, and other verbal performances that pertain to relations of language and place. We construe “place” in senses both local and global, as informing motion as well as settlement, in travel and tourism, homesteading and homelessness, city streets and wilderness parks and preserves: we invite proposals on any aspect of these. We especially invite proposals for sessions that amplify and extend topics to be featured in plenary sessions and roundtables: gendered, ethnic, and classed perspectives upon language and landscape; relations between biology and ecocriticism; ecological approaches to composition, rhetoric, literacy, and pedagogy; urban nature writing; regionalism and nationalism in critical environmental studies. We seek proposals for poster sessions, to which a special space and exhibit time will be assigned. And, as always, we welcome presentations on all aspects of literature, language, and environment, including readings of environmentally-inflected creative nonfiction and poetry.

ASLE’s ranks are growing; we face an increasing tension between keeping our conference inclusive and keeping our program schedule manageable. To maximize the number of people who can present—and to enhance the interest of sessions and the attention spans of attendees—we will favor pro-

(continued on Page 6)

and strolling opportunities a stone’s throw from campus, so come prepared.

The program for this summer conference promises to be rich in its breadth and depth of topics, diverse in its voices, and interdisciplinary in its scholarship. Let’s find Paterson, or Flagstaff, or Reno, or St. Cloud, or Houston, or Columbus. And let’s regather to make a start of these particulars.

—Gioia Woods, Northern Arizona University

## CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

Visit the ASLE web site at <http://asle.umn.edu> for an up-to-the-minute listing of conferences of interest and calls for papers. If you would like to announce a call for papers or a conference of interest in an upcoming issue of ASLE News, please contact Rochelle Johnson, Project and Professional Liaison Coordinator, at: [rjohnson@albertson.edu](mailto:rjohnson@albertson.edu) or (208) 459-5894.

### Calls for Papers

**November 3, 2000.** "The Nature of Shakespeare," The Ohio Shakespeare Conference, March 1-3, 2001, at the University of Toledo. Submissions for papers and panels are welcome, and suggested topics include: gardens in Shakespeare's plays or Shakespeare's England; the metaphor of the garden and the state; natural man (the savage) in Shakespeare's plays; the nature of the gender-nature/nurture construct; the pastoral; "natural" acting styles in Shakespearean performances; nature red in tooth and claw; natural kindness; early modern ecology in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries; dramatic reflections on hunger or enclosure; "unnatural" love in Shakespeare's sonnets, plays or narrative poems; witchcraft and the manipulation of nature; animals in the works of Shakespeare or his contemporaries; natural law; science, astronomy, astrology, alchemy, medicine, psychology. Discussion group proposals, undergraduate paper sessions, and proposals geared to community college and high school teachers also welcome. Send a 300-400 word proposal to: Russ Bodi, English Department, University Hall, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; e-mail: [rjbodi@yahoo.com](mailto:rjbodi@yahoo.com).

**November 13, 2000.** "John Muir: Family & Friends," a conference sponsored by the John Muir Center for Regional Studies, University of the Pacific 53rd Annual California History Institute, May 4-6, 2001. The conference, to be held at the Feather River Inn near Quincy, CA, will define broadly related themes and create a web of inquiry and discussion from which will emerge new interpretations of Muir's place in history and in environmental studies. Topics include but are not limited to: Muir and family in Martinez and Southern California, Muir's wilderness family and friends, Muir and the fellowship of all believers, Muir and women, Muir and the community of nature

and science, and Muir's friends and acquaintances. Proposals may include formal papers, panel discussions, AV presentations, or special exhibits. Optional field trips. Students and the general public are welcome to participate as presenters or registrants. Send proposals along with a brief resumé to: CHI 2001 Program Committee, c/o Dr. Bonnie J. Gisell, Ex-Officio Chair, John Muir Center for Regional Studies, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211. Phone: (209) 946-2527; e-mail: [johnmuir@uop.edu](mailto:johnmuir@uop.edu); fax: (209) 946-2578.

**December 1, 2000.** Southwest Ranching. The Southwest Ranching Area of The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association is hosting its regional conference from March 7-10, 2001, at the Sheraton Oldtown Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Possible topics may include but are not limited to: water, ecology, conservation and other issues of the contemporary Southwest; ranching/farming/land tenure issues, taxes, and family; the role of vaquero in Southwestern ranching culture; cross-cultural influences on Southwestern ranching; contemporary Southwestern ranching; rodeos, country clubs, and barbecues; rural "traditions" in the urban Southwest; Southwestern ranching traditions; Southwestern ranching folklore; the history of ranching in the Southwest or on a particular ranch; women in ranching in the Southwest; sense of place in Southwestern literature; ranching culture in Southwest literature; histories, diaries, personal accounts of Southwestern ranching; borders and other liminal spaces; ranches, ranchettes, and politics; race, racism, realism; Southwest ranching in film; dude and other "exotic" ranches; The Blue and other important rivers in Southwest ranch life; "IMUS" and other ranches for ill or "problem" children. Send a 200-word abstract of your 20-minute paper or presentation by e-mail (preferred; no attachments) to: [tchumphrey@csupomona.edu](mailto:tchumphrey@csupomona.edu) or to: Dr. Theodore C. Humphrey, Professor of English, 9858 Via Esperanza, Alta Loma, CA 91737.

**December 1, 2000.** Ecocriticism. The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association and American Culture Associations are holding a series of panels at the next meeting of these groups, March 7-10, 2001, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel. Papers are invited dealing with Ecocriticism, its

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(continued from Page 5)

posals for sessions involving at least three and preferably more participants. We invite those wishing to organize or join such sessions to post notices to the ASLE listserv and/or to allied lists: Diversity-L, ASLE-CCCC (the ecology and composition list), and others listed on the ASLE web site: <http://www.asle.umn.edu/>. We encourage session formats in which several presenters discuss their work and engage in conversation about it rather than read papers verbatim, making that work otherwise available to those who wish to read it in entirety—a format used with success, for example, at MLA sessions on environmental literature. We do not proscribe formal paper proposals or individual submissions and will strive to create coherent sessions

out of those we receive. But we will appreciate your efforts to band together and pre-organize your contributions, as it were, to create sessions that arrive fully-fledged, involving many.

The deadline for applications is JANUARY 19, 2001. To submit a proposal, send a 1-2 page abstract to: Randall Roorda, ASLE 2001 Program Coordinator, Department of English, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027. Or, submit electronically, by cutting-and-pasting your proposal (no attachments, please) into an e-mail message to: [rroorda@pop.uky.edu](mailto:rroorda@pop.uky.edu). Please type "ASLE 2001" as the subject line to your message, so the computer will filter your message into the designated mailbox.

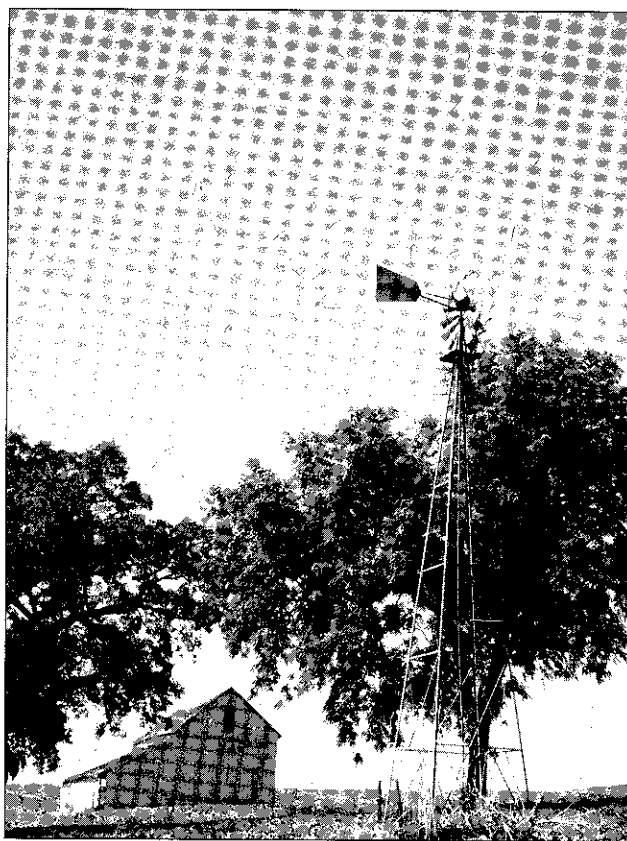
origins and/or cultural and literary implications for the present and future. Possible topics include anything on Ecocriticism, including a possible rhetoric for teaching the subject; ecocritical stance in African American literature; in/and American Indian literature; in/and political rhetoric; in/and 19th century American literature; in/and Romanticism; in/and Hemingway, Faulkner, Hawthorne, Cooper, captivity narratives; in/and the postmodern novel; ecocritical narrative in (your choice). Please contact Area Chair: Michael L. Baldwin, Department of English, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. Phone: (405) 372-1863; e-mail: mick@cow-boy.net.

**December 1, 2000.** "Consumption and the Environment," the 2001 Hagley Fellows Conference, will take place on March 9, 2001, at the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware. The conference will explore the interaction between consumption and the environment in an historical context; such an approach provides a way to integrate studies of production and consumption and to highlight the social implications of seemingly personal decisions. What does each act of consumption mean for the neighborhood, city, region, planet? How have industrial societies shaped the urban and natural environments to make possible new kinds of consumption? And how has our understanding of the environment—as polluted city, boundless source of energy, or pristine site of recreation—shaped our consumption choices? Papers are welcome from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to environmental history, history of consumption, industrialization, urban studies, and others. Contemporary public policy research falls outside the conference's historical focus. Send proposals, including an 800-word abstract and one-page CV, to: Hagley Fellows, University of Delaware, 236 Munroe Hall, Newark, Delaware 19711; or e-mail [tmanc1@aol.com](mailto:tmanc1@aol.com).

**December 20, 2000.** Gendered Spaces/Espacios de Genero, the 2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference, to be held at Universidad de Huelva, Spain, from May 9-11, 2001. The Women's Studies Centre at the University of Huelva invites proposals for papers on the topic of gendered spaces. We would like to discuss how space may contribute to shape the construction of gender as well as the ways in which a gendered stance may be projected on to the configuration of space. Other related topics may include: gender and genre; staging gender, gendering the stage; gender in the visual arts; the body as the seat of sexed/gendered identity; gender and science fiction; space as the final—literal or metaphoric—frontier; the architecture and socio-economic dynamics of domestic and communal spaces; the geographies of gender; gendering the nation,

(im)migration and diaspora; gender politics in the labour force and the job market; the glass ceiling; gender in academic and political institutions (governmental or not); the space of nature; the environment and gender theory; science, technology and gender; gender politics and the law; the classroom as the path to equality. Send abstracts (300-500 words in either English or Spanish) by e-mail to both: Sonia Villegas [villegas@uhu.es](mailto:villegas@uhu.es) and Beatriz Dominguez [beat@uhu.es](mailto:beat@uhu.es).

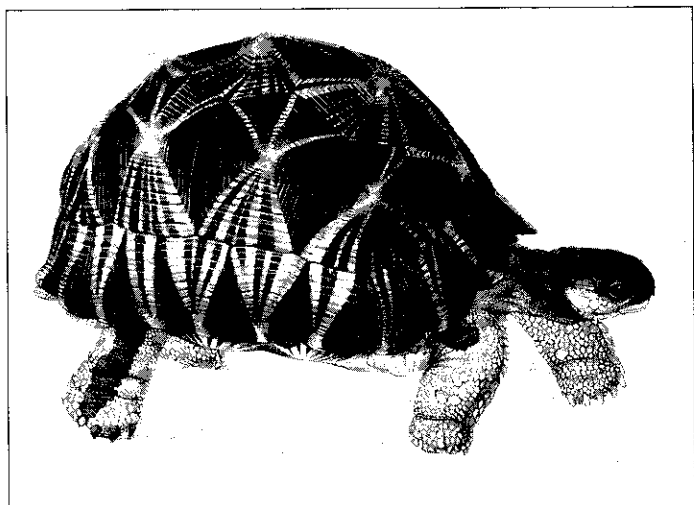
**December 20, 2000.** Pacific Rim Literary Conference: "Locating the Story: Origins and Destinations," to be held at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, organized by UAA graduate students and members of Sigma Tau Delta. Papers on all topics pertaining to literature, literary studies, and rhetoric are welcome; proposals for panels are encouraged. Special interest in exploring the issue of "sense of place" in narrative: topics such as how location informs stories, how geography shapes narrative, or how history affects where stories come from or are going. Accepted submissions will be considered for publication in the new online journal of conference proceedings. Guest speakers include Jane Urquhart, Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, Helena Goscilo. Direct abstracts (250 words) and further inquiries to: Katherine Barger, Department of English, University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Phone: (907) 786-4362; e-mail: [askb8@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:askb8@uaa.alaska.edu).



**December 31, 2000.** Landscapes and Politics, a three day cross-disciplinary conference, will be held March 23-25, at the University of Edinburgh, hosted by the Department of Architecture, University of Edinburgh, and the Department of Geography, Open University. The conference will encourage innovative critical approaches and extend and deepen the field by opening up new themes for investigation. Proposals for papers which attempt to do this will be particularly welcome. Potential speakers are free to submit abstracts that pertain to any aspect of the general subject area but suggested themes include: landscape and the 'trace'; landscapes in film; contemporary landscape representation; landscape and the ideology of improvement; moral landscapes; landscape, identity, estrangement. It is assumed that the conference will focus on material from the Renaissance to the present, but submissions dealing with earlier periods will be considered. Abstracts of 500 words should include the name of the speaker, postal and e-mail addresses, and current affiliation. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 31 December 2000, but potential speakers should submit as soon as possible as the abstracts will be reviewed in several rounds. Submit to: [landscapes@caad.ed.ac.uk](mailto:landscapes@caad.ed.ac.uk).



**January 10, 2001.** "Making Spaces: Travels, Tourism, Geographies, and the Construction of Place in the Americas," the Spring 2001 conference of the New England American Studies Association, will be held at the University of New Hampshire, Manchester, on April 27-29, 2001. Proposals for individual papers and panels that consider the multiple ways that spaces in the Americas have been constructed, described, visited, represented, or imagined are welcome. The conference will explore how American spaces, both real and imagined, have been constructed and contested through time. Papers may address the entire range of topographies including (but not limited to) such topics as commemorative space, immigrant communities, ethnic spaces, military compounds, expatriate communities, tourist sites, eco-tourism, American spaces abroad, mapping and zoning, distinctions between public and private space, cultural and educational exchange programs, utopias and condemned spaces, virtual space, hangouts, and gendered space. Panels may address any time frame or location. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged, as are proposals from educators, activists and artists that will enrich the conference by looking to alternative formats or take specific advantage of the location. (The conference will be held on the restored grounds of the historical Amoskeag Millyard.) The Mary Kelley Prize will be awarded for the best paper by a graduate student, independent scholar, or non-tenure track faculty member; please indicate in your proposal your eligibility for the award. Send proposal of not more than 250 words and a one-page CV. No electronic attachments. Send proposals to: Adam Sweeting, NEASA Program Committee Chair, Boston University, College of General Studies, 871 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Direct requests for information to [sweeting@bu.edu](mailto:sweeting@bu.edu).



**January 31, 2001.** "Animals in Folklore and Literature," the first national meeting of Nature in Legend and Story (NILAS) in conjunction with the International Society of Anthrozoology and the International Society of Applied Ethology, will be held at the University of California, Davis, on August 1-2, 2001. Paper proposals for individual presentations, for a session of storytelling, and proposals for readings by poets or nature writers, are welcome—as are abstracts for work in progress (essays, disserta-

tions, performances) for a colloquium at which those attending can comment upon others' work and hear suggestions about their own. The conference seeks a wide mix of storytellers, poets, writers, academics, and other teachers as well as interpretive naturalists and guides. Send a 500-word abstract or proposal, including title and need(s) for AV support, to: David S. Wilson, American Studies, retired, University of California, Davis, One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616; Attn: NILAS Conference. Or e-mail: [dswilson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dswilson@ucdavis.edu).

**March 1, 2001.** The 6th Biennial Conference on Communication and Environment will be held July 27-31, 2001, in Cincinnati, hosted by the Center for Environmental Communication Studies and Department of Communication, University of Cincinnati. The theme is "Communication and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making: Advances in Theory and Practice." For more information, look under the "What's New" tab on the Center for Environmental Communication Studies web site ([www.uc.edu/cecs](http://www.uc.edu/cecs)) or the Conference on Communication and Environment web site (<http://www.esf.edu/coce/conf.htm>). Papers and panel proposals that contribute to the theory and practice of public participation in environmental decision making are invited; both "public participation" and "environmental decision making" are broadly conceived. Papers and panel proposals not related to the conference theme are also welcome. Possible topics include: the values, mechanisms, and practices of democratic public participation; social movement communication and public participation; public communication campaigns; academic research and public activism. Four copies of papers or panel proposals to: Steve Depoe, Director, Center for Environmental Communication Studies, University of Cincinnati, ML # 0184, Cincinnati, OH 45221. See the web site for submission details.

**March 15, 2001.** "Science Fiction in the Next Millennium: Looking Forward While Remembering the Past," the Science Fiction Research Association conference, will take place in Schenectady, NY on May 24-27, 2001. Papers and panel proposals are welcome on any aspect of Science Fiction; in particular the conference will focus on the prospects for science fiction in the coming millennium and its historical roots (including space opera, Tolkien, storytelling, the media, literary criticism, teaching SF from an international perspective, and globalization). Topics that demonstrate SF's relevance to and connection with other disciplinary studies are especially welcome, as are papers on the guests of honor: C. J. Cherryh, David Weber, Jane Yolen, Vincent Di Fate. For a paper proposal, send a 250-word abstract (maximum 20-minute reading time). Please include the presentation title, your name, mailing address, phone, and e-mail. Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail. For a panel proposal, send a panel name and a 250-word abstract, also the panel title and chair (who may be one of the presenters), the address, phone, and e-mail of each presenter. Receipt will be confirmed by email. Mail or email to: Barbara Chepaitis, Programming Chairman, SFRA 2001, 19 Hillside Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308. E-mail: [chepaitis@aol.com](mailto:chepaitis@aol.com). Visit the web site: [www.sfra.org](http://www.sfra.org).

**March 30, 2001.** James Fenimore Cooper and Susan

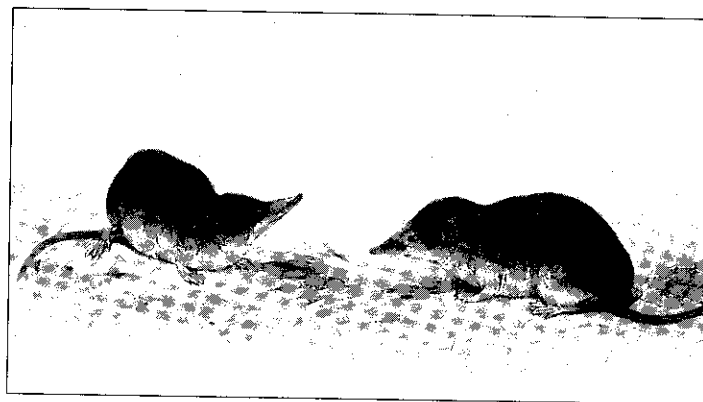


Cooper. The 13th International James Fenimore Cooper Seminar and Summer Course, from July 9-13, 2001, will occur at SUNY College at Oneonta. This event gives scholars an opportunity to discuss James Fenimore Cooper, Susan Cooper, and their time period in a congenial and festive atmosphere in the heart of Cooper Country, an immensely charming area of upstate New York. The theme is "The Environment as Moral Force: Yesterday and Tomorrow." Chief texts are *The Prairie* and *Rural Hours*, though papers need not be limited to these books. Papers of twenty minutes' reading time are sought. Attached to the seminar is a summer course for graduate and undergraduate credit in History and English. Please contact: Dr. Patric Meanor, Director, Cooper Seminar, SUNY College at Oneonta, Oneonta, NY 13820, (607) 436-3517; or Dr. James Devlin, Coordinator, Cooper Seminar, SUNY College at Oneonta, Oneonta, NY 13820, (607) 436-3033. E-mail: [diverv@oneonta.edu](mailto:diverv@oneonta.edu).

## Calls for Manuscripts

**January 1, 2001.** The co-editors and University of Utah Press would like to make a final call for papers to join an innovative and provocative set of essays in an anthology examining the culture, history, politics, and commodification of the "New West." The working title of this series of essays is "Imagining the Big Open: Nature, Identity, and Play in the New West." We seek out essays that illuminate a West in which SUV's and an REI card exist in symbiosis with the Wilderness movement and a Sierra Club membership; a West in which the symbols of authentic identity shift from cowboy hats to North Face jackets. Possible categories will involve: "Tasting the West," "The Politics of Patagonia," "Selling the West," and "Scripting the West." Contributors may adopt an interdisciplinary approach to their materials. Papers should be no more than 25 pages in length (exclusive of end notes), scholarly and analytical but accessible to a wide readership and of interest to scholars in many academic disciplines. The anthology will include essays by academics specializing in Western History and Studies, Environmental History or Cultural Studies, along with writers and essayists who have focused on western topics in their work. Please send completed work to Liza Nicholas, 8891 Bridger Canyon Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715. E-mail: [lnicholas@mcn.net](mailto:lnicholas@mcn.net).

**January 1, 2001.** *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory* seeks manuscripts that examine the various interconnections between literary study and the environment for a special issue to be guest-edited by Ian Marshall, author of *Story Line: Exploring the Literature of the Appalachian Trail*. Essays are welcome regarding any aspect of nature study, ecocriticism, environmental literature, and environmental history, among a wide range of other topics. Please direct all queries and submissions (two copies, MLA style, anonymous) to Kenneth Womack ([kawl6@psu.edu](mailto:kawl6@psu.edu)), Editor, *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, 3000 Ivyside Park, Penn State Altoona, Altoona, PA 16601-3760. For additional details, please visit the journal's web-



site at [www.aa.psu.edu/ils](http://www.aa.psu.edu/ils).

**March 1, 2001.** The "Communication and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making: Advances in Theory and Practice" conference at the University of Cincinnati (see notice above) will publish both a book containing the top 10-14 essays addressing the conference theme, and conference proceedings. To have an essay considered for publication, submit a completed paper by the deadline, with a cover page including the title of the manuscript, author's name and affiliation, and contact information. A second separate page should include the title and a one-paragraph abstract of no more than 200 words. Manuscripts of 7,500 words or less (including text and references) should be typed and double-spaced with notes and references on separate sheets, immediately following the text. Follow APA style manual. Submit two copies of completed papers plus a computer diskette copy at the beginning of the conference. For more information contact: Steve Depoe, Conference Co-Planner: (513) 556-4449, e-mail [depoe@uc.edu](mailto:depoe@uc.edu); or John Delicath, Conference Co-Planner: (513) 556-4442, e-mail [delicajw@email.uc.edu](mailto:delicajw@email.uc.edu).

**April 1, 2001.** AUMLA Focus Issue: Nature and the Environment. Articles on the special topic are invited; details listed are provided by way of example and suggestion. Topics covered might include: changing definitions of nature from the ancient past to the present; links between politics and nature; relationships between socio-economic systems (e.g. feudalism or capitalism) and the environment; the diversity of generic modes for representing nature; the effects of colonialism and post-colonialism on the environment; the place of ecocritical theory in contemporary critical practice; ideological effects of nature-culture oppositions; the environment and aesthetics, nature and art; the interplay between nature and language instincts and acquisition; the poetics of nature; relationships between nature and gender; local and global environments; nature, naturalization and ideology; nature and "home." AUMLA: *The Journal of the Australian Universities Language and Literature Association* is a fully refereed journal; view its web page at <http://www.aumla.org>. Please send inquiries or manuscripts (4000-9000 words) to: Dr. Lloyd Davis, Editor, AUMLA, Faculty of Arts, University of Queensland, Qld, 4072, Australia. Tel: 61 7 3365 1333; Fax: 61 7 3365 2866; e-mail: [lloyd.davis@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:lloyd.davis@mailbox.uq.edu.au).

**April 1, 2001.** "Climatology: Essays on Weather, Culture, and the Meteorological Imagination." For a volume of critical essays addressing those cultural spaces bordering on the meteorological, proposals are sought that explore the role of weather in culture, literature, and the arts. Possible topics might include but are not limited to: weather in literature, art and meteorology, gendered weather, climatological history, the culture and history of meteorological science, seasons and seasonal change, weather myths and lore, technology and weather information. Interdisciplinary topics especially welcome, particularly those that challenge the boundaries between modes of inquiry. Send proposals or completed 20-25 page papers to: Todd Robert Petersen, English Department, 205 Morrill Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74708, e-mail [peterst\\_osu@osu.net](mailto:peterst_osu@osu.net); or Adam Sweeting, Boston University, College of General Studies, 871 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; e-mail [sweeting@bu.edu](mailto:sweeting@bu.edu).

**April 1, 2001.** John McPhee, a leader in literary nonfiction since 1965, turns 70 in 2001. In recognition of his status, O. Alan Weltzien and Susan N. Maher are editing a scholarly anthology devoted to his vast oeuvre, tentatively titled "John McPhee and the Art of Literary Nonfiction," which will be published by the University of Utah Press in 2002. To that end, we welcome queries and submissions on all facets of McPhee's career, including literary nonfiction, environmentalism, geology, and travel writing. Submissions should be no more than 30 pages (word processed) and should be sent to either: O. Alan Weltzien, Department of English, UM-Western, 710 S. Atlantic Street, Dillon, MT 59725 ([a\\_weltzien@wmc.edu](mailto:a_weltzien@wmc.edu)) or Susan N. Maher, Department of English, UN-Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0175 ([susan\\_maher/cas/uno/unebr@unomail.unomaha.edu](mailto:susan_maher/cas/uno/unebr@unomail.unomaha.edu)).

**April 30, 2001.** *Papers on Language and Literature* is seeking submissions for a special issue, "Living with Animals," to be published in late 2002. Essays on literature of any genre that depicts the interaction of human characters with pets, domestic animals, or wild animals—specifically, articles that analyze human encounters with the non-human. Human-animal interactions need not be the central issue in the texts considered. In fact, sometimes the interesting question may be why animals are brought into texts peripherally. The editors will not consider pieces that treat purely human issues through animal imagery. In other words, work on beast fables, allegories using animals, fantastic works involving talking beasts, or other texts in which anthropomorphized animals are the focus will not be considered for this issue. Send submissions to: PLL Special Issue, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1434.

**No deadline.** *Organization and Environment* features artistic work focused on organizations and the natural environment. This includes photographic essays, original nature narratives and poetry, and other forms of creative expression. It also includes critical interpretations of classic and contemporary artistic work from the fields of literary ecology and ecocriticism. The purpose of this section is to promote critical reflection and understanding and also to nurture respect for nature and inspire a sense of deeper spiritual connection. Send 6 copies of all submissions to either

person: Dr. John M. Jermier, Coeditor, *Organization and Environment*, College of Business, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620-5500; (813) 974-1757; fax: (813) 974-3030; e-mail: [jermier@groucho.bsn.usf.edu](mailto:jermier@groucho.bsn.usf.edu); or Professor Suzanne Ross, Feature Editor, *Organization and Environment*, English Department, St. Cloud State University, Riverview 106, 720 4th Ave. South, St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498; (320) 255-4298; fax (320) 654-5524; e-mail [ssross@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ssross@stcloudstate.edu).

**No deadline.** Acada Books is seeking book manuscripts on environmental topics—fresh and distinctive book ideas tailored for undergraduate college courses that take an interdisciplinary approach to the subject. Acada Books publishes innovative college texts and supplements that explore the relationship of people to the natural world. To learn more, visit the web site at [www.acadabooks.com](http://www.acadabooks.com) or call toll free (888) 242-6657, and speak to Brian Romer, President.

**No deadline.** *Ecology Law Quarterly*, the Berkeley Law School environmental law journal, has started a new on-line journal (*Ecomeme*) that focuses on short, non-traditional environmental articles that address issues otherwise missed in typical law review articles. A full explanation of what *Ecomeme* is up to can be found at the website: <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/elg/ecomeme>. Articles are currently solicited.

## Gatherings of Interest

**October 5-December 20, 2000.** Exhibition: "Humanizing Landscapes: Geography, Culture, and the Magoon Collection," Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. In the nineteenth century, amid rapid technological change and expanding travel opportunities, fine artists and landscape architects were pioneers in the interpretation of historic sites and features of the natural environment. Looking through the interpretive lenses of cultural geography and art history, "Humanizing Landscapes" casts new light upon a key 19th century art collection comprising over 4,000 works by English and American artists, including Frederic Edwin Church, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Asher B. Durand, John Ruskin, and J. M. W. Turner.

**October 27-28, 2000.** Public Symposium: "Shaping a New World Vision: Past and Present Perspectives." 203 Taylor Hall, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. David Lowenthal, Historian and Geographer: "Seen from the Other Shore: English and American Landscapes." Eleanor Jones Harvey, Curator of American Art: "America and the Landscape, from Emerson's 'transparent eyeball' to the American Transcendental Painting Group." Anne Whiston Spirn, Landscape Architect: "Reading and Telling Landscapes: Dialogues Among Photographs, Words, and Places." Virginia Beahan and Laura McPhee, Photographers: "Photographing the Changing Landscape." For information: (845) 437-5632.

**February 14-18, 2001.** Stacy Alaimo is hosting an ecocritical panel at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference in San Antonio, TX.

**March 1-3, 2001.** The 2001 Ohio Shakespeare Conference titled "The Nature of Shakespeare" will take place at the University of Toledo, OH. The plenary speaker will be Rebecca Bushnell, speaking on "Shakespeare and the Bias of Nature." The Shenandoah Shakespeare Express will perform "Twelfth Night," "Othello," and "The Roaring Girl." A lecture entitled "Shakespeare's Gardens," held at the Toledo Museum of Art, will be followed by a guided tour of the museum. For information contact Russ Bodi, University Hall, Department of English, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

**March 30-31, 2001.** "Redefining Suburban Studies: Searching for a New Paradigm" will take place at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. The conference will examine the evolving suburban context of American life; papers will explore various components of the suburban experience from a wide range of disciplines including the social sciences and humanities. For information, contact Daniel R. Rubey, Dean of Library and Information Services, (516) 463-5940, e-mail libaddr@hofstra.edu; or Barbara Kelly, Curator, L. I. Studies Institute, (516) 463-6409, e-mail libspbm@hofstra.edu; or Deborah Lom, (516) 463-5669, e-mail culdsl@hofstra.edu.

**March 30-31, 2001.** "Marketing American Nature: The Formation of Cultural Identity," a session at the Northeast Modern Language Association in Hartford, CT, will explore the ways in which antebellum American artists employed nature as the primary lens through which to imagine cultural identity. Seeking to extend the critical conversation beyond the familiar metaphor of America as a middle ground between wilderness and European civilization, the panel will consider how artists, informed by developments in natural history, figured nature as a wellspring for the cultivation of a national identity. For information: Duncan Faherty, 149-40 Beech Ave., Flushing, NY 11355, e-mail dfaherty@gateway.net. Or go to the NEMLA website at [www.anna-maria.edu/nemla](http://www.anna-maria.edu/nemla).

**March 30-31, 2001.** "Gothic Landscapes," a session at the 2001 Nemla conference in Hartford, CT, will explore the symbolism of landscapes in gothic literature. For information: Sharon R. Yang, Department of Languages and Literature, Worcester State College, Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602, e-mail syang@worchester.edu. Or go to the NEMLA website at [www.anna-maria.edu/nemla](http://www.anna-maria.edu/nemla).

**April 18-22, 2001.** "The Natural World: The Eighteenth Century from an Ecocritical Perspective," will take place at the 32nd annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies in New Orleans, LA. For information: Judith Mueller, Department of English, Franklin and Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003, (717) 291-4290, e-mail J\_Mueller@acad.fandm.edu.

**April 20-22, 2001.** "Time, Place, and the Autobiographical Self," a panel on time and place in autobiographical literature, will be held at the 2001 conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. Contact Steve Hunsaker, Division of Foreign Languages, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

66801, for more information including place of conference. E-mail: [hunsakes@emporia.edu](mailto:hunsakes@emporia.edu).

**June 12-15, 2001.** The first Annual Writers' Workshop and Conference in honor of Rachel Carson will take place in Boothbay Harbor, ME, sponsored by Nature and Environmental Writers' College and University Educators (NEW-CUE), a non-profit, environmental education organization. The event will be both a scholarly and a social occasion, with presentations of essays, poems, children's literature, or selections from fiction and journalism, illustrating the environmental issues raised by Rachel Carson, who blended science with a lyrical appreciation of nature. For information: Barbara Ward Klein, President, NEW-CUE, c/o St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY 10976, (845) 398-4247, e-mail [new-cue@care2.com](mailto:new-cue@care2.com). Or visit the web-site: <http://www.new-cue.org>.

## **"Desert Crossings": ASLE Symposium at Big Bend National Park**

The Desert Crossings symposium will be held January 4-6, 2001, in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Barton H. Warnock Environmental Education Center located one mile east of Lajitas, Texas, on the western boundary of Big Bend National Park. In addition to one large divided meeting room, the center includes a fountain/patio area, a turtle pond, and a large, labeled botanical garden for walking between sessions. Weather permitting, some sessions will be held outdoors. Participants will stay at Lajitas on the Rio Grande Resort. Limited camping is also available. Nearest airports are El Paso and Midland/Odessa, both four hours from Lajitas.

We have scheduled the official portion of the symposium in two blocks to allow plenty of time to hike, raft, and enjoy seeing the Big Bend. All day Thursday will be dedicated to presentations, then Friday is completely open for guilt-free outdoor activities. We wrap up on Saturday morning with more papers, presentations, and closing panel discussions.

Because the Big Bend is blessed with very little light pollution, we have planned an opening night Star Party for Wednesday, January 3. Thursday and Friday evening readings by Susan Tweit, Allana Martin, Sharmar Apt Russell, and Roland Wauer are also planned. Outdoor activities are almost unlimited, with choices ranging from river float trips to desert survival workshops and hiking/birding expeditions. Information will be available on the Desert Crossings website soon: <http://www.sulross.edu/~desertcrossings/index/html> or see the ASLE web pages for a link. If you would like to attend the symposium as a non-presenter, please contact us. Our facilities are very limited in Lajitas, so we need to keep a running list in order to stay within our capacity.

—Barney Nelson, *Sul Ross State University* and Walter Isle, *Rice University*

# ASLE Elections: Candidates' Statements

## Vice-President

**Terrell Dixon, University of Houston**

Perhaps because I was involved in the discussions and planning that led to ASLE, I have a strong sense of its history and accomplishments. On a personal level, it helped move my avocation (discussing nature writing and the environment) from the margins to the center of my professional life. As ASLE took shape, my work (course proposals in eco-comp and nature and the environment, essays on grizzly bear literature and Edward Abbey, contributions to the reader *Being in the World*) had organizational support. Commitment to environmental literature and ecocriticism became much less contested, even at my urban university. Such support, enjoyed by many colleagues around the country, strengthened our organization. ASLE, as hoped, has bettered both the opportunities for teaching environmental literature and the academic landscape.

As a former long-term Chair of a large department, however, I know that prolonged splits can weaken organizations. As we diversify and expand the membership and the ecocritical range of ASLE, we need to work together, to acknowledge the common environmental goals and multicultural commitments that outweigh our differences. My recent work (essays on ecofeminism, urban nature, environmental justice, Rick Bass, and a forthcoming anthology, *Reading Urban Nature*) has been shaped by my multicultural classrooms, and it has also received important support from colleagues across a wide range of ASLE perspectives. The environmental commitment driving my writing has remained constant even as the topics have diversified, and I believe that remembering this about the work that each of us does can strengthen ASLE as we expand.

I would like for ASLE to extend outreach to SLS (Literature and Science) and ASEH (Environmental Historians) and to Australia, New Zealand, and Latin America; to invite young writers, especially minority writers, as well as established stars; and to strengthen assistance for young colleagues seeking jobs and tenure.

**Rachel Stein, Siena College**

I am very honored to accept this nomination. I have belonged to ASLE since the first, and it has provided a lively forum of engaged colleagues who believe that our academic/activist work may make a difference in the larger world. In return, I offer my administrative skills and energy to this flourishing organization. My previous contributions have been efforts to diversify scholarship and membership. I served for two years on the ASLE Task Force for Diversity, and at the Kalamazoo conference and the 2000 Reno conference, Joni Adamson and I organized sessions and plenaries highlighting cultural diversity and environmental justice. I also co-founded the Caucus for Diversity, which has prompted renewed efforts toward inclusiveness in ASLE.

My scholarship, teaching, and administrative work focus on culture and environment. My book, *Shifting the Ground: American Women Writers' Revisions of Nature, Gender, and Race*, analyzes intersections between environmental and social justice issues, and I am currently co-editing a collection of essays on Environmental Justice Politics, Poetics, and Pedagogy with three ASLE members. An associate professor of English at Siena College in Loudonville, NY, I teach Literature and Environment, and also courses in Women's Studies, African American Literature, and Native American Literature that emphasize interconnections between race, gender, and nature. As Director of Women's and Multicultural Studies, I have honed skills advocating for institutional inclusiveness and forging connections to surrounding community.

ASLE is thriving, and if elected, I would build upon this foundation. In addition to current successes, I would create ties to culturally diverse organizations in the U.S. and abroad, encourage more regional forums and conferences, and work for a conference in a multicultural urban setting.

## Executive Council

**Charles Bergman, Pacific Lutheran University**

When ASLE came into existence in the early 1990s, I joined immediately. I love the sense of community and shared purpose it has given, and would love to serve on ASLE's Executive Council.

My great joy is studying and writing about wildlife and animals. For twenty years I've written regularly for such magazines as *Audubon*, *Natural History*, *Orion*, and *Smithsonian* (the October *Smithsonian* has an article of mine on jaguars in Mexico). My two books are *Wild Echoes: Encounters with the Most Endangered Animals in North America* (McGraw-Hill, 1990) and *Orion's Legacy: A Cultural History of Man as Hunter* (Dutton, 1996). Following ASLE's mission statement, I bring a strong interdisciplinary background in literature and the natural sciences, especially wildlife biology and ethology, plus extensive field experience. I believe that in the academy we need to make much more progress on behalf of animals.

A watershed in my academic life was the interdisciplinary NEH Summer Institute on "The Environmental Imagination" at Vassar College with Dan Peck, Larry Buell, and all the others. (I described the Institute in *ASLE News*, Fall 1997). I've done two stints as department Chair, been Director of our First-Year Program, and served on our Environmental Studies Committee time out of mind. My strengths as administrator? Program development. As part of ASLE's emphasis on diversity, I would urge us to continue building bridges to Latin America. For years I've studied Spanish, leading to a Fulbright Scholarship last year in Mexico. My current book project is on the Delta of the Colorado River in Mexico, extolled by Aldo Leopold, later hung out to dry by U.S. dams upriver. This devastated delta needs binational help.

ASLE works at the intersections of two great passions for me—language and nature. I'll give ASLE my best energies.

## **K. Wesley Berry, *Rockford College***

I've been engaged in green scholarship and outreach for several years, having published ecocritical essays on naturalist-painter Walter Inglis Anderson, Wendell Berry, Cormac McCarthy, Toni Morrison, and Leslie Silko, and a piece on teaching ecocomposition (prompted by writing courses I taught in graduate school). My dissertation, directed by Ann Fisher-Wirth, is a study of healing and ecological communities in American literature. I have served ASLE as a Graduate Liaison, reviewed essays for and contributed nonfiction and reviews to *ISLE*, presented papers/organized panels at ASLE gatherings in Hawaii, Missoula, Kalamazoo, and at other conferences. I've helped with environmental education programs in public schools in Mississippi, and look forward to advancing green literacy here in northern Illinois, as I begin my position as assistant professor of English at Rockford College. In short, I'm dedicated to the pursuits of ASLE, plan to keep directing my enthusiasms to its good work, and would take pleasure in doing so as a member of the Executive Council.

There is much I appreciate about this community of literary-earthly types: the activism promoted by its members; the intense intellectual exchanges; the ability to realize our common goals, even when in disagreement about policy and politics; of course, the hikes and music shared during the wonderful gatherings. ASLE members have inspired me with written words, with ideas brainstormed at conferences, with their efforts to promote the health of bioregions from Borneo to Yaak. I have benefited from the graduate mentoring network and want to explore additional means for our student members/new graduates/adjuncts to enhance their employment opportunities, so they may continue following their ecocentric passions. I want to keep the conferences exciting, support outreach to K-12 schools, and further efforts to bring to the front the concerns of at-risk communities, especially farming and urban communities.

## **J. Gerald Dollar, *Siena College***

I have been an active member of ASLE since its founding and I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Executive Council. I teach in the English department and Environmental Studies program of Siena College, in upstate New York; my courses include "Literature and the Environment," "The Hudson Valley," and "The Adirondacks." My recent research and writing has been on the search for "sacred space" in environmental literature of the American West. My ASLE-related work has included conference papers in Fort Collins, Missoula, and Reno, and I serve on the editorial board of *ISLE*. I have published articles on Cather, Abbey, Silko, and Maclean. During 1998-1999 I was a Fulbright professor in Finland, where I taught a year-long course on American environmental literature. I am inspired by this terrific experience to emphasize international networking in my work for ASLE.

ASLE seems to be at a transitional moment, and the next few years should be important and exciting. Many members are expressing their desire for greater diversity and a stronger link between the study of environmental literature and the promotion

of environmental justice. I agree. I see these and other new directions as complementing our original mission. ASLE should be inclusive, diverse, and interconnected, with room for political engagement and activism as well as space to write creatively and critically about the environment.

We also need to build on our strengths (our outstanding journal, our large and increasingly diverse conferences, our concern with pedagogy). In addition I propose that we develop a series of regional conferences; devote more attention to the East and to urban environments; strengthen our international dimension through conferences, exchanges, and—most basically—the study of non-American environmental literature. There is a lot we can learn from the literatures and environmental policies of other countries.

## **Mark C. Long, *Keene State College***

Before finding my way to college I spent nine years living on the Eastern slope of California's Sierra Nevada mountains—working out of doors; finding my way as an amateur naturalist, botanist, and mountaineer; improvising a career as a professional athlete and teacher; and learning what it means to call a place home. You can imagine my enthusiasm, a few years after moving on from this way of life, when I discovered ASLE as a graduate student. The organization provided a pathway between two diverging parts of my life.

Now that I am raising two children in an 1816 farmhouse in New Hampshire, my professional life as professor of English and American Studies at Keene State College continues to be sustained by ASLE and its members. Since 1995 I have sought to contribute my own efforts to ASLE: as a presenter on, and organizer of, many panels on environmental pedagogies; as a member of the editorial Board of *ISLE*; and as the organizer of this year's ASLE panel at the American Literature Association conference.

My goals on the Executive Council include exploring more creative presentational formats in which to learn from and improve our classroom work. Further, participating in a ten-day faculty and curriculum development institute at Brown University on U.S. pluralism and the search for recognition, diversity, and democracy this summer confirmed my conviction that ASLE's efforts to situate the environment as a concept in the disciplines must be linked to this broad-based work of transforming the curriculum. Too, the institute offered an inspiring dialogue among faculty from the two-year community college to the four-year college and university, a dialogue we might better cultivate in ASLE.

I welcome the opportunity to contribute my professional energy and expertise to ASLE.

## **Arlene Previn, *University of Puget Sound***

ASLE has been an important site of camaraderie and collegial exchange for me. I value the commitment members have to sharing their perspectives and helping spread the good green word in its many guises. ASLE folks are passionate about their work, even in an academic realm which can squelch such a sense of involvement. I see that passion manifested in a willingness to

debate and consider all sorts of theories, mediums, and pedagogies. These qualities of passion, openness, and commitment are what I'd promote as a member of ASLE's Executive Council. I'd bring my academic credentials to the council, of course: I've completed a dissertation at the University of Washington and recently assumed a position at the University of Puget Sound. My published work includes pieces on ecocomposition, women's travel and nature writing, and the concept of "green" guilt.

Even more, I offer my background as an environmental activist—my years of experience as a writer/editor for the National Wildlife Federation, covering environmental legislation (or the lack of such) on the Hill in Washington, D.C., plus years of involvement with nonprofits promoting alternative transportation. This experience using language for public consideration and change informs my research interests, in ecocomposition, service or community-based learning, ecofeminism, theories of place, environmental ethics, and nature writing. I'd like to advance our recent discussions on activism in ASLE and the academy—on how activism, for instance, coexists with teaching and is fostered through teacherly encouragement. I'm interested in seeing how ASLE can promote alternative ways of viewing writing and the teaching of English, by publicizing pedagogical sites illustrating theories and ways of being that challenge existing texts and ways of perceiving our relationship with the environment. I'd welcome the chance to discuss this with you: please try me at plevin@u.washington.edu or aplevin@ups.edu.

### Kent Ryden, *University of Southern Maine*

I spend a lot of time thinking about and poking at just what it is that the "E" in ASLE refers to. In temperament, philosophy, and practice, I've long been committed to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of "literature" and "environment" individually and together, believing not only that the "L" helps us understand and shape our relationship with the "E," but that by increasing the complexity and sophistication of our understanding of the "E" in all its dimensions we both broaden and deepen the scope of just what it is that the "L" in ASLE stands for. In my writing and in my teaching as an associate professor of American and New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine, I bring not only literature but such diverse fields as folklore, historical ecology, environmental history, material culture studies, historical cartography, cultural geography, oral history, technology studies, art history, and regional theory to bear on the study of broadly American and specifically New England environments, exploring in my work just

how much the terms "nature" and "culture" bleed together the closer you look at them, and the extent to which the way you look at the environment can vary not only according to who and when you are, but where you are as well.

I guess, then, that the main thing I would bring to the council would be an irrepressible urge to keep all the doors and windows open. I'd welcome and encourage diversity in all its forms: socially, culturally, intellectually, disciplinarily, geographically. I think that such an approach represents one of the best ways to keep exploring vital new places in our minds, lives, and worlds, as we continue to question and expand just what it is we mean by "L," by "E," and by "L" and "E" together.

### Gioia Woods, *Northern Arizona University*

I have been a member of ASLE for almost ten years. During that time, I've had the good fortune to serve ASLE in many ways: from 1996-1997, I worked as Assistant to ASLE President Michael Branch, as an editorial assistant for *ISLE*, and as a contributing editor to the 1996 ASLE Annotated Bibliography. I edited the second edition of the ASLE Handbook on Graduate Study in Literature and Environment. All this ASLE work has prepared me for the most exciting task yet: I am co-chairing the fourth Biennial ASLE Conference.

My goals for the conference reflect my goals for ASLE in general. I want to ensure diversity in our organization and at our conference. To reach these goals, this year's ASLE conference will include field sessions on subjects such as ethnobotany, social/environmental justice, and Hopi art, along with plenary sessions on the multicultural future of ecocriticism, and language and landscape. I have developed numerous new courses that join diversity and the environment. These include introductory courses such as Environmental Humanities and Nature and Culture, along with upper division and graduate classes like Nature and Values and Mapping the Self. I participated in implementing my university's first-ever environmental studies minor. My research is environmentally focused: I write on western women, autobiography, and place, and on southwestern humanities. If elected to the Executive Council, I would encourage projects in ASLE that cross genres to consider how film, music, and visual arts compare with literary expression. I would encourage interdisciplinary partnerships that bring together fields like biology, anthropology, and history in an effort to understand how humans come to value the natural world.

I love ASLE. If elected, I would support this organization by giving back to it the gifts it has given me.

(continued from Page 3)

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The University of Mississippi  
 ASLE News  
 c/o Ann Fisher-Wirth, Editor  
 Department of English  
 Post Office Box 1848  
 University, MS 38677-1848

