



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Observations on the ASLE Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, June 3–7, 2003

I'm sitting here with my daughter, she and a blank piece of paper vying for my attention. I tell her I need to write a "President's Message," and she tells me she knows what she would write if she were president: "no more big highways, more trees, no more greediness, and let nature have its way."

And an ecocritic in every department? I ask.

To which Kira says, "Huh?"

I have a feeling that ASLE members might share my liking for much of Kira's presidential agenda. Alas, the time for campaign promises is past, and now I'm in the "performance of duties" phase of the presidency. And these days, that has meant full-time attention to conference planning with a lot of help from a lot of friends—among them Adam Sweeting, Kathy Wallace, Karla Armbruster, Arlene Plevin, Rachel Stein, Mark Long, Laird Christensen—all of whom have been heroic and helpful in volunteering their services.

But things are coming along, and with luck (and more of that heroic help), we should have an actual conference ready in June. Concerning which, I offer these observations:

### *Thoreau, Burroughs, and Williams*

As I put together panels, and plug in the pre-formed panels submitted by members, it has been fascinating, and in some



*ASLE President Ian Marshall takes in the vista from the summit of Mt. Lafayette in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Photo by a kind passerby.*

cases quite surprising, to consider what the submissions suggest about the subjects of our scholarly inquiries. It is not at all surprising, I suppose, given our conference location and theme, that Henry Thoreau seems to be receiving the most attention from ecocritics. I count 18 papers devoted to Thoreau.

But I was surprised to see that one of the writers receiving the second-most attention at our conference is John Burroughs. These days Burroughs is usually discussed as a once-major but now sadly neglected figure—in fact, that generalization was the starting point of the paper that David Taylor and I presented in Flagstaff. But Burroughs will be the subject of 10 papers this time around—as opposed to his contemporary John Muir, subject of only two. I would be tempted to conclude that it has something to do with Burroughs being an easterner, except that among

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Those with an eye for detail may have noticed a slight bump in the numbering of *ASLE News* issues. This current issue (Spring 2003) has the corrected volume (15) and issue numbers (1), and subsequent issues will follow from here. Thanks to Dan Philippon, ASLE's public relations coordinator, for pointing out this discrepancy.

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### ASLE Officers

Ian Marshall, president  
*Penn State, Altoona*

John Elder, vice president  
*Middlebury College*

Annie Merrill Ingram, secretary-treasurer  
*Davidson College*

Dan Phillipon, public relations officer  
*University of Minnesota*

Cheryll Glotfelty, executive secretary  
*University of Nevada, Reno*

Terrell Dixon, immediate past president  
*University of Houston*

Scott Slovic, *ISLE* editor  
*University of Nevada, Reno*

Kathleen R. Wallace, *ASLE News* editor  
*The Ohio State University*

### Executive Council

*(date indicates year term expires)*

Pamela Banting  
*University of Calgary, 2005*

Laird Christensen  
*Green Mountain College, 2004*

Mark Long  
*Keene State College, 2004*

Barbara "Barney" Nelson  
*Sul Ross State University, 2002*

Arlene Plevin  
*University of Puget Sound, 2003*

Adam Sweeting  
*Boston University, 2005*

Gioia Woods  
*University of Northern Arizona, 2003*

### Project Coordinators

Bibliography Editor/Coordinator:  
*H. Lewis Ulman, The Ohio State University*

Book Review Editor, *ISLE*:  
*Michael Branch, University of Nevada, Reno*

Diversity Coordinator:  
*Rachel Stein, Siena College*

Graduate Mentoring Program Coordinator:  
*Mark Long, Keene State College*

Graduate Student Liaisons:  
*Barbara Cook and Tina Richardson, University of Oregon*

Project/Professional Liaison Coordinator:  
*Rochelle Johnson, Albertson College of Idaho*

### ASLE listservs

Main: [asle@serv1.ncte.org](mailto:asle@serv1.ncte.org)

Composition:

[asle\\_cccc@listserv.umkc.edu](mailto:asle_cccc@listserv.umkc.edu)

Diversity: [diversity-1@ davidson.edu](mailto:diversity-1@ davidson.edu)

### ASLE affiliates

ASLE-UK • ASLE-Korea

ASLE-Japan • ASLE-Australia

### Professional Organization Liaisons

American Literature Association  
*Rochelle Johnson*

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

Conference on College Composition and Communication (4Cs)  
*Randall Roorda*

Modern Language Association  
*Bonney MacDonald*

Midwest MLA (M/MLA)  
*Tom Dean*

Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)  
*Mark Long*

Pacific MLA (PAMLA)  
*Rochelle Johnson*

Popular Culture Association  
*Gyorgi Voros*

Rocky Mountain MLA (RRMLA)  
*Rochelle Johnson*

Society for the Study of American Women Writers  
*Rochelle Johnson*



Sunset over the Darby Plain near Columbus, Ohio. Photo by ASLE member Kathy Wallace.

## **PRESIDENT continued from page 1**

contemporary nature writers the attention is not going to easterners like Annie Dillard or John McPhee or Home, Pennsylvania's favorite son, Edward Abbey—but to Terry Tempest Williams, tied with Burroughs with 10 papers devoted to her.

### *ASLE members and their books*

ASLE members are an increasingly prolific group, and publishers seem more and more interested in the kind of work we do. We will have five sections of people reading from or discussing recently published or forthcoming books on topics ranging from swamps to rivers to oceans, dams, cities, volcanoes. You'll have a chance to meet these and our other authors at the authors' reception on Thursday afternoon, after the field sessions. Their books will be available—but please bring your checkbook. Because of security concerns on Boston University's campus, we will not be able to handle cash transactions at the book exhibit or authors' reception.

### *Levity and Mirth*

We haven't lost our sense of humor. A couple paper titles play with our Thoreauvian conference theme ("the solid earth! the actual world!"): Lewis Ulman's "The Mediated Earth! The Virtual World! The Shock of the Real in Popular Films about Virtual Reality," and Simon Estok's "Solid Earth/Ephemeral Theory: Taking Stock of Ecocriticism." Then there are Randy Ingram's "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," a study of epigrams, and Susan Rosen's piece of coastal nonfiction, with the title and subtitle of "Tidal: Sub-tidal."

### *Tuesday Workshops*

I was pleased to see so many interest-

ing workshop proposals. We will have an expanded slate of Tuesday afternoon workshops, covering some wonderfully varied topics—electronic media, music, art, collaborations between science and the humanities, dance, working with clay, the ASLE on-line bibliography, and an introduction to the work of the Monadnock Institute. There are also a couple of pedagogy workshops (including one on teaching in the field), and workshops on the ASLE mentoring program and ASLE international affiliates interspersed among the regular conference sessions.

### *Urban Field Sessions*

During the Thursday afternoon field sessions, we will have an opportunity to explore Boston and to find out about some of the environmental work going on in the area. In-city field trips will be led by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and the Urban Ecology Institute. Other groups will tour the Back Bay and Fens, the Olmsted National Historic Site, and the Arnold Arboretum. Biologist Carolyn Mahan will lead a group to the banks of the Charles River to demonstrate hands-on assignments and activities in environmental studies. Some conference-goers may choose to wander on their own around the "Emerald Necklace," Boston's chain of city parks. Those who choose to stay on campus can enjoy "An Eco-Musical Roadshow" called "Beat the Heat," performed by the Underground Railway Theatre, and then view new environmental films in a session led by Scott MacDonald.

### *Saturday Field Trips*

On Saturday, of course, honoring another ASLE conference tradition, we'll get to go further afield. A couple of smaller groups will hike Mt.

Monadnock (led by members of the Monadnock Institute) and a larger group will go to Concord, Walden Pond, and visit the Thoreau Institute. Those who want to go their own way could choose to take a ferry to Provincetown, tour Plum Island Nature Reserve, or go whale-watching. Information on these and other area attractions and activities will be available in the conference packets.

### *Plenary Speakers, New and Old Friends*

I haven't even mentioned yet our slate of plenary speakers—Sam Bass Warner, Leo Marx, Lawrence Buell, Barbara Neely, Cynthia Huntington, John Hanson Mitchell, E. O. Wilson, Laura Walls, Sandra Steingraber, Joseph Bruchac, and Grace Paley. I'm excited about all these conference activities. But mostly I can't wait to see old friends and make new ones. Maybe, too, make some music, or some reasonable facsimile thereof (Wednesday night at the conference: "The Mongrel Dogs Who Teach"), and maybe learn a few things. See you there!

—*Ian Marshall, President*

**Postscript:** I write this postscript just a few days after writing rather jauntily about my conversation with Kira and our upcoming conference, and the day after George Bush issued an ultimatum to Saddam to get out of town by sundown (whoops—I mean, out of Iraq within 48 hours). And I am left to wonder if there are more important things to worry about than saving trees and going to scholarly conferences. Suddenly, protesting the proposed ridgetop route of I-99 (an issue here in Central Pennsylvania) seems like small potatoes. And I guess I'm wondering, too, if writing a message about the

**see PRESIDENT on page 7**

# ASLE Election Results

The votes are in! Many voters scrawled notes in the margins of their ballots, echoing the same cheerful dilemma: “With so many good people running, it’s hard to pick.” “The usual hard choice!—all the candidates are excellent!” “So many good choices!”

The incoming officers are:

**John Elder** for Vice President (and President-Elect for 2004)

**Pamela Banting** and **Adam Sweeting** for three-year terms on the Executive Council

Thanks to all candidates for running and for writing thoughtful statements that collectively offer creative visions for ASLE’s future. The election was a close one, and I hope those who weren’t elected this year will run again in the future. ASLE cannot afford to waste this talent. Thank you as well to those officers who are rotating off duty: Terrell Dixon, Barbara “Barney” Nelson, and Kathleen Wallace. Good work!

*Respectfully submitted by Cheryll Glotfelty, ASLE Executive Secretary*



*John Elder*



*Pamela Banting*

## Host sites for ASLE conferences sought

If you are interested in having your college or university considered for the 2005 ASLE conference site, please let us know as soon as possible. The officers hope to review proposals in May and make a decision at our meeting in Boston.

Please do consider submitting a proposal. And if not for 2005, consider working on one for 2007 and beyond. For more information, consult the guidelines available on the ASLE website at [www.asle.umn.edu](http://www.asle.umn.edu) or contact John Elder, ASLE vice president, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753, [elder@middlebury.edu](mailto:elder@middlebury.edu).

## Off-Year ASLE Symposia: Your Topic? Your Place?

For the last few years, ASLE has funded several off-year symposia—small conferences taking place during a year when we are not holding our biennial conference. Typically, our funding has been in form of seed money (between \$1,000-\$2,000) which is paid back to ASLE if the symposium turns a profit. Ideally, we would like to spread our funds as widely as possible, seeking diversity in terms of both geography and topic. So, please help spread the word and consider proposing an off-year symposium.

The procedures for reviewing and funding symposia are as follows: Proposals should be submitted to the ASLE president, who will distribute it to the executive council for

review. But we need lots of lead time. Reviews for a 2006 symposium, for instance, would need to be submitted by May 2004 so that the proposal can be distributed among the executive council and then voted upon during our June executive council/officers meeting.

A successful proposal would be one that outlines a symposium that promises to be well-organized and successful, deals with a topic that is pertinent and appealing to our membership, and brings ASLE members to an interesting place. If you have questions, please contact Ian Marshall at [ism2@psu.edu](mailto:ism2@psu.edu).

# Boston conference registration, travel, lodging

Welcome to everyone who will be coming to Boston and Boston University in June. I am looking forward both to meeting all of you and to an exciting and rewarding conference. In the meantime, I have a few reminders to help make your arrival and stay in Boston as easy as possible.

## Registration

Details for registration can be found on the ASLE website: [www.asle.umn.edu](http://www.asle.umn.edu). If at all possible, please register by May 1. We have to submit final counts for lodging and dining at least one month before the conference, so I am trying to have all the information compiled as early as possible. If for some reason you need to cancel your registration, we need to know no later than May 15. Please email me ([sweeting@bu.edu](mailto:sweeting@bu.edu)) with any questions.

The main conference registration tables will be located in the BU's College of General Studies building, located at 871 Commonwealth Avenue. Registration will open on the



*Hiking along the Charles River in Brighton.*  
morning of Tuesday, June 3.

## Traveling to Boston

Information about traveling to Boston can be found on the ASLE website. In general, Logan International Airport will be the easiest way to arrive in town. Cheaper flights, however, can be found by looking to T.F. Green Airport in



*Boylston Street in Boston.*

Providence, Rhode Island. From there, you will need to take either a train or bus to Boston (check out [bonanzabus.com](http://bonanzabus.com) or [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) for bus and train information). Once in Boston, the easiest and least expensive way to get around town is the MBTA subway system, commonly known as the "T." Boston University is located along the B branch of the Green Line, which runs above ground along Commonwealth Avenue.

## Lodging

The main conference dormitory, known as the Student Village, is located at 10 Buick Street, just off Commonwealth Avenue. The closest stop will be either BU West or St. Paul Street, both roughly equidistant from the dormitory. When you arrive at the dorm, you will be provided a room key and linens. Options for off-campus lodging are posted on the ASLE website: [www.asle.umn.edu](http://www.asle.umn.edu).

Finally, I urge people to take the time to travel around Boston. There is much to do and see here, more than I could adequately summarize in a column such as this. Take some time to do some research before you arrive. And by all means, please feel free to email me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you all. 🌳

—Adam Sweeting, conference host, [sweeting@bu.edu](mailto:sweeting@bu.edu)

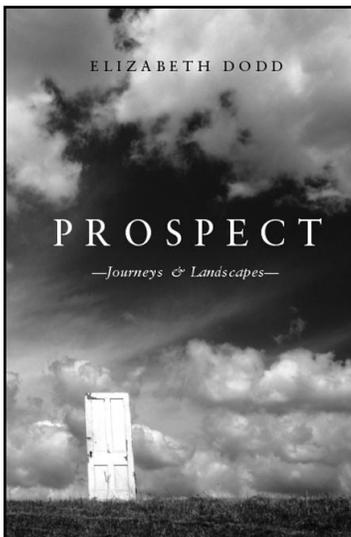
# ASLE Bookshelf

The following books, essays, and poetry collections were published by ASLE members in 2002-03. If we've missed your publication, please send the bibliographic information to [w Wallace.150@osu.edu](mailto:w Wallace.150@osu.edu).

Adamson, Joni, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, eds. *The Environmental Justice Reader: Politics, Poetics, and Pedagogy*. Tucson: U of Arizona P, 2002.

Arnold, Richard. *Fuse*. Lantzville, BC: Leaf Press, 2002.

Bass, Rick. *The Hermit's Story*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.



Bergman, Charles. *Red Delta: Fighting for Life at the End of the Colorado River*. Golden, CO: Fulcrumb, 2002.

Deming, Alison, and Lauret E. Savoy, eds. *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World*. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed, 2002.

Dodd, Elizabeth. *Prospect: Journeys and Landscapes*. Salt Lake City: U of Utah P, 2003.

Ensign, Robert Taylor. *Lean Down Your Ear upon the Earth, and Listen: Thomas Wolfe's Greener Modernism*. Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2003.

Graham, Vicki. *Alembic*. Red Wing, MN: Red Dragonfly Press, 2001.

Hutchings, Kevin. *Imagining Nature: Blake's Environmental Poetics*. Montreal: McGill-Quenn's UP, 2002.

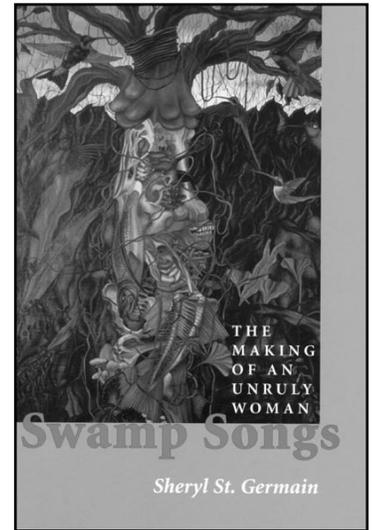
Nelson, Barney, ed and intro. *God's Country or Devil's Playground: An Anthology of Nature Writing from the Big Bend of Texas*. Austin: U of Texas P, 2002.

Ricou, Laurie. *The Arbutus/Madrone Files: Reading the Pacific Northwest*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State UP, 2002.

Smith, Christine Hill. *Reading a Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West: The Reminiscences of Mary Hallock Foote*. Boise, ID: Boise State UP, 2002.

St. Germain, Sheryl. *Swamp Songs: The Making of an Unruly Woman*. Salt Lake City: U of Utah P, 2003.

Compiled by Michael P. Branch, Lilace Guignard, Crystal Koch-Atamian, and Lynette Padilla



## Authors! Authors!

Have you had a book come out since the last ASLE biennial conference in 2001? If so, plan on participating in the Thursday, June 5, ASLE Authors' Reception where you can chat up your book and meet with other conference attendees.

Contact Arlene Plevin ([plevin@u.washington.edu](mailto:plevin@u.washington.edu)) with bibliographic information on your texts. Please do so by May 10, 2003.

# Updates from ASLE Programs

## *Workshop on The ASLE Mentoring Program in Boston*

Join us early Saturday morning, June 7, at 8 a.m. for a roundtable discussion of the ASLE Mentoring Program. The goal of the session is to keep current members informed about the opportunities the mentoring program provides and to make visible to new members how the mentoring program can work for them. What have we done well? How can we meet the needs of future graduate students and members early in their careers? What can we do better? Participants: Mark Long, coordinator, ASLE Mentoring Program; former coordinators Andrea Herman, Rochelle Johnson, and Michael Branch, and Henrik Otterberg, mentee.

—Mark Long, Mentoring Program coordinator

## *ASLE Online Bibliography Doubles in Size*

Thanks to a collaborative arrangement with *ISLE* (and the invaluable efforts of *ISLE* staffer Lynette Padilla), the ASLE Online Bibliography regularly receives entries for books and book notices sent to the editors of *ISLE*. That collaboration has almost doubled the size of the Online Bibliography over the past two months. Check it out!

## *Call for Bibliography Contributors*

The ASLE Online Bibliography depends on members' submissions to develop a bibliographical resource that reflects the interests, commitments, and critical perspectives of ASLE members. It is easy to contribute to

and consult the bibliography. Join your fellow ASLE members in building this community resource!

The online bibliography features an online submission site and a new search engine on the World Wide Web that allows the bibliography to be updated weekly, making it a valuable source for keeping up with work in the field. Anyone with access to the Web (whether at home, at work, at a public library, or wherever) can contribute entries via the Web and search the bibliography. (Of course, we can still accept submissions via other means, but we can't get them online as quickly as entries submitted via the Web. We will also still be able to produce a printed bibliography at longer intervals.)

## *How can you get involved?*

You can contribute to the bibliography either on an ad hoc basis, submitting entries on whatever you happen to be reading that isn't already covered by the bibliography, or you can become a contributing editor responsible for following work on a particular topic or author—or for work published by a particular journal or press.

To learn more about contributing to the bibliography, point your web browser to the ASLE Bibliography website at [www.english.ohio-state.edu/organizations/asle/](http://www.english.ohio-state.edu/organizations/asle/) and read the link entitled "How you can contribute to the bibliography." You'll find the link under the heading "The ASLE Bibliography in Depth".

—H. Lewis Ulman, ASLE bibliographer

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attractions of our upcoming conference doesn't seem beside the point.

Maybe so. But as I try to deal with the news of the day and at the same time try to refocus my attention on conference planning, I find solace and sense in the words of Henry Thoreau. I often do—hence our conference theme, "the solid earth! the actual world!" (from "Ktaadn"). In Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government" I find passages that express my discomfort with my government's actions, and others that remind me there is more to life than politics, no matter how grave its concerns. And in "Walking," speaking of "Man and his affairs," Thoreau wrote, "I am pleased to see how little space they occupy in the landscape." To be sure, the world of politics affects us, as it should, and surely we should be concerned about war, whatever our feelings about its justification and consequences. But thankfully there is still a world to notice beyond the one covered on the nightly news—a world where the snow is melting fast and the rhododendron leaves have finally unfurled and Canada geese have been veeing their way back north and Orion is still high in the evening sky. A world where we return to our senses.

And that brings me back to ASLE. I look at our conference program and I see plenty of evidence of engagement with the political world—lots of sessions on environmental justice and activism, and even a couple of timely sessions on "War and the Environment." But I am pleased to see as well engagement with the more-than-human world—sessions devoted to animals, the sea, rivers, parks and gardens. It's a good balance, I think, the kind we could use in our lives and in our culture. 

# Listerv Survey Responses, Next Steps

*Thank you to everyone who responded to the listserv survey in the last newsletter issue.*

This survey was meant to give members an opportunity to share their perceptions about the main ASLE listserv, which has been in existence for 10 years. The summary below suggests the overall flavor of the responses. I transcribed all the comments included on the surveys that were either emailed or mailed to me, and that transcript is available in its entirety on the ASLE website: [www.asle.umn.edu](http://www.asle.umn.edu). Several of you sent comments to the listserv itself. When those comments were clearly applicable to the survey, I included those comments here.

Your ASLE officers will discuss these responses at their meeting in Boston, and any proposals put forward there will be posted to the membership through the listserv and newsletter for further discussion.

—Kathleen Wallace

## Number of responses: 30\*

*\*Because a few members did not answer all the questions, the total number of responses per question does not always total 30.*

### 1. How long have you been an ASLE member?

0-3 years	2
4-7 years	5
8-11 years	10

### 2. Are you subscribed to the ASLE listserv?

yes	15
no	2

### If yes, how long have you been a subscriber?

less than 1 year	5
1-3 years	4
4-7 years	5
8-10 years	2
I tend to subscribe/unsubscribe	2

### 3. If you subscribe, how would you characterize your primary use of the listserv?

I read posted messages regularly [selectively] and occasionally post messages—11

I read subject headings and selectively read messages—4

I read posted messages regularly—1

I read and post messages regularly—1

### 4. If you do not subscribe, please describe why you do not.

List dominated by a few individuals—3

Difficulties in subscribing—2

Disappointed with exchanges on list—2

Insulting behavior—1

Respected members no longer on list—1

### 5. What do you find of value in the current listserv?

Sharing of resources and information—13

Access to scholarship/bibliographies—5

Support for teaching—4

Professional networking—3

Calls for papers/conferences—3

Exchange of ideas/discussion—3

Personal accounts—3

Conversation—2

Collegiality/comraderie—2

Public face of ASLE/ecocriticism—2

Range of topics/messages—2

Diversity of perspectives—1

### 6. What aspects of the current listserv would you like to see changed or modified? How would you suggest that these changes come about?

Fewer personal/marginally relevant/unprofessional postings—12

Create separate chat list—5

Create separate list for research/teaching—4

Domination by a few members—3

Keep one big list—2

Emphasize list as public face of ASLE and field—2  
Eliminate “bad” behavior on list—2  
Limit posting—2  
Use subject heads to indicate off-topic discussion—1  
Encourage more members to post—1  
Move CFPs to a different site—1  
More discussion about environmental action—1

**7. For what purposes do you tend to use the listserv?  
Please check all that apply.**

To find resources for scholarship—16  
To find resources for teaching—15  
To hear about latest developments in the field—14  
To hear about calls for papers—14  
To query ASLE members—13  
To communicate ASLE-related news to ASLE members—8  
To network with like-minded others—7  
To engage in conversations with like-minded others—5  
To hear about calls for action, such as congressional letter-writing campaigns, etc.—5

( ) Other:

- “Relief from the solitary practice of writing.”
- “NO [calls for action].”
- “To be part of an ASLE community, but preferably one that reflects ASLE membership a little more fully. Also, one more issue is the archiving of list conversations. I think the archiving issue may be what has driven some members away.”
- “I’d like to see the calls for papers condensed in some way. The multiple, forwarded posts get a bit much, but I realize that [name] is just doing the job she volunteered to do on behalf of all ASLE members. Can we figure out a different way to do this?”

**8. What information would have been helpful to you as a new or returning listserv member?**

General guidelines for participation, generated by ASLE members—13  
A welcome message describing the listserv community—9  
Reminders from the listserv manager about how to subscribe/unsubscribe or options for receiving messages—9  
Information about the listserv archives—7

Other:

- Problems with posting
- Diversity group

- Send how-to reminders

**9. Since its inception, the ASLE listserv has been an unmoderated list with an ASLE member volunteer managing subscriptions and member questions. While there is little (if any) interest in moderating the list, some members have periodically raised the idea of having general guidelines, generated by ASLE members, for participation.**

I am in favor of having member-generated, general guidelines for listserv participation—12

I am not in favor of having member-generated, general guidelines for listserv participation—1

Not sure. I would like to see drafts of such guidelines first—3

I would volunteer to help draft guidelines—3

Other:

- With two main lists, one could be moderated or at least have more guidelines.
- I like the free-for-all. The only guideline I’d like would be to have the chatty byplay go on via personal e-mail.
- I favor moderating.
- I wonder if a voluntary one-post-per-day rule wouldn’t give people pause before they fired off their post.
- If a list is moderated, even informally, the talkers get frustrated and may go away. If a list is wide open, the on-topic folks get frustrated and may go away. Better, I think, to have two related lists and make the archives available to all.
- The proliferation of lists idea plays into the impoverished hand of the specialist. I try to read widely and create opportunities to listen to folks who have different concerns than I do.
- I would like to see book discussions every two months.



# ASLE Grand Canyon River Expedition

*Join the first ASLE Grand Canyon River Expedition,  
July 28-August 11, 2004!*

*Special Guest: Ann Swinger*

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

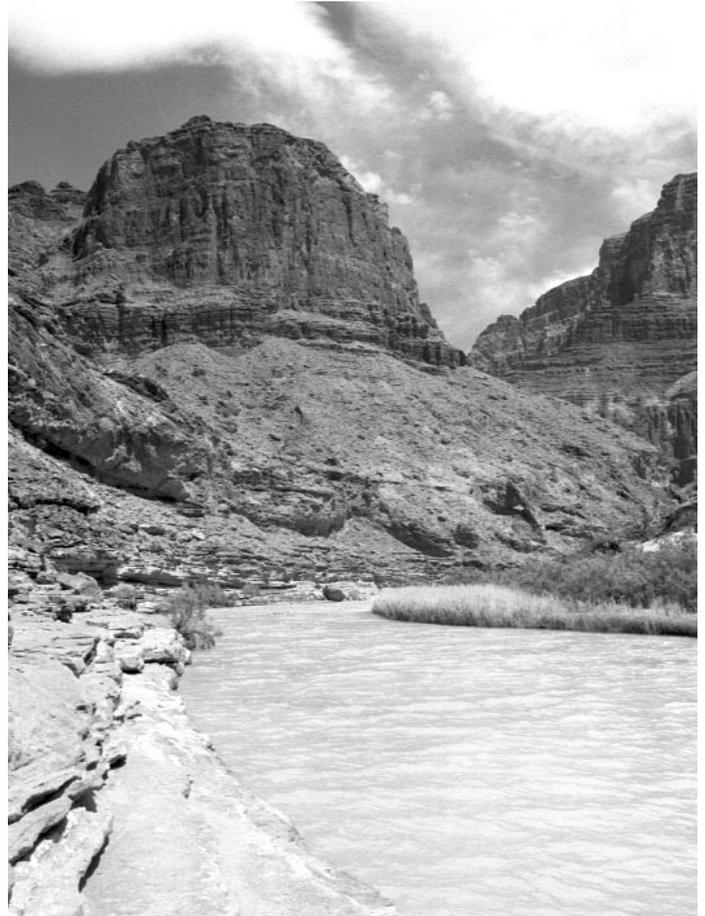
We will travel in oar-powered rubber rafts. Every day will include hikes in side canyons to visit waterfalls, archeological sites, geological formations, and viewpoints. At night, we will camp on sand beaches next to the river.

Ann Zwinger, author of *Downcanyon* and *Run, River, Run*, among many other celebrated books of nature writing, will accompany us to share her expertise and perspective on the river canyons of the desert Southwest.

The trip will last 14 days. For those who do not wish to participate in the entire trip, two alternatives are available. You can come on the six-day upper half and then hike out from Phantom Ranch at river mile 89. (This is a very strenuous hike, ascending over 5,000 feet in nine miles during extreme summer heat.) Or hike in at Phantom Ranch and participate in the nine-day lower half.

**Cost:** 14-days for \$2920, 6-days for \$1500, and 9-days for \$1925. In all three cases, the price is all-inclusive (with the exception of gratuities), starting and ending in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The trip is being organized by Lance Newman, a member of ASLE from the Department of Literature and Writing Studies at California State University at San Marcos, and a longtime Grand Canyon river guide. It will be outfitted by Moki Mac River Expeditions ([www.mokimac.com](http://www.mokimac.com)), one of the oldest companies in the canyon, founded in 1948. Moki Mac's guides are deeply knowledgeable interpreters of the human and natural history of Grand Canyon. One of the owners, Clair Quist, will accompany us. Clair traveled frequently with Edward Abbey, showing him several of the locations for scenes in *Monkey Wrench Gang*.



*Photo by Lance Newman, ASLE member.*

Reservations need to be made a year in advance, so decide now! For more information, contact Lance at [lnewman@csusm.edu](mailto:lnewman@csusm.edu) or at 760-750-8049. To reserve a spot, please send a deposit of \$100 (check or money order) to:

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

Visit the ASLE web site at [www.asle.umn.edu](http://www.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, project and professional liaison coordinator, at [rjohnson@albertson.edu](mailto:rjohnson@albertson.edu) or (208) 459-5894.

## Calls for Papers

May 1, 2003. *Cities of the Mind*. The Department of English, University of Toronto, invites submissions for a two-day conference, January 23-24, 2004. Cities are contested sites of critical and creative intervention. Urban theory, as an emergent field, offers scope for examining the intersections of artistic production and socio-cultural inquiry. The conference organizers seek papers from a variety of disciplines that address the discursive construction of cities, communities, and individuals in cultural texts and critical theory. Submit a 500-word abstract for a 20-minute paper, pasted in the body of an email (attachments will not be

opened), including your email address and institutional contact information. Proposals for panels are welcome and should include the abstracts of all three papers to be included in the panel, with contact information for all three participants. Indicate audiovisual equipment needs. Send submissions and inquiries to [cities\\_of\\_the\\_mind@hotmail.com](mailto:cities_of_the_mind@hotmail.com). For more information and suggested topics, visit [www.utoronto.ca/english/conference/cities-of-the-mind.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/english/conference/cities-of-the-mind.html).

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### *Urban Development to Feature Green Space*



*Confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers in downtown Columbus. Franklin County Metro Parks recently announced that The Whittier Peninsula, just south of the confluence, will be developed as a public park, replacing unused warehouses and abandoned industrial sites. Photo by Kathy Wallace.*

May 1, 2003. *Southern Writers, Southern Writing*. From July 17-19, 2003, the graduate students in the departments of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi will host this graduate student conference on the South in conjunction with the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. Topics for papers or panels are not restricted to literature and may include: race, gender, class and identity; materialist and political approaches to texts; ecocriticism, nature writing, and the southern landscape; religion and spirituality in southern culture and writing; folklore, material culture, and oral culture; and community. Reading time limit is twenty minutes; please include your summer address with your submission. Submit inquiries or ideas for panels to: [sww@olemiss.edu](mailto:sww@olemiss.edu). (Do not e-mail abstracts or submissions.) Please send one to two-page abstracts of critical work or entire creative works to Southern Writers, Southern Writing, 207 Somerville Hall, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Visit [www.olemiss.edu/conf/sww/](http://www.olemiss.edu/conf/sww/).

May 30, 2003. *Utopian Studies*. The Society for Utopian Studies will hold its 28th Annual Meeting from October 30-November 2, 2003, at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California. The Society is an international, interdisciplinary association devoted to the study of utopianism in all its forms. Scholars and practitioners representing a wide variety of disciplines and endeavors are active in the association and approach utopian studies from such diverse backgrounds as American studies, architecture, the arts, classics, cultural studies, economics, engineering, environmental studies, gender studies, history, languages and literature, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology and urban planning. The Society encourages participation from those involved in communal living and other utopian arrangements. If you wish to organize a panel or present a paper, please send an abstract of no more than 100 words to Paul Majkut, 11255 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037-1011; phone 858-642-8465; fax: 858-642-8715; email [pmajkut@nu.edu](mailto:pmajkut@nu.edu). For more information, visit [www.utoronto.ca/utopia](http://www.utoronto.ca/utopia).

September 15, 2003. *Tropes of Place: Huts, Houses, Cities, Galaxies in Doris Lessing*. The First International Doris Lessing Conference will be held from April 1-4, 2004, in New Orleans. Throughout her fiction, Lessing has variously



*Bald Cypress, near Mirror Lake on Ohio State University's campus.*  
Photo by Kathy Wallace.

used huts, houses, cities, or galaxies as tropes for the sociopolitical, economic, and cultural condition of private and public history of a household, a country, a nation, or an imagined universe. Papers may consider any one or several of these tropes and anyone or several of the works. Send proposals by email to Virginia Tiger ([vtiger@rutgers.edu](mailto:vtiger@rutgers.edu)) and Claire Sprague ([csprague1earthlink.net](mailto:csprague1earthlink.net)).

## Calls for Manuscripts

June 1, 2003. *Cultural Politics of Food*. A special issue of The Massachusetts Review will take off from French philosopher and gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat Savarin's famous aphorism, "Tell me what you eat, I'll tell you what you are." Such logic portends that because one eats curry, one is Indian; because one eats potatoes, one is Irish. But rarely are food and cultural-national identity so neatly aligned. Instead, food and culture are enmeshed within a complex web of affiliation mediated by the interplay of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Additionally, the movement of people

and capital around the world rapidly shifts the tenor of debates concerning the cultural politics of food. This special issue, tentatively scheduled for publication in spring 2004, hopes to explore the impact of the “local” and “global” on culture and foodways. Guest Editor Anita Mannur invites creative non-fiction, poetry, short fiction, as well as critical analyses of food and foodways or representations of food and foodways in film, literature, and culture. Send inquiries or submissions (attached as a Word or RTF document) to Anita Mannur, Asian American Studies, 1208 W. Nevada St, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801; amannur@uwalumni.com.

**June 1, 2003.** *Environmental Communication Yearbook*. Editors of this volume seek to publish outstanding work in environmental communication scholarship in areas of environmental communication studies, mass media and journalism, and public participation. For more details, visit [www.erlbaum.com/senecah.htm](http://www.erlbaum.com/senecah.htm).

**October 1, 2003.** *Henry David Thoreau's Walden*. In 2004, *The Concord Saunterer* will celebrate the sesquicentennial of the publication of *Walden* by devoting the 2004 issue to *Walden* (the book) and to Walden Pond (the place). The editor invites submissions on a variety of related topics, such as: the literary significance of *Walden*; structures and themes in *Walden*; readers' responses to *Walden*; the history or ecology of Walden Pond and the Walden Woods; and other *Walden*-related topics. Send submissions by mail (hardcopy accompanied by computer diskette) to Richard J. Schneider, Dept. of English and Modern Languages, Wartburg College, 100 College Blvd., P.O. Box 1003, Waverly, IA 50677-0903; or by e-mail as an attachment to: richard.schneider@wartburg.edu; phone: 319-352-8435; fax: 319-352-8213.

**January 15, 2004.** *Exploration and Adventure in the 19th-Century American West*. ATQ announces this special issue for 2004. The issue seeks to expand studies of exploration and adventure in the American West in light of recent developments in literary and cultural studies. The editor encourages submissions from scholars in a variety of fields and disciplines, interdisciplinary approaches, and considerations of well-known and less well-known explorations and adventures in the West. Articles might engage questions such as:

How might a study of exploration and adventure help us to reconsider relatively monolithic conceptions of the West as it relates to masculinity, femininity, race, and ethnicity? How did exploration and adventure shape specific shaped conceptions of regional and/or national identity? Of “nature” and “wilderness” in the United States? How did encounters between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples shape notions of exploration and adventure in the West? ATQ will have the capacity to reproduce images for this special issue. ATQ style allows for only five (5) end notes. Please submit manuscripts (3,000 to 7,500 words; MLA format) and SASE to Dr. Peter L. Bayers, ATQ Special Issue Editor—2004, Department of English, Independence Hall, 60 Upper College Road, Suite 2, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

**No deadline.** *The Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* (JASAT) is accepting manuscripts 15-25 pages in length on various aspects of American culture, with an emphasis on Texas, the South, and the Southwest. Manuscripts must be submitted as MS Word if sent by e-mail attachment, or they may be mailed, in triplicate, to



*Cows No. 5. Photo by Kathy Wallace.*

Elizabeth Elam Roth, Editor, JASAT, 902 Yaupon Valley Rd., Austin, TX 78746-3550; roth@mail1.onr.com.

## Meetings of Interest

**June 17-19, 2003.** *9th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment*, London, England. Deadline for registration is April 30, 2003. Visit the website for more information:  
[www.assumption.edu/HTML/Academic/conf/IICEcall.html](http://www.assumption.edu/HTML/Academic/conf/IICEcall.html).

**Feb 19-21, 2004.** *The Fourteenth North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community*. Held in Saratoga Springs, NY, and sponsored by Empire State College (SUNY), this international meeting will gather scholars of many disciplines, artists, natural resource managers, environmental activists, farmers, foresters, rural dwellers and city dwellers, managers, government officials

and recreational wilderness users. The conference will feature internationally renowned speakers, roundtable discussions, workshops, readings and traditional paper panels on a broad variety of topics and themes. A formal call for papers will be announced in Fall 2003. In the past, this meeting has been held at the University of Nevada, Reno and at Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. For more information, contact Wayne Ouder Kirk, Empire State College, Cobleskill, NY 12043; phone: (518) 255-5320; fax: 518 255-5809; email: [Wayne.OuderKirk@esc.edu](mailto:Wayne.OuderKirk@esc.edu).



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## Interested in literature and the environment? Join ASLE!

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If you'd like to become an ASLE member, please provide the following information. (It will be published in the annual ASLE membership directory. If you prefer that your contact information not be published, please check this box.  )

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about the upcoming ASLE conference,  
June 3-7, 2003, in Boston.*

Featured speakers include:

Grace Paley  
Joseph Bruchac  
Cynthia Huntington  
Leo Marx  
Sam Bass Warner  
Lawrence Buell  
Barbara Neely  
John Hanson Mitchell  
E.O. Wilson  
Sandra Steingraber  
Laura Walls



*Pin Oak on Ohio State University's Agricultural Campus in  
Columbus, less than a mile from main campus. Photo by  
Kathy Wallace.*



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