



The American Nature Writing Newsletter

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The Newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

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LETTER TO ASLE MEMBERS

Greetings, Friends.

As I receive the presidential baton from co-presidents Scott Slovic and Cheryll Glotfelty, I am delighted to report that ASLE continues to prosper—that our community of scholars is more diverse and productive than ever before. ASLE has had an exciting year marked by more historic events, expanded projects, and ambitious new plans than I can report here, and I look forward to serving the organization during what promises to be another outstanding year. In this letter I'll briefly discuss ASLE conferences and symposia, our current elections, the status of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, our new projects, and developments in the ongoing work of the association.

ASLE Conferences and Symposia

The focus of this issue of the *Newsletter* is ASLE's first conference, held last June at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Reflecting in the *New York Times Magazine* upon his visit to the ASLE conference ("The Greening of the Humanities," October 29, 1995), Jay Parini praised nature writing for its "re-engagement with realism, with the actual universe of rocks, trees and rivers that lies behind the wilderness of signs" (52). Responses to the conference—as expressed in the conference survey, in your letters, and in notices appearing in the *New York Times* and elsewhere—indicate that our first gathering was extremely successful (see the conference reports in this issue). Thanks to conference organizer Carol Cantrell and the many CSU graduate students whose hard work made our visit to Fort Collins so valuable and inspiring (see the article on organizing the conference, in this issue).

Since June we have been working to find homes for a number of future ASLE gatherings, the sites and hosts of which we are now pleased to announce. This coming August 13-17 ASLE will meet in Honolulu, Hawai'i, to consider the special topic "Japanese and American Environmental Literature." Hosted by Frank Stewart, editor of *Manoa* and professor of English at the University of Hawai'i, this symposium will include participation by members of ASLE-JAPAN (now over 100 members) and ASLE-U.S. (see the symposium announcement in this issue). More good news: ASLE's second biennial conference will be held in Missoula, Montana, in the summer of 1997. This conference will be hosted by ASLE Executive Council member Hank Harrington, professor of English and Director of the Environmental Writing Institute at the University of Montana (see the conference announcement in this issue). And,

planning as far ahead as the 20th century will allow, our third biennial conference will be hosted by Professor Tom Bailey and friends at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, during the summer of 1999 (details forthcoming nearer the end of the millennium).

Upcoming Elections

The time has come for ASLE to elect a new Vice President and two new Executive Council members. Our thanks to Elizabeth Dodd and Sean O'Grady, who are completing terms on the Council, and to co-presidents Scott Slovic and Cheryll Glotfelty, who are concluding their terms and will rotate onto the Advisory Board. As Scott and Cheryll step down it is crucial that we elect colleagues whose commitment and vision will help fulfill our high hopes for ASLE's future. You will find folded into this issue a mail-back ballot listing the names of the candidates for Vice President and Executive Council. The *Newsletter* itself contains a corresponding section with short introductory statements by each of the candidates. Please read these statements carefully, then mark your ballot and return it to me postmarked by December 15.

Status of *ISLE* and the *Newsletter*

The search for a new editor of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* is now complete, and we are pleased to announce that ASLE's official journal will be in the able hands of our founding president, Scott Slovic, whose tour of duty as ASLE officer and *American Nature Writing Newsletter* editor is now coming to an end. Our thanks to the members of the ad-hoc editorial selection committee: Paul Bryant, SueEllen Campbell, John Elder, Harold Fromm, Glen Love, and Tom Lyon. Scott is now working with *ISLE*'s founding editor, Patrick Murphy, to ensure a smooth transition of the journal from Indiana University of Pennsylvania to the University of Nevada, Reno (see the report on *ISLE* in this issue). This change in personnel also creates the need for a new editor of the *American Nature Writing Newsletter*, so please let me know very soon if you have an interest in editing the new, scaled-down version of the *Newsletter* (see the notice in this issue).

New Projects

We are pleased to announce ASLE's graduate liaisons for the upcoming year, Peter Blakemore and Laird Christensen of the University of Oregon. Our thanks to 1994-95 liaisons Julie Seton and Lisa Spaulding for their help during the past year. Peter and Laird are currently beginning work on a major ASLE project: a book-length collection of syllabi in literature and environment. Because the success of this project depends upon the con-



tribution of your syllabi, I urge you to respond to the call for syllabi that Peter and Laird have published in this issue.

The Graduate Mentoring Program, another important new ASLE project, is under the guidance of Andrea Herrmann of the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. The Mentoring Program is designed to match ASLE graduate students with ASLE faculty who have compatible expertise. For graduate students whose enthusiasm for nature writing and ecocriticism is not shared by faculty in their home department, this program should provide a source of support and advice. For faculty scholars—particularly scholars teaching in programs that do not offer advanced degrees—the program offers an opportunity to share expertise with a graduate student working actively in your area. Please complete the mail-back Mentoring Program form that is folded into this *Newsletter*, and return it to me (along with your ballot) postmarked by December 15.

The ASLE *Handbook on Graduate Study in Literature and Environment*, written by graduate liaisons Dan Philippon and George Hart in 1994, is now undergoing major revision and expansion by Gioia Woods of the University of Nevada, Reno. To ensure the accuracy and currency of the information included in the *Handbook*, Gioia asks that you complete the mail-back survey that is folded into this issue, and return it to me (along with your ballot and Mentoring Program form) postmarked by December 15. The second edition of the *Handbook* is due out by early summer. In the meantime, some copies of the first edition are still available for purchase (see the Product Order Form in this issue).

Although this letter offers only an abbreviated list of ASLE news and projects, it at least suggests the variety of important goals we intend to pursue during the upcoming year. (A brief description of new developments in ongoing

ASLE projects appears later in this issue of the *Newsletter*.) Please mail me your ballot, Mentoring Program form, and Graduate Handbook survey postmarked by December 15, and consider responding to other calls for submissions and volunteers. With your continued support, ASLE can maintain and develop the vitality, creativity, and good humor that animated our recent gathering in Colorado.

In closing, I offer my deep thanks to the many people whose hard work keeps ASLE going and growing. On behalf of the entire ASLE membership, a very special thanks to our friends Cheryll Glotfelty and Scott Slovic for the exceptional care, energy, and leadership they have offered this organization in its first three years of existence. We certainly wouldn't be where we are today without them.

I invite you to contact me at any time with your suggestions, questions, or offers of help. See you in Honolulu, Missoula, and Kalamazoo!

Cheers,

Mike

Michael Branch
President, ASLE



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The *American Nature Writing Newsletter* is the biannual newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, reporting ASLE's business and publishing letters from its membership. Items of interest, including news about conferences, forthcoming publications, and work in progress, are welcome.

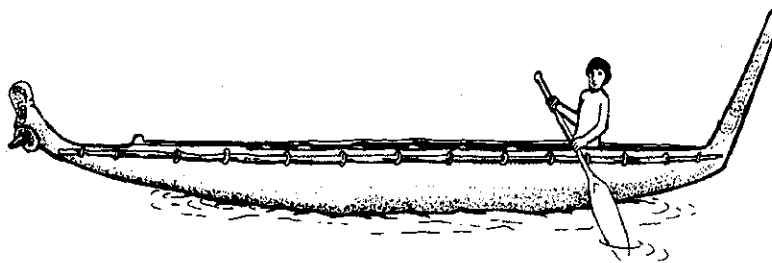
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Streams and Mountains Without End: Literature and Environment in 1995

by Dan Philippon

In the Summer 1995 issue of *Orion* magazine is reproduced *Streams and Mountains Without End*, the remarkable twelfth-century Chinese handscroll painting that was the initial inspiration for Gary Snyder's poem sequence in progress, "Mountains and Rivers Without End." An image of extraordinary depth and richness, featuring a series of streams falling over a rocky outcropping that rises from the mist and clouds, the painting could well serve as a metaphor of the natural and cultural environment encountered by participants in ASLE's first biennial conference, held June 9-11 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. When the conference opened, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains was obscured by overcast skies; as the weekend progressed, the cloud cover disappeared, revealing a mountain range of breathtaking visual and ecological complexity, not unlike the complex stream of critical and creative writing that seemed to pour forth each day from the conference. For three days, at least, both streams and mountains seemed without end.

Now, with time and distance, it's worth looking again at those days, both to provide a sense of the proceedings for those who could not attend, and to ask what the conference might reveal about the state of literature and environment studies in 1995.

The first event of the conference, an introduction to Fort Collins and environs, suggests the importance given to "place" throughout the discussions. On an experiential level, the conference offered opportunities for participants to explore a number of different Colorado places, including Horsetooth Park, the Cache la Poudre River, Pawnee National Grasslands, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Various paper sessions addressed such topics as international places, the literature of place, understanding place/developing voice, and places on earth/places in mind. Two of the six roundtable sessions — one on literature and urban environments and another on bioregionalism and literature — also stressed the importance of place. This should come as no surprise, of course, considering the "environmental" focus of studies in literature and environment.

As for the "literary" focus of such studies, almost all the sessions were engaged in one form or another of what might be called "disciplinary revision" — which, for the sake of clarity, can be divided into three major topics: genre revision, canon revision, and field revision. Because each of these divisions flows freely into the others, they should be seen not as rigid categories but merely as organizational guides, themselves subject to revision as needed.

The first and largest of these topics, genre revision, involves the creation and study of nature writing — considered broadly to include non-fictional essays, ecopoetry, and environmental fiction. In addition to keynote readings by essayist Scott Russell Sanders and Navajo poet Luci Tapahonso, five sessions featured the presentation of new nature writing, including a roundtable storytelling session about bear stories. Other sessions addressed the topics of unjustly neglected nature writers, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American naturalists, the literature of ex-

ploration, Native American nature writing, recent women environmental writers, mountaineering literature, and the landscape of ecofiction. Five sessions were devoted to the individual nature writers Mary Austin, Annie Dillard, Gretel Ehrlich, Henry David Thoreau, and Terry Tempest Williams.

Another large portion of the sessions was concerned with canon revision: applying ecocritical approaches to "classic" texts and examining the interaction of culture, gender and nature in texts from all periods and traditions. The first aspect of this topic was addressed by two sessions: one on nature and the American Renaissance and another on ecocritical approaches to Whitman, Frost, Stevens, and Hemingway. Sessions concerned with the second part of this topic included discussions about ecocritical approaches to multicultural literature, Native American issues and landscape, women and the wild, women and nature in early British literature, and nature and gender in the nineteenth century.

The final topic of interest could be termed "field revision": questioning and challenging the boundaries of the field. The major sessions that engaged this topic were the keynote addresses given by SueEllen Campbell, John Elder, and William Howarth, and the special forum on ecocriticism given by Lawrence Buell. To these could be added two sessions on theory and method in ecocriticism, including a theory roundtable; two sessions on ecological cultural studies, including one on film, television, and selling the environment; one session on environmental philosophy; two on ecofeminism, including a roundtable on women and nature; three sessions on political issues, including a roundtable on advocacy and politics in literature and environment; and three sessions on pedagogy, including a roundtable on the use of outdoor excursions in teaching.

For those who remained a final day in Fort Collins to hike the trails of Rocky Mountain National Park, the vista of endless mountains glimpsed throughout the weekend quickly assumed the character of reality. So too, perhaps, will the stream of papers and discussion generated by the conference become an endless source of thoughts and ideas for those who attended, as well as an image of the extraordinary depth and richness of the field as a whole.



Hosting The First ASLE Conference:

A Report From Fort Collins

by Carol Cantrell and Molly Murfee

CAROL: It never really seemed like a crazy idea, though it should have. I had written to Cheryl Glotfelty to thank her for setting up the ASLE e-mail network, mentioning that I thought there was a lot of interest in literature and environment issues here. Her response was, I came to learn, pure Cheryl: she asked if I'd like to set up ASLE's first conference at Colorado State University. "Sounds interesting," I wrote back. "Let me look into it."

This was in late winter of 1993, and we quickly learned that we had barely started soon enough to plan a conference for the summer of 1995. Mike Hood, a graduate student with remarkable organizing skills, came up with a list of students we could count on for major tasks. Green light there. We began negotiations with Conference Services about housing, registration costs, and logistics. (Looking back, I am amazed to remember that we wondered whether or not we should use this service.) Another green light. The yellow light came when we tried to set a date, and learned that even more than a year ahead of time we had only two dates to choose from in the summer of 1995. A hasty poll of ASLE members resulted in the choice of June 9-11, 1995.

I no longer remember what all those hundreds of e-mail messages linking Fort Collins to Nevada, Texas, California, Louisiana and elsewhere were about. The most exciting feature of our planning was also the most difficult: this was the first conference, and we were setting the precedent. We had no idea how many people would come, how much money we needed to generate, or what the schedule should look like. Somehow all these unknowns seemed to fire our enthusiasm, and we developed what turned out to be a workable strategy for dividing up the tasks: Scott Slovic and Cheryl would be in charge of calling for papers, setting up panels, and organizing a schedule of panels and papers. The Fort Collins recruits would work on local arrangements, including recreation, and preparing the brochure and program. Early on we imagined a sort of European schedule: we would have papers and panels in the mornings and evenings, and spend afternoons out-of-doors, walking, biking, rafting, climbing, or enjoying long lunches and good conversation. We wanted this conference to be different—it should be about doing as well as talking, it should create multiple conditions for dialogue, it should honor place, it should be an interaction with nature, not just a discussion about nature. And, we thought, it should be affordable for graduate students and young faculty.

Through the efforts of my dean and department chair, we received enough funding to keep registration fees relatively low and still make the conference self-supporting. The students who designed our brochure, program, and conference t-shirts worked with natural images suggestive of this area—the aspen leaf and the local landmark, Horsetooth Rock, against which the ASLE logo was printed. The recreational options offered activities from mountain to prairie. Yet as the extraordinary rains of April, May, and early June threatened to rewrite our landscape, we became increasingly aware that events at this conference were going to be propelled by energies bigger than our plans.

For starters, we were not able to produce a leisurely schedule. From the moment that proposals began coming in, the expected number of participants rose daily. We didn't print enough brochures and had to print more. Even after the deadline for registration came and went, new participants continued to send in their checks. By the time the conference date arrived, people who had signed up for single rooms in the dorms found that they would have to have roommates, and several of the rooms scheduled for panel sessions in the Student Center turned out to be much too small for the ASLE crowds. Though we were able to acquire a larger room for plenary sessions than the one originally scheduled for us (thanks to Dan Dykstra of Conference Services), the crowd for Lawrence Buell's Special Forum at 5:00 p.m. Saturday jammed a large room to overflowing.

Yet even the difficulties felt like part of a celebration. The strong show of interest publishers expressed in the program, the book displays, and in the ASLE membership was one of the most visible of the many signs that the world was ready and waiting for this conference. Thanks to Bronwyn Becker's thorough professionalism and "can-do" approach, we had a book display and a group of publishers' representatives on hand to let us know that what ASLE members read and write has a large and lively audience. And thanks to Carter True's excellent command of logistics, the conference went smoothly despite the larger than expected numbers.

I want to end this brief report with some comments from Molly Murfee, another one of our marvelous graduate student volunteers. She should have the last word for a couple of reasons: the first ASLE conference was a thoroughly collaborative process (the highlight for me was meeting my e-mail buddies, Scott Slovic and Cheryl Glotfelty, for the first time), and Molly's comments detail the kind of hard work done by the many people who contributed their imagination, energy, and time. And her particular task, organizing recreational activities, speaks to much of what was unique about the conference.

MOLLY: "Sure," I said, "I would love to organize the recreation activities for the ASLE conference." (It was right up my alley. My master's project involves teaching nature writing in outdoor adventure environments.) Besides, how hard would it be to create and carry out recreational activities for about 100 . . . 200 . . . 300 . . . (the numbers kept growing)? The initial list of things to do in and around Fort Collins totaled around 60 -- far too many, so I had to limit. My committee and I set about achieving an equal balance of guided and unguided hikes, short and long programs, educational ones and just pure fun ones to cover the interests of the broad spectrum of conference-goers that would range from hard-core mountaineers to pure academics. But conceptualizing the idea of such activities was not all I had to consider. There were logistical concerns: "How are they going to get there?"

(Continued on page 20)

Getting Outside:

A Report on the Recreational Activities

By Dan Noland, with Lee Schweninger

Though it wasn't designed as such, Luci Tapahonso's poetry reading on Friday night at Avogadro's restaurant turned out to be the first field trip. To open the reading, John Tallmadge called for a moment of silence in memory of Sherman Paul. In the middle of our sobered reflections, an unannounced nighthawk called once right overhead, hawked mosquitoes briefly, then flew west. Later, while Luci sang and spoke her Navajo poems, the nighthawk came back out of the fiery Rocky sunset, called a couple more times, then vanished under the waxing gibbous moon. As darkness covered us and we were introduced to the rhythms of blue horses running, a wind sprang up cold off the mountains, shaking the stage cover hard and sending many inside. After the reading, the night was calm.

On Saturday there was an afternoon rafting trip on the fabled Cache la Poudre River. That water was big by Appalachian standards and cold by any standards, so our raft of ASLE truants was glad for the jovial competence of our guides. We got rudimentary river rescue training, and we were successful enough with our paddles to get cocky about being on the lower part of the river, but the guides mumbled stuff like "liability" and "fat chance" and wouldn't take us on the really big water higher up the canyon. But we got back to the conference in time to hear Lawrence Buell give an evaluative taxonomy of ecocriticism.

On Sunday we chose the Pawnee National Grasslands birding trip. A dozen of us rode out of town in a thick fog—where it came from I have no idea—but it lifted a few miles outside of town to reveal something I had never seen before: the PRAIRIE. I'm a coastal plains person, born and raised in flat, humid forests, and that endless treeless expanse was beyond my imagining.

And full of life! We saw raucous, crabby, yellow-headed blackbirds; exuberant western meadowlarks; two golden eagle chicks, if they can really be called that; more herons; mallards; pintails; avocets; blue-winged teal; Canada geese; double-breasted cormorants; horned larks; lark buntings; a burrowing owl; killdeer; ferruginous hawks close-up; big, beautiful hunters; Swainson's hawks; a kestrel; loggerhead shrikes; McCowan's long spur; and what excited the real birders: some mountain plovers, rare and shy. A chilly wind eventually scoured us toward town, and on the way back we passed white-tailed deer, prong-horn antelope, and a cool customer, Coyote.

Back on the Colorado State campus a red-shafted flicker called, then spread its wings and flew directly overhead into the big American elms that still grow on the old quad.

Another trip that day was to Horsetooth, named for the large pink sandstone outcropping resembling a horse's several front teeth. I came across a diamondback on the way down the trail. A little snake, and beautiful. Three of us came upon a group of hikers gathered on the path; as we approached, they warned us that a rattler lurked just off the trail. We stopped to look. I noticed—once I spotted the well-camouflaged snake—an animal small and scared. Scared, I supposed, because six or eight humans stood

staring—it was too outnumbered to strike, though it shook its rattles occasionally, and too cautious to retreat. And small, given the size of a rattlesnake in my imagination. And beautiful. Most stunning of all was its beauty: the sharpness of the clear black and golden-brown diamond pattern on its back, the sleek power of its body, the intensity of its alertness, the hiss and rattle. Having had my brief look, I wanted the other humans to back off, to take their dogs and leave the snake alone; to set an example the three of us continued down the trail.

The crowning event was a day trip up to Rocky Mountain National Park on Monday after the conference ended. About 30 people stayed over and bussed up through Big Thompson Creek Canyon and Estes Park to Bear Lake, at about 9,400'. The lake was covered in ice, which was a rude awakening after the 95-degree Carolina heat, and surrounded by tourists, so four of us decided to hike up Flattop Mountain. Being a self-styled walker, I set the pace to clear the crowds as soon as possible. There was some grumbling from the others about my speed, and I smiled with inward self-satisfaction. Toughen up, I thought. But my smugness vanished within about 200 yards as I leaned on the nearest ponderosa, sucking wind. After that the laggards led, so that they were the first to punch through the 6, 8, 10-foot-deep snow. Lots of snow, lots of sun. Did you bring a hat, they asked me; sunscreen, some sunglasses? No. What a rube. I shared their stuff.

More plants and animals as we worked our way up: unconcerned blue grouse, cheeky gray jays, exotic-looking Stellar's jays, pica, marmot, Douglas fir, white spruce, bristlecone pines. After two hours of steady walking and hard breathing, we dangled our legs at 12,300 feet over a sheer drop of at least 1,000 feet down to Emerald Lake, green even under its ice, with Bierstadt Lake, Estes Park, Haihaha and Long's Peak spread out all over the world around us. The others scuttled up the remaining few hundred feet to get to the Continental Divide, but they spotted an avalanche nearby and scuttled back in a hurry while I dried off, warmed up and watched cliff swallows and ravens playing in the updrafts.

We were all amazed by the number and kinds of scat on top of the snow as we descended again, and almost pleased by our nascent scatology until one of the group pointed out that the pile currently under consideration was human. Sigh. But anyway, thanks to Molly Murfee and the other CSU folks who arranged all of that instructive, collegial fun.



Reflections of the First ASLE Conference:

A Graduate Student Perspective

By Julie Seton, New Mexico State University

First, let me congratulate the ASLE conference committee for putting on a great show. Special attention goes to Carol Cantrell as the local organizer. Nice Job!

The scheduling committee had a difficult task to match up presenters and topics that fit into single categories. I commend the committee on their success. I found the panel of David Taylor, Stan Tag, and Kathleen Wallace to be the most intriguing of the six I attended. Not only could I identify with their topics and their methodologies, but was able to look at them as role models—recently graduated PhD scholars with fresh memories of finishing their degrees.

Although the schedule did not allow for much time to discuss the trials and tribulations of “making it” with these people, their presentations provided an array of examples of how recent ex-students established themselves as non-student contributors to the dynamic studies of literature and the environment. This panel was well attended and was set up as a roundtable rather than a formal lecture format, so I was able to see many different faces (as opposed to the backs of their heads) in one place at the beginning of the conference. This proved helpful as the conference progressed because I could use a discussion of this panel as an ice-breaker.

Afternoon presenters found smaller audiences than morning presenters due to the overlap of nature activities and scholarly sessions. Being the diligent graduate student, I attended the sessions rather than braving the rapids. I would have preferred to have the trips scheduled around the sessions rather than concurrently. The sessions were interesting, but I would have liked to hear more discussion about the various topics. With only six or eight people in the room, group discussions were often brief. Several people—audience members and presenters alike—felt compelled to run off to other activities.

As a graduate student participant I was eager to connect faces with e-mail users IDs and meet scholars who could, perhaps, provide insights into my research questions about language, literature, nature, writing, and surviving graduate school. I found some answers about how nature functions within the literary community and how language can be used to turn environments inside-out.

There was not time to delve into finding the stepping stones of success through graduate school beyond knowing that most of the presenters had been successful in this venture. I was able to acquire name, phone, fax, e-mail, and address information directly for some, and since ASLE has been generous with its information, any whining I have to do about being connected must be directed at myself.

It became apparent that ASLE as an organization is in its infancy, one in which body parts are not all quite under control. The organization itself seems unwieldy. There is a tremendous interest in the study of literature and the environment from several angles, including but not limited to literary, scientific, social, ethical, and political. I felt like the organizers and participants want to keep the various perspectives active, but this is a difficult task.

It was mentioned to me several times throughout the conference how great it was to have the Society for Conservation Biologists meeting at the same time in the same place. The problem was that there was no explicit vehicle to communicate with these scientists apart from crashing their sessions and stopping them in the hallway. Literary environmentalists have unfortunately gained a reputation for slandering science. Scientists interested in literature might be turned off by this general attitude—much like the pre-conference discussion expressing concern about the energy and resources used to attend the conference at all. This problem has arisen in my work several times and I'm not sure how to solve it, but I know it exists. ASLE can be a valuable repository for information and different perspectives, but I feel that clarification is needed for participation by fields outside the literary community and a new awareness for those inside the literary community about how to achieve these goals. (A good example of new awareness came over the computer network just last week about non-fiction awards going to nature writers. Of course non-fiction writers write about nature! What else is “real”?)

As I said before, overall the conference was well organized. Some of the sessions were very crowded (unfortunately mine was not one of them!) and it was difficult to figure out where some of the rooms were because the numbers on the doors didn't match the room. As the conference progressed, I was able to find my way around more easily, but I had to ask directions several times. A simple solution for next time: room numbers that match the rooms, and/or posting the sessions and times outside each room for easy referral.

I found this first ASLE conference to be pleasantly laid back. Some of the informality brought people closer together, especially those who expected a relaxed atmosphere; however, I expected more formality, based on my experience with my one and only WLA conference, in Wichita. I felt overdressed and over-rehearsed for the relaxed atmosphere in Fort Collins. (I wish I had known that the “banquet” was really an outdoor barbecue—I would have worn my sneakers instead of heels. . . I'll know better next time.)

In closing, I want to pose a question to ASLE participants regarding the difficulty in communicating with the scientific community and with other non-literature based communities interested in the interaction between literature and the environment. How can we (ASLE) invite other perspectives into our organization in one gesture and slander their perspectives in the next? There is less of a problem in one-to-one discussions, but on an organizational level this becomes a delicate topic. As an ASLE member, my approach to scientists (specifically, range scientists, entomologists, and wildlife management specialists) is rhetorical and personal, meaning that I approach them with questions about their field and how I can contribute to their goals. But I find I must overcome strong resentment when they learn that I read and support writers like Rachel Carson and Terry Tempest Williams. Where are our boundaries?

A Report From the Field:

Survey Responses from ASLE Conference Participants

By Gioia Woods

Thoreau wondered where he could find the "literature which gives expression to Nature." For one weekend in early June, much of that expression was found in the shadow of Long's Peak, where students and scholars of literature and environment gathered at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. ASLE's first conference was often lauded and sometimes lamented by its participants—but one thing most celebrated was the overwhelming sense of community the conference provided.

As I perused the responses to ASLE's post-conference survey, it became clear that participants were most impressed with (and most grateful for) the chance to encounter "so many good people who are passionate" about literature and environment. One respondent felt that the "opportunity to meet colleagues" with shared interests was empowering. Another commented on the camaraderie, the energy, and the "great folk." In one way or another, most survey respondents pointed to the feeling of being energized: "It really recharged my batteries."

Other features most enjoyed included the "high quality of key-noters." The opening addresses by John Elder, William Howarth, and SueEllen Campbell made "a thought provoking" beginning to the sessions that followed. Many pointed to Luci Tapahonso's and Scott Russell Sanders's readings as highlights of the conference.

Because ASLE is a unique enterprise, we wanted to establish a tradition of unique conferences. One of the survey questions asked what positive features distinguished this conference from others. Again, the spirit of community and friendliness topped the list. Many also suggested that the conference atmosphere was relaxed and the people "genuine." Numerous respondents referred to the "non-

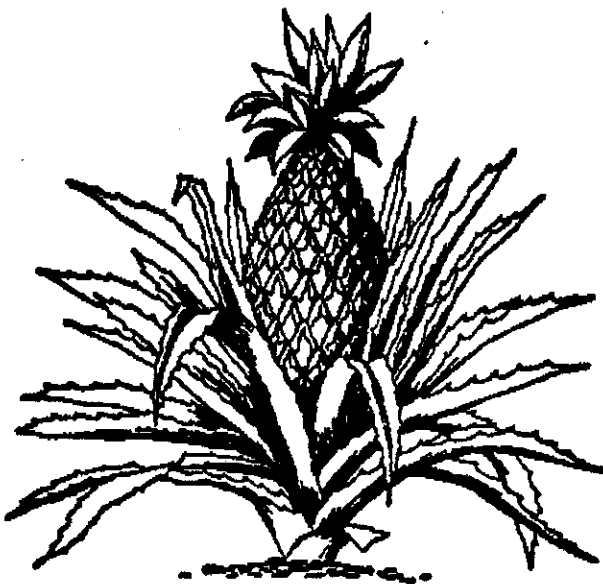
competitive environment" and the lack of "ego-competition." Something else was missing that one respondent expressed thanks for: "the pronounced absence of suits [and] ties." Despite the casual veneer, respondents reported enjoying rigorous scholarship, a diversity of sessions, and "discussion of issues that really matter instead of the usual rhetorical noodling." Respondents also appreciated musician Walkin' Jim Stolz, the organized hikes, the affordable rooms, and the beautiful location.

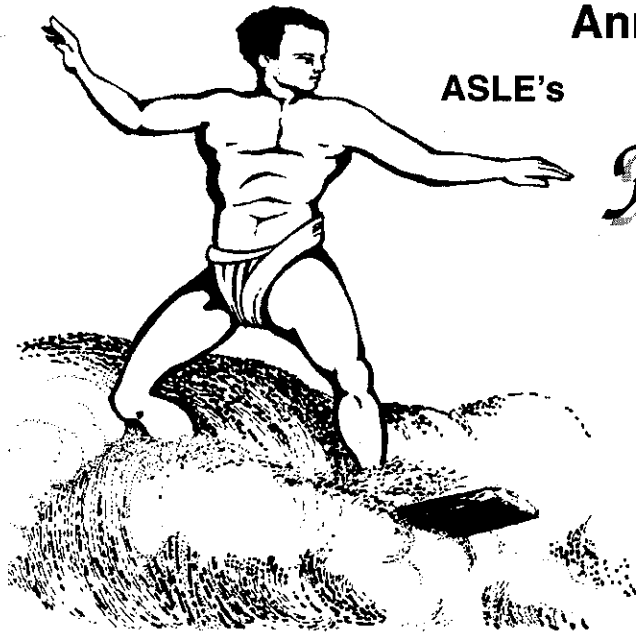
Most agreed that Colorado State was indeed a beautiful location, if not perhaps the most convenient. For example, respondents noted some initial confusion regarding dorm rooms, and some disappointment at having to share rooms due to the reduced availability caused by the unexpected size of the conference. Another difficulty frequently alluded to was the constant overlapping of interesting paper sessions and intriguing outdoor activities—what one participant dubbed "an embarrassment of riches." All the coffee lovers implied that the lack of Sunday-morning caffeine was heinous, and some reported that finding food during the weekend was particularly difficult. Another complaint often described is summed up by the following comment: "the walking distances—from lodging to eateries to the student center—were tough for some participants, especially during the cold weather." Others suggested that many of the outdoor activities excluded those who are active in scholarly pursuits, but unable to be physically active.

Many respondents provided helpful critiques of conceptual problems with the conference. A few wished the conference schedule had been available earlier to facilitate travel plans. Several hinted that fewer paper sessions might be wiser, and others suggested a more selective process be used in choosing papers. Presentations, some felt, should include more criticism of ecocriticism and more theory-oriented scholarship in general. While many thought that papers too often strayed from the topic of literature, others hoped for increased interdisciplinarity.

In answer to the question of what aspects of the conference should be retained, many noted the early June date. The timing was not perfect for everyone—but those who preferred a change usually suggested a date later in June or early July. The general consensus boiled down to this: keep the roundtables (with fewer people), the fieldtrips (with increased accessibility), and the creative writing sessions (with larger rooms). Most respondents wanted to keep the keynote speakers and musical entertainment—one even suggested "more music!" One respondent asked if ASLE would consider organizing an outdoor event "led by a writer or artist or biologist." Including more people from the sciences is considered a must. "Recall," one participant wrote, "there was a meeting of ecologists at the same time, but no real interaction between the two groups!"

Thanks to all the post-conference survey respondents. Your impressions were overwhelmingly positive, your critiques invaluable helpful. On to Hawai'i, Montana, and Michigan!





Announcing!

ASLE's

HAWAIIAN

Symposium on Japanese and American Environmental Literature

AUGUST 13-17, 1996

ASLE-Japan and ASLE-U.S. are working together to plan the first international symposium of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. Professor Frank Stewart, from the University of Hawai'i-Manoa, will be the symposium host; and Professor Scott Slovic, from the University of Nevada, Reno, is responsible for developing the program. The conference will take place August 13-17, 1996, in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

We are planning a symposium (i.e., small conference) with approximately 50-60 participants, ideally an even mixture of Japanese and American scholars and writers, plus anyone from other countries who might be interested in the topic of the symposium. We will invite several distinguished environmental writers from Japan and the United States to give keynote readings during the symposium and to talk about the process of literary translation. Members of ASLE are invited to submit proposals for fifteen-minute papers, or topics (and lists of participants) for possible roundtable discussion sessions.

Translation services will be available, so Japanese participants may give their presentations in Japanese. Possible topics for papers and sessions include the following:

- *The literature of natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, storms, sharks, poisonous animals, etc.)
- *Ocean literature (or water literature in general)
- *The literature of farming
- *Islands and literature
- *Environmental authors who demonstrate a connection between Japan and the United States (for instance, Gary Snyder or Nanao Sakaki)
- *The influence of the American green movement in Japan
- *Buddhist influences on American environmental thinking
- *The literature of urban environments
- *Environmental literature in industrialized societies

We will spend most of the week in Honolulu, but there will also be one or two optional field trips to beautiful natural locations, including trips to Volcanoes National Park (where you can witness the on-going eruption of Kilauea) and to the rain forests.

Professor Stewart has reserved nice accommodations and meeting rooms at Tokai University, an attractive new private college in Honolulu. The cost of a double room is only \$50 per night (an excellent deal for Hawai'i). For those who would prefer more luxurious accommodations, and for those traveling with their families, a limited number of rooms have been reserved for us at the nearby Ala Moana Hotel with special rates of \$86 per night. The symposium site is a quarter-mile from Waikiki, where many other housing options are available, and less than a mile from the University of Hawai'i campus and the East-West Center, where Summer Session events will be going on concurrently.

Please direct any questions about the local arrangements (hotel possibilities, etc.) to:

Professor Frank Stewart
Department of English
University of Hawai'i-Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822 USA
FAX: 808-956-3083
Phone: 808-956-3070
E-mail: fstewart@uhunix.hawaii.edu

Please send paper proposals, suggestions for roundtable topics, or requests to join roundtable sessions by 15 January 1996 to:

Professor Scott Slovic
Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities
Mail Stop 098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557 USA
FAX: 702-784-6266
Phone: 702-784-8015
E-mail: slovic@scs.unr.edu

The symposium is being co-sponsored by *Manoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing*, based at the University of Hawai'i, by the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i-Manoa College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature, by the Japanese and United States branches of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, and by the *Yomiuri* newspaper. Additional sponsors will be named later.

Conference Announcements

By David Taylor

(For publication in future newsletters, please send conference announcements to: David Taylor, ASLE Conference Tracker, English Department, Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302.)

November

College English Association. 27th Annual Conference, April 4-6, 1996. The Doubletree Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Completed papers should be planned for reading in 10-12 minutes (5-6 pages) and are **due Nov. 15, 1995**. Program participants must be CEA members and be registered for the conference. James R. Bennett, 1996 CEA Program Chair, English Dept., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (501)575-4301/442-4600.

John Muir in Historical Perspective. University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA. April 18-21, 1996. The conference invites proposals on any aspect of this theme. Proposals for papers and sessions should be forwarded, along with a brief resume, to the CHI 96 Program Committee, in care of its Co-Chairs, Professors Sally Miller and Ron Limbaugh, Department of History, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211 **by Nov. 15, 1995**. (209)946-2145; fax (209)946-2318.

December

American Literature Association Conference (Western Literature Association Session). San Diego, CA. May 29-June 2, 1996. Postmark on or **before Dec. 1, 1995**. Old and New Frontiers: New Historicism and Western Literature. Send paper (15 minutes long) or abstract. Bonney MacDonald, English Dept., Union College, Schenectady, NY 12308. (518)388-6044. (See call for papers on page 13.)

American Literature Association Conference (Western Literature Association Session). May 29-June 2, 1996. Postmark on or **before Dec. 1, 1995**. Session II: The Personal West: Making Western Literature Relevant in the Classroom. Send paper (15 minutes long) or abstract. Charlotte M. Wright, University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203. (817)565-2142; fax (817)565-4590.

Sessions of interest at MLA: Friday, Dec. 29 - #522: The Nature of Cities: Literature and Place in the Urban Environment (Terrell Dixon, Chair; Michael Bennett, Ralph Black, Michael Branch, and Harold Fromm, Respondent). Saturday, Dec. 30 - #642: Nature and Environmental Writing (William Howarth, Chair, Mary Ellen Bellanca, Kent Ryden, David Teague, Frederick Waage).

January

North American Interdisciplinary Wilderness Conference. Reno, NV. February 29-March 2, 1996. Professor Scott Slovic, Director, Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities, Mail Stop 098, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. **By Jan. 1, 1996**.

American Writers and the Natural World. The 17th Annual Key West Literary Seminar. January 11-14, 1996. Key West Literary Seminar, 419 Petronia St., Dept. F, Key West, FL 33040.

Delta Studies Symposium: The Blues II. Arkansas State University, Jonesboro Campus. Proposals for papers should include a 250-word abstract; those for creative presentations should include a sampling of previous work. **By Jan. 15, 1996**. Delta Symposium Committee, Dept. of English and Philosophy, P.O. Box 1890, Arkansas State University, State University, AR 72467-1890.

ASLE Symposium on Japanese and American Environmental Literature. Honolulu, Hawai'i. August 13-17, 1996. Professor Scott Slovic, Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities, Mail Stop 098, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. **By Jan. 15, 1996**. (See expanded conference announcement on page 9.)

21st Annual Conference on Literature and Film. "Genre and Gender in Film and Literature." January 25-27, 1996. Tallahassee, FL. Brenda Cappuccio, Dept. of Modern Languages, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1020.

March

The Ends of Nature. 5th Annual Cultural Studies Symposium. March 19, 1996. Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Cultural Studies 1996 Planning Committee, Dept. of English, Denison Hall 122, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-0701.

April

Southern Women Writers Conference. April 12-14, 1996. Berry College, Rome, Georgia. Emily Wright, Berry College English Dept., 5010 Berry College, Mount Berry, GA 30149. (706)236-7389.

The 1996 International Conference of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars. April 24-27 1996. Florida International University. Professor Adele S. Newson, Dept. of English, ACI 362, Florida International University, North Miami, FL 33181.

May

Woman to Women: 19th-Century American Women Writers in the 21st Century. May 30-June 1, 1996. Trinity College and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT. Jo Blatti, Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

Dramas of Culture. The International Association for Philosophy and Literature 20th Anniversary Conference. May 8-11, 1996. IAPL 96/ 20th Anniversary, Mail Stop 3G3, Center for Professional Development, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444.

Summer 1997

ASLE's Second Biennial Conference. Missoula, Montana. Summer 1997. Professor Henry Harrington, Environmental Studies Program, Rankin Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Details forthcoming in future newsletters.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLICATION

Terra Nova: Nature and Culture. Submissions written for generalist rather than specialist. Few footnotes as possible. Send 3.5" computer disk, in MS-DOS WordPerfect 5.1 or Macintosh Microsoft Word 5.0 along with 2 printed copies of your work. Manuscripts not returned. David Rothenberg, Editor, *Terra Nova*, Dept. of Social Science and Policy Studies, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102. (201)596-3289; fax (201) 565-0586.

Mary Austin. We are actively seeking 20-25 page critical essays for a collection on Mary Austin. We are particularly interested in essays on Austin's lesser-known works or on her relationships to other authors and movements. To be considered for inclusion in this volume, which will be co-edited by Melody Graulich and Betsy Klimasmeth, please submit manuscripts by Dec. 1, 1995. Prof. Melody Graulich, Dept. of English, Hamilton Smith Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

Special Announcements

Garland Encyclopedia Update - Patrick Murphy

Literature and Environment, an *Encyclopedia* is no longer going to be an encyclopedia. Garland editor Marianne Lown expressed concern over the length of time it was taking to determine the tentative table of contents and specify potential contributors from among the voluminous international correspondence that I and Joe Register, my graduate assistant, have been receiving. I requested another six months to develop the table of contents, given that we were entering another round of significant international and national responses to a set of postings. After her consultation with Gary Kuris, the senior editor, Lown indicated Garland's continuing support for the project, but with Kuris's stipulation that it be a set of essays rather than an A-Z encyclopedia. I am both disappointed and, frankly, somewhat relieved. The encyclopedia version would have taken up to another three years before the production of a complete manuscript. I believe that we can generate a less comprehensive, yet highly international volume of essays in much less time.

So, if you have received guidelines for the project, please disregard them except for the more conceptual components. Joe and I will be developing a new set of guidelines during the month of October. If you initially proposed an essay, rather than encyclopedia-style contribution, we will be returning to those proposals to review their appropriateness. If you sent in suggestions for single author or text entries, we will be looking at them in terms of proposals. If you would like to contribute, please send in as soon as possible a proposal for a survey type of essay on a period, regional literature, movement, set of authors, clustering concept, or theoretical issue. Essays with a theoretical, scientific, ecological, or ethical focus will be expected to make substantial use of literary texts as examples in order to be included in the new volume. I still expect to make use of regional coordinators of essays addressing a single national literature to receive significant attention, such as that of Canada, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, Japan, China, Latin America, and the like.

Garland has decided that the collection of essays should be limited to 200,000 words, which means that we will probably have space for only about 50,000 words for U.S. subjects. I would like to be able to put the table of contents together by February or so, and begin receiving essays by the summer, and expect to begin soliciting specific essays from individuals or teams once Joe and I have sorted through what we have in hand and receive prior to Christmas. I will then look for apparent gaps and seek individuals willing to write articles that will fill those gaps. Literature in English will receive the most attention in the collection, although I expect to have a significant amount of discussion of environmental literature in other languages represented in the volume. Rather than *Literature and Environment*, which has caused some confusion in various quarters, I expect to define the project as *Environmental Literature*, with an emphasis on the past few centuries, but also with consideration of literature from earlier historical periods. I do not intend at this point to have any chapters devoted exclusively to a single individual. For information contact Patrick Murphy, English Dept., Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705-1094.

Call For Syllabi

After years of planning courses on literature and the environment in relative isolation, we are finally in a position to begin to draw on one another's experiences, and toward that end we are compiling a collection of syllabi. We envision a wide-ranging but accessible collection, enhanced by thematic classifications and cross-references, that will provide a broader understanding of the field as it has evolved within traditional academic studies. Because of the diverse and interdisciplinary approaches to literature and the environment, we recognize the limitations inherent in any single category; therefore, we are interested in receiving syllabi from any classes that you may have taught focusing on environmental literature, nature writing, ecocriticism, regional or bioregional literature, ecological philosophy, travel literature, ecofeminism, or other pertinent courses. We are also interested in syllabi from courses outside the discipline. If you have a syllabus from a course that you have taught, or if you know of a syllabus that may be useful, please send it to: Peter Blakemore or Laird Christensen, ASLE Graduate Liaisons, English Department, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; or e-mail us at "lairdc@oregon.uoregon.edu"

Call For Newsletter Editor

ASLE is looking for a new editor for its newsletter, *The American Nature Writing Newsletter*. Now that ASLE has adopted the journal *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, it is time for the newsletter to be "down-sized" from its recent mini-journal format to something more manageable. As *ISLE* makes the transition from a new to an established journal with a regular, twice-yearly publication schedule, there will be no need for ASLE's newsletter to print short essays on thematic topics as it has done in the past. The time has come for the newsletter to function primarily as a *news* letter. We may even decide to change its name to more accurately reflect the international membership of ASLE. Would you like to be the next editor? Read on for the nitty gritty details of editorship!

Duties: The newsletter editor will be responsible for editing, printing, and mailing two issues of the newsletter per year. Editing the newsletter entails knowing how to use Pagemaker or some other newsletter software so that the final product looks respectable. Submissions for the newsletter are mailed to the editor, who then arranges them into a logically organized and attractive publication. The newsletter contains several regular features (the ASLE president's letter, the conference listings, minutes from the business meeting, and so on). It is the editor's responsibility to see that the contributors of these features submit their material on time; thus, the job requires staying in touch with several people and occasionally doing some friendly nagging.

ASLE membership fees support the newsletter, so it is important that the new editor be able to get the newsletter printed at affordable prices without sacrificing quality. Mailing the newsletter entails arranging for the ASLE secretary to provide you with mailing labels for the membership.

(continued on next page)

With ASLE's membership now approaching 800, the folding/stamping/labeling can be time-consuming. We have found that mailing parties are a fun way to accomplish this otherwise daunting task. To keep costs down, it is best if the newsletters are sent by bulk mail, which requires sorting by zip code. Prospective editors should be willing to look into the option of using their institution's bulk mailing permit; ASLE will reimburse the institution.

Especially now that the newsletter will be scaled down, the job of editor is quite manageable; it is an occasion to be creative; and it is certainly a vital service to ASLE. We are hoping that the new editor will be able to edit the very next newsletter, to be published in May 1996. The ASLE officers and past editors are, of course, eager to provide help and advice.

If you are interested in serving as the next newsletter editor, please write a letter explaining who you are, why you want to be editor, and whether you have related experience. If you have served as a newsletter editor in the past, please send a sample. Your application letter should demonstrate that you are aware of what the job entails and that you are prepared to accept this responsibility. Please send your letter to Michael Branch, English Department, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. Your letter should be postmarked by December 15, 1995, and you will be notified of the officers' decision early in 1996. If you have questions, please call Mike at (702) 784-8016.

ASLE Bibliography Editor Needed

After several years of dedicated work and excellent results, ASLE's Bibliography editor, Zita Ingham, is ready to devote her time to other projects. The position of Bibliography Editor is therefore open. Our plan is to have the incoming bibliography editor work with Zita this year on the 1995 bibliography, after which time the new editor will assume full responsibility for future bibliographies.

The job entails working with a team of contributing bibliographers to produce a comprehensive and well-organized annual bibliography on Literature and Environment. The bibliography will be available both in printed form and, with the assistance of Dan Philippon, in electronic form on the World Wide Web. Prior bibliography experience and good computer skills are a definite plus in this job.

If you have questions about the nature of the job, please contact Zita Ingham, English Department, Southwestern Oregon Community College, 1988 Newmark, Coos Bay, OR 97420; work (503)888-7333; e-mail: z.ingham@swocc.cc.or.us. To apply for the position, please send a letter expressing your interest and explaining your qualifications to Michael Branch, English Department, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557.

What's Up with ISLE?

If you haven't yet received issue 2.2 of *ISLE*, do not despair. This past year, just as ASLE was officially adopting the journal, the University of Nevada Press was in the process of assuming responsibility for the journal's production—and this transition has contributed to the delay of the current issue, although it will also result in a handsome new design for the journal. The first issue from Nevada, the missing 2.2, is due to appear shortly.

As Mike Branch reports in his letter to ASLE members (see above), the ad-hoc editorial selection committee has approved Scott Slovic's appointment as the new editor of *ISLE*. Scott is now working with *ISLE*'s founding editor, Patrick Murphy, and the University of Nevada Press to chart the future of the journal. In order to expedite the transition, there will be a double issue of *ISLE* (3.1/3.2) this spring. Most of the materials accepted by Patrick Murphy will be in this issue.

Scott Slovic is currently seeking submissions of scholarly articles (not only literary articles, but studies in such related fields as environmental history, the visual and performing arts, philosophy, anthropology, and geography, to name but a few) and creative work for issue 4.1 (due out in December 1996) and beyond. Please send inquiries and submissions to Professor Scott Slovic, Editor, *ISLE*, Department of English/MS 098, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. Phone: (702) 784-8015; FAX: 702-784-6266. E-mail: slovic@scs.unr.edu.

Calls for Submissions

Environmental Research and Environmental Activism

Whole Terrain is seeking to identify and celebrate individuals whose research in the environmental field has given rise to political activism. Researchers could include students, teachers, farmers, lawyers, artists, and scientists. Please send inquiries or submissions of essays, poems, or book reviews to: Amanda Gardner, Editor, *Whole Terrain*, Department of Environmental Studies, Antioch New England Graduate School, 40 Avon Street, Keene, NH 03431. (603) 357-3122 ext. 272.

Halcyon: Science, Technology and the American West

The next volume of *Halcyon* will explore the effects of science and technology on the American West during the 19th and 20th centuries, examining the goals, accomplishments, and side effects of the taming of the west through technology.

Papers may deal with diverse topics such as mining technology, roads and cars, transport systems, urban infrastructure, reclamation, nuclear power, alternative power sources, architecture, money and financial technology, casino technology, lighting, water sources, law, land management, the influence of books and popular media, the image of technology in film and television, firearms, hand tools, power tools, barbed wire, mapping, and clothing. The editor welcomes scholarly articles but also encourages submissions in the forms of literary nonfiction, fiction, poetry, photography, and art. Perspectives from diverse disciplines are also welcomed: history, the social sciences, philosophy, political science, literature and criticism, the arts, and other fields in the humanities and sciences. Prospective contributions may query the editor with ideas for papers or projects.

Deadline for submission: **March 15, 1996**. Send inquiries or manuscripts to: Stephen Tchudi, Editor, *Halcyon*, Science, Technology, and the American West, Department of English/MS 098, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0031, (702) 784-6755.

Edward Abbey and Current Theoretical Concerns

Edward Abbey's reputation remains a strange curiosity in the academy. Perhaps an odd relationship is inevitable given what frequently amounted to open hostility on Abbey's part for professors of English. Oddly enough, Abbey himself became a University professor for a time. It is my contention that such ambiguities pervade Abbey's writing and career and argue against the swift dismissal he often receives at the hands of the academy. In other words, Abbey is not as monolithic as some would have it. He is, I think, as one of his characters stated, "an ironical anarchist" who thought that "saving the world was only a hobby." Perhaps his own humorous barbs belittling his efforts encourage critics who are poised to be critical. Whatever the reason, Abbey echoes oddly through academic canyons.

In short, I am hoping for a serious and often theoretical treatment of Abbey's work, a discussion that represents the energies of critics who are wrestling with representation, social structure, gender, and the environment. I am certainly not assuming, nor would I want, this book to settle the issue of Abbey. I also don't want a simple dialectical collection of opposing viewpoints. I would like to see Abbey's work considered under the following headings: gender, history, language, politics, nature. I am also hoping that some, but not all, articles will make vigorous use of the theorists such as Baudrillard, Bakhtin, Haraway, just to name a few.

Hopefully you have a general sense of where I see this collection moving. In trying to approach Abbey from a serious academic point of view, I will be careful not to do violence to his work or to potential readers. In other words, I hope to have a range of theoretical performances. I do not want to commit to a title yet, but I would suggest the following as a map for the terrain: EDWARD ABBEY AND CURRENT THEORETICAL CONCERNS: REPRESENTATION, GENDER, NATURE, AND POWER. I should also mention that there is a press involved at this point that is sympathetic enough to "endorse" it. Far from an absolute promise to publish, I, nevertheless, think that the piece stands a better than average chance of not having to search for a publisher. I welcome your abstract or paper for consideration. Mail submissions to: Peter Quigley, Professor of Humanities, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Willow Creek Road, Prescott, AZ 86301.

ASLE Panel at ALA

Each year ASLE runs a session at the American Literature Association meeting, and the next meeting will take place in San Diego, Calif. from May 30 to June 2, 1996. The ALA provides ASLE with an excellent opportunity to make itself known in the larger scholarly community, so each year we try to put together a session that will appeal to a broad audience. The time has come to start putting together our session for the ALA.

As the session organizer, I invite ASLE members to submit to me a completed paper (fifteen minutes reading time MAXIMUM), on any topic related to the study of literature and environment (including pedagogy), **by January 15**. We need to keep the presentations to fifteen minutes in

order to allow for ample discussion. The January 15 deadline is firm, as we need to have our panel submitted to ALA shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions about the conference or our program, please contact me by e-mail, snail-mail, or phone: Sean O'Grady, Department of English, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725, (208) 385-3041, e-mail: ogrady@gozer.idbsu.edu.

The Greening of Advanced Composition

I am seeking co-participants in a panel on teaching advanced composition courses with environmental subject matter, to be presented at the Ball State "Greening of the Campus" conference, April 4-6, 1996. The official title is "Reading and Writing the Environment: An Advanced Composition Course." Contact: Fred Waage, Professor, English Department, ETSU, Box 23, 081, Johnson City, TN 37614.

OSU Press Announces Culture & Environment Series

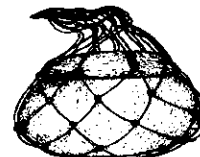
The Oregon State University Press is pleased to announce that William L. Lang, Director of the Center for Columbia River History, will succeed William G. Robbins as editor of its series, "Culture and Environment in the Pacific West." Robbins, previously announced as editor, has resigned the position effective September 1, 1995, as a result of his appointment as Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Oregon State University.

Lang, associate professor of history at Portland State University, was formerly executive editor of *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*, and editor-in-chief of the Montana Historical Society Press. He is the author of several books about the Pacific Northwest, including *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* and *A Columbia River Reader*. His wide professional interests include environmental history, the history of the Pacific Northwest and the American West, and twentieth-century U.S. history.

The "Culture and Environment in the Pacific West" series is designed to introduce general readers to the region's most important issues, historical and contemporary, urban and rural. Possible topics for the series include environmental histories, ecological studies, nature writing, and natural resource issues such as forestry, fish, grazing, recreation, and land use and urban planning.

Manuscripts submitted for the series should be brief (approximately 55,000 words) and written in language accessible to the lay reader. The Press seeks manuscripts from authors in a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, history, geography, anthropology, forestry, ecology, literature, and planning. Inquiries should be addressed to William L. Lang, Department of History, Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

The OSU Press, Oregon's only university press, publishes books of particular importance to Pacific Northwest readers, as well as academic books of international importance.



CANDIDATES FOR ASLE VICE-PRESIDENT

(mark your choices on the YELLOW fold-in ballot)

TOM BAILEY

Western Michigan University

I was raised in the rural Midwest, in a village of 1,000, and grew up outside as much as possible, and am still an avid walker and hiker. I first read Thoreau in high school, but didn't do any formal nature reading in college or graduate school. We didn't study the environment in those days; we studied poems and novels, and if they happened to be about nature, like Keats's "Autumn," we ignored them. I read Dillard and Abbey and McPhee and Hoagland and Gould and Berry because I liked them, and began seriously to study and write about nature in the '80s. Vocation and avocation. I am currently writing about McPhee, about Hoagland, and about what I call the contemporary Georgics (nature writing on the farm), and am researching a long project in its beginning stages.

ASLE is important because its concerns are not only urgent, but contemporary. Members of ASLE are as concerned with the environmental crisis as with environmental beauty. We are as concerned with the real world as with theory. "Theory" has sharpened our reading skills, given us new ways to think about what we do, and ASLE (as the organization for ecocritics) is taking advantage of all that new knowledge, and at the same time renewing older ways of reading and attending. I am particularly interested in finding ways to bring ASLE together with the scientists whose work on ecology is intricate and groundbreaking. I have time and energy to devote to ASLE, and would be delighted to serve.

MARK SCHLENZ

University of California, Santa Barbara

Since the beginning of ASLE's organization in 1991, I have served two years as one of ASLE's first graduate student representatives and presently serve on ASLE's Executive Council. This last year I also participated on ASLE's Conference Committee and helped to bring Walkin' Jim Stolz to our event. It has been a rewarding experience to be part of the initial growth of this exciting, important and fun organization and I appreciate the opportunity to continue my involvement in an executive leadership capacity.

I completed my dissertation, a study of literary bioregionalism in the works of Mary Austin and Willa Cather, in 1994 and am employed as a full-time lecturer in the interdisciplinary Writing Program at UCSB. Most of the courses I teach involve writing for Environmental Studies: I teach an upper division course for ES majors focusing upon the production and critical analysis of NEPA documents and a lower-division course linked with the ES course in Society and Environment. Presently most of my research focuses on rhetorical analysis of environmental discourses and ecological policy-making debate. I have also recently begun an ecocritical study of the works of Cormac McCarthy.

Though my own ecocritical work tends toward rigorous engagement with postmodernism, cultural criticism, and social theory, I find ASLE to be a refreshing organization in its ability to conjoin celebration with critique. Throughout the years since its inception, ASLE has been

for me, as I'm sure it has been for many of you, a sort of natural haven within academe, a place where my true concerns about the natural world, social justice, and issues of literacy could be nourished and supported by congenial and caring colleagues. In my vision of the future, I see ASLE becoming transformed from a sort of scholarly refuge for people who still see books as connected to the world into a critical consciousness at the center of literary studies. I do not see this transformation as a result of shifting academic fashion, but as an inevitability following from an unavoidable shift in all areas of social discourse to matters environmental. It would be my utmost honor to assist ASLE in meeting the challenges of this transformation.

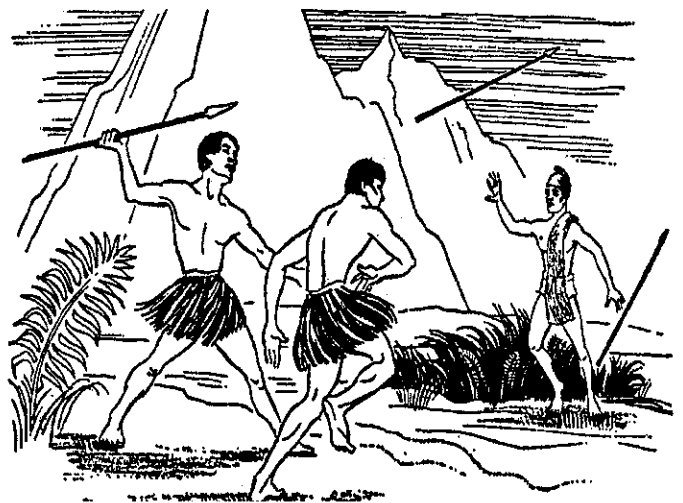
JOHN TALLMADGE

The Union Institute, Cincinnati

ASLE's first three years have been marked by a string of triumphs, including a national conference, sponsorship of a new journal, and a membership list of nearly a thousand. We need to solidify and build upon these gains by pursuing affiliated organization status with the MLA, sustaining our membership, and maintaining our high profile with panels and papers at national conferences.

At the same time, we have the potential to create a new kind of scholarly organization by embracing not only academicians but also environmental activists, school-teachers, publishers, and practicing nature writers. If we pursue this expanded vision, ASLE could become a vital force in the greening of American education and culture. If we do not, the organization might fall back into desuetude, becoming just one more cluster of scholars pursuing their own parochial interest.

I believe we should aspire to the greater vision. As a writer and advisor for *Orion* magazine, I am well connected in the community of nature writers, editors, and publishers. I have been active as a founding member of ASLE's advisory board and have presented regularly at ASLE panels. I would also bring to this task the wisdom and experience of twenty years' work with nature writing and experiential education, plus five years of administration as a graduate dean.



CANDIDATES FOR ASLE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(mark your choices on the YELLOW fold-in ballot)

JOCELYN BARTKEVICIUS

University of Central Florida

To some students, it's disingenuous when I assign texts on environment for classes without "nature" or "environment" in the title; they are as unfamiliar with thinking about environment in a literature or writing course as they once were with considering texts by women. I believe that ASLE is poised to change that response, to have a great effect on our theoretical, cultural, pedagogical, and practical pursuits. I seek a position on the Executive Council to take part in that change. In addition, I wish to become more active in the organization that has revitalized my writing, teaching, and scholarship.

My goals are twofold: to take a hands-on role in maintaining, during this period of growth, ASLE's tradition of informed yet exploratory and fresh discussions of literature, writing, and environment; and to serve as liaison with related organizations (i.e., MLA, NCTE, AWP), bringing environment to the center of scholarship and pedagogy.

My specialties include creative nonfiction and Woolf studies. My work has appeared in such journals as *Iowa Woman* and *The Iowa Review* and been listed in Best American Essays. Current projects include a study of Woolf and environment, and a collection of essays, *Ghost Women*.

RALPH BLACK

Davidson College

I got into this business because I used to spend a lot of time outside. I used to read a lot of books there (it was a government job), and my eyes kept drifting from page to world, world to page. It wasn't that I had a hard time telling the physical and literary worlds apart, but I felt an urge to squint into the interstices between them, sure that something important was happening there.

So here I am. As a member of the ASLE Executive Council, there are a few projects I'd like to become involved with. One is to encourage interdisciplinary, transdepartmental work between the humanities and the sciences (I am more and more convinced that we have a great deal to learn from each other). Another is to help establish and promote mentoring programs between senior and junior faculty, faculty and graduate students, etc. (This seems especially crucial given the dismal state of the job market, and the difficulty some graduate students are having seeing their dissertations to fruition).

Finally, having just relocated from the Northeast to the Southeast, I'm very interested in developing closer associations among regionally-related ASLE members (perhaps as a way to establish more regular ties between ASLE and regional conferences).

CHRISTOPHER COKINOS

Kansas State University

At the Western Literature Association conference in Reno in 1992, I participated in the first organizational meeting for what has become ASLE. While I have not had an official role in ASLE, I have remained active with the organization. In 1993, I guest-edited a special issue of *The American Nature Writing Newsletter* on contemporary American nature

poetry and this past summer I organized a panel on t.v., film, and the environment at the ASLE conference in Fort Collins, Colorado.

I primarily teach creative writing at Kansas State University, where I am an instructor. I feel my experience as an adjunct faculty member could be valuable to ASLE as the organization grows and meets changing demands within our profession. My academic credentials include an MFA in Writing from Washington University in St. Louis (1991), an award-winning poetry collection, *Killing Seasons* (1993), and poems, essays, reviews, and critical articles (Gaia, Robinson Jeffers, etc.) in a number of publications including *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *The Quarterly*, *Poet & Critic*, and *Blue Mesa Review*.

While I principally consider myself a creative writer, I do believe in the value of engaging critical and theoretical perspectives. Here too I believe my background could be useful in providing perspectives to the Executive Council.

In addition, I have a good sense of humor and am a pretty decent birder. I backpack and use e-mail, though you can imagine which I prefer.

WALTER ISLE

Rice University

Having taught at Rice University for over thirty years and being in my eleventh year as Chair of the English Department, I certainly would bring to the Executive Council seniority and experience in literary studies. For the past twenty years, I have taught contemporary American literature, which led easily to the study of literature and environment. My recent papers on "ecofiction," concerning the representation of nature and place in such writers as Berry, Doig, and Keeble, stem directly from my courses.

The new directions I have found in teaching and scholarship break down the boundaries between fiction and personal essay and open up interdisciplinary approaches to literature. In ASLE this same emphasis provides an exciting common ground for the study of literature and the natural world.

ASLE has a strong start, with fine leadership and remarkable congeniality in the membership, and as your representative on the Executive Council, I would build on this start. I think we might look at ways to nourish the spirit of ASLE by perhaps holding mini-conferences or seminars in outdoor settings during the alternate summers when there isn't a national meeting. We might also consider an occasional, informal publication which would provide brief reviews of the many new books in our field. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Council (especially of an organization with whose journal I share a name).

IAN MARSHALL

Penn State Altoona

An associate professor of English at Penn State Altoona, I have published articles on a variety of American writers--some who are central to the concerns of ASLE, like Thoreau, Cooper, Melville, Twain, and Jeffers, and some

(continued on next page)

(Candidates for Executive Council cont.)

who are further afield, like William Bradford, William Gilmore Simms, Lydia Maria Child, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Robert Service, Maya Angelou, Colin Fletcher, and Dr. Seuss (yes, really). I guess my interests qualify as eclectic, but nature is the common ground in all these pieces. At present I am working on a book about literary works set along the Appalachian Trail, which gives me a good excuse to go hiking every summer and call it work. Closer to home, I like to take my kids, Jacy, 4, and Kira, 2, up Mt. Nittany. Jacy walks the whole way himself, Kira rides on my back. Once we saw a bear up on top, and once we got a blimp's-eye-view of a football game in progress down there in Happy Valley.

I've been asked to comment on my "vision" for ASLE. I hesitate to do so, for any vision would imply that I can see where we ought to go, which in turn implies that I'm still sitting somewhere on high with a panoramic view, a map, and a destination in mind. I'd rather we think of ourselves as explorers of territory as yet unmapped, and of ASLE as our base camp. Some of us may choose to move in the direction of science, others may choose to pursue spiritual concerns, or to further the political implications of our work. Some may seek ways to incorporate post-structuralist theory into our work, others may run terrified in the opposite direction, crying out "Deconstruction is Compost!" I hope ASLE can be the proverbial big tent with room for all. (You don't snore, do you?)

SUZANNE ROSS

St. Cloud State University

I'm an associate professor in the English Department at St. Cloud State University in central Minnesota. I first learned about ASLE in 1993, joined immediately and attended my first WLA conference that year in Wichita. In many ways, I feel that I've finally found an intellectual home.

My good luck is that I'm able to teach a number of nature-literature relevant courses with my department's full support. Among them are a research writing course focusing on wolves, lower as well as upper division/graduate level nature literature courses, and a nonfiction nature writing course. In my teaching, I am committed to incorporating outdoor experiences into the curriculum wherever and however possible.

My research interest is the study of the writing of women (scientists and non-scientists) recounting and reflecting upon their relationships with nonhuman animals. Recently, I've been studying the work of Sally Carrighar. My long-term scholarly concern is an exploration of human representations of our relationships with other animals.

If elected to the ASLE Executive Council, I would especially like to work on strategies for opening up a conversation with people in the natural sciences (conservation biologists come immediately to mind) about areas we might identify as common ground and common cause. While establishing ourselves as a respected organization within our own discipline is essential, our work shouldn't stop there. Ecological literacy, which I take to be our largest goal, is a multi-disciplinary task. ASLE is in an excellent position to bridge the two-cultures gap. I'd like to make a contribution toward that effort as a member of the Executive Council.

KENT RYDEN

University of Southern Maine

I received my Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University in 1991, and have been teaching in the American and New England Studies Program at the University of Southern Maine since 1994. By training and temperament, I am an interdisciplinary scholar; I teach and do research not only in literature but also in such fields as folklore and folklife, environmental history, and cultural geography. What ties all my interests together is a desire to understand the many ways--textually, conceptually, materially--in which individuals, communities, and societies have interacted, and continue to interact, with the natural world around them, as well as the interconnections among those ways.

Literature provides an important means, but not the only means, for understanding human relationships with the environment; every act of building, to take only one example, implies an environmental ethic, and so literature can combine with material forms of cultural expression and behavior, be it the making of a New England stone wall or the construction of a New England textile mill, to reveal more fully the complexities of a culture's connection to (or alienation from) the natural world. As a member of the ASLE Executive Council, I will work not only to maintain and further ASLE's mission of promoting thought, discussion, and scholarship about environmental literature, but also to explore and encourage interdisciplinary connections between ecocriticism and other related fields. Insofar as ASLE's members are concerned with the environment itself as well as with the literature about it, the more knowledge and understanding we have, the better.

MELISSA WALKER

Emory Institute of Women's Studies

Looking back at the program for the ASLE conference in Fort Collins, I am reminded of the diversity and energy of this organization. I remember how we had to choose between equally compelling sessions and how I learned from everyone I talked to. After I returned home, I received letters from fellow members who took the time to answer questions I'd raised in our conversations. ASLE members, I found, work together and support each other.

In the spring of 1992 when I signed a contract with Norton to edit *Reading the Environment*, I didn't know that there were people all over the country working to bring nature writing and environmental literature into the classroom. That December at MLA when I joined the founders of ASLE for a brain storming session over dinner, I realized that something was happening that was different from anything I'd witnessed in twenty years of teaching. Here was a group of people who had committed themselves to a project far bigger than personal success. Most were deeply concerned about the environmental crisis and believed that teaching nature writing and environmental literature could be a powerful force for change. In a letter to the new membership, Scott, Cheryll, and Mike concluded that ASLE's ultimate goal is quite simply to learn and teach what it means "to live wisely on a healthy planet." I knew that I wanted to be part of that.

In the last two years I have spent some seven months visiting wilderness areas and working on a new book about what I learned there. I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Executive Council of ASLE.

POEMS

By Tom Lynch

yellow cottonwoods--
baby in the grass
tastes each leaf

Angel Island--
he carries to me
a bucket of bay

ants swarm
the dying snail--my son
plays nearby

Ongoing Projects

New ASLE Bibliography, 1994

The 1994 edition of ASLE's annual, annotated *Bibliography of Scholarship in Literature and Environment* has now been completed by bibliographer Zita Ingham and her team of contributing editors. A well-organized and thorough listing of over 1,000 sources, this year's bibliography is now available for purchase (see the Product Order Form in this issue).

The first ASLE Bibliography (1990-1993) is nearly sold out, so get the new edition while it's hot! Next year's bibliography will also include a journal list--currently being edited by Julie Seton--that provides contact information for nearly 200 environmental and literary journals, magazines, and newsletters.

Bulletin Board and Home Page

ASLE Public Relations Officer Dan Philippon has been sprucing up the ASLE Home Page on the World Wide Web, as the NetSurfers among you undoubtedly know. If you haven't yet visited ASLE's rather amazing constellation of syllabi, press releases, photographs, searchable bibliographies, and sundry cross links, wax your (key)board and surf over to <http://faraday.clas.virginia.edu/~djp2n/asle.html>.

Thanks to list manager Cheryl Glotfelty, ASLE's bulletin board on the Internet is still buzzing with ideas, questions, and information more or less pertinent to literature and environment. To subscribe/unsubscribe: Majordomo@unr.edu (your message should read "subscribe asle" or "unsubscribe asle"). To post news items: asle@unr.edu. For those of you who prefer to meet in person, ASLE Conference Tracker David Taylor can provide information about conferences and help you organize an ASLE panel (see the list of conferences in this issue).

New ASLE Membership Directory

ASLE Secretary David Teague is currently at work on the 1995-96 ASLE Directory, which lists names, contact information, and scholarly specialties for each of our nearly 800 members.

The Directory should be out by early December. Please contact David with membership inquiries, changes of contact information or specialty, and requests for information (either for yourself, or to request a stack of ASLE brochures to distribute at conferences, etc.).

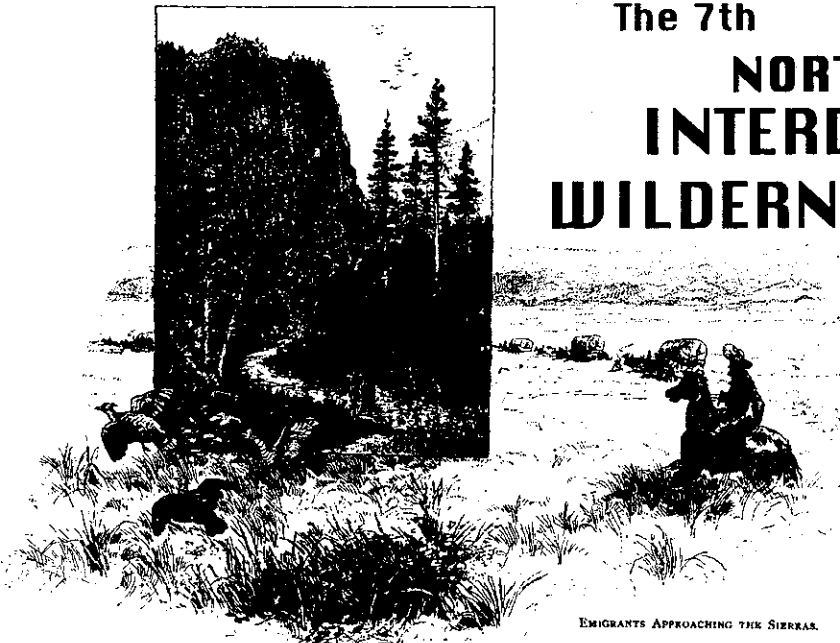
The address is: David Teague, ASLE Secretary, University of Delaware, Parallel Program, 333 Shipley St., Wilmington, DE 19801, or teague@strauss.udel.edu. Our thanks to David for the tremendous effort necessary to keep up with a constant avalanche of new and renewed memberships.

Finances, Donations, and ASLE Products

ASLE Treasurer Allison Wallace continues to keep us in the black and out of trouble with sundry government agencies. This issue of the *Newsletter* includes ASLE's financial statement for our last fiscal year, indicating that our poverty is slightly less desperate than in the past. Nevertheless, we remind you that ASLE is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that welcomes donations (hint, hint).

We also hope you will consider giving ASLE gift memberships this year, and we have added a line in the membership application form that makes it easier for you to do so.

Thanks also to Allison for running the ASLE trinket and snake oil shop: Bibliographies, Graduate Handbooks, and mighty handsome Conference T-shirts may be purchased from her using the Product Order Form in this issue. -- Mike Branch



EMIGRANTS APPROACHING THE SIERRAS.

The 7th NORTH AMERICAN INTERDISCIPLINARY WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

A gathering of recreational wilderness users, natural resource managers, wilderness dwellers, and wilderness scholars (representing such fields as conservation biology, geology, literary studies, history, philosophy, psychology, and economics)

Hosted by:
The Center for Environmental Arts
and Humanities at the
University of Nevada, Reno

February 29-March 2, 1996

Featuring

Ann Zwinger and Rick Bass

and other distinguished speakers (to be announced later)

We invite submissions of abstracts, completed papers (fifteen-minute reading time), and suggestions for roundtable discussion sessions and traditional paper panels. Please direct inquiries and submissions by 1 January 1996 to:

Professor Scott Slovic, Director
Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities
Mail Stop 098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557

Phone: 702-784-8015
FAX: 702-784-6266
E-mail: slovic@scs.unr.edu

Possible topics: mountaineering literature * the politics of western wilderness * indicator species in the Great Basin * wilderness tourism * urban wilderness * private ranching/public lands * the rhetoric of wilderness discussions * the role of universities in wilderness management and research * John Muir * the economics of wilderness * radical environmentalism * wilderness literature * photographing wilderness * wilderness and indigenous cultures * sense of place * hunting

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

Financial Statement: 1 June 95 - 30 September 95

Balance Forward:	\$ 3055.34	<u>Expenses</u>	
<u>Income</u>		ISLE subscriptions	\$ 440.00
New Members	\$1324.00	Printing/copying*	1470.51
Renewals	2138.00	Postage	266.50
Bibliography, t-shirt, grad.		Supplies	163.34
handbook sales	426.00	Bank debits**	51.00
Extra copies Spring '95 newsletter	40.00	Subtotal	\$ 2391.35
Donations	160.00		
Subtotal	4088.00	Balance	\$ 4751.99

*Includes '94 Bibliography.

**Nominal service fees, bounced (member) checks.



MEMBER INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

(ASLE membership fee includes subscription to *The American Nature Writing Newsletter*)

Name _____

Affiliation (if not listed below) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number(s) _____(o); _____(h)

FAX Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Research/writing interests _____

(The above information will be published in the annual ASLE Directory. Please indicate below if you do not want any of the information to appear in the Directory)

Amount Enclosed

ASLE Membership (\$15/students \$10)

ASLE Sustaining Member (\$30)

ASLE Patron (\$50 or more)

(Names of sustaining members and patrons will be published unless anonymity is requested)

ASLE Gift Memberships (\$15 each)

Subscription to *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*
(ASLE members \$12/nonmembers \$15)

Total

☐ Please do NOT include my information in the membership directory.

Please make checks payable to ASLE and return dues and fees with this form to:

David Teague,
Secretary, ASLE
University of Delaware Parallel Program
333 Shipley Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

(continued from page 5)

What are they going to eat? How will they know what to wear? What times are the best? What should I charge? Who will guide?" as well as concerns such as "If someone breaks his or her neck on this hike will I have caused the entire school and the state of Colorado to be sued?" and "What if someone gets lost?" When the weekend of the conference began to unfold and our typical sunny Colorado weather failed me, I watched the anxious faces of those who had signed up for my hikes look apprehensively to the West as I vehemently declared there was a fourteen-thousand-foot mountain just over the ridge currently veiled in clouds. It's "real" nature, right?

"Contact! Contact!" Thoreau exclaims, and a brief contact with Colorado is what I tried to give. After all, we reasoned, what is a literature and environment conference if there is no actual contact with nature itself?

**ASLE members en route
to the symposium in
Hawai'i!**



ASLE
c/o Michael Branch
Department of English
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557

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ASLE Form to VOLUNTEER to be a MENTOR

Faculty who are members of ASLE and are interested in working with a graduate student are asked to fill out the following form. Please specify your areas of professional expertise and indicate how you might be helpful to a graduate student. For example, you might be willing to serve as an outside member of a dissertation committee, to discuss employment possibilities in your area of specialty, or to be a reader for a student's thesis. Please feel free to contact Andrea if you have any questions or need to update information.



Mail this form by 15 Dec. 1995 back to:

**Professor Michael Branch,
President, ASLE
English Department/Mail Stop 098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0031**

For further information contact:

**Andrea W. Herrmann, ASLE Mentoring Coordinator
Department of Rhetoric and Writing
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
2801 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204-1099
PH: 501-569-8331 (w) 501-664-1053 (h)
FAX: 501-569-8279 E-MAIL: awherrmann@ualr.edu**

Date_____	Sex_____	Age (optional)_____	E-Mail _____
Last Name _____		First _____	
Home Address _____			
City_____	State_____	Zip_____	Phone () _____
Institution_____		Department_____	
College Address_____		City_____	
State_____	Zip_____	Phone() _____	Fax() _____

Please give a brief overview of your areas of professional expertise in literature and the environment. (It would be helpful if, in addition to answering this and the other questions, you would attach your vita.) Add an additional sheet, if necessary.

What courses do you teach in the field of literature and the environment? What writing have you done in the field?

Indicate two or three ways you might be helpful as a mentor to a graduate student.

List conferences or meetings you usually attend (or know you will attend this year).

Add any other information that might be helpful in matching you up with an appropriate graduate student.

ASLE Form to REQUEST a MENTOR

Graduate students who are members of ASLE and are interested in working with a faculty mentor are asked to fill out the following form. Your reasons for wanting a mentor may be varied. For example, you might like someone to serve as an outside member of your dissertation committee, to discuss employment possibilities in your area of specialty, or to be a reader for your thesis. Please feel free to contact Andrea, if you have any questions or need to up-date information. Many thanks.



Please mail this form by 15 Dec. 1995 back to:

Professor Michael Branch
President, ASLE
English Department/Mail Stop 098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0031

For further information contact:

Andrea W. Herrmann, ASLE Mentoring Coordinator
Department of Rhetoric and Writing
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
2801 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204-1099
PH: 501-569-8331 (w) 501-664-1053 (h)
FAX: 501-569-8279 E-MAIL: awherrmann@ualr.edu

Date_____	Sex_____	Age (optional)_____	E-Mail_____
Last Name_____		First_____	
Home Address_____			
City_____	State_____	Zip_____	Phone ()_____
Degree Program_____		Department_____	
College Address_____		City_____	
State_____	Zip_____	Phone()_____	Fax()_____

Please write a short paragraph, giving a brief overview of your interest in literature and the environment, stating the primary focus of your work, and indicating what stage you are at in your career. (It would be helpful if, in addition to answering this and the other questions, you would attach your vita.) Add an additional sheet, if necessary.

Are you working on a thesis?_____ Dissertation?_____ Title?_____

Date (or projected date) of graduation?_____

Indicate two or three reasons why you would like to have a faculty mentor (in other words, how a mentor might assist you).

List conferences or meetings you usually attend (or know you will attend this year).

Add any other information that might be helpful in matching you up with an appropriate mentor.

Insert 1/2

ASLE GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK SURVEY

The ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT announces the creation of the second edition of the ASLE Handbook on Graduate Study in Literature and Environment.

In 1994, ASLE Graduate Liaisons Dan Philippon and George Hart published the first ASLE Graduate Student Handbook, designed to guide students interested in exploring graduate careers in literature and environment. In the short years since the Handbook's publication, scholarly interest in the study of literature and environment has blossomed. As a result, many colleges and universities have begun to form programs and offer degrees related to this discipline.

The primary purpose of the Handbook is to offer prospective and current graduate students in literature and environment practical information and suggestions about choosing a program, planning a course of study, and finding sources and contacts in the field.

HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN

ASLE would like to invite you to make a valuable contribution to the Handbook. Please fill out the following short survey. Your comments, warnings and advice will greatly assist ASLE's graduate student members. Thank you for your help.

1. What features of your institution would make it an attractive option for graduate students interested in literature and environment?

2. What other schools or programs with which you have been affiliated offer possibilities for the study of literature and environment? Please specify.

3. What other institutions have notable and accessible faculty in the field? Which offer relevant courses?

(over)

Insert 2/1

4. What other factors should graduate students consider when choosing a school? Libraries? Landscape? Support groups? Interdisciplinary programs? Field work?

5. What other suggestions would you give a prospective graduate student about studies in literature and environment? Please be candid.

6. Do you have general suggestions for the forthcoming handbook?

May we quote you in our publication? Yes No

May we list you as a contact for your institution? Yes No

Name:

Address:

Phone/E-mail:

PLEASE RETURN SURVEYS BY DECEMBER 15 TO:

Michael Branch
President, ASLE
English Department/098
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0031

Or if you prefer to respond by e-mail:

Gioia Woods
gwoods@scs.unr.edu

DON'T FORGET

ASLE's graduate student handbook is a valuable tool for faculty and graduate students alike. The second edition will take some time to assemble, but we do still have copies of the first edition available! To order, send \$5.00 for one, or \$12.00 for three, to:

Allison Wallace
ASLE Treasurer
Unity College of Maine
HC 78 Box 200
Unity, ME 04988

Insert 2/2



Available from the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

✓ **NEW! 1994 BIBLIOGRAPHY** - Almost 400 annotated, recently published works of use to scholars studying literature of the environment and related fields. Edited by Zita Ingham.

✓ **1990-93 BIBLIOGRAPHY** - Almost 700 annotated books, articles, and dissertations published during 1990-93. Edited by Zita Ingham and Ron Steffens.

✓ **ASLE HANDBOOK ON GRADUATE STUDY IN LITERATURE & ENVIRONMENT** -

Information about studying literature and environment; ecological cultural studies and ecocriticism; straight talk on academic job market and advice on deciding between MA and PhD degrees; hints on choosing a graduate school and listings of programs in literature and environment; advice from the ASLE membership; detailed bibliographical notes and helpful list of contacts. Edited by Dan Philippon and George Hart.

**Faculty: Buy extra copies for your students!
Get 3 copies for \$12**

**Don't miss out on this collector's item!
Get 3 shirts for \$30**

✓ **ASLE CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS** - good looking in "natural" tan with ASLE logo and conference information in various shades of purple. Quotations from Scott Russell Sanders and Luci Tapahonso on the back, 100% cotton, XL only.

(Cut Here)

To order, send this form along with a check made out to "ASLE" to:
Allison B. Wallace, ASLE Treasurer, HC78, Box 200, Unity College of Maine, Unity, ME 04988

NEW! 1994 BIBLIOGRAPHY	_____ copies @ \$5.00 each =	\$ _____
1990-93 BIBLIOGRAPHY	_____ copies @ \$6.50 each =	\$ _____
ASLE HANDBOOK ON GRADUATE STUDY IN LITERATURE & ENVIRONMENT	_____ copies @ \$5.00 each (or 3 for \$12) =	\$ _____
ASLE CONFERENCE T-SHIRT	_____ shirts @ \$12.00 each (or 3 for \$30) =	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ *

Ship to _____
Affiliation _____
Street Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____

*International customers should reimburse ASLE for postage after the order arrives.