



ASLE News

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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SueEllen Campbell, *Colorado State University*



It seems only a few weeks since I wrote my vice-president's letter for the fall newsletter, and it *is* only a few weeks since I actually took office as president. In a 30-second non-ceremony at the February ASLE business meeting in Reno, outgoing president Walter Isle handed me a pair of dice dating from ASLE's formation in that same city in

1992. They now sit among plants, earrings, chips of local mica, and seashells from distant beaches on a little ledge over my kitchen stove, a daily reminder of the connections between my responsibilities to ASLE and my ordinary life, between ecology and home economics, environmentalism and housekeeping. This seems appropriate, I suppose, partly because ASLE has been engaging in some housekeeping activities, working to keep our operations efficient and flexible. A few items of note, beginning with some changes in personnel and location:

Ann Fisher-Wirth is now editor of this newsletter, taking over from Ralph Black. Thus this job moves deeper into the South, from North Carolina to Mississippi.

Annie Ingram will become Secretary-Treasurer on May 15, taking over from Allison Wallace. This job moves down the East Coast, from Maine to North Carolina.

As we announced in the last newsletter, Louis Ulman has taken charge as bibliographer, replacing Kenton Temple and moving that operation two states north, from Tennessee to Ohio.

Kathleen R. Wallace and Barney Nelson join the Executive Council, replacing Chris Cokinos and David Teague—a shift from Kansas and Delaware to Ohio and Texas. They join Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Idaho (recently California), and Mississippi (yes, Ann again) on that council.

We have two new Graduate Student Liaisons, Melissa Goldthwaite and John Krajcek, replacing Mei-Mei Evans and Wes Berry. They will be updating our Graduate Handbook, which is now on our website. Both are working on Ph.D.s, Melissa at Ohio State, John at Texas A&M. Thus Oregon and Mississippi give way to Ohio and Texas.

Randall Roorda is the new vice-president—currently in

Missouri but moving this summer to Kentucky. Thus the vice-presidency shifts east and a bit south from Colorado, as the presidency migrates north from Texas to Colorado. Our public relations and website remain in Minnesota; the offices of ISLE and our executive secretary remain in Nevada.

Since aside from our yearly in-person meetings our business is conducted almost entirely by email, little of this makes any immediate practical difference to ASLE. But it's good to keep in mind that cyberspace is just a handy overlay on the actual land, where we all keep house in real places, where there are real messes (toxic chemicals, radioactive wastes, clearcuts, smog) as well as real comforts and inspirations, intricacies, wonders, beauties. When I write an email to this group, or as I compose this letter to email to Mississippi so Ann can mail it out to you, I try to remember how clicking on SEND casts my invisible words over so many kinds of places, environments, ecosystems. And when I write to someone in ASLE-Japan or ASLE-UK (our newest official affiliate organization), well, that's a lot of water and earth and weather to try to hold in the imagination.

While sitting around a wooden table looking at each other's faces, listening to live voices, and drinking water from the Sierra Nevada in Reno, we also established a few positions to help keep us organized. As ASLE's Project and Professional Liaison Coordinator, Rochelle Johnson will try to keep current records on various ongoing projects and the many links ASLE members are developing with other professional organization. (Rochelle volunteered for this job, but she was also the obvious choice, as she is already one of ASLE's chief jugglers). Kathleen Wallace will be our Diversity Coordinator. And Randall Roorda will coordinate a program committee for planning the 2001 conference in Flagstaff. See Kathy's and Randall's items in this newsletter for details. In addition, we established a "President's Discretionary Fund"; people doing big jobs for ASLE who need to hire short-term help can apply to the President for modest financial aid.

We also dealt with two other major agenda items, and I'd like to say a few words about each of them.

First, we're in the process of re-organizing our Advisory Board to involve staggered five-year terms—not at all because we're anxious to drop anyone from the list but rather because we'd like the flexibility to honor some of the many other people whose contributions to ASLE or to the field of environment and literature have been particularly significant. The original Board members have provided ASLE with very real help by lending us their endorsements and often their advice. We're grateful to all of them and hope they'll wish to stay involved with us.

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Hello

I have had fun editing my first issue of ASLE News with the absolutely indispensable help of ASLE member Kristin Harty, a graduate student in English who has also worked for years as a newspaper editor and journalist. My thanks to her, to all the officers and project coordinators who were so great about getting copy in on time, and to the local ASLE members who have helped get this enormous mailing out. What a super group of people to work with. I welcome comments and suggestions from any readers, and encourage you to send me information about your recent or forthcoming book publications for the Book Shelf. A list of patrons and donors will appear in the next ASLE News. My apologies for not being able to obtain it by the publisher's deadline. I wish you a happy springtime.

—Ann

ASLE News

ASLE OFFICERS

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SueEllen Campbell, *Colorado State University*

Vice President & 2001 Conference Planning Coordinator

Randall Roorda, *University of Missouri,
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After May 15, 2000: Annie Ingram,
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Newsletter Editor (ASLE News)

Ann Fisher-Wirth, *University of Mississippi*

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Ann Fisher-Wirth, *University of Mississippi*, 2000

Rochelle Johnson, *Albertson College
of Idaho*, 2000

Barbara "Barney" Nelson,

Sul Ross State University, 2002

Kathleen Wallace, *Columbus, Ohio*, 2002

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American Studies Association (ASA)

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and Adam Sweeting, *Boston University*

CCCCs: Randall Roorda,

University of Missouri, Kansas City

Diversity Caucus of ASLE: Annie Ingram,

Davidson College

Iowa Place Education Initiative: Tom Dean,

University of Iowa

Modern Language Association (MLA):

Bonney MacDonald, *Union College*

Midwest MLA (M/MLA):

Tom Dean, *University of Iowa*

Nature in Legend and Story (NILAS):

Tom Dean, *University of Iowa*

Pacific MLA (PAMLA): Rochelle Johnson,

Albertson College of Idaho

Popular Culture Association/American

Culture Association:

Gyorgi Voros, *Virginia Polytechnic Institute*

Rocky Mountain MLA (RRMLA):

Rochelle Johnson, *Albertson College of Idaho*

Society for the Study of American

Women Writers: Rochelle Johnson,

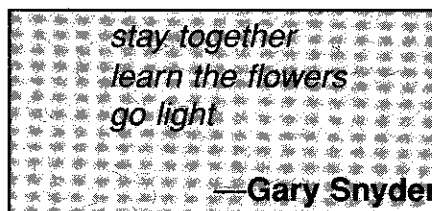
Albertson College of Idaho

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Ann Fisher-Wirth, *The University of Mississippi*

Kristin Harty, *The University of Mississippi*

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 Ann Fisher-Wirth, English Department, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Email: afwirth@olemiss.edu.



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I'm grateful to those of you who supported me in our recent election—and I'm grateful to those who did not, too. Turnout for the election was our highest yet, expressing well our organization's vitality and level of engagement. This makes me all the more determined to represent you well and the more honored to be allowed to do so.

My primary responsibility as vice president is to begin planning the program for our meeting at Flagstaff in June 2001. This job is largely executive, a matter of facilitating the deliberations of the program committee we've constituted to ensure that a variety

of speakers and approaches are considered by people with a range of interests. I invite any interested ASLE member to contact me with suggestions for the program—ideas on speakers, formats, roundtable or forum topics, field trips, or activities of other sorts. I can't promise that we will adopt any given suggestion, but I can tell you that we are eager for ideas and that any we receive will be reviewed with care and entered into the calculus of interests and logistics out of which our meeting will emerge. I look forward to hearing from you.

—Randall Roorda, *University of Missouri, Kansas City*

North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community

The twelfth meeting of the North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community met February 10-12, 2000, in Reno, Nevada. The Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities and its Director Scott Slovic hosted a program rich in plenary and concurrent sessions. This meeting, which began in the late eighties as the North American Interdisciplinary Wilderness Conference (featuring the wolf biologist David Mech as a speaker), maintained its strong interest in wilderness study with such sessions as "Into the Wild: Wilderness Explorations," "Why Wilderness? A Roundtable Discussion on the Meaning of Wilderness Experience," and "Meeting the Other: Representing Animals through Language."

The conference's ongoing interest in interdisciplinary inquiry was also evident in Reno. Thus, in addition to presentations on such literary figures as Edward Abbey, Rudolfo Anaya, Rick Bass, Louise Erdrich, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Jane Smiley, there were sessions featuring dramatic performance, nature photography and environmental art, nature film and video, and music. Ecological pedagogy, often featuring interdisciplinary and fieldwork components and place-based curricula, was another familiar and central theme. As in the past, creative literary work was featured in sessions on nature poetry and literary non-fiction, and we were fortunate to hear Simon Ortiz read from his poetry and fiction in an evening plenary. Two sessions—one featuring prominent book editors in our field on the topic "The Future of Environmental Publishing" and one featuring magazine and newspaper editors discussing "Regional Magazines and Environmental Activism"—provided insight into environmental publishing from an editorial perspective.

While not a new concern for the conference or the field, this interest in activism and its relationship to art and to the academy increasingly figures into how we teach and write. Thoughts on this topic were prominent throughout the meeting; they were emphasized in the diversity sessions (organized by Joni Adamson and Rachel Stein and reported on elsewhere in this newsletter), threaded throughout many of the pedagogical and literary papers, and featured in a session titled "The Art of Activism." Also evident in this year's Reno meeting was a growing interest in urban nature and its literature. Presentations on urban nature have been featured at earlier Environment and Community gatherings (and in each of the first three ASLE meetings as well), but the response to sessions such as Jennifer Price's plenary presentation "Thoreau Gets on the Bus: (See *CONFERENCE* on Page 4)



Environmental Justice Roundtable

This year's North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community, held February 10-12 at the University of Nevada, Reno, offered several related events exploring the interconnected social, economic, and environmental issues at the center of the environmental justice movement. Rachel Stein and Joni Adamson organized a roundtable session on environmental justice with activist Teresa Leal, cochair of the Southwest Network for Environmental Justice; Acoma poet Simon Ortiz; environmental anthropologist Devon Pena; and environmental literary critic Terrell Dixon.

One of the most powerful moments of the session came when Teresa Leal explained that environmental justice activists redefine "the environment" to mean the places we live, work, play, and worship. Each of the panelists discussed why it is so important for scholars and artists to work with activists and community groups not only to preserve unique treasured places, but also for the right of these groups to determine their own political, social, economic, and environmental futures.

Several other sessions at the conference also addressed the issues raised in the roundtable. Simon Ortiz gave a powerful (See *JUSTICE* on Page 4)

Environmental Studies Using Avant-Garde Film & Video

Many who teach Environmental Studies and related disciplines are unaware of one of the most remarkable pedagogical resources available to those willing to incorporate media into their research and curricula: the remarkable history of what is usually called "avant-garde" film and video. At the North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community, I had the opportunity to present several "avant-garde" films (that is, films made by individuals working alone, the way most poets, novelists, painters, and photographers work). The specific works presented—Rose Lowder's *Bouquets* 1-10 (France, 1994-1995), Larry Gottheim's *Fog Line* (USA, 1970), and James Benning's *Deseret* (USA, 1995)—provided a tiny sampling of the dozens of "avant-garde" films/videos available and the unusual, educationally provocative experiences they can create for viewers.

The 10 one-minute films collected in *Bouquets* reflect Lowder's rejection of the traditional wastefulness of film production. Eschewing typical "shot-ratios"—the ratio of shots taken to shots used: sometimes 60, 80, or even 100 to 1 in the commercial cinema—Lowder redefines the basic unit of cinema as the frame (24 frames per second move through a standard projector) and asks viewers to intensify their film-viewing capabilities. By providing 24 disparate images per second, Lowder immerses viewers in a complex phantasmagoria of scenes from in and around Avignon, where she lives.

Gottheim's *Fog Line* is a lovely, 10-minute, single-shot film of a fog gradually thinning over a small dell in Central New York State. It provides a memorable intervention in the usual over-consumption of imagery that characterizes most modern media (including Lowder's *Bouquets*). *Fog Line* implicitly retrains vision, modeling a more patient, deeper awareness of natural process and a turning away from the hysterical, environmentally-destructive consumption promoted by modern society.

Benning's *Deseret* is a feature-length (90 minutes) exploration of the geography and history of Utah, combining imagery of Utah that Benning recorded during months of travelling the

state and a soundtrack made up of stories about Utah from *The New York Times*. Viewers are asked to explore the many interconnections between the verbal representation of Utah in newspaper stories and Benning's depiction of the region the Mormons originally wanted to call "Deseret." In Benning's film the central issue for the region evolves from the moral/social questions raised by Mormon settlement toward an acceleration of environmental abuse that threatens to send Utah into an entropic spiral of environmental decay.

These films and others by these three makers are available from Canyon Cinema, 2325 Third St., Suite 338, San Francisco, CA 94107 (415 626-2255; films@canyoncinema.com; www.canyoncinema.com). The contact people at Canyon are Dominic Angerame and David Sherman. Check with Canyon for rental rates, and remember that renting these films insures their longevity and continued availability. Canyon Cinema offers an extensive catalogue (for a modest charge) that is a pleasure to explore. See also the catalogues for the New York Filmmakers' Cooperative, 175 Lexington Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10016 (212 889-3820) and the Museum of Modern Art's Circulating Film Program, 11 W. 53rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10019 (212 708-9530).

Generally, avant-garde films are available only in 16mm and require good screening conditions: not a low-grade projector in a hard-to-darken classroom, but at least a small theatrical situation where the room can be entirely darkened and the projector gate has been cleaned with a Q-tip and alcohol.

Interviews with Gottheim, Benning, and Lowder appear in my series of *Critical Cinema* books (University of California Press), volumes 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

—Scott MacDonald, *University of Arizona*



(CONFERENCE continued from Page 3)

Urban Nature Writing, from Plastic Flamingos to the L.A. River" suggests that this topic will figure prominently in our work as the new century begins.

Those seeking information about next year's conference, to be held February 8-10, 2000, at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, can contact the two conference founders, who will also serve as next year's hosts. They are:

—Dr. Mikel Vause, Honors Program, 2904 University Circle, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah 84408-2904 (Phone: 801 626-6659. Fax: 801 626-7568. Email: mvause@weber.edu), and

—Dr. William McVaugh, Psychology Department, 1202 University Circle, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah 84408-1202 (Phone: 801 626-6660. Email: wmcvaugh@weber.edu).

—Terrell Dixon, *University of Houston*

(JUSTICE continued from Page 3)

ful reading of his poetry, and told about his experiences working in the uranium processing industry in Grants, New Mexico, during the early 1960s, and some of the mine's impacts on the Acoma community. Teresa Leal conducted a workshop on community organizing, telling her audience much about the toxins which leak out daily into the small colonias, or squatter villages, surrounding the maquiladoras along the border, and relating some of her experiences participating in the demonstrations at the World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle, Washington. Devon Pena gave a plenary address on his work with the Rio Grande Bioregions Project, an independent research and advocacy network of social and environmental scientists, lawyers, traditional Chicano farmers, and sustainable agriculture activists. He told his audience how the Project works to promote an understanding of agriculture from the perspective of ecosystems theory and advocates for the protection of the ecological wisdom of traditional land-based communities.

By revealing and addressing the local, national, and global processes that give rise to social and ecological problems in the first place, each of these sessions spoke to many of the concerns that have been voiced recently by those both inside and outside the environmental movement regarding issues of diversity.

—Joni Adamson, *University of Arizona, Sierra Vista*

Music and Community

For the last several years, a group of ASLE members has been getting together at conferences to make music, playing on penny-whistle, guitars, harmonica, mandolin, fiddle, kazoo, piano, and upside-down trash can till the wee hours--and singing, loudly and sometimes melodiously. Among the music-makers: Ian Marshall, Mike Branch, Richard Hunt, Mark Schlenz, Tom Hilliard, David Taylor, Ann Fisher-Wirth, David Fenimore, Alan Weltzien, Maria Madruga, and Annie Ingram. Several of the gang joined for a panel on "Music and Community" at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community in Reno. This paper was part of the introductory remarks before the group sang "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," "Ring Around the Moon," and "Barrett's Privateers."

Last year I was reading up on "bioaesthetics," the study of the biological basis for art, considering how art has provided some evolutionary advantage to us as a species. My immediate interest in the topic was literature—specifically, *The Odyssey*. What virtues, values, and behaviors, I wondered, were celebrated there, and in what way might they offer an individual, or his culture, some survival advantage? Those questions were on my mind at the ASLE conference in Kalamazoo, when I met up with my music-making friends. On a hike through the Michigan woods one afternoon, I posed the question to them: what survival advantage does music offer?

One answer I heard was that music hones senses and skills that could prove to be useful in a survival situation—to be able to listen well, to be able to make significant noise. Music might also have served in the past as a means of sexual selection. A singer might demonstrate his or her health, vitality, and strength by singing—maybe intelligence as well. (Have you ever tried to memorize all the words to Bob Dylan's "Desolation Row"?) Someone playing an instrument demonstrates dexterity, grace, and, again, intelligence. And all those traits might make a potential mate take notice of some genes worth joining up with. Also, in an oral culture, music enabled the more memorable transmission of important cultural information, in poetry and story shaped into song. Maybe it still does. Again, I'll cite "Desolation Row," full of important cultural information.

But the answer that made most sense to me—I think Mike Branch suggested it—was that music reinforces or creates a sense of community. Obviously, being a member of a community or tribe where people care for and look out for one another offers an enormous survival advantage. And how does music foster that sense of community? It's not just that you're all hearing or reciting the same story or sentiment, but that in participating in the

song you all join together to create the song. Making music involves us in the mutual joint-stock world Ishmael tells us about in *Moby-Dick*. This seems like a stunningly obvious thing to say—of course music is the product of everyone joining in, working—no, playing—toward a common goal. But isn't that precisely the magic? Is there anything in the world that makes us feel more connected to one another? (Well, maybe one...) When we sing, we even breathe together—as if we are one organism. And we are. You want to find oneness? Sing a song with someone.

We do not have to look far for an example. I have been getting together with the people up here for, oh, six or seven years now. I see them once or twice a year, usually at conferences, but we have had some fabulous times together, whole nights of deep and intense joy. Let me relate just one anecdote about my connection to one of my music partners up here. Mark Schlenz and I had become friends through music years before we ever had a conversation that lasted longer than two minutes.

I had come to admire and like him during some of those rowdy nights in conference hotel rooms, in part because he is such a fine musician that he'd make the rest of us schmucks sound pretty good even when we weren't. And that's a big deal. Music for Mark is not about demonstrating his considerable skills, it's about using those skills to help everyone in the room make the music. I can just see him quieting his fiddle and leaning in to me or Mike or Richard to get us to pick up a phrase on pennywhistle or harp or guitar, or nodding to whoever's in the corner of the room banging on an upside down trash can, then filling in around our gaps, and when our rhythm or recollection of the melody started to falter, picking us up with a few sweet bow-strokes. When Mark and I finally did have an extended conversation, we went for a



walk in Missoula. While we were crossing a bridge, some homeless people asked for spare change. Mark emptied his pockets, and stopped to talk and joke with them for a while, long enough for them to feel that the exchange of money was not charity or pity or guilt but a gift among friends, or at least peers. And I wasn't a bit surprised. Because there was something in that gesture that echoed from Mark's music-making. Making music is absolutely part demonstration of individual prowess, but it's always—at least if it's done right—in the context of the song being shared. And making music is also part invitation to the other participants, a creation of space in the song for their contributions.

My point is simply this: Music requires us to practice skills that are important in building a community, it gives the community shared experience that brings it together, and it allows us to express our sense of connection to one another. A community becomes a community when it makes music together. Even when the members of that community come from all corners of the country.

—Ian Marshall, *Penn State, Altoona*

CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

Visit the ASLE web site at <http://asle.umn.edu> for an up-to-the-minute listing of conferences of interest and calls for papers. If you would like to announce a call for papers or a conference of interest in an upcoming issue of *ASLE News*, please contact Rochelle Johnson, Conference Tracker, at: rjohnson@acofi.edu or (208) 459-5894.

Calls for Papers

May 1, 2000. Special Sections on Westerns from Hollywood and on Popular Western Fiction to be held at the Western Literature Association Conference, October 25-28, 2000, at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Topics might include John Ford, Clint Eastwood, B.M. Bower, Zane Grey, Louis L'Amour, Max Brand, Clarence Mulford, cross-dressing in westerns, pulp westerns, pulp westerns into film, feminist, structuralist and other new critical perspectives on Westerns, etc. Proposals, including a one-page abstract and a short vita, should be sent by May 1, 2000 to: Paul Varner, Department of Language and Literature, Oklahoma Christian University, P.O. Box 11000, Oklahoma City, OK, 73136; Phone: (405) 425-5333; Fax: (405) 425-5466; Email: paul.varner@oc.edu.



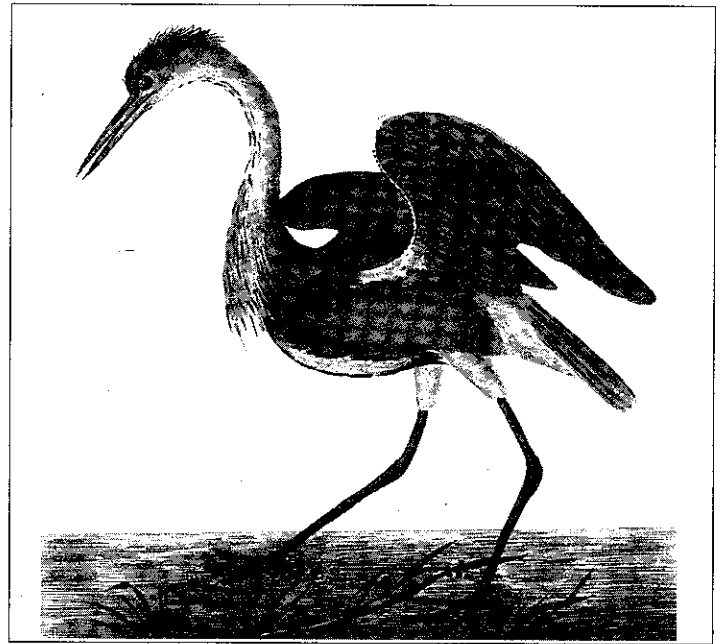
May 1, 2000. Art and The City. The University of Virginia will host the Ninth Annual Graduate Symposium of the McIntire Department of Art, November 4, 2000, in Charlottesville. The Art History Graduate Association (AHGA) at the University of Virginia is seeking papers that explore the complex relationship between art and the city. Possible themes may include, but are not limited to, the city as a work of art, urbanism,

picturing the city, the idea of the city in intellectual history and public art. Papers from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome. One-page abstracts are due May 1, 2000. Please include a separate cover page with your name, paper title, university departmental address, e-mail address, and phone number. For more information please contact Mary Leclerc at mk14k@virginia.edu or Ellen Daughterty at ekd3q@virginia.edu. Mail submissions to: Mary Leclerc, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Fayerweather Hall, P.O. Box 400130, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4130.

May 1, 2000. Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science, and Environment. February 25-27, 2001, University of Oregon, in Eugene. This conference is designed to bring together scientists, community activists, and science studies scholars who are working on environmental issues in an effort to reveal and move beyond barriers that have inhibited interactions between scholars in the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and between academics and activists. Suggested conference topics include but are not limited to: empirical analyses of specific environmental issues and proposed/implemented actions; questions of expertise, citizenship, and sustainability; environmental justice; the roles of humanistic and scientific rhetoric in environmental arguments and activism; the nature and potential of Public-Interest Science; the value of science studies for environmental studies and vice versa; investigations of the current realism/social constructivism debates; the history and role of the idea of [nature as] an independent reality, free of human interaction; analyses of distinctions such as body/mind, nature/culture; assessments of recent models and metaphors for framing the material and social aspects of nature—cyborg, hybridity, actor network theory, mangle of practice, transgenic organism, etc.; the contributions of feminist science studies and race theories to the bridging of science studies and environmental studies/scholarship and activism. Abstracts for proposed papers, research presentations, panels, and forums are encouraged. Please send three copies of a two-page abstract and one copy of an abbreviated c.v. for each participant. Proposals are due no later than May 1, 2000. Send to: Taking Nature Seriously, Environmental Studies Program, 10 Pacific Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5223. For further information, see the web site: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tns>.

May 15, 2000. The Frontiers of Charles Brockden Brown. A group of Brown scholars will host a conference to explore the frontiers of sensation and topography in the life, writing, and culture of Charles Brockden Brown, from October 27-29, 2000, in Las Vegas. Brown himself explored the frontiers of many issues in cultural crisis—gender, psychology, and class, not to mention the canon and the literal frontier landscape. We invite 1-2 page abstracts on various topics under the organizing principle of “frontiers”: gender, women, queer theory, domestic ideology, race and/or ethnicity, psychology and physiology; sensation, sentiment, sympathy, the body, commerce, economics, gambling, expansionism, colonialism, imperialism, the North Atlantic-European connections, class, the marketplace, popular culture, the canon, cultural spaces of the 1790s, gothicisms, romanticisms, revolution debates, translation, history of the book/literary marketplace, republicanism, liberalism, counter-subversion, right-wing paranoia, history and historiography, narratology, geography, urbanism, topography, etc. Send abstracts by May 15, 2000 to: Martin Brueckner, English Department, 041 Memorial Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716; mcb@odin.english.udel.edu.

May 15, 2000. Environment and Culture. Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, Albany, NY, November 3-5, 2000. Abstracts/papers dealing with any issue in the growing discourse of environmental studies of culture are welcome. Preference will be given to papers dealing with intertextual or interdisciplinary approaches. Graduate student papers are strongly encouraged. Panel submissions are also accepted; individual papers should be no more than 20 minutes in length. All presenters must be members of the Mid-Atlantic AC/PCA. Please mail 75-100 word abstracts or papers by May 15 to: James J. Donahue, 406 Holmes Hall, Department of English, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Note that any a/v requests should be noted in the abstracts. For details, visit: www.siue.edu/~rdonald/mapaca/mapaca.html. Direct all questions to: jadonahue@flash.net.



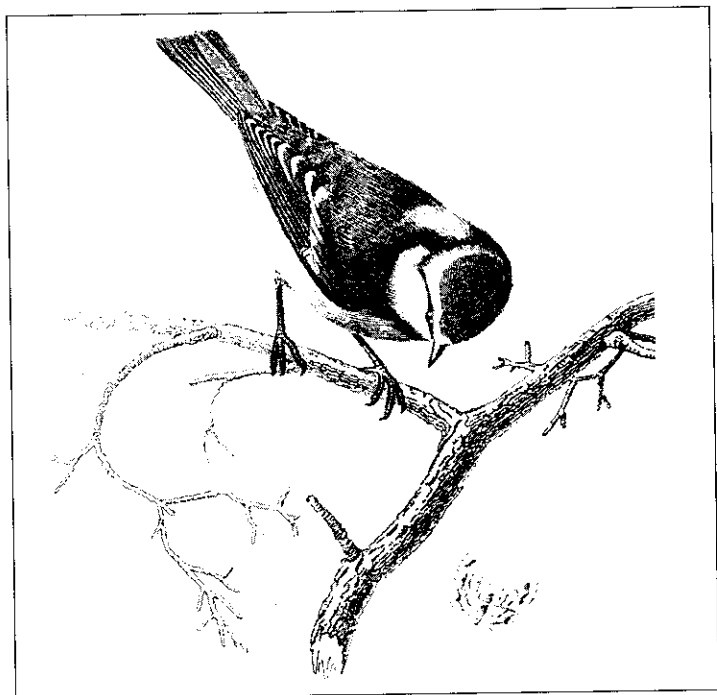
May 15, 2000. Democracy and Sustainability: Adaptive Planning and Management. Society for Human Ecology, Snow King Resort, Jackson Hole, WY, October 18-22, 2000. SHE-XI will bring together researchers from communities around the world whose concerns are the enrichment of human well-being and the concomitant protection of environmental quality. The SHE-XI Conference will consist of symposia, paper sessions and workshops, roundtable discussions, and poster sessions. The deadline for group proposals is May 15; the deadline for specific presentation titles and abstracts is June 30. If you plan to attend, organize a session, develop a roundtable, or organize a workshop or symposium, please reply at your earliest convenience with proposals, titles, or abstracts to: Dr. Jonathan G. Taylor, First Vice President, Society for Human Ecology, c/o Social, Economic and Institutional Analysis Section, MESC/USGS, 4512 McMurtry Ave., Fort Collins, Co 80525. Phone: (970) 226-9438; fax: (970) 226-9230; email: jonathan_taylor@usgs.gov; www.SocietyforHumanEcology.org.

June 15, 2000. "Going to the Territory: Filling Space with Myth," the 35th Annual Western Literature Association Conference, will be held October 25-28, 2000, at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. The WLA welcomes papers, readings, and proposals for sessions on all aspects of western writing, society, and culture—particularly papers that relate to this year's theme. Topics might focus on (among others) race (Chinese on the railways, Japanese in internment camps, European colonies, refugees, criminals, Scandinavian cultures and emerging socialist issues, African-American cowboys, Native American indoctrination), ethnicity (Hispanic traditions and the influx of other cultures, inter-tribal relations among Native Americans), gender (women's issues, gay politics, sexual ambiguity), collectivist versus individual myths, natural resources (oil field narratives, mining), film, transportation (planes, trains, autos, travois, covered wagons), promised land and wasteland (economic boom and bust, edenic and exodus myths, apocalypse). Proposals for panels should include a brief abstract of each paper. Individual proposals for papers and presentations should be no more than one page in length. Please send these to: Robert Murray Davis, President-Elect, WLA, Dept. of English, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 73019-0240; phone (405) 325-6254; fax (405) 325-0831; email rmdavis@ou.edu.

July 1, 2000. Water and Rural History. The Agricultural History Society, National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) College of Agriculture, and UNR Department of History will sponsor this conference May 31-June 2, 2001, in Reno. Papers are invited on a wide variety of water and rural history topics, including but not limited to: rural water supplies and uses, such as water quality, irrigation, sanitation, social and economic aspects of rural water consumption supply, snow surveying, water supply forecasting, and historical aspects of hydrology. A Saturday field trip to rural sites of water origin and use is being planned; the trip may take participants to a local irrigation project or into the Sierra Valley to

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view the streams that feed and drain Lake Tahoe. Submissions for sessions and papers should include a 500-word description of the scope and theme of the proposed session or paper. Submit topics by July 1, 2000, to: Professor William D. Rowley, History Department/308, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557; email: rowley@scs.unr.edu. Following the conference, participants may submit papers to the editor of *Agricultural History* to be considered for the symposium issue of the journal.

August 1, 2000. Making Environmental History Relevant in the 21st Century. Papers and panel proposals are invited by the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society, for their first joint meeting March 28-April 1, 2001, in Durham, N.C. Papers that examine any aspect of human-environment interactions over time are welcome; proposals related to the conference theme are especially encouraged. Papers/panels might focus on examples of how environmental history informs public policy, resource management, pollution control, local and international development, social conflict, the understanding of environmental problems, etc. The program committee strongly encourages proposers to organize complete panels with two or three papers, a chair, and a commentator. Proposals for individual papers will be considered but are more difficult to accommodate. Individuals may not present more than one paper at the conference but may also serve as chair for another panel. Proposals should include five copies of: 1) For panel proposals, provide a cover sheet with panel title, full name and affiliation of each participant, and title of each paper. 2) For each paper proposal (including those on organized panels), a 250-word abstract of the paper and a two-page maximum resumé, including full contact information. Proposals should be postmarked no later than August 1; send all five copies to: Dale Goble, College of Law, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844; phone (208) 885-7976; email gobled@uidaho.edu.

September 1, 2000. Desert Crossings, an ASLE Symposium in Big Bend National Park, January 4-6, 2001. See notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

October 31, 2000. Great Divides. Papers, panels, and workshops are invited for the Ninth Tampere Conference on North American Studies, University of Tampere, Finland, to be held May 3-5, 2001. The conference theme refers to all kinds of divides within the continent of North America: divides within scholarship (questions of cross-disciplinary area studies and cultural studies; the place of more traditional interpretive frameworks in the humanities and social sciences); divides within and between cultures and societies, and within person- and nationhood (questions of identity; gender, race, class, nation, language; self and society; the representations and manifestations of these in literature, history, sociology; research across cultural boundaries; North America in European social thought; North American societies in comparison); divides involving regional and national borders and international relations from the cold war to globalization (globalization processes; new media flows; immigration and emigration; cold war reappraised; post-cold war transatlantic relations; North American community after NAFTA; other international political, economic, and social issues). Plenary speakers will be Glen Love, University of Oregon, and William H. New, University of British Columbia. Papers will be allotted 30 minutes each with ten minutes for questions; please submit a 1-page abstract of proposed papers to David Robertson, Conference Chair, or Sari Pasto, Program Coordinator for North American Studies, by October 31, 2000. David Robertson: phone +358-3-215 6151; fax +358-3-215 7146; email david.robertson@uta.fi. Sari Pasto: phone +358-3-215 7154; fax +358 3-215 6980; email sari.pasto@uta.fi.

Gatherings of Interest

April 12-15, 2000. ASLE-CCCC, the ecology and composition group that convenes at the CCCC, will meet during the "Special Interest Group" meeting, session s211, from 6-7 p.m. on Friday, April 14. After brief introductory remarks by people facilitating this work, we'll have roundtable talk on different topics. Table leaders include Kaye Adkins, Alan Brew, Annie Ingram (ASLE's new treasurer), Andrew Moss, Derek Owens (author of *Sustainable Composition*, forthcoming from NCTE), and Randall Roorda (ASLE's vice president). We hope to segue from conversation to celebration once the official hour has ended. Our other big undertaking will be the first ASLE-CCCC-sponsored pre-convention workshop, session W.9, Wednesday, April 12, from 9 to 5. Titled "Life on the Mississippi: Modeling Ecological Literacy in a Complex Environment," this workshop will capitalize on the convention's Mississippi River setting to consider ways in which writing teachers can cultivate ecological literacy in local environments. After a morning session inside, the workshop will repair to nearby river sites for talks and guided field experience in the company of local experts from a number of disciplines and occupations—historian, energy specialist, Army COE rep, philosopher, poet, comp teachers and scholars.

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To subscribe to the ASLE-CCCC listserv, send a message to: listserv@listserv.umkc.edu which reads: subscribe asle_cccc [your name]. Note underscore, not hyphen, on list name; do not put brackets around your name.

April 22, 2000. Environmental Journalism Academy. June 27-July 2, 2000, Washington, D.C. Join 100 other young journalists from across the country for a 6-day intensive program on how to dig up the stories that matter most. Through a rigorous schedule of workshops, lectures, panel discussions, press conferences, and a field visit you will: learn the craft of environmental journalism by gaining the skills to brainstorm, pitch, and investigate complex stories; meet fellow college reporters and editors from across the nation; network with top journalism professionals; explore environmental justice issues in an urban hotspot during the Community Environmental Tour. Deadline: Earth Day; April 22, 2000. Only top 100 applicants accepted. Rolling admissions, so APPLY EARLY! Tuition: \$50 includes housing and most meals. Payment due upon acceptance. Travel scholarships available. Apply online. For more info: call NEWS at (202) 234-5993 or email ej@envirocitizen.org.

June 8-11, 2000. American Women Nature Writers Conference, Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont. Keynote speakers include Linda Hasselstrom and Jane Brox. The conference fee of \$275 includes all meals and housing from Thursday evening through Sunday breakfast. For information or reservations please call Thomas Edwards at (802) 468-1243; fax (802) 468-5237; email tom.edwards@castleton.edu.

June 15-17, 2000. Food and Farming in American Life and Letters, an ASLE symposium in Unity, Maine. See notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

June 17-24, 2000. Willa Cather's Environmental Imagination. The 8th International Cather Seminar will be held at the Lied Conference Center at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, NE. The seminar will represent the rapidly emerging field of environmental literature and highlight the approach of ecocriticism. Major lecturers are William Howarth, Glen A. Love, Thomas J. Lyon, and Joseph Meeker. The program will also feature musical performance and field trips. For more information contact: Margie Rine, Conference Coordinator, Dept. of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0333; email mrine@unlserve.unl.edu; phone (402) 472-8777. Also visit the web site: www.unl.edu/cather_seminar.

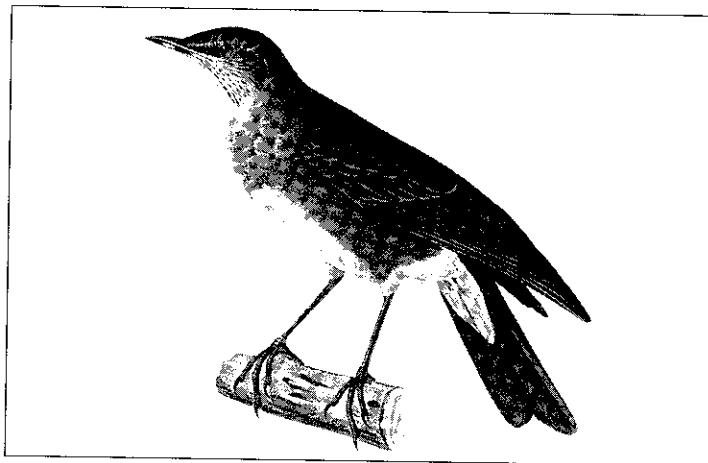
September 28-30, 2000. Packaging Places: Imagining, Remembering, and Promoting Landscapes, a meeting focused on the packaging of the country's natural and cultural landscapes, will be hosted by the American Heritage Center and the American Studies Program, the History Department, and the Art Museum at the University of Wyoming. For information, visit the American Heritage Center's web site at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc>.

October 5-8, 2000. The SLS Environmental Studies Discussion Group will host a series of panels at the 14th annual Society for Literature and Science Conference, at the Sheraton

Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta, GA. For more information visit the conference web site at <http://sls2000.lcc.gatech.edu/>.

November 10-12, 2000. At PAMLA (Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association), at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA, Arlene Plevin will chair a panel currently listed as "Literature and the Natural Environment," and specifically titled "The Body in Place: Literature and the Environment."

February 8-10, 2001. North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Community and Environment, to be held at Weber State University in Ogden, UT. For further information see Terrell Dixon's piece in this newsletter.



Calls for Manuscripts

April 15, 2000. The editors of a book to be called "Nature and Its Discontents from Virgin Land to Disney World: Reinterpretations of Freud's Civilization Thesis in the America(s) of Yesterday and Today" and to be published in late 2000 by Editions Rodopi, a major European/American publishing house, are still looking for substantial contributions. The editors invite contributions which "speak critically of the natural" and examine the American debate over the meaning of "nature" in the many guises it has assumed over the last century. We welcome papers which explore the impact of major critical approaches, psychoanalytical concepts, and postmodern theorizing on popular and official expressions of civilization (literature, art, film, etc.) as repression of "nature" and the concomitant "return of the Real" such repression may have appeared to generate. Email for further information, or send short abstracts (200-500 words) or complete papers to: Bernd.Herzogenrath@post.rwth-aachen.de.

June 1, 2000. Southern Fiction as Auto/Biography: Telling Lives, Living Tales. The editors seek papers dealing with 19th- and 20th-century writers of Southern fiction and the ways in which their works reflect their lives—papers that deal either with the autobiographical aspects of fiction or with more traditional biographical studies. We particularly seek studies of: Faulkner, Welty, Wolfe, Pat Conroy, John Dufresne, Flannery O'Connor, Ernest Gaines, Walker Percy, Ellen Gilchrist, Robert Penn Warren, Tim Gautreaux, Rebecca Wells, Kaye Gibbons, Ellen Douglas, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice

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Food and Farming in American Life and Letters

ASLE Symposium in Unity, Maine

On June 15-17, 2000, Allison Wallace will host an ASLE Symposium on Food and Farming in American Life and Letters in Unity, Maine. Guest speakers will include writers Carolyn Chute and Jane Brox. The symposium will feature local, organically raised produce, and field trips to innovative area farms as well as the nearby exhibition hall and demonstration plots of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. For more information, contact Allison Wallace, English and Humanities, Unity College of Maine, Unity, ME 04988; awallace@unity.edu. For registration materials, see the website: <http://www.asle.umn.edu>.

(Continued from page 9)

Walker, Jill McCorkle, and Tennessee Williams. We also welcome submissions dealing with the auto/biographical aspects of other Southern fiction writers. A major university press has expressed interest in the project. Full essays of 12-15 pages will be due by late summer/early fall 2000. Email 500-word proposals or inquiries to Dr. Suzanne Disheroon Green, Assistant Professor of English, Department of Language and Communication, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA; email: dr_sdgreen@hotmail.com. (Please attach only WordPerfect or Microsoft Word files to an email, or place your abstract in the text of the message.)

No deadline given. *Michigan Quarterly Review* (MQR) invites submissions for a special issue planned for winter of 2001 called "Reimagining Place." This issue will explore how natural and cultural spaces can be shared, or kept in balance—or simply how they interact when they come in contact. Established in 1962, the MQR publishes quarterly general interest articles, short stories, and poetry for the educated, well-read audience. The journal caters to well-established writers and is probably not suitable for beginners. Send submissions to: University of Michigan, 3032 Rackham Graduate School, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070. Laurence Goldstein, editor. Phone: (734) 764-9265. Submissions should be double-spaced, right margins not justified. No simultaneous submissions or reprints. Send submissions by surface mail to the above address with SASE for reply. Writers are advised to inspect a sample issue before submitting. Email: MichiganQuarterlyReview@umich.edu. URL: <http://www.umich.edu/~mgr/index.html>. GL: <http://www.umich.edu/~mgr/submiss.htm>.

No deadline given. *Weber Studies* seeks personal narratives, fiction, and critical commentary that inform the environment and culture of the contemporary western U.S. Of special interest are pieces focusing on a sense of place; environmental cooperation, cultural diversity, women and the West; population growth, wilderness, rural sprawl, and personal insight derived from living in the West. Send manuscripts or inquiries to: Sherwin W. Howard, Editor, Weber Studies, 1214 University Circle, Ogden, UT, 84408-1214. Email: swhoward@weber.edu; web site: <http://weberstudies.weber.edu>.

No deadline given. *Cinema and Landscape*. Editor is developing a book for publication by a distinguished American academic publisher and is seeking chapter proposals. At present an open call is placed for those interested in developing ideas around this topic. The book will consider the ways in which film has dealt with landscape (rural and urban) around the world, the mise en scène, the interaction between cinema and cultures of environment, the role of different landscapes in narrative, style, interaction with character, etc., in film.... Suggested topics could be: genre-based chapters (eg: landscape in the Western, urban landscapes of the Thriller, the landscapes of horror); regional studies (landscape in American cinema, landscape in British cinema, etc.); director studies (landscape in the work of Tsui Hark, Altman, Carpenter, etc.); historical coverage (changing landscapes of...); anthropology of the cinema (people and landscapes). Other ideas are welcome at this point. Contact the editor at: developmentcentre@hotmail.com.

ASLE Notes

Graduate Student Writing Award—Congratulations to Cheryl Lousley of York University, Toronto, who has won the first ASLE Graduate Student Writing Award for a paper presented at the Kalamazoo conference titled "Home on the Prairie? A Feminist and Postcolonial Reading of Sharon Butala, Di Brandt, and Joy Kogawa." The judges had a tough time choosing among the numerous excellent papers submitted, and wish all the entrants the very best of luck as they continue their graduate studies.

This contest will continue in the future, with up to two awards given for work presented at any ASLE gathering—symposia or conference—within a two-year span. That is, the next award period will include all ASLE events through the Flagstaff conference. All work by those who were graduate students at the time of presentation is eligible for consideration. Submissions will be accepted for a two-month period after the Flagstaff conference. Please do not submit work presented at symposia before then.

Work should be submitted approximately in the form in which it is presented; it should not be substantially recast or expanded. Future Newsletters will contain reminders to send entries to Ann Fisher-Wirth, English Department, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677.

ASLE Diversity—At the annual business meeting in Reno in February, ASLE officers decided to appoint an Executive Council member to help organize ASLE's efforts in increasing diversity. Kathleen Wallace agreed to serve as Diversity Coordinator and she is looking to re-establish ASLE's task force on diversity, to bring more ASLE members into the discussion. We want to identify several projects—such as establishing ties with other professional organizations like MELUS—that we can get to work on immediately. Kathleen is looking for volunteers who are interested in serving on the task force or willing to work on some of the projects to be identified. Watch for collective brainstorming on the ASLE listserv and the diversity-1 list, or contact Kathy at kwallace@megsinet.net.

It's That Time Again—Nominations for ASLE Vice President and Executive Council members are invited for the next round of elections, to be held in Fall 2000. Any ASLE member may nominate any ASLE member, including him- or herself, provided that person indicates a willingness to serve. The Vice President serves a one-year term, and then automatically becomes President for a year. Executive Council members serve two-year terms.

Please send nominations to the ASLE Executive Secretary, Cheryl Glotfelty. Her email: glotfelt@unr.edu. Her address: Department of English/098, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557-0031. The deadline for nominations is July 15, 2000.

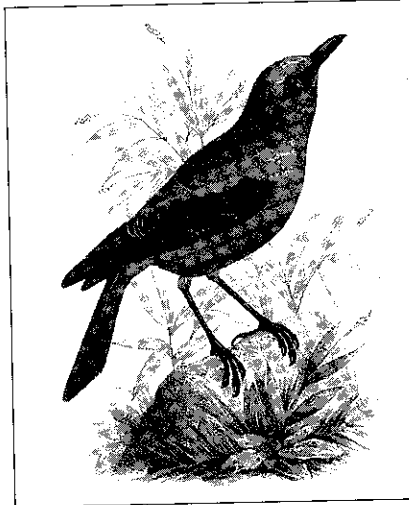


"Desert Crossings": ASLE Symposium at Big Bend National Park

There will be an ASLE Symposium in Big Bend National Park January 4-6, 2001. The general topic of the meeting will be "Desert Crossings." We hope to have about fifty ASLE members at the symposium, and we invite proposals for panels, papers, and creative presentations on such topics as the sense of a desert place, the natural history of the Big Bend area or the Chihuahuan Desert in general, the literature of the desert and border country, exploration and travel narratives, water and the desert; other related topics are also welcome. Please send a one-page abstract by 1 September 2000 to Barney Nelson, Languages and Literature, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79831, and to Walter Isle, English MS30, Rice University, 6100 Main, Houston, TX 77005. For inquiries contact bnelson@sul-ross.edu. There will be opportunities for river trips on the Rio Grande, hiking in the Chisos Mountains, birding, horse-back riding, and other desert recreation and tours.

ASLE Bylaws Proposed Revisions

ASLE was established in 1992 at a special session of the Western Literature Association conference, held that year in Reno, Nevada. The Association borrowed the bylaws of the Stephen Crane Society, which were modified by replacing "Crane Society" with "ASLE." (In fact, in the original



ASLE bylaws "Crane" still appears accidentally a couple of times.) These bylaws were adopted at ASLE's founding meeting and are on file with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, documenting the Association's non-profit status.

Since its founding, ASLE has grown from fewer than one hundred members to approximately one thousand members today. As it has grown, ASLE has made some

important changes in its governance, perhaps most importantly establishing an Executive Council to serve as the primary policy-making body of the Association.

The bylaws have been revised numerous times over the years to reflect the administrative changes of the Association. Many people have labored on these various incarnations of the bylaws. Special thanks are due to Mike Branch, Paul Bryant, Chris Cokinos, Cheryll Glotfelty, and John Tallmadge for their painstaking work.

Interestingly enough, although the bylaws have undergone at least five distinct revisions over the years, none of the revisions ever became official because a vote of the general membership was never held on them, as required by the original bylaws.

The ASLE Executive Council would now like to make the most recent revisions official by offering them to the general membership in this issue of the ASLE News and calling for a by-mail vote of the general membership. Please review the proposed ASLE bylaws in this newsletter and cast your ballot for or against their adoption. The Fall newsletter will report the results of this vote.

—Cheryll Glotfelty, Executive Secretary of ASLE

RECOMMENDED BYLAWS

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

ARTICLE 1. NAME

1.1 The name of this organization is the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (hereafter ASLE). ASLE was established in 1992 at a special session of the Western Literature Association conference in Reno, Nevada.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of ASLE is the sharing of facts, ideas, and texts concerning the study of literature and the environment. Consistent with this purpose, the activities of ASLE will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

2.1.1 Scheduling and holding a national ASLE Conference every two years.

2.1.2 Encouragement of, arrangement for, and scheduling of lectures, discussions, panels, and other presentations at scholarly conferences sponsored by ASLE or by other scholarly organizations that allow ASLE participation in programming.

2.1.3 Publication of ASLE News (the official biannual newsletter distributed to all members) and ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (hereafter ISLE; the official biannual journal, also distributed to all members).

2.2 The purpose for which ASLE is organized is exclusively educational with the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

2.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, ASLE shall not carry on any activities not permitted for an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The members of ASLE will be scholars, teachers, writers, and

others who seek to increase their knowledge of literature and environment; to promote the creation, appreciation, understanding, and teaching of literature from environmental perspectives; and to share their knowledge to the benefit of all interested in literary research and teaching.

3.2 Membership in ASLE is open to all persons who subscribe to the purpose set forth in these bylaws and who pay the annual dues. ASLE shall not discriminate in any way against members or potential members on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, nationality, ethnic origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation.

3.3 ASLE will maintain a membership roster containing the name and address of each member. ASLE will also maintain such books and records as may be required by law and are consistent with the purpose of the Association. The membership roster may be made available to outside parties for purposes consistent with the ASLE mission, with the consent of the Secretary-Treasurer and the President.

3.4 Membership in ASLE will cease when a member fails to pay annual dues or submits a written resignation to the Secretary-Treasurer. Termination of membership shall be recorded in the membership roster. All rights and privileges of a member will cease upon termination of membership.

3.5 Changes in membership dues must be recommended and approved by a majority of the Executive Council.

3.6 Membership dues fund the operations and activities of ASLE, including but not limited to administrative services, governance, planning, meetings, special projects and publications.

ARTICLE 4. RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Each member will have voting rights in all matters submitted to the general membership, including election of President, Vice President, and Executive Council members.

4.2 Each member will be eligible for nomination, election or

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appointment to all offices in ASLE.

4.3 ASLE members will receive the following publications: ASLE News, ISLE, the ASLE Membership Directory, and other publications from time to time as the Executive Council may designate.

4.4 ASLE members are eligible, upon acceptance by conference and symposia organizers, to present papers at ASLE conferences and symposia.

4.5 Any member may submit to the Nominating Committee nominations for the elective offices of ASLE, provided that the nominee is a member of ASLE and indicates a willingness to serve. Such nominees will be included on mail ballots sent to the general membership.

4.6 International members of ASLE are free to form international affiliates of ASLE in their respective nations so long as these affiliates operate in a spirit consistent with Articles 2.1 and 3.1 of these bylaws. International affiliates will adopt bylaws and procedures appropriate to their own circumstances. In order to be a recognized international affiliate, that group must be reviewed and approved by the ASLE Executive Council.

ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS

5.1 The officers of ASLE are: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past President, the six at-large members of the Executive Council, Executive Secretary, Editor of ASLE News, Editor of ISLE, and Public Relations Officer.

5.1.1 The elected officer positions are: President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and six at-large members of the Executive Council.

5.1.2 The appointed officer positions are: Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Editor of ASLE News, Editor of ISLE, and Public Relations Officer.

5.1.3 The appointed, non-officer positions include: bibliographer, mentoring coordinator, organizational liaisons, graduate student liaisons, biennial conference director, and others.

5.1.4 The Executive Council consists of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and six at-large Executive Council members. All have voting privileges, though the President votes only to break a tie.

5.2 Officers of ASLE will receive no compensation for their service.

ARTICLE 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

6.1 The President will preside at meetings of the ASLE officers, Executive Council, and the general membership, and will represent the Association and its purposes to other organizations and the general public. In voting by the Executive Council, the President will vote only to break a tie. The President will supervise the operations of ASLE in a judicious and diligent manner.

6.1.1 The President will report to the general membership at least annually on the state of the Association. This report will appear in ASLE News or in a separate document sent to all members.

6.1.2 The President will be responsible for scheduling and arranging all ASLE meetings. In filling this and any other Association responsibility, the President may call upon other officers, members of the Executive Council, and such ad hoc committees as the President may wish to appoint, for assistance.

6.1.3 The President, upon approval by majority vote of the Executive Council, is responsible for appointing non-elected officers.

6.1.4 The President may propose an annual budget for Executive Council approval, authorize disbursements from the treasury, and delegate such authority as needed for a limited time to persons in charge of special projects.

6.2 The Vice President will assist the President and will act as President pro tem whenever the President is absent, has resigned, or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of that office. The Vice President is also the Present-elect and will automatically become President when the President's term expires. The Vice President chairs

the Nominating Committee.

6.3 The Secretary-Treasurer will maintain and annually publish the membership roster. The Secretary-Treasurer will report annually in writing to the ASLE officers and the general membership on the status of membership and finances. The Secretary-Treasurer will maintain timely and accurate records of all of the Association's financial matters.

6.3.1 The Secretary-Treasurer will receive monies from dues, subscriptions, and contributions, and will disburse monies as directed by the President. The Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to maintain bank accounts in the name of ASLE.

6.3.2 The Secretary-Treasurer, upon majority approval of the Executive Council, may hire administrative help in carrying out the responsibilities of the position.

6.3.3 The Secretary-Treasurer, upon two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Council, is authorized to invest ASLE funds in socially and environmentally responsible investment funds. The progress of such investments shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Council, which may choose to re-invest, remove the invested funds, or take other appropriate actions.

6.4 The Executive Council is the primary policy-making body of the Association. It will review programming, procedures, and policies of the Association regularly and revise them as needed to meet the Association's purposes most effectively. The Council will meet at least once every calendar year, at the call of the President. The purpose of this meeting will be for business transaction, budgeting, planning, program review, etc.; appointed officers and others may be invited to assist the Executive Council during these deliberations. Between formal meetings, the Executive Council members may be consulted by mail, electronic mail, or telephone as necessary. Decision of the Council will be determined by majority vote of those voting (whether in meeting or by correspondence), providing there is a quorum of five members. The President may vote only to break a tie of the Executive Council.

6.5 The Executive Secretary will record the minutes of all meetings of the general membership and the ASLE officers, and preserve records of the actions of the Association. The Executive Secretary will count ballots in ASLE elections. The Executive Secretary will serve as the "institutional memory" of ASLE. The Executive Secretary may advise but does not have voting privileges in the Executive Council.

6.6 The Editors of ASLE News and ISLE will serve as chairs of their respective editorial boards and will oversee the production and distribution of their respective publications. Each editor will provide an annual report on that publication to the ASLE officers.

6.7 The Public Relations Officer will maintain an ASLE website, write press releases, and contribute to outreach efforts to attract new members.

ARTICLE 7. COMMITTEES

7.1 The Nominating Committee will consist of the President and Vice President. The Nominating Committee will receive nominations and will be responsible for preparing a slate of at least two candidates for each office of the Association for which an election will be held in that calendar year, and for determining each candidate's willingness to serve.

7.2 Ad hoc and special project committees, task forces, etc., can be established by the Executive Council as needed.

ARTICLE 8. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

8.1 The Nominating Committee each year will provide a slate of at least two nominees for each position to be filled in the next election. The Spring issue of ASLE News will invite nominations from the general membership. A candidate may be nominated by any ASLE member (including her or himself), provided the candidate indicates a willingness to serve. The Nominating Committee will present its election slate to the Executive Council before the slate is offered to the general membership for voting. The Executive Council may nominate additional candidates.

8.2 Election of Vice President and Executive Council members will

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be conducted by mail ballot and distributed to all members by November 1 of the year of election. Ballots will be due by December 1 of that year.

ARTICLE 9. TERMS OF OFFICE

9.1 Elective terms of office begin January 1 of the year following election and end on December 31 of the last year of the term.

9.2 The President and Vice President will each serve a term of one year, the Vice President automatically succeeding to President when the President's term expires.

9.3 The immediate past President will serve a one-year term on the Executive Council.

9.4 The Secretary-Treasurer will be appointed to a term of three years and, if willing, may be reappointed indefinitely by the President, upon majority approval of the Executive Council.

9.5 The six at-large members of the Executive Council will serve terms of three years, with the terms staggered in such a way that two members are elected each year.

9.6 The Executive Secretary will serve a term of five years and, if willing, may be reappointed for subsequent terms by the President, upon majority approval of the Executive Council.

9.7 Terms of office for other appointed officers will remain indefinite, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 10. REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION FROM OFFICE

10.1 If an officer of the Association fails to carry out the duties of office, or carries them out in a way clearly detrimental to the interests of the Association, a written request to remove that individual from office may be placed before the Executive Council by any ASLE member. If a member of the Executive Council presents this request as an official motion and if the motion is seconded, then a bill of particulars must be presented, in writing, to the officer in question by the Executive Council member who sponsored the motion to remove. The officer will then be given reasonable time to read and consider the bill of particulars and prepare copies of a written response. The Executive Council will then consider the bill of particulars and hear the officer's response. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Council, excluding the officer in question, will vote on the motion. At least two-thirds of the full membership of the Executive Council must vote in the affirmative for the motion to be accepted. If the motion does pass, the officer in question will at that point be removed from office and will surrender to the Executive Council all documents related to that office during her or his tenure. If the officer removed is the President, the Vice President will assume the duties of the office. For any other elected officer of the Association, the President will appoint a replacement to serve until the next election by the general mem-

bership. For appointed officers, the President, upon the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Council, will appoint a replacement who will serve out the term and be eligible for reappointment.

10.2 If the President resigns before the completion of her or his term, the Vice President will assume the duties of the office and appoint a Vice President until the next election by the general membership. If the Vice President or an Executive Council member resigns before the completion of her or his term, the President will appoint a replacement to serve until the next election by the general membership. If the Executive Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor of an ASLE publication, or Public Relations Officer resigns before that individual's term is completed, the President, upon the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Council, will appoint a replacement who will serve out the term and be eligible for reappointment.

ARTICLE 11. ASLE MEETINGS

11.1 A general membership meeting of ASLE will be held biennially at the ASLE Conference. This meeting will be for information and discussion and will not formally transact Association business, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Executive Council. In such a case, the majority of the general members present can vote on items presented by the Executive Council, so long as the votes are not in conflict with procedures established elsewhere in the bylaws.

ARTICLE 12. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

12.1 These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the full membership of the Executive Council.

12.2 Any amendments to the bylaws thus approved will be reported to the general membership in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE 13. DISSOLUTION

13.1 ASLE may be dissolved upon recommendation of a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council and approval by mail ballot of two-thirds of the Association's members who vote on the question of dissolution. At least one month must be allowed for return of all ballots.

13.2 The President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer shall form the Dissolution Committee and carry out all tasks necessary to concluding the business of the Association, including, but not limited to, placement of ASLE records and papers in a professionally maintained archive; notification to the general membership of the Association's dissolution; and finalizing the remaining publication schedule of *ISLE*.

13.3 In the event of dissolution, all assets remaining after liabilities have been met shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

How to Connect with ASLE's Electronic Resources

ASLE supports a website and access to several electronic discussion lists. @sle ONLINE is located at <http://www.asle.umn.edu/> and includes contact and membership information, resources for teachers, archives for the ASLE discussion list, calls for papers and conferences, job listings, and links to many other resources.

The ASLE discussion list supports electronic conversations of general interest to ASLE members. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to Majordomo@unr.edu, and the text of your message should read: subscribe asle. You will receive a welcome message with additional instructions shortly after you send your message.

The diversity-1 listserv is sponsored by the Caucus for Diversity to support discussions related to the interests of the caucus. If you would like to subscribe, send an e-mail message to Annie Ingram, aningram@davidson.edu, and she will add you to the list.

(Continued from page 1)

Second, we continued revising the organization's official bylaws—finishing about ten months of work on this revision alone. The results are in this newsletter, though if you are of a certain age, you may need a magnifying glass to read them. We had several goals—regularizing some legal angles, cleaning up some prose, building in some safeguards, and so forth, but our main efforts were to increase our flexibility to undertake new projects, and to make the bylaws match the way ASLE actually does business, the real operating procedures that have evolved through practice over the last seven-plus years. We hope you'll approve. Please do read them and send in your vote.

And may I wish you all a spring and summer of Good Housekeeping.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

(ASLE membership fee includes subscriptions to *ISLE* and *ASLE News*)

Name _____ Affiliation _____
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—unless you indicate otherwise below.)

| | 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 Membership (\$25) | _____ |
| Institutional (\$25/year; \$60/3 years) | _____ |
| International (add \$10 to the appropriate category) | _____ |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED | _____ |

___ Please do not include my information in the membership directory.

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

**Couples please send contact information for both people.

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

(Until May 15, 2000)
Allison B. Wallace,
ASLE Treasurer
Department of English
& Humanities
HC78, Box 200
Unity College of Maine
Unity, ME 04988

(After May 15)
Annie Ingram,
ASLE Treasurer
Department of English
Davidson College
Davidson, NC 28036

ASLE Ballot on Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws

Instructions: Before you vote, please read the Recommended Bylaws printed in this newsletter.

- [] I approve the Recommended Bylaws
- [] I do not approve the Recommended Bylaws

Please return ballot by May 31, 2000 to:

Cheryll Glotfelty
Executive Secretary, ASLE
Department of English
University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557 USA



Photographs in this issue by Ann Fisher-Wirth. Page 3, bald cypresses, Holly Springs National Forest, MS; page 10, water lilies and algae, Lake Sardis, MS; page 11, bald cypress swamp, Lake Sardis, MS; back cover, Calico Rock, AR.



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