



ASLE NEWS

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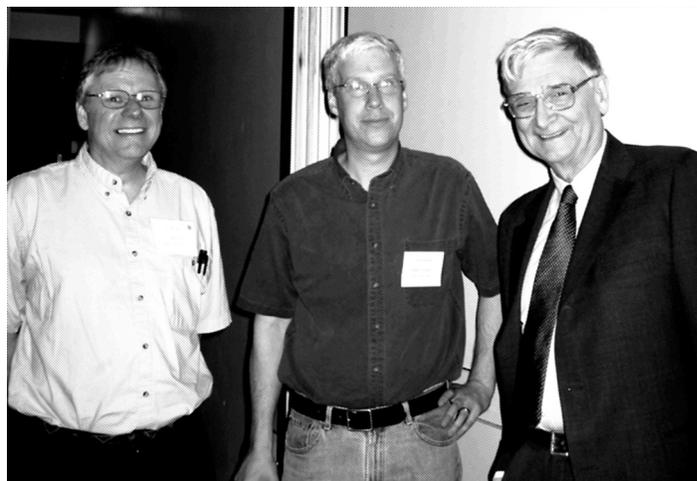
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

2003 Conference Yields Many Benefits; Officers Plan to Meet Again in Spring 2004

As I near the end of my term as president, I feel a sense of pride at things we as an organization have accomplished in the last couple of years—and a great sense of gratitude towards the people of ASLE. I continue to be impressed by the vitality we bring to our exciting work—I'd call it “ground-breaking” work, but maybe it's more “ground-sustaining,” or just plain “grounded.” Even more, I continue to be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm and good grace and good spirit that we bring to our work. Truly, it has been a pleasure.

Accomplishments of the past couple of years that I'm especially pleased about, and for which I wish to thank the many hard-working and good-natured people who made them happen:

* Another splendid conference, this time in the east, which seems to have led to an upsurge of new members finding their way to ASLE. I remember several people in Boston telling me this was their first ASLE conference, usually accompanied by the comment that they'd never seen anything like it. What they appreciated most, it seems, were the field sessions and the spirit of ASLE members. I was also pleased at the success of our “dialogue” plenaries, with Lawrence Buell and Leo Marx discussing ecocriticism and E. O. Wilson and Laura Walls discussing the integration of the sciences and humanities. What impressed was not just what they had to say, but the grace and tolerance and good will with which they were able to express disagreement. All the plenary speakers were impressive, and from what I hear (I was too busy hawking T-shirts to get to many sessions), the quality of the papers at our regular sessions was excellent. The field trips within Boston were a delight, and the trips to Monadnock and Walden Pond were wet but exhilarating. Of course I enjoyed most, as always, seeing old friends and



ASLE President Ian Marshall and 5th Biennial Conference host Adam Sweeting talk with E. O. Wilson after his plenary dialogue with Laura Dassow Walls on integrating the sciences and humanities.

making new ones, and working closely with the wonderful people who contributed so much to making the conference happen—people like Kathy Wallace, Karla Armbruster, Arlene Plevin, Laird Christensen, Mark Long, and—most of all—Adam Sweeting.

* We turned a significant profit at the conference, which may well allow us to move forward in hiring an executive director. This is a move that the board has been saying, for a few years now, that we need to make, given the size of our organization. But our financial circumstances did not allow it previously. By the way, I also want to assure everyone that we did not set out to make as significant a profit as we ended up with. We raised the conference fees slightly because for the first time we were operating without any seed money, because we

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(date indicates year term expires)

Pamela Banting
University of Calgary, 2005

Laird Christensen
Green Mountain College, 2004

Mark Long
Keene State College, 2004

Arlene Plevin
University of Puget Sound, 2003

Adam Sweeting
Boston University, 2005

Gioia Woods
University of Northern Arizona, 2003

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The Ohio State University

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*American Studies Association,
Environmental Studies Caucus*
Joni Adamson and Adam Sweeting

*Conference on College Composition and
Communication (4Cs)*
Randall Roorda

Modern Language Association
Bonney MacDonald

Midwest MLA (MIMLA)
Tom Dean

*Northeast Modern Language Association
(NEMLA)*
Mark Long

Pacific MLA (PAMLA)
Rochelle Johnson

Popular Culture Association
Gyorgi Voros

Rocky Mountain MLA (RRMLA)
Rochelle Johnson

*Society for the Study of American
Women Writers*
Rochelle Johnson



The Fort Hill Area on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. June, 2003. Photo by Karla Armbruster.

“In the midst of a gentle rain . . . , I was suddenly sensible of such sweet and beneficent society in Nature, in the very pattering of the drops, and in every sound and sight around my house, an infinite and unaccountable friendliness all at once like an atmosphere sustaining me, as made the fancied advantages of human neighborhood insignificant.”

—H.D. Thoreau, from *Walden*

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were fearful about the costs of things in Boston, and because we felt we needed to cover ourselves in case attendance, on our first trip east, was deflated. But there were no surprise costs, and in fact our presence in Boston saved us quite a bit in travel costs for our speakers, many of whom were local. Further, we were fortunate that Adam and I received significant support from colleagues, division heads, and deans at our home institutions, covering such items as staff and technical support, registration, mailing expenses, T-shirt and tote bag designs. We also saved money when the University of Virginia Press agreed to host our opening reception, and we saw an increase in the number of publishers exhibiting and taking out ads in the program. Most of all, though, the larger-than-anticipated profit is a function of a great turn-out. Rather than seeing any deflation in attendance, we had about six hundred attendees, by far our largest yet. And now we know that we have a significant base of membership across the continent. I know that previous president Terrell Dixon took a lot of heat, out there in Texas, for pushing hard to go east in 2003. He and the rest of our previous group of officers deserve a lot of credit for seeing the benefits of geographic diversity in our conference sites.



Walden Pond on the rainy Saturday when ASLE members visited at the end of the 2003 conference in June. Photo by Karla Armbruster.

* We have formalized procedures regarding proposals for symposia and conference sites. Of course we never want to lose our flexibility and some of the joys of informality, but at the same time our size and the extent of our endeavors did seem to call for more formal procedures in order to let people know what questions we need answered in making funding decisions. Our guidelines for symposium and conference proposals are available on the ASLE website.

* The practice of holding an off-year officers' retreat seems now to be a regular thing. There are some expenses involved, but it's well worth it. The amount of work we got done in 2002 was remarkable, and that retreat is the logical time and place to begin conference planning for the following year—to plan themes and speakers, to sort out logistics, and to assign responsibilities. Next year, in the spring, we will meet at Bread Loaf in Vermont, with current ASLE vice-president and by-then president John Elder hosting. Besides commencing the planning for Oregon in 2005, we will be discussing the hiring of an executive director,

defining the position as fully as we can before possibly moving forward with a search.

Adam and I had a few moments at conference's end to talk about whether the time we put into the conference was worth it all, and for both of us the answer was an unqualified yes. And to tell you the truth there were times in the busy weeks beforehand when we weren't so sure about that. What made it worthwhile was knowing that our efforts could not have been better directed. To have contributed something to the organization that serves as our scholarly home, to have had some role in making possible a forum for the good people of ASLE to congregate, to receive their thank you's, to see confirmed how generous of spirit the members of ASLE are—it has been more than satisfying. I am even more appreciative of ASLE now than I was before I started serving as president, and I deeply appreciate the people of ASLE, as scholars, as friends, as members of a community that I feel blessed to be part of. Thank you all.

—Ian Marshall, *President*

Minutes from the July 7, 2003, ASLE General Membership Meeting

Approximately 60 members attended the meetings. After a brief introduction from President Ian Marshall, ASLE members heard the following reports:

* Secretary/Treasurer Annie Ingram reported that ASLE's financial position is strong, and that the organization is working toward having enough funds to support at least a part-time executive director in the near future. Details of ASLE's finances are available to members on the ASLE website.

* On-line Bibliography Editor Lewis Ulman reported that contributions to the bibliography remain low, but more are coming in now that he has formalized a relationship with the book review editors of ISLE. Lewis said that more members volunteered during the conference to act as editors for the bibliography, and he encouraged all members to make it a habit to contribute regularly to the bibliography as it remains the only searchable database of materials dedicated to the study of literature and environment.

* Ian thanked the following members for their service as ASLE officers--Rachel Stein, coordinator of the diversity caucus; Kathy Wallace, editor of

the newsletter; and Cheryll Glotfelty, executive secretary—and announced their replacements: Ann Fisher-Wirth and Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio, coordinators of the Diversity Caucus; Karla Armbruster, new ASLENews editor; and Kathy Wallace, executive secretary.

* An ASLE symposium on "Northern New England and Northern Forest Studies" was announced. The meeting will take place June 4-6, 2004, in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. ASLE member Pavel Cenkl is the local host.

Ian announced that the University of Oregon in Eugene will be the site for the 2005 ASLE Conference, and he thanked Molly Westling and Glen Love for working on the proposal. The conference is tentatively scheduled to start June 21, and Molly said that she hopes to have more international and Native American plenary speakers. She encouraged anyone with suggestions or a desire to help to contact her directly.

Ian said that ASLE would like to identify conference sites further ahead of time and asked members to consider hosting in 2007 and 2009. Interested members should contact Ian, incoming president John Elder, or the ASLE website for more information. It would be ideal if these proposals could be made in time for the officers to consider them at the officers' meeting in April 2004.

A general discussion followed the announcements: A member asked if more than one off-year symposium could be offered in a particular year. The answer is yes, depending upon the budget. Proposals are reviewed as they



Molly Westling, host of the upcoming 6th Biennial Conference at the University of Oregon in 2005, delivers her presentation on "An Erotic Embrace with the Flesh of the World" at the 2003 conference in Boston.

come in. Another member asked if life memberships to ASLE could be given to individuals with very distinguished contributions to the field. Ian said that the officers are considering this question, and any suggestions of such individuals should be forwarded to the ASLE president for consideration. Lance Newman spoke briefly about the ASLE Grand Canyon trip planned for Summer 2004. California members of ASLE have decided to meet and discuss having regional meetings. Arlene Plevin announced that she is gathering names of environmental justice organizations on the West Coast, and she asked members to send suggestions to her.

The meeting ended with a round of applause for Adam Sweeting, conference host, and Ian Marshall for all their work in organizing the 2003 ASLE Conference in Boston.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen R. Wallace,
Executive Secretary*



Updates from ASLE Programs

ASLE Online Bibliography

Imagine receiving weekly, annotated notices of the books, essays, journal articles, films, artworks, TV shows, magazine articles, and newspaper articles related to literature and environment studies that ASLE members have been reading and viewing. It is possible with the ASLE Online Bibliography.

Thanks to ASLE members and ISLE staffers, the ASLE Online Bibliography is growing faster than ever before. As of September, the bibliography contains 460 entries. Here are a few snapshots of the materials in the bibliography.

* **Authors.** Hundreds of authors are represented, with several represented by multiple (>5) entries, including Gretel Ehrlich (14), Linda Hasselstrom (24) and Teresa Jordan (7).

* **Reference Types.** Books dominate the bibliography (365 entries), but the database also contains journal articles (70 from 41 different journals), newspaper and magazine articles (11 each), as well as other types of materials.

* **Genres.** Though the largest number of entries are nonfiction (271) other genres are well represented, including anthologies (13), criticism (103), poetry (36), and fiction (31).

* **Years.** Work published in the last three years are best represented -- 2001 (53), 2002 (126), 2003 (125) -- but the bibliography also includes 105 entries from the 1990s.

* **Topics.** Contributions cover a wide range of topics reflecting the diverse interests of ASLE members. Some especially well-represented topics include environmental education (40), gender (49), and wildlife (27).

How to Contribute

The ASLE Online Bibliography depends on members' submissions to develop a bibliographical resource that reflects the interests, commitments, and critical perspectives of ASLE members, and it is easy to contribute to and consult the bibliography. Join your fellow ASLE members in building this community resource!

Mentoring Program

At the biennial conference in Boston this summer, a dozen ASLE members attended a workshop to share the successes of the mentoring program and to consider its future role in the association. Since its inception, the ASLE Mentoring Program has matched over sixty graduate students with faculty mentors. We discussed benefits for graduate students and rewards for faculty mentors-including those who teach at colleges without graduate programs. We considered ways to further mentoring relationships with ASLE's growing international constituencies. And we asked whether or not we are doing enough to provide graduate students with preparation for the

range of institutions at which many of them will seek to find faculty positions. In coming newsletters, I hope to share stories of successful mentoring relationships. When we get closer to our next gathering in Eugene, I will pass along some of the other ideas we discussed in the workshop: organizing a conference workshop for mentors, graduate students on the job market, and mentoring relationships focused on pedagogical development. If you have any questions or comments-or would like to be matched with or volunteer as a mentor-please contact the coordinator of the Mentoring Program.

—Mark C. Long,
Mentoring Program Coordinator

The online bibliography features an online submission site and a new search engine on the World Wide Web that allows the bibliography to be updated weekly, making it a valuable source for keeping up with work in the field. Anyone with access to the Web can contribute entries and search the bibliography via the Web.

You can contribute to the bibliography either on an ad hoc basis, submitting entries on whatever you happen to be reading that isn't already covered by the bibliography, or you can become a contributing editor responsible, for instance, for following work on a particular topic or author--or for work published by a particular journal or press.

To learn more about contributing to the bibliography, point your Web browser to <http://www.english.ohio-state.edu/organizations/asle/> and look under the heading "The ASLE Bibliography in Depth."

—Lewis Ulman, *ASLE Bibliographer*

Changes to ASLE Listservs

In September, the server at NCTE, which housed the ASLE and ASLE-CCCC listservs, suffered a total and irrecoverable crash, losing subscriber lists and archives.

The lists have been moved to another host, and as many former subscribers as possible have been notified, but some have not been contacted since the lists were lost. You can find directions for re-subscribing at <http://interiversity.org/lists/asle/subscribe.html> (ASLE listserv) or <http://interiversity.org/lists/asle-cccc/subscribe.html> (ASLE-CCCC listserv). The Diversity listserv is still available at diversity-1@davidson.edu

For help or answers to questions, please contact Jeri Pollock at jpollock@mminternet.com or Eric Crump at eric@interiversity.net.

Monadnock Hike-u

On Saturday afternoon at the Boston conference, an intrepid group of Gore-texed ecocritics trod the rainy slopes of Monadnock. Some exercised their minds and vision by learning from Tom Wessels how to “read the forested landscape,” while others stretched their legs by making for the summit. Here are some haiku to capture a few of the day’s perceptions.

On the trail
listening to rain—
a different kind of patter

Red eft
on a dirt road
enjoying the rain

Dark-eyed junco
blowing in the wind
with a few June snowdrops



Photo by Lewis Ulman.

Monadnock in cold rain—
guess eastern mountains are
something to sneeze at

Peak
in the bag
to savor later

Rainfall chasing
the slither of water
over granite

—Ian Marshall



The Boston Migration

The 2003 ASLE conference in Boston, my first ASLE function, served as the centerpiece to a month-long road trip. I covered eighteen states east of the Mississippi (plus Missouri, my ancestral home) and eastern Canada. There were some great nature sightings along the way: white-tailed deer grazing in my dad’s suburban backyard; wetsuit-clad triathletes swimming across Walden Pond in defiance of a rainstorm; two black bears, mother and child, loping across Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park; a belligerent mime moonlighting as a chess hustler in Washington Square, NYC; and some birds, migrating, at the movies. It was a good trip.

Back home at my office, I flip through the conference program

and feel amazed at how few sessions I managed to attend despite my best efforts, how many dozens of key writers and books I hadn’t heard about yet. It is a feeling, I have noticed, many young scholars privately share: a sense of existential dread at the boundless terrain of *all the stuff I don’t know*. Conferences have often seemed to me forced occasions, during which there emerges a kind of three-day segregation between that tiny group of top scholars in the field and all the mere mortals, the outsiders. But as a first-time attendee, I soon noticed the opposite process at work in Boston, and felt a surprising degree of openness and warmth from all sides, or perhaps – translating into ASLE-speak – from all levels of the food chain. Quite simply, this was a cool group of people, a generous intellectual community with an abundance

of energy. My one-line review of the conference would go something like this: it was fun, I learned a lot about ecocriticism, I liked the people I met, and I hope to get more involved with ASLE in the future. Then there were a few bonus experiences: reconnecting with a professor I hadn’t seen in six years, meeting two of my favorite writers in Leo Marx and Grace Paley, drinking beer on the eighteenth floor of the residence hall above the gothic Charles River and mist-tinted constellations of Boston streetlights. And if I confess to a certain amusement at the sight of a panic-stricken Ian Marshall losing a battle with a computer wire, only to be saved moments later by a technology volunteer with ice water in his veins and the insight to plug the damn thing into the wall, will others think less of me?

—Robert Jackson

2003 ASLE Elections to Select Vice President, Executive Council Members

Each autumn, ASLE members are invited to elect a new vice president and two new executive council members. The vice president serves one year as vice president, the subsequent year as president, and the year following as past president. Executive council members are selected for three year terms.

Your ballot is enclosed for the 2003 ASLE election. Please read the candidates' statements, make your selections, and send your ballot (inserted between pages 8 and 9) - **postmarked by December 1, 2003** - to Kathleen R. Wallace, ASLE Executive Secretary, 1351 Glenn Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.

Vice President

Ann Fisher-Wirth, *University of Mississippi*

ASLE has been dear to my heart since its inception. I've valued so many things about my involvement with the organization, which has profoundly shaped both my academic and creative interests. I enjoyed serving on the Executive Council for three years, and then editing the newsletter through four issues. This year, in Boston, I volunteered to be co-leader for the Diversity Caucus. Since the last of our five children is newly out of the house, I have reached a point in my life at which I can devote considerable time and energy to service. I am honored to run for ASLE Vice President and would love to work with Molly Westling on the 2005 conference in Oregon.

I'm originally from California, but I've lived in Virginia and Mississippi for the past twenty-two years. I teach environmental literature and a wide range of courses in poetry at the University of Mississippi. I have long been involved in various local and regional environmental activities--including getting arrested for blocking bulldozers that were taking down old trees in a particularly unnecessary five-laning project, as one of what the papers came to call The Oxford Nine. Two years ago, I co-hosted "Coming Nearer the Ground: An ASLE Symposium on the South," which addressed the South's terrific range of environmental problems, inseparable from its history of poverty and human abuse (and from its new prosperity), yet also made participants aware of the South's cultural richness and incredible beauty. I would like to broaden awareness of Southern environmental history, environmental justice issues, and environmental literature throughout ASLE, where I feel this crucially important region is still under-represented.

I'm also excited about the growing internationalism of ASLE, as seen in the lively discussion session in Boston. Last year, while on a Fulbright at Uppsala University, Sweden,

I had the opportunity to lecture widely on American environmental literature, and to confer with several ASLE members about creating a branch in continental Europe. I welcome all the growth, variety, and excitement that are so evident in the organization. The international exchange of knowledge, friendship, compassion, and ideas is more important than ever; this was borne forcefully home to me during my year in Sweden. I was honored to speak about ASLE, and about American environmental writing, to my European audiences, and I would love to see more international plenary speakers at the national conferences.

I have recent or forthcoming essays on a variety of environmental writers: Linda Hogan, Rick Bass, Mary Oliver, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Willa Cather, Kenneth Rexroth, Cormac McCarthy. Mostly, however, I write poetry, which is saturated with a sense of the body and of place. My book *Blue Window* is newly released. I'm at work on a manuscript called, for the moment, "Mississippi," and on a coedited anthology of Southern women environmental poets. Finally, I teach yoga (and would like to include yoga at the Oregon conference) and practice Reiki.

Thank you for considering me for ASLE Vice President.

Allison Wallace, *Honors College, University of Central Arkansas*

I am honored to be asked to run for Vice-President, with the understanding that this is tantamount to running for President in a conference year. I'm also a little nervous, as I know the superb work done by past presidents will be a tough act to follow. But I'm excited as well. ASLE has been the most important professional organization of my life, the place where I have found many kindred spirits and more than a few special friends. The prospect of re-joining the leadership of this fabulous group--after a much-needed break--is welcome indeed.

What can you expect of me as V.P. and then President? First, that I'll work with John Elder and the Executive Council to further shepherd the many great initiatives already underway--the bibliography, the mentoring program, the regional symposia, etc.--and to move forward discussions in progress about new enterprises, such as the hiring of an Executive Director.

Second, as President I will be thrilled to assist Molly Westling in organizing a splendid conference at the University of Oregon-Eugene. I have spoken with Molly about her vision for that meeting, to make sure that she and I share some key goals--and happily, we do. Like Molly, I would like to see ASLE turn significant attention to an often overlooked aspect of social diversity, that of class. Greater attention to class will, it seems to me, sharpen our understanding of language's role in the human experience of nature: if experience is necessarily mediated by language, and if language always bears the marks of socio-cultural contexts, then it follows that class, and the language of one's class, will deeply influence attitudes toward and experiences within nature, as well as the terms according to which Americans debate environmental issues. Should I be at the helm when we re-convene in 2005, then, you can expect to hear from several prominent writers and activists on behalf of both working landscapes (commercial forests, fisheries, farms, and mines) and landscapes typically embraced by the professional class (urban parks, wilderness preserves, and the like). Expect also to hear from several speakers representing those, such as Latinos and First-Nation peoples, who significantly diversify contemporary Western demographics and who--like everyone--work and play in, and draw their livings from, the land.

About me: Born in a mill town near New Orleans, I received my Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, where I wrote on ecocentric metaphors in American nature writing. I spent nine years on the faculty of Unity College of Maine, a small school specializing in environmental programs, where I taught interdisciplinary courses in environmental literature, conservation history, and ecological philosophy. Since 2001 I have taught American Studies seminars in the Honors College of the University of Central Arkansas. Recently I spent five months in Okinawa, Japan, as a Fulbright scholar. While there I strengthened relationships with several members of ASLE-Japan; I also traveled to Australia, participating in discussions concerning a new ASLE chapter there. I have been a member of ASLE-US almost from the start, serving for six years as your first official Secretary-Treasurer. And I directed one of the first regional symposia, held in Unity, Maine, in June 2000, on food and farming in American life and letters.

Mary Austin, Rachel Carson, Donald Culross Peattie, David Quammen, and Wendell Berry, among others, have been the subjects of my articles; I also write essays on food history, among other agrarian topics. An avid paddler, hiker, gardener, and beekeeper, I'm currently completing a book of creative nonfiction on honeybees, to be published by Random House in 2005.

Executive Council

Vernonia R. Alston, *Middlebury College*

I am a Northeast Consortium Scholar in Residence at Middlebury College and a Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Cultural and Literary Studies at the University of Arizona. In addition, I hold a J.D. from Boston University and did practice law in New York City before returning to the academy. My teaching and research interests include: the treatment of globalization and environmental justice issues in literature and film; Caribbean literature and culture; critical tourism studies; and the relationship between issues of social justice and environmental justice. Trained as an anthropologist as well as a literary scholar and an attorney, I have undertaken studies of the impact of "ecotourism" on a small village in southern Belize. A copy of the course syllabus for "Globalization and Environmental Justice in Literature and Film" can be accessed at <http://segue.middlebury.edu/sites/es290a-f03>. By bringing together the study of globalization and environmental justice, we come to an understanding of how the global exists in local environments.

As a member of ASLE, I have advocated greater attention to the relationship between the global and the local (or glocal) in literary and cultural studies of people's connections to the environment. I would like to see an ASLE more diverse, not only in terms of its representation of ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, but also in terms of socio-economic class and geographical positionality. I am interested in forming relationships with grassroots community organizations that work on behalf of women's and children's health in urban environment, workplace environment issues, and of course, on the impact of globalizing strategies on communities in developing countries. As an interdisciplinary scholar of literature and anthropology, and a legal advocate, I will continue to urge greater outreach to scholars and activists in other disciplines. Interdisciplinarity permits the cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches, which will insure the continued vitality of ASLE as an organization of innovative, imaginative and

vibrant scholar/activists. In closing I paraphrase the late June Jordan: In building healthy human environments, we must attend to the effect of everywhere on anyplace.

Wes Berry, *Rockford College*

When I attended my first ASLE function—the 1996 symposium on Japanese and American writing—I found my scholarly home. The work of ASLE members has shaped my vocation, through the printed word, mentoring, and friendships. I'm proud of the work we do and excited about our continued development.

I teach at a liberal arts college in the Midwest. My courses include eco-composition and World, British, and American literature with environmental texts. My current writing projects include an ecocritical work, "Landscapes of Healing in Recent American Literature," and a novel set in the rural Kentucky of my upbringing. This summer I spoke on "Food Toxicity in Recent American Writing" at the ASLE-Korea conference in Seoul. The primary focus of my writing and teaching is in environmental justice and agriculture—topics I gravitated towards after working for several years in a toxic factory and from days spent in tobacco patches and on cattle farms.

Having attended seven ASLE conferences/symposia and served as a Graduate Liaison from 1998-2000, I've observed how we've expanded our work to an increasing number of green issues, landscapes, and communities. It's an exciting development. I want ASLE to build on the excellent work of the Boston conference, distinguished by its attention to urban ecology and local environmental justice movements, and typified by the field trip to Dudley Street, a community working to reclaim environmental and economic health after years of degradation. I'd also like to invite more speakers like Sandra Steingraber, who gave a powerful talk in Boston about environment and cancer. Furthermore, I'm pleased to see an increasing international focus in ASLE—both in membership and in scholarship on environmental writing outside the U.S. and Britain—and want to promote partnerships between ASLE groups in different countries.

My vision is influenced by Wendell Berry's sustained attention to the value of intimate, local communities; by Gary Snyder's poetic merging of different cultural myths, such as Native American, Asian, and European; by the food politics of Francis Moore Lappe; and by environmental justice activism. I would be gratified if I could contribute to ASLE's vitality by promoting work in these areas.

Ellen Goldey, *Wofford College*

I'm thrilled to be nominated for ASLE Executive Council, and as a scientist I'm excited to pursue a more active role within a society that has embraced an interdisciplinary mission. I'm an ecologist/toxicologist by training, and I spent four years as a research scientist at the U.S. EPA before making the career move to Wofford College to pursue my love of teaching. For the past several years I've spearheaded an institutional initiative to integrate courses in the humanities and sciences. For example, John Lane (another ASLE member) and I integrate two freshman courses around the topic of water, and with our students we traverse the state from the mountains to the coast in our ecological, geological, toxicological, social, historical, and cultural study of South Carolina's waters. It's been remarkably rewarding, in large part because I'm learning to view the world through John's eyes, the eyes of a nature writer and poet, and our students gain a multidisciplinary perspective on their role as civically engaged stewards of our planet.

We cannot expect upcoming generations to integrate their knowledge unless we model the curiosity and respect needed to appreciate a 'habit of mind' different from our own. I've been struck by the many ASLE members who are also committed to this interdisciplinary view of the study of literature and the environment. The conflicts between "scientists and literary intellectuals" (C.P. Snow) are longstanding, but ASLE provides a forum to formulate new ideas based on a greater understanding of another's view. If elected to executive council, I would promote additional opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue as well as encourage more scientists to step out of their disciplinary "silo" and explore the benefits of ASLE participation and membership. At the next meeting I propose an interdisciplinary panel on the roles that sciences (and scientists) play in furthering ASLE's mission to "consider the human relationship with the natural world."

Kevin Hutchings, *University of Northern British Columbia*

I am honored and delighted to be nominated for a position on the ASLE Executive Council. As a Canadian citizen and a scholar of British literature, I would contribute an international perspective to council discussions, and my membership on the council would reflect ASLE's ongoing diversification from a society substantially devoted to American literary studies to one traversing a broader, more inclusive literary terrain. Moreover, having begun my professional career in 2000 (one year after I first joined ASLE), I would bring to the council the enthusiasm and dedication of a scholar who

remains close to his graduate student roots and who is grateful for the many benefits deriving from ASLE membership.

Currently, I work as an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Northern British Columbia, where I teach courses on such topics as Literary Theory, Green Romanticism, and the Rhetoric of Environmentalism. My recent publications include *Imagining Nature: Blake's Environmental Poetics* (McGill-Queen's UP, 2002), *Birds of a Salmon River* (Harbour Press, forthcoming), and essays in *ISLE*, *Genre*, *Romantic Praxis*, *The Wordsworth Circle*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, and *European Romantic Review*. As an environmentalist, I am a supporting member of the World Wildlife Fund, the Canadian Nature Federation, and the Canadian Arctic Resources Commission, and I am fortunate to live and work in a beautiful mountain setting on the western edge of the Rockies (where I hope to bring an ASLE symposium in the not-too-distant future).

If elected to the Executive Council, I will work hard to support ASLE's remarkable strengths, which include the provision of a diverse forum for the dissemination of innovative research and creative writing; the ongoing enhancement of ecocriticism among ASLE members and in the larger academic community; strong support of graduate student research and professionalization; and the maintenance of ASLE's highly collegial atmosphere, which is nurtured in part by a culture of open communication between ASLE members and their elected representatives on the executive council.

John Knott, *University of Michigan*

I'm a professor of English at the University of Michigan and someone whose interests have shifted from English Renaissance literature to literature and the environment, the area in which I now do most of my teaching and writing. I recently published a book on wildness and wilderness (*Imagining Wild America*, 2002) and edited two collections (*The Huron River: Voices from the Watershed*, 2000, and *Reimagining Place*, 2001). Over the last few years I helped to organize, and then directed, Michigan's new Program in the Environment.

I've been impressed by the vitality, the communal spirit, and the inclusiveness of ASLE and would welcome the chance to do what I can to help the organization grow and develop. I'd like to see ASLE continue to reach out internationally, to embrace new directions in ecocriticism, and to encourage the participation of writers, biologists, and others not involved in the formal study of literature and composition. The rich mix of speakers and participants at the Boston conference is one indication of what makes ASLE attractive. I hope that ASLE

can preserve the qualities that make it unique, including a receptiveness to diversity of all kinds and a determination to make field trips an important part of conferences. At the same time, I'd like to see ASLE do more to get the word out to those starting or well along in teaching careers who are unaware of the organization, particularly at institutions where it does not have a presence now.

Bonney MacDonald, *Union College*

I am happy to be considered for a position on the Executive Council for ASLE. It's an organization from which I have gained a great deal, and I would like to give a little something back.

In my professional life, I teach courses in 19th and 20th century American literatures, as well as courses in Nature and Environmental Writing and Western American Writing, in the English Department at Union College. My publication focus has ranged from Henry James and Italian landscape writing to such writers as Hamlin Garland, Wallace Stegner, William Kittredge and Gretel Ehrlich. I'm currently working on a project on the Bonneville Salt Flats as well as on Western frontier and place history. In my non-professional life, I find that my involvements in the natural world grow each year as I walk, saunter, plant and build on the land I've adopted as home out in upstate New York's dairy country. I actually conduct a number of class meetings for my Nature Writing classes out at the house where the students wander the trails and canoe in the pond before beginning their outdoor writing assignments.

As many of you know, ASLE is an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association; for the past eight years, I have been the ASLE Liaison to the MLA, organizing our two sessions at each year's MLA Convention. In 1997, I also directed an American Literature Association symposium on Nature and Environmental Writing in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

If elected to the Executive Council, I would hope to help ASLE continue with the kind of exposure – such as MLA and the American Literature Association – where non-ASLE members can have access to papers and conversation about the topics we all hold dear. I would also support the smaller, off-year symposia, as these provide opportunities to discuss specialized topics in depth and also allow ASLE folks to get together in those off years. ASLE provides and is a group of scholars, writers and environmentalists that offers a welcome base of support and friendship; I'm glad to be a part of it and would value the chance to participate in the shaping of future plans.

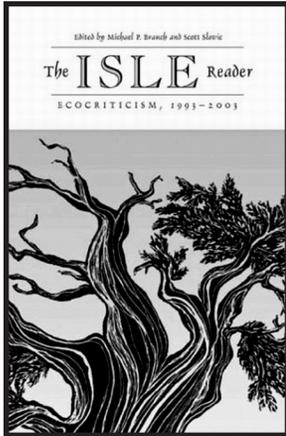
ASLE Bookshelf

The following books were published by ASLE members in 2002 or 2003. If we've missed your recent publication, please send the bibliographic information to armbruka@webster.edu with "ASLE Bookshelf" in the subject line.

Bartlett, Brian. *The Afterlife of Trees*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2002.

----. *Wanting the Day: Selected Poems*. Fredericton, NB: Goose Lane Editions, 2003; Cornwall, England: Peterloo Poets, 2003.

Branch, Michael P., and Scott Slovic, eds. *The ISLE Reader: Ecocriticism, 1993-2003*. Foreword by Patrick D. Murphy. Athens and London: U of Georgia P, 2003.



Branch, Michael P., ed. *Reading the Roots: American Nature Writing before Walden*. Athens and London: U of Georgia P, 2003.

Buell, Frederick. *From Apocalypse to Way of Life: Environmental Crisis in the American Century*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Crimmel, Hal, ed. and intro. *Teaching in the Field: Working with Students in the Outdoor Classroom*.

Salt Lake City: U of Utah P, 2003. Essays by Robert E. Burkholder, Charles Mitchell, R. Edward Grumbine, Alan Brew, Brent Cuthbertson, Janet Dymont, Lesley P. Curthoys, Tom G. Potter, and Tim O'Connell, Kate Chandler, Laird Christensen, Terry Gifford, Liz Newbery and Bob Henderson, Fred Taylor, Andrew Wingfield, Corey Lee Lewis, Allison Wallace, Britain A. Scott and Steven M. Hoffman, Barney Nelson, and John Tallmadge.

Fisher-Wirth, Ann. *Blue Window* (poems). Santa Monica, CA: Archer Books, 2003.

----. *The Trinket Poems*. Lexington, KY: Wind, 2003.

Freedman, Diane P., and Martha Stoddard Holmes, eds. *The Teacher's Body: Embodiment, Authority, and Identity in the Academy*. Albany, NY: SUNY P, 2003.

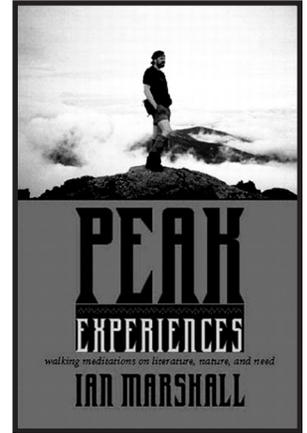
Gifford, Terry. *The Joy Of Climbing*. Caithness, UK: Whittles Publishing, 2003.

----. *The Unreliable Mushrooms: New And Selected Poems*. Bradford, UK: Redbeck Press, 2003.

Grossman, Elizabeth. *Adventuring Along the Lewis & Clark Trail*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2003.

----. *Watershed - The Undamming of America*. New York: Counterpoint, 2002.

Marshall, Ian. *Peak Experiences: Walking Meditations on Literature, Nature, and Need*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2003.



Marx, Steven. *Cal Poly Land: A Field Guide*. San Luis Obispo, CA: Cal Poly Foundation, 2003.

Monaghan, Patricia. *Dancing with Chaos* (poems). Knockeven, Ireland: Salmon Poetry/Dufour Editions, 2002.

----. *The Red-Haired Girl from the Bog: The Landscape of Celtic Myth and Spirit*. Novato, CA: New World Library, 2003.

Oates, David. *Paradise Wild: Reimagining American Nature*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State UP, 2003.

Paton, Priscilla. *Abandoned New England: Landscape in the Works of Homer, Frost, Hopper, Wyeth, and Bishop*. Hanover, NH: UP of New England, 2003.

Schauffler, F. Marina. *Turning to Earth: Stories of Ecological Conversion*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2003.

Sweet, Timothy. *American Georgics: Economy and Environment in Early American Literature*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2002.

Sylvia Mayer, ed. *Restoring the Connection to the Natural World: Essays on the African American Environmental Imagination*. Muenster/Berlin: LIT, 2003.

Tamez, Margo. *Naked Wanting*. Tucson: U of Arizona P, 2003.

Walls, Laura Dassow. *Emerson's Life in Science: The Culture of Truth*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2003.

Please note that more detailed information on these conferences and calls for papers is available on the ASLE web site at <http://www.asle.umn.edu>. Also consult the web site for listings submitted after *ASLE News* went to press. 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 or (208) 459-5894.

Conference of Interest

November 23-26, 2003. *Mountains as Water Towers*. Hosted by Mountain Culture at The Banff Centre. Web site: www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture.

Call for Ideas and Proposals

December 1, 2003. *MLA Volume on Teaching North American Environmental Literature*. Editor Fred Waage solicits ideas and contributions for this volume in the MLA's Options for Teaching series. Contact him at waage@mail.etsu.edu or Department of English, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN, 37614. Web site: <http://www.etsu.edu/writing/tnael/>.

Calls for Papers

November 1, 2003. *Cormac McCarthy*. Papers sought for the Cormac McCarthy sessions at the 25th annual meeting of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association in San Antonio, Texas, to be held April 7-10, 2004. Contact Marc Barrington Marc Barrington, Area Chair, at 808 Douglas Mac Arthur Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107; e-mail: marcbarrington@hotmail.com; Phone: 505-341-0597. Web site: www.swtexaspca.org or www2.h-net.msu.edu/~swpca/.

November 1, 2003. *Inhabiting the Body/Inhabiting the World: An Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference*. From March 19-20, 2004, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Contact Mary Floyd-Wilson (email: floydwil@email.unc.edu) or Garrett Sullivan (email: gas11@psu.edu). Web site: <http://english.unc.edu/conferences/bodyworld/>.

November 1, 2003. *Fourteenth North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community*. Organized and sponsored by Empire State College, SUNY, this conference will occur February 19 – 21, 2004, in Saratoga Springs, NY. Contact Wayne Ouderkirk or Elaine Handley at Empire State College, 28 Union Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; phone: 518-255-5320 or 518-587-2100 x386; e-mail:

Environ.Conference@esc.edu; Website: www.esc.edu/EnvironConf.

November 1, 2003. *The Role of Nature and the Environment in Film and Television Representations of the American West(s): An Anthology*. Editor solicits completed papers. Contact Deborah Carmichael at debcarm6569@aol.com (Department of English, Oklahoma State University, 205 Morrill Hall, Stillwater, OK, 74078) or Dawn Marano at dmarano@upress.utah.edu.

November 15, 2003. *Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment*. Organizers seek abstracts/proposals for presentations and panels at the 25th Annual Conference of the Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Associations to be held in San Antonio, TX, from April 7-10, 2004. Contact Philip Heldrich at Department of English, Box 4019, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, 66801-5087; e-mail: pheldrich@emporia.edu; phone: 620-341-5216. Website: <http://www.swtexaspca.org>.

January 15, 2004. *Living Waters*. Nature and Environmental Writers-College and University Educators (NEW-CUE) invites submissions for possible presentation at the Third Annual Writers Conference and Workshop in honor of Rachel Carson, to be held June 15-18, 2004, at the Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, ME. Contact Barbara Ward Klein c/o St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY 10976; e-mail: info@new-cue.org; phone: 845-398-4247. Website: <http://www.new-cue.org>.

February 1, 2004. *Alexander von Humboldt: From the Americas to the Cosmos*. Held October 14-16, 2004, at The Graduate Center at City University of New York. The Humboldt 2004 Bicentennial: An Interdisciplinary Conference will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt's journey to Central and South America and the United States. Contact the Humboldt Conference Program Committee c/o Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, The Graduate Center/CUNY, 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5209, New York, NY, 10016-4309; e-mail bildner@gc.cuny.edu. Website: <http://www.humboldtconference.org>.

Calls for Manuscripts

n.d. *Travel Writing and Environmentalism*. In 2004, the international refereed journal *Studies in Travel Writing* will devote a special issue to travel writing and environmentalism. Contact Richard Kerridge, Bath Spa University College, Newton Park, Bath BA2 9BN, England; email: r.kerridge@bathspa.ac.uk. Journal web site: <http://human.ntu.ac.uk/stw/>.

Ongoing. *Art and the Natural Environment*. The editor of the feature section of the journal *Organization and Environment* solicits creative work. Contact Patrick D. Murphy, Chair, Department of English, University of Central Florida, PO Box 161346, Orlando, FL, 32816-1346; e-mail: pmurphy@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

Ongoing. *Undergraduate Environmental Writing and Art*. Allegheny College announces a new online journal, *French Creek: The Journal of Undergraduate Environmental Writing and Art*, which accepts submissions from undergraduate students nationwide. Contact Kerry Bakken, Director

of the Environmental Writing Program and Asst. Prof. of English, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, 16335; e-mail: kbakken@allegheny.edu. Website: <http://frenchcreekjournal.allegheny.edu/>.

December 1, 2003. *Walter Inglis Anderson*. The editors of *Interdisciplinary Humanities* are accepting scholarly essays and creative work on the Mississippi artist, Walter Inglis Anderson. Contact Lisa Graley or Lydia Rice, *Interdisciplinary Humanities*, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, P.O. Drawer 44691, Lafayette, LA, 70504-4691; e-mail: lrgraley9802@louisiana.edu or lydia@louisiana.edu.

December 1, 2003. *Victorian Taxonomies*. *Victorian Literature and Culture* is seeking articles for an upcoming special issue called "Victorian Taxonomies." Contact Allison Pease, Department of English, John Jay College, CUNY, 445 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019; e-mail apeace@jjay.cuny.edu or mjerinic@yahoo.com.

see CALLS FOR MANUSCRIPTS on page 14

Nature and Culture in the Northern Forest: An ASLE Symposium

June 4-6, 2004

The Highland Center, Crawford Notch, White Mountains, NH

The 2004 Symposium on Nature and Culture in the Northern Forest invites proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtables, and readings for an interdisciplinary forum on Northern Forest issues. The symposium, cooperatively sponsored by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and a number of regional non-profit organizations, seeks to implement an interdisciplinary approach to Northern Forest Studies and foster dialogue among scholars, educators, forestry and recreation professionals, artists, writers, activists and non-profit organizations from the Northern Forest region.

We will define the region as broadly as possible, geographically,

ecologically, and culturally, in order to most effectively explore the layering of cultural and natural history in this often contested terrain. The location of the symposium, at the top of a mountain notch in the heart of the White Mountains, provides an ideal setting for topics that involve work in the field. Proposals that involve some fieldwork are therefore invited. Proposals for entire panels or roundtables are encouraged.

The symposium invites proposals on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- * Settlement History
- * Early Exploration of Northern New England and the Canadian Maritimes
- * Preservation vs. Conservation
- * Tourism

- * Regionalism
- * Teaching Regional Issues
- * Native American History and Culture
- * The Northern Forest Economy
- * Literature and Art of the Northeastern U.S. and Southeastern Canada
- * Representations of the Northern Forest
- * Sustainability and Wise-Use
- * Forestry Practices and Forestry Products
- * Wilderness vs. Wildness

Send inquiries and one-page proposals by **December 19, 2003** (email preferred; no attachments please) to pavel@ncia.net or Pavel Cenkl, Department of English, MSC #40, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH, 03264-1595

ASLE Directory and Membership Records Correction Form

If you have moved in the past year (and not informed us), or if your listing in the 2003 ASLE Directory is incorrect (and you have not informed us), please provide all information requested below. Please indicate if you do not want your information to appear in the directory by checking the option at the bottom of the form.

Name: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Office Phone: _____

Office Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Academic Affiliation: _____

Areas of Interest: _____

Please omit this information from the directory; it is for ASLE records only.

Please return this form ASAP to:

Annie Merrill Ingram
Secretary-Treasurer, ASLE
Box 7056
Davidson College
Davidson, NC, 28035-7056
E-Mail: aningram@davidson.edu
Fax: 704-894-2720

To ensure your up-to-date listing in the 2004 Directory, please make sure that your corrections reach us no later than **November 15, 2003**. Many, many thanks!

New ASLE-MLA Liaison Sought

We're looking for someone to serve as ASLE's Modern Language Association liaison. Responsibilities include updating ASLE info as needed for the MLA files and organizing two ASLE sessions for the MLA conference. That means selecting topics and soliciting and selecting papers. If you're interested, please contact Ian Marshall at ism2@psu.edu. And we offer many thanks to Bonney Macdonald, who has served as our MLA liaison since the position's inception several years ago.

CALLS FOR MANUSCRIPTS continued from page 13

December 15, 2003. *Ethics of Seeing: Consuming Environments*. Editors invite submissions for a special issue of *Ethics and the Environment*. Contact Christine Harold, Department of Speech Communication, The University of Georgia, 234 Terrell Hall, Athens, GA, 30602; email: charold@uga.edu; phone: 814-542-3259.

January 5, 2004. *Teaching Peace. Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* invites submissions for a special issue on teaching peace in a variety of contexts. Contact Jacqueline Ellis and Edvige Giunta, *Transformations*, Women's and Gender Studies, New Jersey City University, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ, 07305; email: transformations@njcu.edu.

January 15, 2004. *Exploration and Adventure in the 19th-Century American West*. ATQ announces a special issue for 2004 on exploration and adventure in the nineteenth-century American West. Contact Dr. Peter L. Bayers, Department of English, Independence Hall, 60 Upper College Road, Suite 2, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, 02881.

April 1, 2004. *Plains, Deserts, Canyons, Mountains: Women Write About the Southwest*. The Story Circle Network solicits memoirs, creative non-fiction, essays, and poetry that celebrate women's experiences in the natural world of the Southwest, broadly defined. Website: <http://www.storycircle.org/WomenWrite/>.

April 30, 2004. *The Frontiers of Environmental History*. For this special issue of *Historical Social Research*, editor Frank Uekoetter of Bielefeld University, Germany, seeks submissions that broaden the field of environmental history beyond its current topical canon. Contact Frank Uekoetter via email at: frank.uekoetter@web.de.

February 1, 2004. *Nature, Nurture, and Fathering: The Cultural Ecology of Raising Daughters*. For this edited book project, the editor seeks proposals by men and women addressing the cultural ecology of fathers raising daughters in and out of married relationships. Contact Patrick D. Murphy, Chair, Department of English, University of Central Florida, PO Box 161346, Orlando, FL, 32816-1346; email: pmurphy@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

Interested in literature and the environment? Join ASLE!

ASLE members receive:

- Two issues per year of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*, the field's foremost journal of academic criticism and creative writing
- Two issues per year of *ASLE News*, the newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment
- Access to collegial conversations and networking on the ASLE-sponsored listservs
- Mentoring for graduate students
- Lots of opportunities to meet new colleagues and friends in fun, creative, and engaging conferences and symposia

If you'd like to become an ASLE member, please provide the following information. (It will be published in the annual ASLE membership directory. If you prefer that your contact information not be published, please check this box.)

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Preferred mailing address _____

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Work phone _____

Fax number _____

Email address _____

Research/writing interests _____

Regular Membership—\$40 (\$20 students)

Gift Membership—\$40

Couples Membership—\$50*

Sustaining Membership—\$75**

Patron Membership—Above \$75**

Donor Membership—**

Institutional Membership—\$40 (\$100 for three years)

International members, please add \$10 USD to the appropriate category.

Total Enclosed _____

* Couples: Please send contact information for both people.

** Names of sustaining, patron, and donor members will be published in *ASLE News* unless anonymity is requested.

Please make checks payable to ASLE. All checks must be in U.S. dollars, drawn on U.S. banks. International members may pay by Visa or MasterCard. Send this form, along with your check or credit card information (type of card, card number and expiration date), to:

Annie Ingram, ASLE Treasurer, Department of English, Davidson College, Davidson, NC, 28036



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With your support, ASLE publishes a biannual journal, ISLE, a newsletter, sponsors regular symposia, and hosts a conference every other year.

All this work is accomplished through members who volunteer their time.

Your contributions, though, support ASLE's operating costs. If you consider the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment to be one of your primary intellectual and creative homes, please consider joining your friends and colleagues by giving an additional gift.