

# SLE News

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

Fall 1998

Volume 10, Number 2

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The ozone hole is growing, but so is ASLE. While we cannot assume that our work will have any direct effect on the dismaying changes in climate, pollution, and the lives of wild creatures, it is encouraging to see interest in ecological literary study bubbling up in other countries, and to note interesting developments in such study in the United States. Such growth and focus on environmental issues in the humanities promise to eventually help change attitudes worldwide about the relation of humans to the whole community of life on the planet.

Through the first weekend in July a lively group of ecocritics debated the issues in Bath, England, at a conference on Culture and Environmentalism organized by ASLE members Richard Kerridge and Greg Garrard. Most participants were from Britain but a good number came from a wide range of other European countries and as far away as Australia, as well as the US. The consistent high quality of papers was extremely impressive, as were the hospitality of the host committee and the smooth organization of the meeting. Clearly we have no premium on sophisticated, challenging ecocritical work on the American ASLE scene.

In my presentation at the Bath meeting, I talked about trends in ecocriticism at the millennium, and I mentioned two critiques of deep ecology which I believe to provide useful challenges to our work on literature and environment. These are Timothy Luke's Ecocritique: Contesting the Politics of Nature, Economy, and Culture (Minnesota 1997) and Peter Van Wyck's Primitives in the Wilderness: Deep Ecology and the Missing Human Subject (SUNY 1997). Postmodern theory of the kind they apply should help ecocritics to guard against potential narrowness of vision, to develop self-ctritical acknowledgment of privilege where it exists, and to avoid the kinds of dangerous nostalgia that can creep into our thinking unawares. William Grassie said in a recent issue of Terra Nova that in our brave new world, "our descriptions of nature explicitly and implicitly evolve into prescriptions for human thought and behavior. ... Human creativity is a Lamarkian wild card in the epic of evolution. Metaphysics becomes politics by other means." I think we need to remember that the same thing holds for literature and literary criticism.

At the end of the Bath conference, British ASLE members met to discuss the formation of a UK branch of the organization. The consensus was that too much was uncertain to immediately create a formal independent structure, and that for the present an informal British group would operate with a steering committee but keep membership and dues with the parent ASLE organization. With a newsletter and UK symposia as pilot projects, members will evaluate how feasible an independent ASLE UK would be. The informal organization will provide networking and information about ecocritical scholarship and teaching in the UK, as well as offering venues for direct scholarly exchange.

The third biennial ASLE conference will be held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan from June 3-6, 1999. This conference will mark six years of ASLE's full-fledged existence as an organization and promises to open major new perspectives on environmental justice issues as well as questions of how we live in and understand environments heavily marked by human activity. Host organizer Tom Bailey and ASLE Vice President Walter Isle are doing a superb job of preparing for the meeting and lining up major plenary speakers for the conference. Do put Kalamazoo on your calendars and plan to submit your work! [See the call for papers on page six).

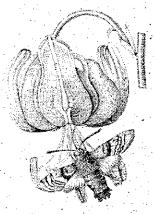
Treasurer Allison Wallace has established a solid financial foundation for ASLE, so that for the first time in the organization's history, we have more than sufficient funds for our normal activities and a small reserve tucked away for future needs. The work of tracking memberships, dues, and mailing lists, to say nothing of managing the budget and arranging for printing brochures, is really the central work that keeps ASLE alive. Allison deserves all our gratitude.

Ballot Inside In the past few weeks a grave threat has arisen for Homero Aridjis, the prolific Mexican poet, environmental activist, president of International PEN, and courageous journalist who spoke to the Environment and Community conference last February in Reno and was made an honored ASLE member at our Executive Council meeting.

continued on page 3

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Column	. 1.
Open Letter to the President of Mexico	3
Vice-President's Column	. 4
Walter Isle Chicago MLA CFP	.4
Note on Rick Bass's Fiber	. 4
Conferences and Gatherings	. 6
Calls for Papers.	6
ASLE Elections: Candidates' Statements	. 9
ASLE in England, The Bath Symposium	12
The Orion Society: Stories in the Land	14
ASLE Membership Form	. 15



stay together learn the flowers go light

—Gary Snyder

#### PHOTO AND ART CREDITS

Special thanks to Len Scigaj of Virginia Polytechnical State University for providing the photos on pages 12 and 13 from the Bath conference The "unidentified moth," above, the chameleons (p. 5), the hornets (p. 9-11), the otter eating an unidentified fish (p. 13), and the racoons and elephants (p. 14), all come from Animals: 1419 Copyright Free Illustrations of Mammals, Birds, Fish, Insects, etc. Selected by Jim Harter. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1979.

#### DONORS AND PATRONS, FALL 1998

Bruce Allen, Tom Bailey, Kate Boyes, Michael Branch, Edward Buchwald, John Calderazzo, Sue Ellen Campbell, Carol Cantrell, Twyla Dell, Cheryll Glotfelty, Michael Granger, Elizabeth Grant, Francis Gretton, Henry Harrington, Betsy Hilbert, Shoko Itoh, Walter Isle, McKay Jenkins, John Knott, Robert Koppelman, Glen A. Love, Hank Ottinger, Bruce Richardson, Susan J. Rosowski, Constance Rubin. Scott Russell Sanders, Ali Mohamed Selim, Scott Slovic, Isaiah Smithson, Barton L. St. Armand, Stan Tag, Jim Tarter, Graham Threadgill, Monica Weis, S.S.J., Rinda West, Louise Westling, Richard Wiebe.

# ASLE News

#### ASLE OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

Louise Westling, University of Oregon

VICE-PRESIDENT
Walter W. Isle, Rice University

SECRETARY

McKay Jenkins, University of Delaware

TREASURER

Allison Wallace, Unity College of Maine

#### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Chris Cokinos, Kansas State University
Ann Fisher-Wirth, University of Mississippi
Henry Harrington, University of Montana
Rochelle Johnson, The Claremont Graduate University
Suzanne Ross, St. Cloud State University
David Teague, University of Delaware

#### PROJECT COORDINATORS

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Daniel J. Philippon, University of Virginia

GRADUATE MENTORING

Andrea Herrmann, University of Arkansas, Little Rock

BIBLIOGRAPHY EDITOR

Kenton Temple, University of Tennessee

CONFERENCE TRACKER

Rochelle Johnson, The Claremont Graduate University

GRADUATE LIASONS

Wes Berry, University of Mississippi Mei Mei Evans, University of Washington

MLA LIASON

Bonney MacDonald, Union College

#### **NEWSLETTER STAFF**

Enmor

Ralph Black, Wake Forest University

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Paul Thomas & Jennifer Bumgarner, Wake Forest University

ASLE News is the biannual newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, reporting ASLE's business to and publishing letters from its membership. Items of interest, including news about conferences, forthcoming publications, and work in progress, should be sent to the editor's attention. Ralph Black, Dept. of English, Wake Forest University, Box 7387 Reynolda Station Winston-Salem, NC 27109.

continued from page 1

When he talked with us at the Executive Council meeting, he mentioned death threats that have come his way, but recently the *New York Times*, and then the *Washington Post* reported that the threats have increased alarmingly in a climate of dangerous intimidation punctuated by murders of prominent journalists. After consulting with ASLE officers and the Executive Committee by email, I sent a letter to President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico urging him to take all necessary measures to protect Mr. Aridjis (see below). Because he is one of our members, this seemed a legitimate action. The kind of work we care about may not always be popular or easy, but Homero Aridjis offers an example of courage and dedication that ASLE should be proud to be associated with.

On a milder political front, we might return to ASLE elections, for which you will notice a colored ballot inside this *Newsletter*. We have assembled an impressive group of candidates for Vice President and Executive Council, all of whom lead busy lives in our profession. Their willingness to take up additional responsibilities indicates the

value they place on ASLE's work. Please don't delaytake five minutes to vote and pop your ballot into an envelope for speedy mailing!

Remember that ASLE will field two panels at this December's San Francisco MLA, and will also be sponsoring panels next spring at the ALA meeting. If you plan to attend either meeting, you won't want to miss these presentations.

As this is my final Newsletter communiqué as ASLE president, I would like to say thanks to the Executive Council for all their work and wisdom behind the scenes, and to the whole membership for important teaching and thinking and writing toward a new look at life on earth through literature. Let's hope the coming years see as much encouraging change as the past decade in this work.

Towards an ecologically enlightened millennium,

Molly Westling, *University of Oregon*ASLE President

# An Open Letter to the President of Mexico

4 September 1998

Office of the President Los Pinos/ Puerto 1 Col. San Miguel Chapultepec 11850 Mexico, DF Mexico

Dear President Zedillo:

On behalf of The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, I am writing to express our deep concern over the death threats received by novelist and poet Homero Aridjis and reported in *The New York Times* on August 29, 1998. Mr. Aridjis, the president of international PEN, is also an honored member of our organization, a man whose poetry about his native place and its rich wildlife community has inspired readers around the world.

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment is an international organization of writers, scholars, and environmentalists from many walks of life, whose purpose is to promote the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to literature that considers the relationship between human beings and the natural world.

We have more than 1,000 members in countries ranging from Estonia, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Vietnam, Syria, and Nepal, to England and Germany. We view with alarm the harassment of any writer, but especially one like Homero Aridjis who speaks so eloquently on the need to preserve the threatened communities of wild creatures and plants that are essential to the lives of everyone on earth.

All humans share in this kinship, and we urge you to protect the safety of Mr. Aridjis so that he can continue to write about preserving the fabric of life in Mexico, in the Americas, in our world.

Sincerely,

Louise Westling, President
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

cc:
Jesus Reyes-Heroles, Mexican Ambassador to the US;
Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the U.N.;
William Clinton, President of the United States;
Albert Gore, Vice President of the United States;
Madeleine Albright, U.S.Secretary of State;
The New York Times;

PEN

# VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

olly Westling and I have been developing the fine list of candidates you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, and we are very grateful to those willing to commit themselves and their time to ASLE for the coming years. Your participation is also important, and should certainly be expressed by your votes, but Molly and I welcome any and all suggestions for strengthening our organization.

I have also been working with Tom Bailey on preparations for our Biennial Conference to be held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan on June 2-6, 1999. The general theme will be: "What To Make of a Diminished Thing," and we will have speakers such as John Elder, Stephanie Mills, Pattiann Rogers, and Scott Russell Sanders, and perhaps Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder, plus some local writers and environmentalists from Michigan and the midwest. You will receive a formal call for papers very soon, if you haven't already gotten it by the time this newsletter reaches you. In the

#### ASLE-MLA CALL FOR PAPERS

As an Affiliate Organization of the MLA, ASLE will host two sessions at the 1999 MLA Convention in Chicago.

# Session 1: "Writing the Nature We See: Travel, Tourism and Exploration Writing"

Papers may address early or contemporary exploration narratives, aspects of tourism, national parks, traditions of travel writing, and other topics that reflect how/why nature has been described and reproduced for often wide or mass audiences.

# Session 2: "Living in Nature: Pastoral, Suburban and Urban Landscapes"

While some nature writing often reflects a private, revelatory experience in the wild, many works of nature writing comment on, celebrate and even advocate the many ways that human beings can and should interact with the natural and given world. Papers may address the pastoral tradition and/or discuss how or whether built environments such as homes, villages, suburbs or cities can be part of the tradition of nature and environmental writing.

ASLE sessions may also need people to chair the panels. Please write to the address below if you are interested. Proposal Deadline: January 8, 1999. Send 1-page abstracts and vitae to: Bonney MacDonald, Chair, Department of English, Union College, Schenectady, NY 12308 email: macdonab@union.edu

meantime, I welcome proposals from all of you for plenary sessions, panels, and papers on such topics as environmental restoration, ruined landscapes, urban nature, environment and community, environmental justice, stewardship and of course all the many other concerns of literature and environment. So please send me a 1-2 page proposal. The deadline will be January 15, 1999, but of course the sooner you get materials to me the easier it will be to start work on a program which will reflect the concerns of all of us. My address is: Walter Isle, ASLE 1999, English and Environmental Programs MS 30, Rice University, 6100 South Main, Houston, Texas, 77005. I would also be happy to hear from you by e-mail (wwisle@rice.edu) or fax (713-285-5991) or phone: (713)737-5606.

Walter Isle, *Rice University* Vice President of ASLE

# RICK BASS'S FIBER TO HELP ENDANGERED YAAK VALLEY

of Georgia Press has recently published Fiber, the thirteenth book by acclaimed Montana nature writer Rick Bass. A long-time supporter of ASLE and a member of our Advisory Board since the inception of the organization in 1992, Bass was a featured speaker at the 1997 ASLE conference in Missoula, where he offered a superb and moving reading of Fiber to a large audience of enthusiastic ASLE members.

Fiber is a four-part narrative that combines fiction and nonfiction, autobiography and literary natural history, celebration and loss, personal storytelling and political appeal, in unusual and provocative ways. Beautifully illustrated by Elizabeth Hughes Bass and written in graceful prose that is startling and often gripping in its direct confrontation of and appeal to the reader, this story-length book engages a number of important themes, issues, and problems now current in both literary and environmentalist discourse. Centrally concerned with the relationship between art and activism, Fiber is a sensitive study of the vital but often problematic ways in which a literary art which has traditionally been devoted to the pastoral celebration of nature must now be applied in service of protecting wild places. Bass's handling of this issue is unique in that he honestly explores the dilemma of the artist (especially the literary naturalist) at century's end: how can the writer live a life of poetic celebration amidst the rampant degradation of the natural environments upon which human health, inspiration, and art depend?

Fiber is driven forward by a series of fascinating narrative personae—the "taker" geologist, the "giver" artist, the "fighter" activist, and the wonderful "log fairy"-each of whom appears to offer one possible response to the series of questions raised by the story. In the fourth and final part of Fiber, Bass shifts from the fictional approach of the first three parts of the book to the surprising declaration that "[t]here is, of course, no story." The tone of this fourth section, then, contrasts starkly with the earlier parts of the book, suddenly stripping away fiction to reveal the anger and disappointment of a person whose passion to write imaginative literature has been overwhelmed by his even more desperate passion to save the endangered wilderness of the Yaak, his home valley in Montana's northern Rockies. The story concludes with a forceful, direct appeal to the reader, as if to suggest that only writers and readers working together can save the natural world upon which art ultimately depends.

Bass's reading at the ASLE conference in Montana ended with a similarly direct appeal to his audience. At that time Bass asked that ASLE members join him in trying to save the last roadless areas of the Yaak Valley. There are several ways in which concerned members can help. One is to write letters on behalf of the Yaak, and/or to support the organizations working to protect the remaining roadless areas of the Valley. More information about letter writing and organizational efforts may be found in "What You Can Do," an appendix that appears at the back of Fiber. ASLE members may also support Bass and the Yaak by supporting Fiber, since a portion of the royalties from the regular edition of the book are being donated to Round River Conservation Studies to help fund their efforts in the Valley. And, by special arrangement, the University of Georgia Press has also published a hand-numbered, limited edition of Fiber, signed by Rick and Elizabeth Hughes Bass. Because Bass will donate all authors proceeds from the sale of this collector's edition to Round Rivers conservation. work in the Yaak, the purchase of the limited edition of Fiber is an immediate way for ASLE members to support efforts to protect the last remaining roadless areas of the beautiful, biodiverse, and critically endangered Yaak Val-

To order *Fiber*, call the University of Georgia Press order line at 1-800-BOOK-UGA (266-5842), or email at books@ugapress.uga.edu. *Fiber*, by Rick Bass. Illustrations by Elizabeth Hughes Bass. Regular edition, cloth, \$15.95 (ISBN 0-8203-2063-3) Limited edition, cloth, \$100.00 (ISBN 0-8203-2086-2)



# **Book Announcement:**

Reading the Earth: New Directions in the Study of Literature and the Environment

Now available from the University of Idaho Press, Reading the Earth presents twenty-one original ecocritical essays expanded from papers delivered at ASLE's first conference, held in Fort Collins, Colorado, in June of 1995. In the tradition of The Ecocriticism Reader (ed. Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, U of Georgia P, 1996), Reading the Earth features exemplary studies, many of which engage recent innovations in ecocritical theory, pedagogy, and interdisciplinarity.

By special arrangement with ASLE and the University of Idaho Press, the editors of Reading the Earth have donated all royalties from the sale of the book directly to ASLE. Thus, every book sold creates a direct financial benefit to our organization. To order the book for yourself, a friend, or your college or university library, please call the University of Idaho Press toll-free at 1-800-847-7377.

Edited by Michael P. Branch, Rochelle Johnson, Daniel Patterson, and Scott Slovic. University of Idaho Press, 1998. \$50.00 cloth (0-89301-213-0); \$29.95 paper (0-89301-220-3)

# CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

October 30, 1998. Territorial Inscriptions: Mapping, Space, and Language. Tufts University's 10th annual graduate student conference offers multidisciplinary explorations of the interplay of language and space, especially as this relates to the formation and representation of physical landscapes, social subjects, and institutional structures. Info: Scott Speirs, sspeirs@emerald.tufts.edu, or Kellie Wixson, kwixson@emerald.tufts.edu.

November 5-8, 1998. Desert Writers Workshop. Offered by the Canyonlands Field Institute, this workshop examines the connection between natural and human communities of the Colorado Plateau. Faculty: Ann Zwinger, Alison Hawthorne Deming, and Louis Owens. Info: Canyonlands Field Institute, Box 68 Moab, UT, 84532;800-860-5262; email: cfiinfo@canyonlandsfieldinst.org or website: www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org.

February 18-20, 1999. Women Poets of the Romantic Period. Univ. of Colorado, Boulder. The conference will offer the unusual opportunity to discuss texts in workshops, which will draw from the "Women Poets of the Romantic Period" collection at CU Boulder. Queries to: WPRP Conference Committee, Dept. of English, Campus Box 226, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 80309-0226.

February 26-28, 1999. Whidbey Island Writers' Conference, Langley, WA. Sponsored by the Whidbey Island Writers Association. Presenters include Pattiann Rogers, Susan R. Sloan, Debbie Macomber, Susan Zwinger, Tim McNulty. Information: Whidbey Island Writers' Conference, 5456 Pleasant View Land, Freeland, WA, 98249; 303-331-2739; writers@whidbey.com.

April 14-18, 1999. Environmental History Across Boundaries. The American Society for Environmental History will host its 1999 biennial meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Presentations will examine many aspects of human interaction with the physical environment. The program committee hopes to showcase presentations that draw comparisons across time, space, and disciplines. Information: Edmund Russell, epr5d@virginia.edu.

April 19-22, 1999. In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation Symposium. This fifth international symposium, sponsored by Battelle, will meet in San Diego. The focus of the meeting will be on the use of biological processes to remediate soil and groundwater contamination and industrial waste. Inquiries: Carol Young, biosymp@battelle.org.

October 20-24, 1999. Planning has begun for the 1999 Cather Symposium on Mesa Verde, to be held in Mesa Verde, in Colorado. The program will focus on Cather's Southwest. A formal call for papers will be available in the winter. Information: John Swift, Dept. of English and Comparative Literary Studies, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, 90041; swiftj@oxy.edu.

November 13-14, 1998. The Center for Big Bend Studies, 5th Annual Conference. Information: Kelly García, Center for Big Bend Studies, Box C-71, Alpine, TX, 79832; kgarcía@sulross.edu.

April 9-11, 1999. Theorizing Time and Space at the End of the Millennium. The 1999 Georgia Conference, sponsored by the Dept. of Geography at the Univ. of Georgia. Info: Andrew Herod, aherod@arches.uga.edu; Paul Plummer, pplummer@uga.edu; or Melissa Wright, mww@arches.uga.edu.

February 25-27, 1999. American Cultural Studies: Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy. University of Tulsa. The focus of this interdisciplinary conference will be the relationship between the theory and practice of American cultural analysis. Info: Anne Stavney, Conference Coordinator, Faculty of English, Univ. of Tulsa, 600 South College Ave., Tulsa, OK, 74104-3189; amcultst@utulsa.edu.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

November 1, 1998. Landscapes of Memory: Oral History and the Environment. Proposals are invited for this interdisciplinary, international conference on the relationships between memory and place and the contested meanings of diverse human and physical landscapes. Proposed themes include: memory and place; protest; green lifestyles; heritage and tradition; oral history and development. Presentations may be in the form of a conference paper, poster display, or multimedia presentation. Send two copies of one-page proposals, including name, address, phone and fax, email, title and format of presentation, relevant conference theme/s, and a brief summary of the proposed presentation to: Steve Hussey, History Department, Essex University, Colchester, CO4 3SQ, England, before Nov. 1, 1998. Inquiries: husss@essex.ac.uk.

November 16, 1998. The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association seek proposals for sessions, including one on the Kansas Region, for their 1999 regional meeting in Albuquerque, NM,

from February 24-27, 1999. Suggested topics include: Kansas in literature of film; Kansas in journalism or popular culture; Kansas-focused creative writing; and Kansas history. For a full listing of proposed conference themes, visit http://www2.okstate.edu/swpca/. Inquiries and abstracts to: Philip Heldrich, Division of English-Box 4019, Emporia State Univ., Emporia, KS, 66801-5087; heldricp@emporia.edu.

December 1, 1998. There's No Place Like Home: Public and Private Life in America's Places. Sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and Boston University's American and New England Studies Program, this interdisciplinary graduate student conference will provide a forum for analyzing notions of the public and private, and discussing how they differ from one region to another. We encourage submissions from graduate students who are interested in the relationship between personal, family, and domestic life and the development of the public sphere. One-page, abstracts (for 25minute presentations) and a one-page c.v. to: SPNEA-BU Graduate Student Conference Coordinator, American Studies Program, Boston Univ., 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA, 02215; 617-353-9916; fax: 617-353-2556; amnesgsc@bu.edu.

December 15, 1998. Writing the Journey: A Conference on American, British, and Anglophone Travel Writers and Writing, will be held June 10-13, 1999, at the University of Pennsylvania. Proposed themes: teaching travel literature; travel and national identity; travel writing and concepts of time; gender and travel; ethnicity and travel; class and travel; travel and historical periods. Abstracts: 500 words, for a 20-minute talk. Include name, affiliation, address, email, and phone number to: David Espey, English Dept., 119 Bennett Hall, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 19104; despey@english.upenn.edu.

January 4, 1999. Erasures, Evasions, and Absences: Contestations for Control of the Public Record, Past and Present. The New England American Studies Association will sponsor its Spring, 1999, conference at Suffolk University in Boston, MA, from May 15-16, 1999. The conference will focus on the creation of the public record; in particular, on the struggles of interested parties to shape public memory and the use of distortion and omission to do so. The theme of the conference is broad, and there is plenty of room for ASLE participation. Topics focusing on national parks, wilderness areas, and the language of environmental debates are particularly relevant. Proposals of 250 words and a one-page c.v. to: Nicholas Bromwell, NEASA President, English Department, Bartlett Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 01002. Hall,

ASLE members can e-mail Adam Sweeting for more information regarding how ASLE might participate in the conference: sweeting@bu.edu.

January 23, 1999. Crossing Borders/Crossing Centuries: The Canadian Association for American Studies and the American Studies Association invite proposals for papers and sessions for a joint meeting to be held in Montreal from October 28-31, 1999. Complete conference information at: http://www.caas.uwindsor.ca; or contact Bruce Tucker, Department of History, Philosophy, and Political Science, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON, N9B 3P4; tucker1@windsor.ca.

March 12, 1999. The Kent Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities will host its meeting, Bordering Europe, from September 20-24, 1999 at the University of Kent at Canterbury. The conference will investigate European culture and its establishment of borders, material and conceptual, inside and outside itself. Suggested topics: personal and cultural identity and its relation to space, place, geography. Abstracts of papers, suggestions for panels, themes or topics to: Thomas Docherty, Kent Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities, Univ. of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NX, England; T.Docherty@ukc.ac.uk.

## **PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

November 1, 1998. Manuscripts invited for a travel anthology with an ecological focus: Adventures in Green Travel: Essays in Ecotourism. Green travel (ecotourism) is essentially low-impact travel in Third World countries or other fragile places; this collection of essays will focus on environmentally-sensitive travel around the globe by featuring literary non-fiction essays that reveal the author's understanding of the effects of tourism on the environment and/or culture. Essays may also focus on adventure travel. Send manuscripts by November 1 or inquiries to: Andrea Herrmann, Dept. of Rhetoric and Writing, Univ. of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Ar, 72207-1801; awherrmann@ualr.edu.

November 15, 1998. Western American Literature seeks submissions to a special issue on literary representations of the ways laws and treaties have defined conceptions of ownership and citizenship in the West, particularly as they have defined racial or ethnic "space." For further information, check the WAL website: www.usu.edu/~westlit. Submit 2 copies of essays to: Western American Literature, Utah State Univ., 3200 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT, 84322-3200. Inquiries: wal@cc.usu.edu.

November 30, 1998. Women's Studies Quarterly invites submissions for a special issue devoted to women and the environment. Articles, syllabi, pedagogical essays, bibliographies, biographies, fiction, poetry, and black-and-white art are welcome. Suggested areas of focus include feminist analysis of environmental issues; collective and individual work by women on environmental problems and solutions; reports of personal stories; conference and organizational reports. Mss. primarily focused on issues pertinent to the U.S. should be directed to: Diane Hope, Rochester Institute of Technology, College of Liberal Arts, 92 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY, 14623. Mss. international in scope to: Vandana Shiva, Director, Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, A 60 hauz khas, New Delhi, 110 016, India. Inquiries: Diane Hope, dshgpt@rit.edu.

February 1, 1999. Critical Survey, a British journal of literary studies that addresses issues of critical practice and literary theory, seeks essays for a special issue on the literature of the American South, to be titled "South to a New Place." The topic is open, but the editors are especially interested in such topics as the South's place in European studies or in the American consciousness, new theories of southern regionalism or southern literature, and new perspectives on place in southern literature. Send double-spaced essays of 5,000-7,000 words by February 1 to: Suzanne Jones, Guest Editor, Dept. of English, Univ. of Richmond, Richmond, VA, 23173.

Open Call. The Arkansas Review (formerly the Kansas Quarterly) recently became a regional-studies journal, focusing on the seven-state Mississippi River Delta. Interdisciplinary in scope, the journal invites submissions in all the humanities and social sciences, including anthropology, folklore studies, history, literature, etc. Creative material also welcome, Send to: Editor, Arkansas Review, PO Box 1890, Dept. of English and Philosophy, Arkansas State Univ., State University, AR, 72467; delta@toltec. astate.edu; http://www.clt.astate.edu/arkreview.

Open Call. The New Review, an annual literary magazine, invites poetry or short prose pieces with a focus on nature and environmental themes. For information contact: Daniel White, Ed., The New Review, P.O. Box 100548, Florence, SC, 29501-0548; whited@al.flo.tec.sc.us.

# Awards and Fellowships

January 15, 1999. The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, at the Department of History at Southern Methodist Univ. in Dallas, invites applications for three

fellowships: the Clements Research Fellowship in Southwest Studies; the Carl B. and Florence E. King Research Fellowship; and the Summerfield-Roberts Research Fellowship. Info at: www.smu.edu/~swcenter/ or contact David J. Weber, Dir., Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Dept. of History, Southern Methodist Univ., Dallas, TX, 75275-0176.

March 1, 1999. The Frank Waters Foundation of Taos and the Martin Foundation for the Creative Arts of San Francisco and Taos are proud to announce the 4th Frank Waters Southwest Writing Award, to be granted to three writers of new book-length non-fiction with a focus on "Stewardship of the Land." They wish to grant recognition to non-fiction prose writers interested in the environment and living in the southwestern states. March 1 postmark deadline. For more information call: 505-776-2356.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community

February 11-13, 1999 Weber State University in Ogden, Utah

#### Featured Speakers:

John Elder, Stephen Trimble, C.L. Rawlins, David Rothenberg, Max Oelschlaeger, Terry Gifford

Scholars from across the disciplines will gather with artists, writers, natural resource managers, ranchers, government officals, and recreational wilderness users. We hope to include participants from across the United States and abroad as well.

We invite abstracts, completed papers (15-minute reading time), suggestions for roundtable discussions, workshops, and tradtional paper panels. Inquiries and submissions by December 15, 1998 to: Mikel Vause, Honors (801) 626-6659 (mvause@weber.edu); or William McVaugh, Psychology (801)626-6660 (wmcvaugh@weber.edu). Weber State University FAX: (801) 626-7568. Ogden UT 84408

Possible topics: environmental activism in developing nations; environment and the visual arts; indigenous cultures and natural resources; art, literature and community building; sense of place/time; urban nature; Deep Ecology; Wise Use, government—community cooperation; ecocriticism; toursim. http://catsis.weber.edu/wildmcvause

# **ASLE ELECTIONS: CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS**

# Vice-President



#### SueEllen Campbell, Colorado State University

f course I would be pleased and honored to serve as ASLE's vice-president and later president, I know I'm in abundant company in having found in my connections with ASLE all kinds of rewards—intellectual stimulation, the sense of a potential and sometimes actual audience of folks with overlapping passions and commitments, encouragement to make my work count, some warm friendships—and so while I usually avoid committees and administrative work whenever possible, I'd welcome the chance to contribute my energy to this organization. A quick bit of background: degrees from Rice and UVA, teaching jobs at 5 universities (2 1-year stints, 1 overseas exchange), currently Colorado State U; dissertation and 1st book about the horrible Wyndham Lewis, subsequent academic work on various ecocritical topics and a book of personal nature writing; teach courses on nature writing & environmental literature, literary theory, 20th century fiction, and other miscellaneous topics. What I'd like to see ALSE do? Keep the good stuff—stay collegial, supportive, and unstuffy, keep hiking-but also keep trying to make our work stronger, more illuminating, more moving, more rigorous, use as many tools as we can get our hands on, cast a wide intellectual net, break even more boundaries between genres and disciplines and kinds of writing and thinking, cultivate all our potential ecological connections to other bodies of knowledge and experience. put all our best faculties to work in the service of things that we believe matter.

#### David Robinson, Oregon State University

I am honored to be nominated for Vice-President of ASLE, and will gladly join in the effort to make sure our association continues its important work. No scholarly organization that I know of has so quickly risen to prominence, in large part because our members understand that our students and colleagues, and the larger public, need to hear the environmental message of many of our most important writers. I believe that ASLE has a crucial educational mission. It enables us to work together to publicize, analyze and criticize the major works of environmental literature and philosophy, and make environmental questions a central part of the humanities curriculum. ASLE has from the beginning been active in promoting

the exchange of ideas on teaching methods and materials in the area of literature and environment, and this has been one of its basic strengths as a professional organization. That work must continue, both in our publications, biennial and special conferences, and in the important sessions we sponsor at the American Literature Association and Modern Language Association meetings. These same venues must continue to make possible the evolving critical discourse on literature and the environment, and promote the very healthy exchange between literary critics and creative writers that has been a special part of ASLE's identity. ASLE should also take every opportunity to promote teaching and research in the broader field of environmental studies, where links between the humanities and the sciences can be made. ASLE's presence and growing influence in the humanities can help to guarantee that younger teachers and scholars engaged in environmental work receive the recognition due them within the larger fields of English, history and philosophy.

I teach American Literature and American Studies at Oregon State University, and have done most of my research on Emerson, Fuller, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist movement. I've taught a number of courses on modern environmental writers such as Snyder, Oliver, and Berry. Since 1988 I have written the chapter on "Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller and Transcendentalism" for American Literary Scholarship, and have directed a number of NEH Summer Seminars for Teachers on the Transcendentalist movement. I am currently serving as President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society.

# **Executive Council**

### Karla Armbruster, Webster State University

Since joining ASLE as a graduate student in 1993, I have enthusiastically participated in ASLE activities ranging from conferences to the e-mail discussion group. Throughout the last three years of teaching in temporary positions at Michigan State and the University of Colorado, I have been eagerly awaiting the time when I would feel able to contribute in an even more substantive way. Now that I am beginning a more stable position as assistant professor in the Department of English at Webster University in St. Louis, I am very pleased to be able to run for ASLE's Executive Council.

In addition to having worked as a science writer, I have a background in American literature and culture and in the teaching of writing. My specific teaching and recontinued on page 10

continued from page 9

search interests include environmental advocacy, ecofeminism, women's nature writing, and bioregionalism. My academic publications include essays on Terry Tempest Williams, Ursula Le Guin, Dian Fossey, and television nature documentaries. One of my priorities as an ecocritic has been to promote my field, which I have done by working ecocritical issues into most of my courses, designing several courses on specific topics such as wilderness and the concepts of home and community, and initiating "green" reading groups at three universities. Most recently, Kathy Wallace and I are at work on an edited collection of essays, Beyond Nature Writing, which is intended to emphasize the power and range of ecocriticism by featuring ecocritical readings of authors not usually considered nature writers, such as Samuel Johnson, Virginia Woolf, and Toni Morrison.

If elected to Executive Council, I will bring a commitment to increasing awareness of ecocriticism outside the field. I will also emphasize the need to encourage more ecocritical attention to texts from diverse racial, class, and national perspectives and to encourage scholars, teachers, and artists from more diverse backgrounds to join our field. I am very committed to maintaining ASLE's wonderful sense of collegiality, cooperation, and inclusivity (including its openness to pedagogy and creative work as well as to criticism)—all of which encourage a sustainability and interconnectedness that is profoundly ecological. Finally, I hope to help ASLE negotiate between the requirements of its academic and professional nature and the desire to address activist and political issues demonstrated by so many of its members.

## Tom Bailey, Western Michigan University

am excited about the possibility of serving ASLE as a Board member. As host and one of the organizers of our 1999 Conference, I have worked closely with the Board for the past few years, and would be quite happy to make formal my relationship to a group of people I both like and respect. ASLE has been lucky in its leadership and in those who have devoted time to overseeing its growth and development; I would be flattered to join them. My professional interest in nature writing is broad; I am presently at work not only on the literature of the georgic, but on the poetry of Pattiann Rogers and Robert Frost. I have published on Frost, McPhee, and other writers, and am working on a series of nature essays, which concern my native landscape, Northwest Missouri, and my adopted landscape, the Ompompanoosuc River Valley in Orange County, Vermont. I earn my keep by being University Ombudsman at Western Michigan University, but am teaching two courses in nature writing this year, and am thoroughly enjoying the return to the classroom. I consider myself to be an environmental activist, and am presently deeply involved with a group in South Strafford, Vermont, which is working to clean up the environmental damages left behind by a copper mine which opened in 1773, and which supplied the colonies with almost all their copper. Environmental damage is not a new phenomenon; ameliorating such damage, however, requires new consciousness and new modes of human behavior. Whether or not I am a successful candidate for this Board position, I look forward to greeting each and every one of you to Kalamazoo next June. See the CFP in another section of this newsletter.

#### Susan Rosowski, University of Nebraska

ecause I look to ASLE as providing a model for en **D** tering the new millenium, I take heart by its dramatic growth and vitality since some fifty of us gathered together at the Western Literature Association's meeting in Reno on October 9, 1992, "to found a new scholarly organization in the spirit of rebellion and community." Classes and conferences, books, essays, and bibliographies sponsored or otherwise encouraged by ASLE provide one measure of ways in which ASLE is providing leadership in articulating environmental issues and in taking action based on those issues. Another measure is the spirit of cooperation that characterizes ASLE: its interdisciplinary inclusiveness, for example, and its commitment to graduate student participation, as well as the character that it demonstrates. I'm thinking of the courage to take stands and the humility that comes from knowing that one exists in relationships of interdependence.

I have taught and written on issues of environmental imagination for over two decades, with a focus on ecocriticism in recent years. My monograph, The Place of Literature and the Cultural Phenomenon of Willa Cather, was published this year by University of Nebraska, an extension of an argument in "Willa Cather's Ecology of Place" (WAL 1995); my book, Birthing a Nation: Gender, Creativity, and the Significance of the West in American Literature, scheduled for publication in the fall, 1999, offers an ecoc ritical epic tradition as an alternative to the legacy of conquest that Limerick and others have recognized. At present, I'm teaching the first graduate seminar on literature and environment at the University of Nebraska and, as program director, planning an international seminar on Willa Cather and the Environmental Imagination, to be held in 2000 in Nebraska.

#### Adam Sweeting, Boston University



I am an assistant professor of humanities at Boston University, where I teach interdisciplinary courses in literature, film, and art. I am currently writing a book-length cultural history of Indian Summer in American letters, focusing primarily on Emily Dickinson and Henry Thoreau. The interdisciplinary scope of my teaching and writing enables me to draw on the wide variety of scholarship produced by ASLE members. I welcome the opportunity to build on this brief but already rich tradition of ASLE scholarship.

I believe that my research interests in the built environment could help ASLE extend beyond the traditional canon of American nature writing. I have published several articles on the overlap of nature, literature, and the urban scene. At the 1997 conference of the American Studies Association I organized a panel on the impact of suburban ecologies in American writing. I have also written on the role of race in contemporary nature essays. My first book focused on the development of landscape architecture as both a professional and a literary concern. These areas — focused as they are on the urban and suburban places that most of our students call home - represent an important and largely untapped field of study for scholars of literature and the environment. As a member of the ASLE Executive Council I would work to bring these areas more firmly into the organization's purview. A colloquium or small conference focusing on urban nature would be one way to accomplish this goal.

My current position on the Executive Council of the New England American Studies Association should also help to build bridges between ASLE and the American Studies Association. After much work ASLE has recently become an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association; I see no reason why similar ties could not be established with ASA. I would work to establish such connections as a member of the ASLE Council.

#### Announcement:

# The Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science:

Thoreau's Natural Philosophy Thursday, November 12, 1998

Laura Dassow Walls, Lafayette College: "A Material Faith: Thoreau & the Science of Life." Alfred L. Tauber, Boston University: "Thoreau's Notion of Time: An Ontology, a Metaphysic, and Ethic." Lawerence Buell, Harvard University. "The Egocentrists' Thoreau." Leo Marx, MIT: "The Egocentrists' Thoreau." Daniel Peck, Vassar College: "Thoreau's Landscape: Two Visions of Nature." For information, contact: Alfred Tauber, atauber@bu.edu, (617) 353-2604

## Fellowship Announcement

# Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science and the Sacred

At the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon

The Center for the Study of Women in Society at ■ the University of Oregon announces a new Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship Program on "Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science and the Sacred." The program provides fellowships to scholars, writers and activists whose work centers on the convergence of women's and ecological movements around the globe. More than three decades after Rachel Carson first raised a passionate voice of protest against the pollution and degradation of nature; postcolonial, feminist, antiracist and indigenous peoples' struggles have challenged key elements of Western science and environmental management. These movements have generated theoretical, linguistic, literary and historical investigations of the religious and cultural-symbolic meaning systems and socioeconomic underpinnings of Western colonization and desacralization of the natural world.

This project will create a forum for critical reflection and scholarly interchange where the assumptions about knowledge and the world that shape these movements can be complicated and contested. Our goal is a series of dynamic conversations where humanists, scientists, theologians and grassroots activists from different cultural and national contexts can move beyond environmental crisis rhetoric and explore the conceptual and ethical vocabularies that meet the geopolitical, cultural, biological and technological challenges of a new millenium.

This program seeks applicants for the first year of the program. During the first year of our conversation we are especially interested in proposals from scholars who are already working on issues of gender and ecology or ecofeminism. We welcome proposals dealing with epistemological, theological, philosophy of science and interpretive questions as well as ones that explore problems such as environmental illness, male sexuality, fertility, geographical displacement or the interrelationships between human and nonhuman histories. The program is committed to an international dialogue; thus, our goal is to ensure that half of the scholars will be from outside the U.S. and Europe.

Application deadline: February 1, 1999. For additional information, please contact: Center for the Study of Women in Society, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1201. Tel: 541/346-5015; fax: 541/346-5096; email: csws@oregon.uoregon.edu; or visit our website at http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~csws/.

# ASLE IN ENGLAND: REFLECTIONS ON THE BATH SYMPOSIUM

Bath is a small North Somerset city in a bowl of hills. It grew very quickly in the mid-eighteenth century, when the Roman spa became a fashionable resort, hence the beautiful uniformity of the old city centre, with its narrow streets and crescents and circles of tall eighteenth-century houses. Bath is a city of tourism, enthusiastically marketed by the local heritage industry. Nowadays the city is usually full of slow-moving traffic, and has high levels of air pollution. In the early 1990s Bath was the scene of a long battle about the building of a new by-pass. The road was cut through the shoulder of Solsbury Hill, a site of mythic significance. Protesters were dragged out of trees and violently evicted from camps.

Bath displays many of the contradictions facing envi-

ronmentalists in Britain. It was therefore an interesting place for the first British ASLE Symposium, held in July at Bath Spa University College, on a campus formerly a country estate landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. Ecocriticism is at last gaining some recognition in Britain, and is increasingly perceived as a new critical movement beginning to break away from the association with nostalgia for feudal England which has long been a problem for nature-lovers here. The conference was billed as a launch for ASLE in Britain, and more tentatively as an event which would send feelers. into other European countries. Speakers came from Britain, the USA, Ireland, Australia, Germany, Italy, Esto-

nia, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Japan.

Louise Westling's opening plenary lecture, 'Ecocriticism for the Millennium', expressed a determination that the new century should not mean the fading of an ecocriticism too much identified with a fin-de-siecle apocalyptic mood. Westling presented the audience with a history of ASLE. She warned ecocritics that their cultural interests must connect with campaigns for environmental justice, if they are to rebut the charge that ecocriticism and nature-loving are little more than forms of white middle-class leisure. She then posed one of the recurring questions of the conference. What sort of rapprochement or recognition could there be between two sorts of ecocriticism? The first seeks to celebrate nature as a pure category defined by its opposition to culture and self-consciousness, and to celebrate the experience of immersion in this nature. The second is a viewpoint more skeptical of 'nature' as a separate or explanatory category,

more informed by Marxism and social constructionism, more concerned with the comparative examination of different cultural constructions of 'nature'.

The first view could be linked with Deep Ecology, the second with Social Ecology. The first could be seen as a North American emphasis, befitting a continent still possessed of large areas of 'wilderness', the second as a European emphasis, especially characteristic of densely-populated countries such as Britain. The contrast was developed in an ensuing session which paired Werner Bigell's paper on Calvinist Wilderness in Abbey, Jeffers and Bowles with Jeremy Hooker's paper on intense concentrations on small spaces in English nature writing, an English tradition which Hooker called 'ditch vision'. In a later plenary, Kate Soper returned to this division, identifying a fault-

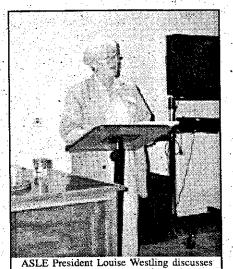
line in ecocriticism between writers exploring what Soper called 'an envy of 'immanence' and critics using post-structuralist techniques in the deconstruction and restructuring of attitudes to nature.

There was a general willingness to recognize the seriousness of both approaches. Most people probably felt the attractions of both. Soper, intriguingly, proposed ecocritical readings of mythic traditions--classical, christian, Celtic, Norse and others--as a way beyond simple dichotomy. Mythic stories could provide complex symbols and manifestations of contradictory impulses held simultaneously. Westling had made similar points about Native

American writing, finding here a practice that did not polarise absorption and self-consciousness, or nature and culture: quite different from the colonialist and Romantic traditions of self-conscious, exiled yearning for immanence.

The attempt to sum up such a conference meets the paradox of its mixture of diversity and common purpose: the question, really, of whether ecocriticism can be regarded as a single cultural 'movement', united in all its variety by a common perception of ecological problems. Perhaps the most unifying idea to be found (paradoxically) is the idea of situational ethics. Kate Rigby, of Monash University, argued that while the cultural emphasis on place and dwelling might be reactionary and dangerous in a European context, it becomes a source of resistance and emancipation in Australian aboriginal culture.

A set of three papers on hunting produced a vivid, perplexing encounter. Rupert Hildyard gave an English analysis of foxhunting as a brutalising institution requiring



"Ecocriticism at the Millennium," at Bath

and perpetuating a conservative social structure, and relying on a spurious notion of continuity between instinctual genetic codes and codes of language and culture. In contrast, Mary Zeiss Stange argued from an American perspective that hunting had validity as a way of finding an unalienated place in a natural environment. Stange argued that if we become hunters we cease to be spectators; we rediscover our position in an eco-system and a food-chain. We face, rather than avoid, the fact that we live because others die.

She suggested that hunting, at its best, involved a rediscovery of instinct, of the body, of places and of animals, contrasting favourably with the alienation and repression produced by industrial society and its methods of food-production. How unfamiliar this argument sounded to an English ear: how difficult it was to see how it might find space in current English debate. Don Garden's paper, adding an Australian perspective, explored the history of colonialist attempts to implant English conventions of hunting in Australia. Some questioners in the audience attempted to find a foundational ethical evaluation of hunting to overcome these differences, appealing to the principle that pleasure in inflicting pain and fear was always wrong: an intervention that quickly became enmeshed in the sheer diversity of the examples cited.

Many sessions provided encounters of similar richness. Wren Sidhe's exploration of masculine desire and trauma in English nature writing after the First World War, and of lesbian nature writing in the same period as an alternative model, freeing the erotic in nature writing from associations with violence, found points of contact both in Thomas Rohkramer's investigation of the 'volkisch' movements in Germany in the same period and in Catrin Gersdorf's analysis of the erotic in contemporary nature writing by women. Greg Garrard and John Foster suggested that the idea of aesthetic value might be a more fruitful and politically effective basis for ecocriticism than environmental ethics. Dominic Head of the University of Central England in Birmingham (about as urban as you can get) looked at ecocriticism in a different and more immediate context, that of the educational institutions in which most ecocritics work. In Britain, academics in most fields are under increasing pressure to redefine their teaching as vocational training serving the requirements of industry. Head asked how ecocriticism, founded upon a critique of the effects and practices of industry, could find its identity in relation to such demands. Terry Gifford's paper, on ecocriticism and the creative writing class, was one attempt to give an account of ecocritical pedagogy.

Among the plenaries, Jonathan Bate made a surprising retrieval of Jane Austen as a writer of ecocritical interest. He pointed to Austen's insistence on the distinction between mere manners and 'cultivation', an idea which brings together moral sensibility, aesthetic taste, and the responsible husbandry of John land: MacKenzie traced continuities between the moral inflections of medieval representations of landscape and comparable inflections in landscape photography. Oliver Rackham amusingly ex-

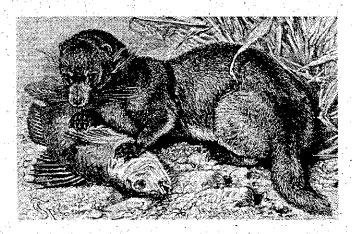


Jonathan Bate, author of The Genius of Shakespeare, addresses the Bath audience

posed some misconceptions about the history of the British countryside, arguing that an ecological sensibility should always be ready to see local variations and exceptions to general rules. Ros Coward continued this satirical, skeptical note with a series of revelations about artifice and deceptions in television wildlife documentaries. In the course of this unmasking, she showed a clip of a polar bear underwater, which seemed to change the mood for a moment. The animal, moving purposefully, seemed, simultaneously to be powerful, vulnerable in its preoccupation and unawareness of our gaze, and trapped like a zoo animal in its square of screen. It generated, for that moment, an excess of meaning, both pleasurable and disconcerting. As did the whole conference.

We concluded with a walk on the Dorset cliffs, and the first meeting of ASLE UK. Watch this space.

Richard Kerridge and Greg Garrard, Bath Spa University College



# STORIES IN THE LAND: A VITAL NEW MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FROM THE ORION SOCIETY

Much contemporary environmental education has turned its back on nature—choosing indoor lab experiments and case studies of faraway places over the woods and fields and vacant lots near schools. Yet the best learning takes place when students experience the material firsthand, gaining insight and making connections on a personal level.

The Orion Society announces the second volume in their Nature Literacy Series: Stories in the Land: A Place-Based Environmental Education Anthology.

Eight years were spent developing models for placebased environmental education, working with some of the best teachers in the country to fashion cross-disciplinary studies of their local environments.

Stories presents curriculum stories from 12 of these teachers, including step-by-step descriptions of the most successful classroom- and field-tested activities. From inner-city Philadelphia to rural New Mexico, the examples provided in this book are adaptable to a wide variety of teaching environments—combining literature, science, history, and the arts to yield a holistic, enlivened local curriculum.

With an introduction by Stories in the Land Director John Elder, who the *New York Times Magazine* dubbed the "guru of environmental education," and a host of useful resources and references, this second volume of The Orion Society's Nature Literacy Series is an ideal resource for those working to change the face of environmental education to reflect the natural and human communities of the places where we live.

The Nature Literacy Series offer ideas and strategies for effective and informed environmental education. The Orion Society is an environmental education organization, an award-winning publisher of *Orion Magazine* and *Orion Afield*, and a communications and support network for grassroots environmental and community organizations across North America. Its work covers a broad spectrum, including summer teaching institutes, reading tours, conferences, and model classroom programs.

Stories in the Land can be ordered directly from The Orion Society for \$8 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For information about The Orion Society or the Nature Literacy Series, or to place an order for Stories in the Land, write to: 195 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230 or orion@orionsociety.org. More information on this and other Orion Societypublications and programs can be found our our website: www.orionsociety.org

## Mark Your Calendars!

The Third Biennial Conference of The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment:

"What to Make of a Diminished Thing: Preservation, Restoration, Cooperation"

will be held at Western Michigan University, June 3-6, 1999

Watch your mailbox for a detailed CFP

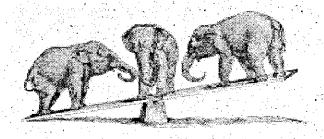


### BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

# The Literature of Nature: An International Sourcebook

Edited by Patrick D. Murphy

A compendium of sixty-five chapters treating a wide variety of national and transnational literatures and topics. The Literature of Nature is being released simultaneously in Chicago and London to facilitate distribution. Over half the chapters were written by ASLE members, and all ASLE members qualify for a 10% discount [off the \$95 retail cost] when the book is ordered directly from the publisher, before the end of 1998. For more information, write to Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 70 East Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Or contact the website: www.fitzroydearborn.com.



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

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 A	
	Amount Enclosed
ASLE Membership (\$25/students \$15)*	
ASLE Couples Membership (\$35)**	
ASLE Donor (\$50)	
ASLE Patron (\$75 or more) (Names of donors and patrons will be published unless anonymity is requested)	
ASLE Gift Memberships (\$25 each)	
Insitutional (\$25/yr, \$60/3 yrs)	
International (add \$10 to the appropriate category)	
Total Enclosed	

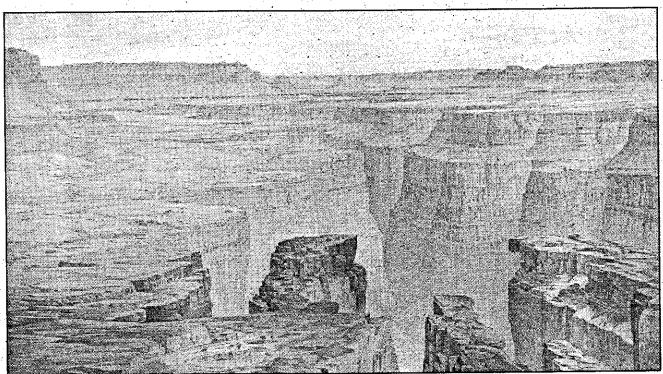
☐ Please do *not* include my information in the membership directory.

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

Allison B. Wallace, ASLE Treasurer Department of English & Humanities HC78, Box 200 Unity College of Maine Unity, ME 04988

\*ASLE membership fee includes subscriptions to ASLE News & ISLE.

\*\* Couples please send contact information for both people.



William H. Holmes, The Grand Cañon at the Foot of the Toroweap-Looking East. Chromolithograph, 1882



ASLE News c/o Ralph Black, Editor Department of English Wake Forest University P.O. Box 7387 Reynolda Station Winston-Salem, NC 27109

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Winston-Salem, NC Permit No. 69

