



ASLE News

VOL. 16, NO. 2 ❁ FALL 2004

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ASLE Leadership Holds Retreat, Approves Managing Director Position, and Moves Forward with 2005 Conference Plans

In Linnaeus's day it was common to refer to "the floral calendar," as the turning year was accompanied by its seasonal succession of wildflowers. Here in New England, the end of August always means the blossoming of goldenrod, Joe-Pye weed, and chicory along our highways, of orange and yellow jewelweed in the wet ground and at the woods' edge. At this vivid time the days remain generally warm but the crickets' swelling chorus reminds everyone that summer really is drawing to a close. Whatever the signs of the season may be in the diverse landscapes where ASLE members live and work around the world, this is also often the cusp of a new academic year. Between the writing of this column and the actual publication of this *Newsletter* through Karla Armbruster's creative efforts, fall classes will have begun for many of us. We will be experiencing the excitement that comes with the arrival of students, the renewal of conversation among colleagues, and the opportunity to approach our classes in fresh ways.

The life of ASLE has its own calendar and rhythm—complementary to the structure of the academic year. In my previous column I reported on the unprecedented range of gatherings planned for the summer of 2004. Although we will continue to hold our general conference on a biennial basis, it's clearly no longer appropriate to describe the intervening summers as "off-years" for ASLE! I'd like once more to thank Pavel Cenkl, Joni Adamson, and Hugh Dunkerley for their leadership in organizing highly ambitious and successful conferences this year. Beyond those three get-togethers, there have been a number of other noteworthy events in recent months—from a river trip by one cohort of ASLE members to a conference in Germany by scholars active in



During the ASLE officers' retreat in May, current president John Elder symbolically passes the leadership of ASLE to Allison Wallace, who will take over as ASLE's president in 2005.

various European affiliates. There's clearly an appetite for the conversations that enhance our research and help us to maintain a larger perspective on our local institutions.

The burgeoning of our organization, while exhilarating, is also challenging on a logistical level. We already have well over 900 members, with an ever-increasing number of them in our international affiliates. In order to serve such a community well, and to support the flourishing of conferences and other initiatives, we need to bring additional resources into the administration of ASLE. This past May a retreat of the officers and Executive Council was held in Ripton, Vermont, in order to consider just such matters. In addition

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CFP for ASLE's Sixth Biennial Conference available on page 11.



The McKenzie River, which runs alongside the campus of the University of Oregon in Eugene, will be the site of ASLE's Sixth Biennial Conference in June, 2005. Photo by Louise Westling.

ASLE Officers

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Middlebury College

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Honors College,
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Keene State College, 2004

Adam Sweeting

Boston University, 2005

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Keene State College

Graduate Student Liaisons

Amy Patrick
University of Minnesota

Executive Council

(date indicates year term expires)

Pamela Banting
University of Calgary, 2005

Wes Berry
Rockford College, 2006

Laird Christensen
Green Mountain College, 2004

Ellen Goldey
Wofford College, 2006

Sarah McFarland
University of Oregon

Project/Professional Liaison Coordinator
Rochelle Johnson
Albertson College of Idaho

Professional Organization Liaisons

American Literature Association
Rochelle Johnson

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

Conference on College Composition and Communication (4Cs)
Kaye Adkins

Modern Language Association
Barbara Cook

Midwest MLA (M/MMLA)
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

ASLE Affiliates

ASLE-UK • ASLE-Korea • ASLE-ANZ
ASLE-Japan • ASLE-EASLCE

ASLE News Ad Policy and Rates

ASLE News accepts advertisements of interest to our members at rates of \$200 for a full page, \$150 for a half page, \$100 for a quarter page, and \$75 for an eighth of a page. Contact Karla Armbruster, armbruka@webster.edu, with inquiries.

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tion to hiking and cooking together (with culinary inspiration from the talented Mark Long), we explored how ASLE could best fulfill our mission at this dynamic time in our development. One important decision we reached was that our organization needs to hire a Managing Director, and that, at least on a part-time basis, we can afford to do so.

I sent a mailing to the ASLE membership in June announcing this new, half-time job and inviting applicants. The Managing Director's position was also advertised on line. As I write, a committee consisting of Adam Sweeting, Annie Ingram, and myself is reviewing a truly spectacular group of applications. It will certainly be difficult, given the talents and achievements of candidates in this group, to narrow it down to a smaller list of finalists. But we will try to do so soon, and then to interview those individuals in conference calls. We hope to have ASLE's first Managing Director appointed by early in September (See announcement on p. 4). One of the Director's main jobs will be to take over all of the financial management and record-keeping that have been so superbly handled by our retiring Secretary-Treasurer Annie Ingram. Another of them will be to work closely with the Executive Council and our other officers in the areas of planning, development, and publications.

The Council also discussed the exciting proliferation of international affiliates within the larger ASLE community. In addition to well established groups in such places as Japan, Australia and New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, a number of extraordinarily vital chapters have recently arisen in other countries of Asia and Europe, particularly. Scott Slovic and Molly Westling have both been instrumental in communicating with and visiting new ASLE groups. Wes Berry of the Executive Council has generously volunteered to survey these emerging groups outside of the United States and Canada and to make recommendations about how we may better support and coordinate with such affiliates. Members of the Council agreed that we would like to offer at least some modest financial support to designated representatives from the international affiliates who want to attend the 2005 conference in Eugene. (This commitment would be in *addition* to the level of support we have recently managed to find for graduate students wanting to attend the biennial conferences.) You'll be hearing more about this possibility of travel subsidies from the conference organizers in coming months.

Finally, just a word about Eugene in 2005. Allison Wallace, who'll be President of ASLE then, and Molly Westling, our principal liaison with the University of Oregon for this event, have gotten off to a remarkable start in their planning for the conference. The theme is "Being in the World, Living with the Land," and an emphasis will be on the literature, cultures, ecology, and working landscapes of the Northwest. With more speakers yet to be named, the following writers have already agreed to participate: Ursula K. Le Guin, Karl Kroeber, Jane Hirshfield, David Suzuki, Ana Castillo, Robin Morris Collin, Jim Dodge, Elizabeth Woody, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Kathleen Dean Moore, John Daniel, Alan Weisman, Robert Michael Pyle, and Gary Snyder. What a feast this program promises to be! Allison Wallace has also recently sent out a Call for Proposals that specifies some topics especially pertinent to this conference (see p. 11). We hope that many members of ASLE will propose papers and/or panels for Eugene.

This is my final column as President. I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who have made the past year of service in this position such a rewarding one for me and who continue to offer ASLE your leadership and support. Among our central purposes as an organization are fostering an energetic, sophisticated dialogue among scholars; transforming literary education through ecological awareness and a heightened concern for environmental justice; and cultivating an enjoyable and mutually supportive community. In all these regards, thanks to your creativity and enthusiasm, we have made a promising beginning. Now to see what the new season will bring. 🌲

—John Elder, President

Call for Conference Site Proposals

If you are interested in having your college or university considered as a possible site for the 2007 ASLE conference, please submit a proposal to ASLE president John Elder (elder@middlebury.edu) by **December 1, 2004**. The officers hope to review proposals and make a decision before the 2005 meeting in Eugene. Proposals for the 2009 conference are also being considered. A set of guidelines for preparing a conference proposal (PDF file) may be downloaded from the ASLE web site at <http://www.asle.umn.edu/> (go to the item titled "Conference Proposal Deadline Issued").

ASLE Hires Amy McIntyre as Managing Director

Amy McIntyre will soon begin her duties as ASLE's first Managing Director, a part-time paid staff position managing the day-to-day as well as the long-term business of the organization. Amy comes to us from the Community Scholarship Consortium, where she has served as the Administrative Manager for two institutes housed at Franklin Pierce College (Rindge, NH): the Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture and the New England Center for Civic Life. Amy played a key role in the ASLE 2003 conference in Boston through her work with the Monadnock Institute, which sponsored a roundtable session and the field trip to Mt. Monadnock. She has additional experience from previous positions as Assistant Director and Business Manager of the Children's Museum of

Portsmouth. Amy brings to the job of Managing Director a wealth of skills in non-profit administration, including database management, budget tracking and oversight, grant writing assistance, website maintenance, publication design and editing (including an award from the New England Museum Association), and event planning.

The process of hiring ASLE's first Managing Director began in June with a direct mailing to ASLE members announcing the position. The search committee (John Elder, Adam Sweeting, and I) received twenty applications and conducted lengthy conference-call interviews with five finalists. We are grateful to everyone who applied: realizing the range of talent and the depth of dedication to ASLE represented by the applicants made our

job of choosing only one person very difficult, but also very rewarding.

As Managing Director, Amy will assume the current financial and membership responsibilities of the secretary-treasurer along with the additional responsibilities of planning ASLE's long-term financial stability, promoting our interests, and fostering the ongoing development of the organization. The transition to Amy will begin in mid-October, when we move ASLE records from North Carolina to New Hampshire and from my e-mail address to hers. It's been my great pleasure to serve as ASLE's secretary-treasurer for the past four years and to have gotten to know so many of you along the way. 🌲

—Annie Ingram,
Secretary-Treasurer



ASLE officers at the May leadership retreat, which took place at the Breadloaf Campus of Middlebury College in Ripton, VT. Photo by Karla Armbruster.

ASLE Bylaws Revised

Over the summer, the Executive Council amended the ASLE Bylaws to account for the possibility of election ties, the new position of Managing Director, and the transfer of the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer to the Managing Director. The revised bylaws can be viewed at:

<http://www.asle.umn.edu/about/bylaws.html>.

Honorary Members Accept Invitation

In our last issue, we announced the creation of honorary memberships for prominent figures in the field of literature and environment.

We would like to recognize and thank those who have accepted our invitation to become honorary members thus far:

Homero and Betty Aridjis, Annette Kolodny, Glenn Love, Mary Oliver, Simon Ortiz, Gary Snyder, David Suzuki, E. O. Wilson, and Ann Zwinger.

The ASLE Mentoring Program at Work

Last year I put out a call for narratives from mentors and mentees describing their experiences in the ASLE Mentoring Program. Now is the time to share some of these stories. In this newsletter, Henrik Otterberg and Mike Branch's reflections offer an inspired example of the kind of exchange the Mentoring Program was designed to promote. Do be in touch if you would like to be added to the list of available mentors, or if you are interested in the opportunities of working with a faculty mentor.

*Mark C. Long, Coordinator, ASLE Mentoring Program
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Keene State College
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mlong@keene.edu*

As a doctoral student of Literature with a keen interest in the pastoral tradition and landscape description of pre-modern writers in the late 1990s, I attended a joint Nordic-Baltic symposium on literature and nature in Tampere, north of Helsinki, featuring a talk by one of the American founders of ASLE, Michael P. Branch. During the course of the Tampere symposium, Mike and I came to discuss Thoreau, on whom both he and I had done work in the near past. I inquired if he would be interested in reading some of my texts for comments and criticism, and he generously offered me his mentorship. Since then, Mike has been an invaluable support to me—as a friend, colleague, critic and editor. He has directed me toward ecocritical literature of relevance to my studies; he has introduced me to reviewing for American journals; and he has given valuable advice on conference papers and assisted my application to the recent ASLE biennial conference, held in Boston in 2003.

Mike has been instrumental in aiding me in my PhD work and future publication plans, offering wise writing strategies and stressing a proper focus on the immediate issues at hand. At a time when academics and faculties frequently fight over narrowly anthropocentric theoretical trends, young ecocritics may feel marginalized. In my experience, the ASLE mentorship program—to rephrase the traditional dichotomy—offers the green-leaning student an ideal nature-nurture relationship.

—Henrik Otterberg,
Department of Literature, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

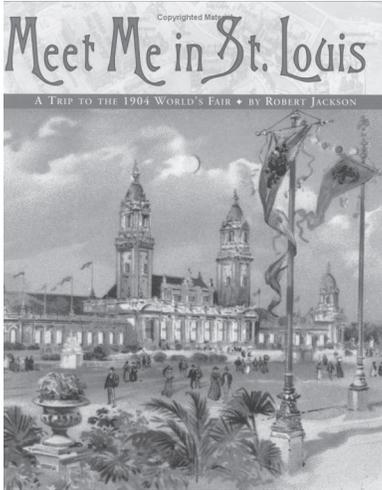
The main purpose of the ASLE mentoring program is and should be to nurture the work of graduate student scholars in our field—particularly those working within institutional settings that provide them little support or encouragement. However, the mentoring experience can also be very valuable for faculty scholars. Having mentored several students through the ASLE program, my own experience suggests that there is often as much in it for the mentor as for the student—that, indeed, it is not unusual for the student to become a kind of mentor to the faculty adviser. I have worked with students in environmental history and environmental ethics, thus freshening my own contact with these cognate fields, and often compelling me to rethink the disciplinary relationship among ecocritics and scholars of other (green) stripes. At the moment I have the privilege of mentoring Henrik Otterberg, a gifted student completing a doctoral degree in his native Sweden who maintains strong interests in American environmental literature. The idea, of course, is that I help advise Henrik's work in this area and, when possible, create professional opportunities for him. In practice, however, my association with Henrik has made me more aware of how environmental literary studies are practiced abroad and has also provided me a valuable understanding of how the American ecocritical enterprise is perceived by our colleagues around the world. In helping Henrik I have been helped by him, and I have found our correspondence (concerning matters ecocritical and otherwise) informative and refreshing.

The faculty end of the mentoring program works extremely well for faculty scholars who teach at institutions without graduate programs, and who therefore miss the opportunity to work with advanced graduate students. It works especially well for those who wish to advise in any area in which they actively research but do not have the opportunity to teach. Even for those of us who mentor graduate students as part of our daily work there is a special pleasure in working with students beyond the borders of the home institution—or, indeed, beyond the borders of the discipline or the nation. Mentoring is our opportunity to create the vital interdisciplinary, international, and intergenerational bonds that strengthen our community and our work.

—Michael P. Branch,
Department of English, University of Nevada Reno

ASLE Bookshelf

The following works were recently published by ASLE members. If we've missed your publication, please send the bibliographic information to Karla Armbruster at armbruka@webster.edu.



Agee, Chris. *First Light* (poems). Dublin: The Dedalus Press, 2003.

----, ed. *Unfinished Ireland: Essays on Hubert Butler*. Belfast: Irish Pages, 2003.

Allister, Mark, ed. *Eco-Man: New Perspectives on Masculinity and Nature*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2004.

Collom, Jack. *Extremes and Balances* (poems). Boulder, CO: Farfalla Press, 2004.

Cook, Barbara, ed. *From the Center of Tradition: Critical Perspectives on Linda Hogan*. Boulder: UP of Colorado, 2003.

Dobrin, Sidney I., and Kenneth Byron Kidd. *Wild Things: Children's Culture and Ecocriticism*. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2004.

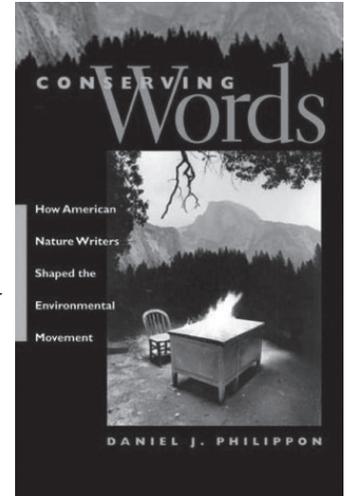
Goodrich, Charles. *Insects of South Corvallis* (poems). Corvallis, OR: Cloudbank Books, 2003.

----. *The Practice of Home: Biography of a House*. Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2004.

Herring, Scott. *Lines on the Land: Writers, Art, and the National Parks*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2004.

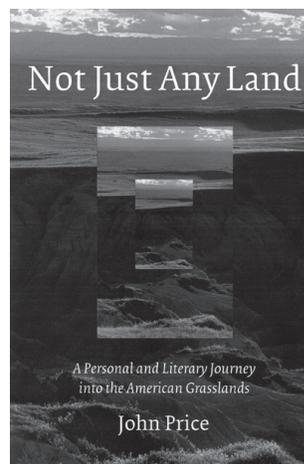
Hunt, Anthony. *Genesis, Structure, and Meaning in Gary Snyder's Mountains and Rivers Without End*. Reno: U of Nevada P, 2004.

De Ornellas, Kevin. "Fearful Wild Fowl: Misrepresenting Nature in Filmed Midsummer Night's Dreams," in Sarah Hatchuel and Nathalie Vienne-Guerrin, eds, *Shakespeare on Screen: A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Rouen: Publications de l'Université de Rouen, 2004): 129-46.



Jackson, Robert. *Meet Me in St. Louis: A Trip to the 1904 World's Fair*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Kayano, Yoshiko. *Peter Taylor's South: Crossing Boundaries in a Tennessee Caravan*. Tokyo: Hituzi Shobo Publishing, 2004.



Lamberton, Ken. *Chiricahua Mountains: Bridging the Borders of Wilderness*. Tucson: U of Arizona P, 2003.

Philippon, Daniel J. *Conserving Words: How American Nature Writers Shaped the Environmental Movement*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2004.

Price, John. *Not Just Any Land: A Personal and Literary Journey into the American Grasslands*. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 2004.

Schaefer, Heike. *Mary Austin's Regionalism: Reflections on Gender, Genre, and Geography*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2004.

ASLE-Korea Now Online

ASLE-Korea's new web site can be accessed at:

<http://www.aslekorea.org/>

Currently, the site is available only in Korean, but an English version is forthcoming.

2004 Election Statements from Candidates for Executive Council

Each autumn, ASLE members are invited to elect a new vice president and two new executive council members. However, due to the tie for vice president in last year's election, our vice president for 2004 has already been selected: Ann Fisher-Wirth, University of Mississippi. 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.

Please read the statements from our candidates for executive council below, make your selections, and send your ballot - post-marked by December 1, 2003 - to Kathleen R. Wallace, ASLE Executive Secretary, 1351 Glenn Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43212.

Your ballot for the 2003 ASLE election is enclosed.

Mark Allister, St. Olaf College

Our discipline and organization face a challenge that much of academe does not: we often judge our work by how it engages, or even changes, our students, schools, or neighborhoods. On the whole, we do well, and I'd like to see ASLE continue generally in the direction it has gone.

But any group, ASLE included, needs to be open to criticism, needs to confront new ideas without defensiveness. Even healthy ecosystems are continually adapting. We must change, not because we're doing something wrong, but so that we'll continue to learn and think and teach and write productively.

I've been Director of Writing, a department chair, or a program director for years here at St. Olaf College, and I'm good at helping people who have a big idea: I can do the details. (I'm a gardener, after all.) I'd like to help the organization -- all of you -- with the big and small ideas. I have taught environmental literature and environmental studies since 1992. I am the author of *Refiguring the Map of Sorrow: Nature Writing and Autobiography* (2001, U of Virginia P) and the editor of a recent anthology of essays, *Eco-Man: New Perspectives on Masculinity and Nature* (2004, U of Virginia P).

Vermonja R. Alston, Middlebury College

I am a Northeast Consortium Scholar in Residence at Middlebury College and a PhD Candidate in Comparative Cultural and Literary Studies at the University of Arizona. In addition, I hold a JD from Boston University and practiced law before returning to the academy. My teaching and

research interests include: 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. Also trained as an anthropologist, I have studied the impact of "ecotourism" on a small village in southern Belize. I teach a course on "Globalization and Environmental Justice in Literature and Film" predicated on the idea that, 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.

see **ELECTION STATEMENTS** on page 8

ELECTION STATEMENTS continued from page 7

Brian Bartlett, Saint Mary's University, Halifax

One reason I'd be happy to serve on the ASLE Executive Council is the chance to give something in return to an organization that has given me so much – the lively voices on the on-line discussion list, the unforgettable conferences in Flagstaff and Boston, and the rich offerings of *ISLE*. As a poet and writer of creative non-fiction, I also appreciate how ASLE opens its doors to such a broad spectrum of writers and readers.

My pull toward the natural world is suggested by the titles of my poetry collections: *Cattail Week*, *Planet Harbor*, *Underwater Carpentry*, *Granite Erratics*, and *The Afterlife of Trees* (McGill-Queens, 2003). Last year a selection of my poetry, *Wanting the Day: Selected Poems*, appeared in Canada and England. I've also published fiction and creative non-fiction, including personal essays on Iona (Scotland) and Brazil, and nature-informed essays on several poets, including Elizabeth Bishop, Tim Lilburn, and P. K. Page.

My Ph.D. dissertation, at the Université de Montréal, was on A. R. Ammons. Since 1990 I've taught creative writing and literature (including "The Writer and Nature") at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. If chosen for the ASLE Executive Council, I'd help in whatever ways I could, as well as welcoming the education it would provide. Among other things, I'd like to encourage more Canadians to join the organization; promote greater familiarity among ASLE members with nature writing north of the 49th parallel; help continue the organization's goal to intensify and broaden an intellectual appreciation of the interplay of nature, literature, religion, and politics; and participate in projects that involve environmental consciousness in children. As a father of two young children, I have a keen interest in questions of how children interact with their environments, as well as the roles of parenting and public education in exploring those interactions.

George Hart, California State University, Long Beach

I've served ASLE two times before — as one of the first Graduate Liaisons in 1993-94 and as guest editor of *ISLE* in 2002 — and I would welcome the opportunity to serve again as a member of the Executive Council. I'm an assistant professor in the English Department at California State University, Long Beach. Previously, I was an NEH Post-doctoral Fellow in Literatures of the Environment at

University of Nevada, Reno, and I received my PhD from Stanford University. I've published articles on poetry and poetics in journals such as *Sagetrieb*, *Women's Studies*, *ISLE*, and *Western American Literature*, and I co-edited, with Scott Slovic, the recently published *Literature and the Environment* in Greenwood Press's Exploring Social Issues Through Literature series. I am also the editor of *Jeffers Studies*, an academic journal dedicated to the work of Robinson Jeffers and other Jeffers-related topics.

I would like to help ASLE continue to study — and to create — the connections between the humanities, literature in particular, and issues of global and regional importance such as toxic waste, wilderness preservation, environmental justice, organic food production, and animal rights. As professional organizations go, I believe that ASLE is superior in mentoring graduate students and younger faculty, and I'd do all I could to ensure such professionalization continues and expands. I'd like to see ASLE's pedagogical concerns continue to grow as well, and I'd be especially interested in helping members add community service learning to their teaching repertoire.

Tonia Payne, Nassau Community College

I have been a member of ASLE since 1998, during my days as a graduate student at the City University of New York. My primary research interest is in fiction as environmental literature and consequent refinements to the definition of "nature writing." As a member of the executive council, I would bring a voice from the urban East coast as well as a voice from a two-year campus (a frequently overlooked ground for developing scholarship as well as a crucial vector for environmental education). I would like to explore methods by which we might increase the racial diversity of ASLE's membership in North America and the breadth of its global membership, especially in the southern hemisphere. I want to consider the possibility of setting up regional chapters within the U.S. Other questions I'd like to discuss include how to expand avenues for sharing pedagogical approaches to the study of literature and the environment, and whether we can do anything to support members who want to make changes in the curricula of their home institutions, creating more courses for the study of environmental literature and ecocriticism. I'm certain that in conversation with my fellows, many more issues will arise, and I would be delighted to help ASLE navigate them all in the spirit of warm collegiality that I have always found at ASLE and that I find one of the best assets of our association. 🌲

Visit the ASLE web site at <http://www.asle.umn.edu> for up to the minute listings of conferences of interest and calls for papers as well as more detailed information on many of the announcements listed below. 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.

Conferences of Interest

December 27-30, 2004. *Modern Language Association Convention.* As an allied organization, ASLE is sponsoring two panels at the 2004 MLA Convention in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, contact Barbara Cook at barbara.cook@eku.edu.

Session #114: Reconsidering Theoretical Approaches to Global Environments

Tuesday, December 28

10:15–11:30 a.m., Congress B, Loews

Presiding: Brian S. Hicks, Vanderbilt Univ.

1. "Simon Says: Ecological and Cultural Effects of Globalism in Keri Hulme's *The Bone Game*," Bonnie L. Roos, Austin Coll.
2. "Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: A Polemic," Ursula K. Heise, Stanford Univ.
3. "Place in Question, Place as Question: Directions in Depthless Ecology," Timothy Morton, Univ. of California, Davis



Pollination: Day lily with swallow tail butterfly, Brown County, IN. Photo by Lewis Ulman.

Session #731. Ecocritical Perspectives on Urban Spaces

Thursday, December 30

1:45–3:00 p.m., Commonwealth Hall A2, Loews

Presiding: George F. Grattan, Boston Coll.

1. "Mapping the New Western American Cityscape," Alexander J. Hunt, West Texas A&M Univ.
2. "Reconciliation and Cosmopolitanism in Australia's 'Bush Capital,'" Catherine Rigby, Monash Univ.
3. "Purple House, Red Library: Repainting San Antonio's Urban Spaces with an Ethnic Palette," June S. Dwyer, Manhattan Coll.

Respondent: Anthony Lioi, Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.

Calls for Papers

Please consult the ASLE web site (<http://www.asle.umn.edu/conf/cfp/cfp.html>) or listed conference web sites for more information on conference topics and submission guidelines.

November 15, 2004. *Contemporary Southern Literature.* The Southern Literature and Culture Area Chair invites submissions for the PCA/ACA Conference to be held in San Diego, March 23-26, 2005. Please submit a 250-word abstract to Christopher Bloss, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069, 605-677-6615; cbloss@usd.edu.

November 15, 2004. *Lawrence and the Frontiers.* The D.H. Lawrence Society invites proposals for its 10th International Conference, to be held in Santa Fe, NM, June 26-July 1, 2005. Send 1-page abstracts to Virginia Hyde at hydev@wsunix.wsu.edu or at Department of English P. O. Box 645020, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-5020. <http://www.wsu.edu/~hydev/dhl/dhlsna.htm>

see CFPs on page 10

CFPs continued from page 9

November 15, 2004. *Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment.* The Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Associations seek presentations, panels, and roundtables on literature, ecocriticism, and the environment for their 26th Annual Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 9-12, 2005. Send abstract or paper with your email address and affiliation to Philip Heldrich, Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Environment Chair, at pheldrich@sbcglobal.net. <http://www.h-net.org/~swpcal>

November 15, 2004. *Reconnecting the Global and the Local.* This conference, to be held in Cambridge, UK, on March 3, 2005, seeks to explore new ways of understanding the global movement of ideas and information, aims to highlight the work of graduate students and scholars at an early stage in their careers, and welcomes papers from a range of disciplines. Contact Rachel Berger, University of Cambridge, rb305@cam.ac.uk or Michael Lewis, University of Cambridge, mhl24@cam.ac.uk. Email: conference2005@world.history.britishlibrary.net. <http://pages.britishlibrary.net/world.history>

November 30, 2004. *Paradoxes of Citizenship: Environments, Exclusions, Equity.* CACLALS (The Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies) invites proposals for our next annual conference to be held in May 2005, at The University of Western Ontario. Proposals of at least 500 words, with bios of approx. 100 words, should reach the program chair at Ranjini. Mendis@kwantlen.ca (cc:caclals@kwantlen.ca). <http://www.kwantlen.ca/CACLALS/>

December 1, 2004. *Whitman and Place.* The English Department at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey, in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers-Camden, calls for papers for a conference to take place April 21-23, 2005. Please send a one-page abstract (including technological needs for your presentation) to Ms. Emily Beach at waltwhit@camden.rutgers.edu, or at Walt Whitman Conference, English Department, Rutgers University, 311 North Fifth Street, Camden, NJ 08102.

December 15, 2004. *Ethics, Beauty, & Environment After Postmodernism.* Proposals from graduate students are invited for the 2005 Pacific Rim Conference on Literature and Rhetoric ("ethics beauty environment: the Wilderness of

Signs") to be held at the University of Alaska Anchorage, March 3-5, 2005. Proposals for papers and panels may be submitted directly through the conference website at <http://www.cyborgsophist.net/pacrim/>. Direct questions to Joseph Jordan, Department of English, University of Alaska Anchorage; (907) 786-4348; anjpj@uaa.alaska.edu.

December 15, 2004. *Robinson Jeffers as Political Poet.* The Robinson Jeffers Association invites proposals for papers and panels to be presented at their annual conference at the University of Nevada, Reno, February 19-20, 2005 (conference jointly sponsored by the Environment Program in the Department of English at the University Nevada, Reno). The RJA also welcomes proposals for our annual poetry reading to be held during the conference. Send a 250-word proposal or abstract or poetry selection of not more than 10 pages, along with complete contact information and a short bio, to ShaunAnne Tangney at shaunanne.tangney@minotstateu.edu or Humanities Division, Minot State University, 500 University Ave. W., Minot, ND 58707; 701-858-3180.

December 30, 2004. *Mobilis in Mobile.* Proposals are invited for an International Conference on "Studies in Travel Writing" to be held at The University of Hong Kong, July 11-13, 2005 (jointly organized by The University of Hong Kong English Department and the Centre for Travel Writing Studies, Nottingham Trent University). Send 300 word abstracts to Paul Smethurst at mobile@hkusua.hku.hk. <http://www.hku.hk/english/events/mobile/mobile.htm>

December 31, 2004. *Space and Place in Contemporary Theatre and Drama.* The German Society for Contemporary Theatre and Drama in English announces its 14th Annual Conference (June 2-5 2005) to be held at International University Bremen. The conference theme is "Mapping Uncertain Territories: Space and Place in Contemporary Theatre and Drama." Send proposals for talks and alternative contributions such as teaching workshops to Prof. Dr. Thomas Rommel and Mark Schreiber, M.A., International University Bremen, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Arts and Literature, PO Box 750561, D-28725 Bremen; t.rommel@iu-bremen.de; mark.schreiber@iu-bremen.de. <http://www.ContemporaryDrama.de>

January 14, 2005. *Imagining the Delta.* The Department of English and Philosophy at Arkansas State University

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Sixth Biennial Conference of ASLE: "Being in the World, Living with the Land"

21-25 June 2005

The University of Oregon

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) invites proposals for its Sixth Biennial Conference, to be held 21-25 June 2005 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Taking as our theme "Being in the World, Living with the Land," we seek proposals for papers (15-minute presentation time), panels, roundtables, poster sessions, workshops, and other oral performances that pertain to relations of language, place, and culture. As always, we welcome interdisciplinary approaches and readings of environmentally-inflected creative nonfiction and poetry. Proposals are especially encouraged on (but not limited to)

- Literature of Working Landscapes (farms, ranches, forests, fisheries, etc.)
- Coastal Literature/Literature of the Pacific Rim
- Riparian/Mountain Nature and Nature Writing
- Urban/Suburban Nature and Nature Writing
- Class Issues and Considerations in Literature and Environment
- Environmental-Justice Activism, Literature, and Ecocriticism
- Environmental Issues and Literature of the Northwestern United States and Canada
- Eco-utopias and Dystopias
- The Rhetoric of Nature and Environment in Science, Law, Business, and other Discourses outside the Humanities



The University of Oregon in Eugene, where ASLE's Sixth Biennial Conference will be held June 21-25, 2005. Photo by Louise Westling.

Send one-page proposals for papers, poster sessions, workshops, or roundtables by **1 February 2005** to:

Allison Wallace

Honors College, 302-A McAlister Hall

University of Central Arkansas

Conway, AR 72035

allisonw@uca.edu

Please include a title, your institutional affiliation, and contact information. Pre-formed panels and roundtables are acceptable and encouraged. Audio-visual requests must accompany the proposal. Electronic submissions accepted, but no attachments, please. Participation is limited to one presentation per person (but you may chair one session and present at another). All presenters must be ASLE members by the start of the conference.

For more information, go to http://www.asle.umn.edu/conf/asle_conf/2005/cfp.html

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(Jonesboro campus) announces its eleventh annual Delta Blues Symposium, to be held April 7-9, 2005. Proposals may be sent via post, e-mail, or fax to Delta Symposium Committee, Department of English and Philosophy, PO Box 1890, Arkansas State University, State University, AR 72467; delta@astate.edu; Phone: 870-972-3043; Fax: 870-972-3045. <http://www.clt.astate.edu/blues>

January 15, 2005. *Shaping the American West: A New Western Ethic for the 21st Century.* Utah Valley State College invites paper submissions for an international conference to be held June 9-12, 2005 at Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Snowbird, Utah. Send a 300-word abstract and a 50-word description to Professor Kathryn McPherson, Department of English and Literature, Utah Valley State College, 800

University Parkway, Orem, UT 84058. Send queries to mcpherka@uvsc.edu. <http://research.uvsc.edu/AmWest>.

February 15, 2005. *Creating Literary Space(s) for Self and Other.* Papers are requested for the 2005 SCMLA Convention Special Session on Creative Nonfiction (CNF), to be held in Houston, Texas, October 27-29, 2005. This session welcomes original CNF and critical essays. Email papers or abstracts to Stella Thompson at jthompson39@houston.rr.com.

February 28, 2005. *Language and Literature in Urban Contexts.* Abstracts are invited for the AULLA 33 and FILLM 23 (Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association and Federation Internationale des Langues et des Litteratures Modernes) International Joint Congress, July 15-19, 2005, at James Cook University, Cairns, Queensland. Send abstracts on any aspect of the

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ASLE EXPEDITION

ASLE Grand Canyon River Expedition

August 13-26, 2005

*ASLE Grand Canyon River Expedition
with acclaimed nature writer, Craig Childs*

Running the Colorado River through Grand Canyon is one of the world's premier outdoor experiences. The Canyon's desert and riparian ecosystems are rich in unique flora and fauna. Its side canyons are full of startlingly intimate and delicate spaces. And the whitewater includes some of the largest navigable rapids in North America.

We will travel in oar-powered dories and rubber rafts. Every day will include hikes in side canyons to visit waterfalls, archeological sites, geological formations, and viewpoints. At night, we will camp on sand beaches next to the river.

Craig Childs, author of *The Secret Knowledge of Water* and *Soul of Nowhere*, will accompany us to share his expertise and perspectives on the river canyons of the desert Southwest.

The trip will last 14 days. Two shorter alternatives are also available: the 6-day upper half, hiking out from

Phantom Ranch at river mile 89 (this is a very strenuous hike, ascending over 5000 feet in 9 miles), or the 9-day lower half, hiking in at Phantom Ranch.

The cost is as follows. 14-days: \$3,130.00. 6-days: \$1620. 9-days: \$2149. These prices are all-inclusive (with the exception of gratuities and alcoholic beverages), starting and ending in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The trip is organized by Lance Newman, an ASLE member from the Department of Literature and Writing Studies at California State University at San Marcos, and a longtime Grand Canyon river guide. It will be outfitted by Moki Mac River Expeditions (www.moki-mac.com), one of the oldest companies in the canyon, founded in 1948. For more information, contact Lance at lnewman@csusm.edu or at 760-750-8049. The trip will fill quickly, so reserve a spot as soon as possible by sending a deposit of \$200 (check or money order) to:

*Lance Newman, Literature and Writing Studies
California State University, San Marcos
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92096-0001*

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conference theme ("Text and the City") in relation to languages and cultures of any period to aulla2005@arts.usyd.edu.au. www.arts.usyd.edu.au/conference/aulla.

Calls for Manuscripts

November 15, 2004. *The Gendered Construction of Space(s)*. For a special issue of the *Journal of International Women's Studies* on "New Perspectives on the Gendered Construction of Space(s)," the editors seek scholarly and creative articles, essays, poetry, book reviews, and photography that explore space from a range of perspectives, adopt space as a critical framework for understanding power relations, and explore spatial relations in terms of gender, sexuality, race, and class. Submissions should be directed to Valerie Begley at valeriebegley@yahoo.com. All submissions, except for book reviews, must be received no later than November 15, 2004. Submissions for book reviews should be received by Suzanne Baker at suzbaker@umd.umich.edu no later than January 15, 2005.

November 15, 2004. *Teaching Through Testimony*. For a special issue of *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, the editors seek submissions exploring the use of testimony as a pedagogical tool. They welcome articles (3,000 to 8,000 words) and media reviews (1,000 to 3,000 words) examining approaches to teaching testimony in a variety of disciplinary contexts, including environmental studies. Autobiographical crit-

icism, narrative scholarship, photo-essays, and experimental work are welcome. Send two hard copies to Jacqueline Ellis and Edvige Giunta, Editors, *Transformations*, New Jersey City University, Grossnickle Hall Room 303, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07305 OR email submissions (attachments in MS Word or rich text) and inquiries to transformations@njcu.edu. <http://www.njcu.edu/assoc/transformations>

December 1, 2004. *Celebration and Ceremony*. The editor of *Whole Terrain* seeks submissions for Volume No. 14: "Celebration and Ceremony" that examine the role of celebration and ceremony in environmental reflection and practice. Fiction, non-fiction and personal essays are strictly limited to 2,000 words; they should be typed and double-spaced, with pages numbered and word count noted. Poetry submissions may contain up to three relevant poems. Email submissions are highly encouraged. Hardcopy submissions must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please send submissions to: Editor, *Whole Terrain*, Antioch New England Graduate School, 40 Avon Street, Keene, NH 03431-3552; Phone: 603.357.3122 ext. 272; Fax: 603.357.0718; whole_terrain@antiochne.edu.

December 15, 2005. *Women's Stories of Working in the Wild*. Jennifer Bové seeks stories by contemporary women in outdoor professions to be considered for an anthology called *A Mile in Her Boots: Women Who Work in the Wild*. Please do not send recreational hobby, sport, or travel stories. Submit up to 2 stories of no more than 5,000 words each (previously published stories are acceptable if you retain the copyright) to Fieldstories@aol.com (attach stories in Microsoft Word format or paste into email) or Jennifer Bové, PO Box 402, Naches, WA 98937. Include your name, address, phone, and email. Bylines and brief biographies will be included in the book.

Ongoing. *Ecological Humanities*. Debbie Rose and Libby Robin are delighted to announce the new "Ecological Humanities Corner" within the *Australian Humanities Review*. The Corner is dedicated to bringing the ecological sciences and the humanities into closer conversation. We welcome critical and reflective analysis, essays, book and film reviews, research reports, comments and debate. For more information on the *Australian Humanities Review*, see <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/>. Contributions to the "Ecological Humanities Corner" can be sent directly to Deborah Rose (Deborah.Rose@anu.edu.au) or Libby Robin (LibbyRobin@anu.edu.au). 🌲



ASLE Officers Ian Marshall, Ellen Goldey, and Wes Berry pause at the top of Battell Mountain (in Vermont's Breadloaf Wilderness) during a hike at the officers' retreat in May. Photo by Karla Armbruster.

Professional Opportunities

This is a new feature of ASLE News devoted to professional opportunities (such as jobs, fellowships, and workshops) of interest to our membership.

Please send any such opportunities you would like to announce to Karla Armbruster at armbruka@webster.edu. We will list the organization's title, a one sentence description of the opportunity, and a contact's name and addresses (including email, web site, etc.).

The Women's Environmental Institute at Amador Hill (North Branch, MN), recently founded to help local groups work on community and environmental justice

issues that affect the Mississippi watershed area, announces the availability of day meeting and overnight retreat space. WEI can be contacted at 651 583-0705 and more information is available at <http://www.w-e-i.org>.

The Island Institute offers month-long residencies to poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers in Sitka, Alaska, during September, 2005, and January and April, 2006; the deadline for all three residency periods is April 15, 2005. Call (907-747-3794), e-mail (island@ak.net), or visit the Web site at <http://www.islandinstitutealaska.org/> for the required application and complete guidelines. 🌲

Recipes from the ASLE Leadership Retreat

One night we had a feast of beans and rice. The sauce and vinaigrette are from the other evening meal: wild Alaskan salmon with dill mustard sauce, New England potatoes boiled with salt, beans with soy shallot vinaigrette, and a fresh garden salad.

Dill Mustard Sauce (Mark's favorite)

Butter
Shallots
White wine
Dijon mustard
Heavy cream
Fresh dill

Sauté shallots in butter. Add wine, reduce over high heat, and whisk in mustard and cream until thick. Toss in the dill and dollop on slab of grilled salmon.

Soy Shallot Vinaigrette (Adapted from Tom Douglas, Tom Douglas' Seattle Kitchen)

3 tablespoons sherry vinegar
3 tablespoons finely chopped shallots
4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons soy sauce
2 teaspoons Asian fish sauce
1 teaspoon Chinese chili paste with garlic
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon minced garlic
½ cup peanut oil

Combine the vinegar, shallots, lemon juice, soy sauce, fish sauce, chili-garlic paste, sugar, and garlic. Whisk in the peanut oil until well emulsified. Serve with Chinese long beans or green beans, ends trimmed.

—Mark Long,
Mentoring Program Coordinator

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 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 _____

Home phone _____

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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Karla Armbruster
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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.

