



The Association  
for the Study of  
**Literature &  
Environment**



# ASLE News

Fall 2012

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

Reminder: ASLE 2013 Conference Proposal Deadline is November 15!  
Submit your abstract here: <http://asle.ku.edu/>

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## ASLE Elections: Deadline to Cast Your Vote is December 3

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. Once again, we have a fantastic slate of candidates whose statements are printed below.

As instituted in 2008, this year the election will primarily be an online voting process. To cast your vote, login at the ASLE website as a member with your email and password at <https://www.asle.org/site/members/login/>. Once you are logged in, you will see a link in the right hand column under the heading "2012 Election for Vice President and Executive Council" that says "Cast Your Vote." Click on this link and the slate of candidates will appear and you can make your selections. There is also a link to review the same candidate statements published below. The secure system will ensure that each member can vote only once.

Online voting will begin immediately and will close at 11pm EST on December 3, 2012. If you would like a paper ballot sent to you, or have questions about online voting, please contact Amy McIntyre at [info@asle.org](mailto:info@asle.org) or 603-357-7411.

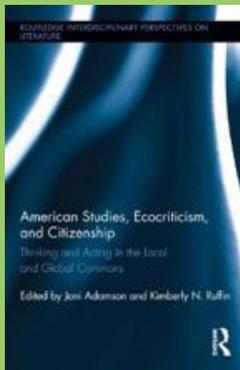


Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), Ridgeview Farm, Highlands Nature Sanctuary, OH. Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

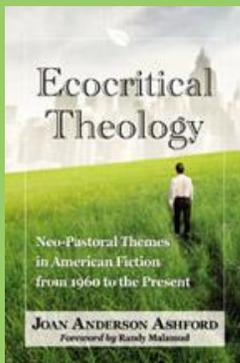
## ASLE Bookshelf

The following works were recently published by ASLE members. If we've missed your publication, please send bibliographic information to Catherine Meeks ([catherine-meeks@utc.edu](mailto:catherine-meeks@utc.edu)).

**Adamson, Joni & Kimberly N. Ruffin, eds.** *American Studies, Ecocriticism, and Citizenship: Thinking and Acting in the Local and Global Commons*. New York: Routledge, December 2012.



**Ashford, Joan Anderson.** *Ecocritical Theology: Neo-Pastoral Themes in American Fiction from 1960 to the Present*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, 2012.



**Auricchio, Laura, Elizabeth Heckendorn Cook, and Giulia Pacini.** *Invaluable Trees: Cultures of Nature, 1660-1830*. SVEC, 2012

## Candidates for Vice President

(Vote for one)

### Mark C. Long, Keene State College

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for Vice President of ASLE. The members of this organization have enriched my personal and professional life, and I look forward to furthering the work of our wonderful organization.

Over the past fifteen years I have served ASLE in a number of ways. On the Executive Council, I collaborated with officers and members to build our organization--envisioning the Managing Director position, refining the ASLE mission, organizing ASLE sessions at regional conferences, and contributing to strategic planning. As the coordinator of the ASLE Mentoring Program, I have organized in-conference meetings and workshops, envisioned professional mentoring across academic and non-academic careers, and placed graduate students with faculty mentors. I have also worked closely with our graduate student liaisons--from revising our Graduate Handbook and planning sessions and workshops at the biennial conference to more recently helping to set up our graduate student blog.

If I am elected Vice President I will work closely with the Executive Council and Managing Director to further our strategic priorities. I'm especially excited by our strategic focus on building relationships--with undergraduate and graduate students, allied academic organizations, community groups, and colleagues around the world. Working as a professor and chair of English, a core faculty member in American Studies, and an affiliate faculty in Environmental Studies, I bring significant experience building relationships through the environmental humanities--with colleagues in the sciences, interdisciplinary programs, and organizations beyond the academy. Most of my recent scholarly work, including co-editing the book *Teaching North American Environmental Literature*, has been collaborative. I will draw on these experiences to build bridges between ASLE members and our strategic partners.

As your Vice President I would further our outreach activities and deepen our commitments to diversity. My recent sabbatical year in India underscored the many opportunities for fostering diversity through collaborations with ASLE communities beyond North America. Growing interest from our affiliated organizations, in fact, has inspired me to expand the mentoring program's focus to meet the needs of a diverse group of graduate students and professors from outside the United States. I have also helped connect ASLE-US members with our ASLE-affiliated organizations. More recently, I have initiated conversations to support lower-income international students in their efforts to attend our biennial conference, and to identify scholars in other countries who might serve as resources for us as we envision our intellectual work in a global context.

I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work on our new pilot projects--the book subventions and translation grants announced in the most recent *ASLE News*--that will benefit those working in other languages and cultural traditions. The other pilot project, supporting more and stronger connections with the public sphere, is aligned with a pedagogical vision I have for expanding the ways we teach, learn and give back to our communities.

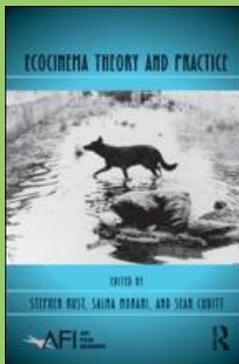
ASLE has been blessed with extraordinary leadership since its inception. I am honored to be considered for Vice President and, if elected, will work tirelessly, collaboratively, and enthusiastically on your behalf.



**Chadha, Olivia.** *Balance of Fragile Things*. Ashland, OR: Ashland Creek Press, 2012.



**Rust, Stephen, Salma Monani and Sean Cubitt.** *Ecocinema Theory and Practice*. Routledge/AFI, 2012.



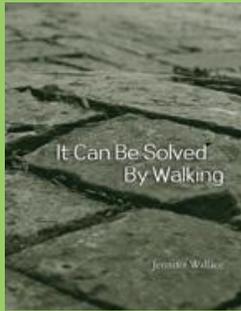
**Wallace, Jennifer.** *It Can Be Solved By Walking (Poems)*. CityLit Press, May 2012.

### Heather I. Sullivan, Trinity University

In my comparative literature and German courses at Trinity University, I work to educate students about how local environments are imbricated within larger regional and international systems. I teach a course on "Science Fiction and the Environment," and one on "World Literature and the Environment," that is partnered with a biology course on "Global Ecology." In these classes, I work to alter students' views of the "local" and "global" by emphasizing how the body is the "radically local" site shaped by interactions with matter, other beings, as well as global forces. My research focuses on such material issues in ecocriticism and German literature, particularly Goethe and the Romantics, and I have also written on "unbalanced nature" in Karen Traviss's science fiction. My publications all explore in some form the natural environment with an international perspective, including my 1997 book, *The Intercontextuality of Self and Nature in Ludwig Tieck's Early Works*, articles on Goethe and ecocriticism, and most recently, the collection of essays that I co-guest-edited with Dana Phillips in *ISLE* 19.3 on "Material Ecocriticism: Dirt, Waste, Bodies, and Other Matter."

One of our many challenges in this era of the "anthropocene," as the human impact on the entire biosphere becomes ever more evident, is to forge connections on many levels: among diverse individuals, local, and regional groups, as well as among international environmental groups. Indeed, this is the direction that ASLE is now taking as it works jointly with our international sister organizations, and as it publishes and encourages scholarship addressing both local and global concerns. I have dedicated myself to this increased scope and internationalizing effort since I first joined ASLE in 2002. As Vice President, I would be particularly interested in working with our international liaison, George Handley, to expand our international connections, but also to continue to facilitate ecocritical work connecting regional concerns to broader networks. Specifically, I look forward to developing ASLE's new Development Campaign Pilot Project (announced in the Spring 2012 Newsletter) to translate works from other languages into English, because it will provide a concrete bridge to international traditions and cultures and hence support ASLE's global initiatives. Additionally, I would also look forward to working on the other announced Pilot Project to support the development of stronger connections among faculty, students, and communities working in the environmental humanities. Working on these international and organizational initiatives in order to encourage a diverse approach to environmental questions would be a primary goal.

My background provides me with the tools to accomplish these goals. I have attended every ASLE conference since the 2003 meeting in Boston, as well as several recent European and British ecocriticism conferences. I am also an active member of the European ecocriticism group, EASLCE, and am a participant in the "Transatlantic Network for Research in the Environmental Humanities." At Trinity University, I am a member of the Environmental Studies Faculty and have been active in numerous environmental initiatives including the Trinity Sustainability Taskforce. If elected as Vice President, I would seek to coordinate ASLE's local and international efforts to bring awareness to environmental stories and crises. I would be interested in leading a conference discussion group workshop at the biannual meeting with international members of ASLE and our sister organizations in order to gather as many ecocritical voices as possible from around the world about how humanists and artists might have the greatest impact on environmental debates and practices today.



## New Lifetime Members

ASLE is pleased to welcome its first two lifetime members: **Mark C. Long** and **Elizabeth Ammons**. We thank them for their past support and continued commitment to the organization!

Lifetime memberships were introduced earlier this year and the rate is \$1,500, payable over three years. If you would like more information or to sign on as a lifetime member, see the [lifetime membership page](#) at our website or contact Amy McIntyre, ASLE Managing Director, at [info@asle.org](mailto:info@asle.org).



Petroform at Manito Ahbee (Bannock Point), Manitoba.  
Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

## Candidates for Executive Council

(Vote for two)

### Allison Carruth, UCLA

The people who have led ASLE have inspired my work for over a decade. I would bring to the Executive Council experience in advocating for ecocriticism and the environmental humanities as a core faculty member in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon and as the Associate Director of Stanford's Science, Technology, and Society Program (where I helped to reshape the curriculum to include a new track in Environment and Sustainability). I would also represent areas of research such as food studies, critical animal studies, postcolonial ecocriticism, and climate justice for which ASLE has become an important space for idea testing and collaboration. As the organizer of two conferences on food justice and sustainable agriculture, I have had success in bringing scholars together with policymakers, nonprofit groups, and artists. Finally, I am invested in current ASLE initiatives on diversity and graduate student mentoring. If elected, I would be interested in organizing a track at the biennial conference on emerging models for environmental research, teaching, and institution building that would put particular focus on these initiatives. In addition, I would propose enhancing our digital forums for sharing work across the international constellation of literature and environment organizations.

My own scholarship focuses on contemporary narratives of agriculture, biotechnology, and food justice. *Global Appetites: American Power and the Literature of Food* is forthcoming from Cambridge UP, and my article publications include essays in *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Environmental Criticism for the Twenty-First Century*, and *Postcolonial Ecologies*. My current projects are "The Transgenic Age," "Literature and Food Studies" (with Amy L. Tigner), and a special issue of *Public Culture* on "Visualizing the Environment" (with Robert Marzec). I recently joined the faculty at UCLA, where I will be teaching courses in post-1945 American literature, the environmental humanities, food culture, and literature and science.

### Stephanie Foote, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

My current environmental work emerged from my scholarship in late 19th and early 20th century U. S. literature, as well as from my work in queer theory, particularly its desire to imagine histories and futures otherwise. It is also shaped by debates about the value of the humanities and universities in general, debates that ask us to imagine how our disciplinary commitments and our institutional positions contribute to public conversations that take seriously the claims of diverse social

actors to a sustainable future. If elected, I would like to help build ASLE membership across the humanities, encouraging scholars in traditional departments and in emerging interdisciplinary units to imagine how their projects resonate with those of ASLE.

I am Associate Professor of English and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and am affiliated with the Unit for Criticism and Theory and the Sustainability Studies Initiative in the Humanities. I am the author of *Regional Fictions: Culture and Identity in Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (U of Wisconsin P); the editor of two reprints of lesbian pulps from the Feminist Press; and with Elizabeth Mazzolini, co-editor of *Histories of the Dustheap: Waste, Material Cultures, and Social Justice* (MIT P, 2012).

With Stephanie LeMenager, I am the cofounder and coeditor of *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, a new digital, peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum for scholars from across Humanities disciplines to speak to one another about their shared interest in environmental issues, and to plot out a conversation about how the Humanities contributes to living and thinking sustainably in a world of dwindling resources. I'm currently at work on several projects that bring together my interests in American Studies and environmentalism, including one on the intersection of sustainability and the ideal of homesteading in a digital commons.



Sunrise, Whiteshell River, Manitoba. Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

### **Nicole Merola, Rhode Island School of Design**

I attended my first ASLE conference in 2005, just prior to starting my job in Ecocriticism and American Literature at the Rhode Island School of Design. The friendly tone and lively discussions made ASLE 2005 the first time I felt at home at an academic conference. Friendships and collaborations catalyzed by ASLE have been incredibly valuable to me, and I look forward to serving on the Executive Council.

At RISD my teaching foregrounds the role the environmental arts and humanities play in an era of global change. Through courses on critical animal studies, climate change, critical theory, and contemporary literature, film, and visual art, my goal is to foreground a culture of critical thinking and critical making wherein attention to the eco-social is paramount. My scholarly work includes articles on the animal portraits of photographer Jill Greenberg (*JAC*, 2010), on pedagogy and the environmental humanities (*Transformations*, 2010), on Don DeLillo's novel *Cosmopolis* (forthcoming in *American Literature*), and on T.C. Boyle and queer ecology (under review).

In addition to fostering dialogue about the environmental humanities in the classroom and through scholarship, I am energized by bringing colleagues together, physically or virtually, to engage in conversation. From 2007-2010, I organized ecocriticism panels at NeMLA; in 2012, I co-organized a panel on pollution and waste at the ACLA. At RISD I was instrumental in constructing an interdisciplinary concentration in Nature-Culture-Sustainability-Studies. Membership on the Executive Council would afford continuing opportunities for the work of convening. If elected I would be especially interested in contributing to initiatives that continue to deepen ASLE's interdisciplinarity (especially with respect to the natural sciences and the visual, performing, and design arts), that enhance the visibility of discussions about pedagogy and the environmental humanities, that bring environmental theory and environmental literature into closer contact, and that highlight eco-social justice work.

**Sarah Jaquette Ray, University of Alaska Southeast**

I have been an active member of ASLE since 2005, when I had the opportunity to help host ASLE's conference in Eugene. ASLE quickly became my intellectual "home." In addition to participating in conferences, I was elected to be Graduate Student Liaison in 2009, and in this position, I attended all EC meetings between 2009-2011. I advocated for graduate students by changing the GSL term to improve service to grads, and helped integrate social media in graduate communications.

These activities with ASLE positioned me to obtain my first job at the University of Alaska Southeast, where I have worked since 2009 as Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator of the Geography and Environmental Studies program. Perhaps my most significant contribution to ASLE took place this past June. I co-hosted an ASLE Symposium, "Environment, Culture, and Place in a Rapidly Changing North," with my colleague Kevin Maier at the University of Alaska Southeast. The experience reminded me how crucial these meetings are to addressing the concerns we share and deepened my commitment to the ASLE community.

My scholarship attests to the benefits of my long-term association with ASLE and illustrates the perspectives I would bring to the EC. My book, *The Ecological Other: Environmental Exclusion in American Culture*, is forthcoming from University of Arizona Press. In it, I argue that environmental discourse can function as a form of social control by creating "ecological others"--those that threaten or do not belong in nature. I have published on environmental justice, disability studies, critical environmental security, and ecofeminism, and teach geography, L&E, and composition.

ASLE keeps me focused on values I care about: environmental justice, interdisciplinarity, and student mentoring. These values would inform my work on ASLE's EC, and I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve on it again.



Sunset, Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

### **Stephen Rust, University of Oregon**

My engagement with ecocriticism began with a simple question: why is everyone talking about penguins? In 2005, as *March of the Penguins* climbed the box-office charts, I came to realize that traditional film and media theory was simply too anthropocentric in focus to provide me and my students with the tools to situate texts like this within a changing social, political, and ecological climate. Informed by my training in literary and cultural studies, I struck out to find those scholars who were ahead of the curve--a search that led me directly to ASLE. The warm welcome I have received from ASLE has provided me with the confidence and connections to co-found the website [Ecomediastudies.org](http://Ecomediastudies.org), design courses like "Taming the Beast: Nature and Gender in Popular Cinema", and co-edit an anthology, *Ecocinema Theory and Practice*, to comprehensively interrogate motion pictures from an ecological perspective.

Currently, I am writing a chapter on ecocinema for the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Literature and Environment*, co-organizing a pre-conference seminar on video games and virtual environments for ASLE 2013, and planning for the ASLE-sponsored panel at the 2013 Environmental Communications conference. As ASLE's purview expands to consider the interplay between literature and media, I will use this position to ensure that the organization builds bridges with our colleagues in related organizations like the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the International Environmental Communication Association, and other interdisciplinary ventures where diverse eco-perspectives and critical engagements can be foregrounded. I look forward to playing a central role in growing ASLE's reputation for outstanding teaching, scholarship, and community engagement. Thank you.

### **Molly Wallace, Queen's University, Ontario, Canada**

I first discovered ASLE in 1996, when, as an MA student, I found, to my surprise and delight, a copy of *ISLE* on the shelves of the Indiana University library. The notion that environmental concerns might be proper to literary studies was truly a revelation. A few years later, editor Scott Slovic would help me to turn the rough-around-the-edges essay I submitted into my first publication, and I have considered myself an ecocritic ever since. Being an ecocritic, I have found, is a constant and invigorating learning process, whether I am attempting to internationalize my work on U.S. literature (residence in Canada has been a great help in this), develop some competence in the science of climate change or toxicology, or grapple with the disciplinary protocols of cognate fields in the environmental humanities. But even as I am cognizant of the impossible scope of our work, I am also perpetually reminded of its urgency, and, inspired by so many

of my colleagues at ASLE, I hope to find more ways to integrate scholarship, teaching, and activist work in the future.

Among my recently published articles are an essay on genetically modified food in *Arizona Quarterly*, a piece on bird watching in a war zone in *Cultural Critique*, and a chapter on what I call "risk criticism" in an anthology titled *Criticism, Crisis, and Contemporary Narrative*. I'm presently completing a book manuscript, "Risk Criticism," that, putting poststructuralist nuclear criticism in conversation with ecocriticism and theories of global risk, addresses cultural production in the context of what sociologist Ulrich Beck calls "world risk society." I am deeply grateful to ASLE for making a place for environmental concerns in literary studies, and I am excited at the prospect of participating more actively in the governance of the organization.

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## 2012 SLSA Conference Summary

by Helena Feder, SLSA Liaison

The 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) took place from Sept 27-30, 2012, in Milwaukee, WI. The theme for the conference was "Nonhuman."

The conference featured panels on a number of subjects, from "Genetics and Science Fiction" and "Computers and Consciousness" to "The Affect of Human-Animal Relations" and "Livestock as Lesson in Postwar Art." The variety of panels reflected the three primary ways in which "nonhuman" was conceived at this and past SLSA conferences - technological, biological, and hybrid (cyborg). Though there were panels on "Tactical Gaming" and "Critical Code Studies," those of us interested in the nonhuman as nonhuman (that is, not of human origin) were not disappointed in the number of panels on nonhuman animals, ecology, and the like. This year's keynote speakers were Oron Catts, Director of SymbioticA, the Centre of Excellence in Biological Arts at the University of Western

Australia; and Cary Wolfe, Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor and Department Chair of English at Rice University. Professor Wolfe will also be speaking at the upcoming ASLE Biennial Conference: "Changing Nature: Migrations, Energies, Limits" at the University of Kansas.



Ridgeview Farm, Highlands Nature Sanctuary, OH. Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

## ASLE Announces New Honorary Members

by Joni Adamson, Christoph Irmscher, and Stephanie LeManager

The ASLE Executive Council has voted to award honorary memberships to three outstanding writers and scholars. **Lawrence Buell**, **Linda Hogan**, and **Laurie Ricou** were chosen for this honor because of their contributions to environmental fiction, creative non-fiction, literature, ecocritical theory and environmental studies. We are pleased to add three distinguished writers to our group of lifetime members in honor of ASLE's twentieth anniversary who represent some of our origins, our transnational ties, our love of indigenous literatures, and our ties to the Western Literature Association. In addition to this announcement here, we also plan to announce these awards at the ASLE birthday party to be held at the upcoming Western Literature Conference in Lubbock, Texas, November 7-10, 2012.

**Lawrence Buell** is Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature Emeritus at Harvard University. In 2007, he won the Jay Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American Literary studies, which is the "highest professional award that the American Literature Section of the MLA can give." He has won many prestigious awards, including the 2003 Warren-Brooks Award for outstanding literary criticism for his 2003 book *Emerson* and the John G. Cawelti Award for the best book in the field of American Culture Studies, granted to his *Writing for an Endangered World* (2001). More than perhaps any single scholar, Buell is recognized as a founder of the field of Ecocriticism. His monograph *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture* (1995) proved ground-breaking for both Ecocritics and Americanists. Buell played a key role in another wave of environmental critique, inspired by political activists committed to social justice, when he published the field-shifting article "Toxic Discourse" (1998). His continuous international speaking engagements, tireless mentoring at home and abroad, and remarkable geniality have helped create environmental criticism, and environmental critics, worldwide. Buell retired from Harvard in 2011, although he continues a vibrant scholarly career.

**Linda Hogan** was only the second minority woman at the University of Colorado to be named a Full Professor. She is now a (Chickasaw) Writer in Residence for The Chickasaw Nation and an internationally recognized public speaker and writer of poetry, fiction, and essays. Her most recent books include *Rounding the Human Corners* (Coffee House Press, 2008, Pulitzer nominee) and *People of the Whale* (Norton, August 2008). Her other books include the novels *Mean Spirit* (a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize), *Solar Storms* (a finalist for the International Impact Award), and *Power* (also a finalist for the International Impact Award). In poetry, *The Book of Medicines* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her nonfiction includes *Dwellings*, *A Spiritual History of the Land*, and *The Woman Who Watches Over the World: A Native Memoir*. In addition, she has, with Brenda Peterson, written *Sightings*, *The Mysterious Journey of the Gray Whale* for National Geographic Books, and edited several anthologies on nature and spirituality. Hogan has also been involved for fifteen years with the Native Science Dialogues and the new Native American Academy and for many years with the SEED Graduate Institute in Albuquerque. She is a faculty member for the Indigenous Education Institute. Her new book *INDIOS*, a long poem and performance piece, is being scheduled for publication by Coffee House Press. Hogan is well loved by ASLE members as both a writer, a conference plenary, and a frequent attendee at many of our conferences. She has traveled to Spain as keynote speaker at the ecocriticism gathering at the University of Alcalá and has also participated at ecocritical conferences held at Tamkang University in Taiwan.

**Laurie Ricou** is one of the most important and original practitioners of environmental literary criticism writing in Canada today. Born in Manitoba, he went to Toronto for graduate study and discovered that writing about Canadian literature was a way of going home for him, of understanding the landscape that he had taken for granted while growing up. This sense of being, and of needing to be, at home-at home with his subject, the landscapes of Canada, the world at large, and, last not least, with himself-characterizes all his writing: a witty, often self-deprecating mix of stunning erudition, beautiful writing, and at times provocative

casualness. In 1978, Ricou moved to the West Coast, and the distinctly "unhorizontal landforms" of Vancouver (in his own words) inspired him to redirect his critical energies. The memorable slash in the title of his first book, *Vertical Man/Horizontal World: Man and Landscape in Canadian Prairie Fiction* (1973) resurfaces in his magisterial *The Arbutus/Madrone Files: Reading the Pacific Northwest* (2002). But here it no longer separates; it connects. If the organizing center of his work was the human imagination confronted with an environment that will always exceed it, Ricou now turns to plants: resilient and often overlooked ones, such as the Arbutus tree or madrone, Canada's only native broadleaved evergreen shrub, which defines the region through which Ricou's writers travel, or the salal, the subject of Ricou's latest book, the amazing *Salal: Listening for the Northwest Understory* (2007). A past president of the Western Literature Association and former editor of *Canadian Literature*, Laurie Ricou has taught, and inspired affectionate memories, in generations of students at the University of British Columbia. Through his writing--always accessible, always aware of the price we pay for living in the world as we do--he has reached many more.

### **Celebrating New Honorary Members at the ASLE 20th Birthday Party at WLA**

These new honorary members, along with recent inductees Scott Russell Sanders and Louise (Molly) Westling, will be honored at the ASLE 20th Anniversary reception, to be held on the opening night of the Western Literature Association conference (Nov. 7). If you are attending, please come help us celebrate with light appetizers, birthday cake, a cash bar, and a display of ASLE memorabilia.

Additional ASLE activities at WLA this year include sponsoring the plenary by Annette Kolodny, a two-hour roundtable on "Literature & Environment--the Long View: Thoughts from the Founders of ASLE," featuring twenty-six (!) people who were there when ASLE was formed, as well as two ASLE-affiliated panels: "New Directions in Environmental Justice Ecocriticism" and "Chicana Feminist Environmental Writing and Praxis."

For additional information on these events and the whole WLA program, see <http://www.usu.edu/westlit/wla-conference-2012/>



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Grand Beach, Manitoba. Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

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### **ASLE Ph.D.**

On September 18, 2012, **Idom T. Inyabri** successfully defended his thesis entitled "The Environment in Poetry from the Niger Delta" in the Department of English and Literary Studies at the University of Calabar in Nigeria. His committee was comprised of Dr. Peter Onwudinjo (Chief Supervisor), Professor Grace E. Okereke (second Supervisor), Professor Chinyere Nwahunanya (External Examiner), Professor Raymond I. Amadi (Graduate School Representative) and Dr. Ndubisi Osuwagu (Ag. Head, Department of English and Literary Studies) among many other members of the Departmental Graduate Board. His work was described by

the committee as "ground breaking" and is the first on Literature and the Environment in his University.

**Sibylle Machat** was awarded her doctorate "summa cum laude" in March 2012, and is now pleased to make the announcement "official" following the securing of a publishing contract for her thesis (a stipulation for using the title in Germany) "In the Ruins of Civilizations: Narrative Structures, World Constructions and Physical Realities in the Post-Apocalyptic Novel." Her committee was comprised of: Prof. Dr. Werner Reinhart, University of Flensburg - American Studies & Vice President of the University (1st grader); Prof. Dr. Günter Helmes, University of Flensburg - German Department (2nd grader); Prof. Dr. Uwe Danker, History Department (Head of Committee).

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## ASLE Member News

**Paul Lindholdt's** recent book, *In Earshot of Water: Notes from the Columbia Plateau* (University of Iowa Press, 2011) received the 2012 Washington State Book Award in Biography/Memoir. Paul is a Professor of English at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA.



Sunrise, Whiteshell Provincial Park, Manitoba.  
Photo by H. Lewis Ulman.

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## ASLE News Notes

### Member News

Whether you got a new job, won an award, or did something interesting, enlightening, or exciting, we want to know what you're up to! If you have some news to share with other ASLE members, and it doesn't "fit" into the Bookshelf, PhD, or Emeritus categories, please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine-meeks@utc.edu](mailto:catherine-meeks@utc.edu)) with the Subject heading "Member News."

### **ASLE Emeritus**

ASLE News honors those ASLE members retired or retiring from teaching. If you would like to acknowledge someone in this new feature--or if you yourself will be retiring during the coming academic year--please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine-meeks@utc.edu](mailto:catherine-meeks@utc.edu)). We will include a brief account of scholarly interests, the institutions of employment and years taught in the next newsletter.

### **ASLE PhDs**

Have you or one of your students recently defended a dissertation? If so, ASLE News wants to know. Each issue, we include announcements commemorating those members who have recently completed their doctoral work. If you would like to be included in this feature, please contact Catherine Meeks ([catherine-meeks@utc.edu](mailto:catherine-meeks@utc.edu)) with the dissertation title, degree-granting institution, and committee members.

## **Contact Information**

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