



ASLE News

VOL. 17, NO. 1 * SPRING 2005

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Look Out, Eugene!

Having risen in the Colorado Rockies and spilled eastward, the Arkansas River makes its way to the Mississippi via Kansas, Oklahoma, and finally the state which bears its name. The lower leg of its journey begins at a crease in the land lying east-west between the Ozarks to the north and the Ouachita Mountains to the south. Gaining volume, losing speed, the river passes within a few miles of my home, intersecting Cadron Creek at a point locally famous for having been a way-station along the Trail of Tears. Soon after, the waters of the Arkansas move through Little Rock, gently chucking the chin of the new Clinton presidential library, before heading toward some of the largest rice fields in the country. Within a day the river loses itself in the Great Muddy, not far north of the tiny delta town of Rohwer, one of two Arkansas communities that hosted Japanese-American internment camps during the second world war.

Like all the places we inhabit, this one bears its share of human joy, grief, cruelty, folly, and aspiration, much of which was inspired by the land, and much of which is inscribed upon it still. It is a naturally and humanly storied place—and of course, both kinds of history are still unfolding. This interpenetration of human and nonhuman life; these ongoing acts of mutual creation, destruction, and re-creation; and the many ways that language and literature represent, parse, celebrate, and decry all of it: these are what we will devote ourselves to this June 21 through 25 when we convene for the sixth time in ASLE's thirteen-year history—this time, in Eugene, Oregon.

Registration form and information on the Sixth Biennial Conference now available at www.asle.umn.edu. Field sessions and field trips are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



2005 President Allison Wallace is working with Molly Westling to organize ASLE's upcoming conference at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

And I, for one, can't wait. But I'll have to, contenting myself in the meanwhile with the work of organizing the meeting's paper sessions, in much the same way that I content myself each winter by perusing seed and beekeeping catalogs, savoring the possibilities. Our theme, "Being in the World, Living with the Land," has drawn many wonderful proposals from near and far—about which, more shortly.

First, I want to tell you how hard our site coordinator, Louise "Molly" Westling, has been working to get everything ready. She is being ably assisted by her University of Oregon colleague and fellow ASLE member William Rossi, as well as by a cadre of dedicated graduate students and several helpful UO personnel. (There will be many people to thank when all is said and done.) Molly and crew have arranged for us to use some attractive, comfortable meeting rooms in the student union, as well as a dorm

see **PRESIDENT** on page 3

ASLE Officers

President

Allison Wallace
Honors College,
University of Central Arkansas

Vice President

Ann Fisher-Wirth
University of Mississippi

Public Relations Officer

Dan Phillipon
University of Minnesota

Executive Secretary

Kathleen R. Wallace
The Ohio State University

Immediate Past President

John Elder
Middlebury College

ISLE Editor

Scott Slovic
University of Nevada, Reno

ASLE News Editor

Karla Armbruster
Webster University, St. Louis

Executive Council

(date indicates year term expires)

Vernonja Alston
York University, 2007

Pamela Banting
University of Calgary, 2005

Wes Berry
Western Kentucky University, 2006

Ellen Goldey
Wofford College, 2006

George Hart
California State University at Long Beach, 2007

Adam Sweeting
Boston University, 2005

Project Coordinators

Bibliography Editor/Coordinator

H. Lewis Ulman
The Ohio State University

Book Review Editor, ISLE

Michael Branch
University of Nevada,
Reno

Diversity Coordinator

To be decided (see p. 5)

Graduate Mentoring Program Coordinator

Mark Long
Keene State College

Graduate Student Liaisons

Amy Patrick
University of Minnesota
Sarah McFarland
University of Oregon

Project/Professional Liaison Coordinator

Rochelle Johnson
Albertson College of
Idaho

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)

Anthony Lioi

Modern Language Association

Barbara Cook

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



Ice in "bloom" at Battelle-Darby Metro Park, Franklin County, Ohio. Photo by Lewis Ulman.

Society for Science and Literature
Stacy Alaimo

Society for the Study of American Women Writers
Rochelle Johnson

ASLE Affiliates

ASLE-UK • ASLE-Japan • ASLE-ANZ
ASLE-Korea • ASLE-EASLCE • Akam
(ASLE-India)

ASLE News Ad Policy and Rates

ASLE News accepts advertisements of interest to our members at rates of \$200 for a full page, \$150 for a half page, \$100 for a quarter page, and \$75 for an eighth of a page. Contact Karla Armbruster, armbruka@webster.edu, with inquiries.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

located a stone's throw away, complete with a full-service cafeteria. (I took it for a test drive during a recent trip to Eugene, and happily found that the meals there—vegetarian options included—are tasty and affordable.) They have lined up several exciting field sessions and Saturday trips to numerous places of interest and great beauty in the region: for full descriptions, see www.asle.umn.edu. They are even gathering, for those ASLE members hoping to bring their families, information on where one can find trustworthy child care, should it be needed at all during the week.

We can look forward to some terrific plenary speakers: Ursula K. Le Guin and her brother Karl Kroeber, David Suzuki, Gary Snyder, Ana Castillo, Robin Wall Kimmerer, John Daniel, Kathleen Dean Moore, Robert Michael Pyle, Robin Collin, Jane Hirshfield, Jim Dodge, Elizabeth Woody, and Alan Weisman. Some of these will share the stage in twos and threes—our way of introducing a (cordial) measure of point-counterpoint, at the same time that we give you lots of great speakers without filling the program entirely with plenaries.

Other plans in the works: We'll have sessions on many aspects of environmental justice; on real and imagined eco-utopias and dystopias; on such working landscapes as farms and forests; on poetry and poetics, fiction, and various "sister arts" like film and photography; on the Pacific Northwest, both above and below the border; and on ideas about nature that have held sway in other corners of the world, such as Asia, Australia, and parts of Europe. Look for papers on wilderness, urban nature, ecocriticism,



The University of Oregon in Eugene, where ASLE's Sixth Biennial Conference will be held June 21-25, 2005. Photo by Louise Westling.

Thank You!

On behalf of all ASLE members, the ASLE leadership thanks Annie Ingram, outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, and her assistant Cheryl Branz, for all of their dedication, effort, and enthusiasm over the years.

We are a better organization because of you!

pedagogy, science and technology, animals, First-Nation peoples, and literature from the European medieval and Renaissance periods. We have a wide array of papers devoted to specific authors (many of them Canadian and/or North American west-coasters), as well as to specific kinds of places—deserts, mountains, rivers, islands, city parks, even polar ice caps. Several presenters plan to screen films; several will set up posters on a variety of projects in which they've been involved; several will offer hands-on workshops, including one on our new and hugely improved on-line bibliography service.

We'll have many opportunities to hear each other read original, creative work, especially in poetry and nonfiction. And we'll have ample opportunity to buy each other's books, as well as those by our plenary speakers and by many other authors working in our field, at another one of ASLE's wonderful book exhibits. And t-shirts? Did someone say t-shirts? Okay, if you insist, we'll have t-shirts!

Still more good news: we'll have among us participants from some fourteen or fifteen countries lying outside the U.S. The largest contingent will be from Canada; countries hosting ASLE affiliates—Japan, Korea, the UK, Australia-New Zealand, Europe, India and Taiwan—will also be well represented, as will some Middle Eastern, African, and additional Asian nations. (I begin to foresee a day when ASLE conferences will need to include those little earpieces with which participants can listen to speakers in translation, the way they do at the U. N. . . .)

So: may you enjoy safe traveling to Eugene, where a lovely river (the Willamette) runs through it, and where you'll find about a dozen coffee shops, cafes, and pubs per capita. Look for me there and stop me to say hello, hola, konnichi-wa, or guten tag: I'll be the one peddling t-shirts and stoking up on caffeine! ☘

Results of ASLE Election 2004



George Hart (*Cal. State U., Long Beach*) is one of ASLE's new Executive Council members.

Vernonja Alston, assistant professor at York University in Toronto, and George Hart, assistant professor at California State University, Long Beach, have been elected as the newest members of ASLE's Executive Council. Executive Council members serve three-year terms.

On behalf of the membership, I want to thank all the candidates, including Mark Allister, Brian Bartlett, and Tonia Payne, for being willing to serve. And to Laird Christensen and Mark Long, who are rotating off the Council, a big thank you for your work on behalf of ASLE. 🌲

—Kathleen Wallace,
Executive Secretary

International News

The study of literature and environment is spreading worldwide, with six official ASLE affiliates now formed. These are ASLE-ANZ (Australia/New Zealand), ASLE-Japan, ASLE-Korea, ASLE-UK, the newly formed *Akam* (ASLE-India), and EASLCE (European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment).

In the future we may be able to add ASLE-Taiwan to this list, as some folks are working to organize there. Additionally, in October 2004, the first French ecocriticism symposium took place at the University of Lyon II. Go ASLE—root down and awaken!

—Wes Berry
International Liaison, ASLE-US

See updates from ASLE-ANZ (p. 6) and *Akam* (ASLE-India), ASLE-Japan, and ASLE-Korea (p. 7).

Small Grants Available for Grad Students Attending 2005 Conference

For the first time in its history, ASLE will attempt this year to provide a limited number of small grants to assist needy graduate students with expenses related to conference attendance. Each grant will likely be in the neighborhood of \$75 - \$100, and the number of grants available will depend upon the total amount of donations received to cover this assistance. ASLE members who can help us to build this fund are strongly encouraged to do so, either by sending a check directly to Managing Director Amy McIntyre (address on page 5) or by including a donation when registering for the conference (see the space on the registration form set aside for this purpose).

Students wishing to apply for one of these grants should send a one-page e-mail message to Barbara Cook (barbara.cook@eku.edu) by 5 p.m EST on May 20, indicating whether they have had a paper accepted for presentation in Eugene, where they are in their studies (second year of a PhD program, ABD, etc.), and whether they expect any other assistance for attending the conference. A special task force of ASLE Executive Council members will review applications and make awards by June 5.

Because this is a new initiative, and as-yet an unfunded one, there is no way to make awards sooner, nor is it likely we will be able to assist everyone who applies. So please bear with us—we're trying to do a good thing here, but it will necessarily be a small start.

New Liaison with Society for Science and Literature

Stacy Alaimo (University of Texas-Arlington) is now serving as ASLE's liaison with the Society for Science and Literature. She can be contacted at alaimo@uta.edu.

I first want to thank the ASLE Executive Council and membership for welcoming me into the organization. Even tucked away here in southern New Hampshire, the warmth of your good wishes has penetrated the ice and snow! Special thanks go to former Secretary-Treasurer Annie Ingram and Cheryl Branz, who took time from their busy schedules to train me and have been available for questions as I learn the ropes. I'd like to share a quick update of finances for ASLE, as well as a membership summary.

As of mid-February, our bank account still maintains a healthy balance of funds nearing \$60,000 as we head into the conference season. Once all expenses and income for that event have been tallied, we hope to have a significant "nest egg" to invest towards the long-term health of the organization. Annie Ingram and I have been working through the winter to transfer all accounts from North Carolina to New Hampshire, and by the time you read this that process should be complete. For more information about ASLE finances, please see the recently updated "About

ASLE" section of the Web site at www.asle.umn.edu.

Membership continues to be steady, with a constant inflow of new members. Currently the database shows 876 domestic and 118 international members. I imagine the rolls will swell this spring as people register for the Eugene, Oregon, conference as well.

By now should have received your 2005 Membership Directory, as well as the long-awaited (apologies to everyone for the unprecedented delay!) *ISLE* issue 11.2. If you have not received these publications, please let me know so I can confirm your address and send you one or both immediately. If any of your information is incorrect in the published directory, just notify me and I will make the updates to our database.

Our new contact information is:

ASLE
P.O. Box 502
Keene, NH 03431-0502
603-357-7411
asle.us@verizon.net



Amy McIntyre, ASLE's new Managing Director.

New members and updated addresses that did not make the 2005 Directory are included as an insert in this newsletter; please pull it out and keep it with your directory for the most current reference to membership. I look forward to hearing from you about ASLE issues large and small, and to meeting a good number of you at the conference in June! 🌲

—*Amy McIntyre,*
Managing Director

Diversity Caucus Coordinator Needed

Since Ann Fisher-Wirth has now become ASLE Vice President, and Serena d'Onofrio has resigned as Diversity Caucus Co-coordinator, it will be necessary to appoint a new Diversity Caucus Coordinator at the ASLE Conference in Eugene. The caucus will meet on Tuesday, June 21, after the 8:00-9:15 plenary. Look for the location in your conference program. And please bring your ideas and suggestions (or pass them along to Ann Fisher-Wirth at afwirth@olemiss.edu if you cannot attend).



Grasses after flooding along Big Darby Creek, Prairie Oaks Metro Park, Madison County, Ohio. Photo by Lewis Ulman.

Interested in Hosting an Off-Year Symposium in 2006?

Please send proposals for off-year symposia to the current ASLE Vice President, Ann Fisher-Wirth, by May 1. We will discuss the proposals at the leadership retreat held immediately before the conference this June.

Though we will still accept proposals after May 1, to receive full consideration they should be submitted by that time. Symposia organizers should plan on finding matching funds and should return any conference profits to ASLE.

Our criteria for acceptance will include promoting diversity in terms of geographical location and topic.

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

ASLE-ANZ to Hold First Conference

Conceived at the “Environment, Culture and Community” conference in Brisbane in 2002 and birthed at the “Watermark Nature Writers’ Muster” in the Camden Haven in 2003, ASLE’s Australia and New Zealand affiliate (<http://www.asle-anz.asn.au>) was officially inaugurated in August 2004 and is growing slowly but steadily. Shortly before that, ASLE-ANZ President, Kate Rigby, and Vice President (Australia), Mark Tredinnick, joined with poet Martin Harrison and artist Janet Lawrence to form a first ASLE-ANZ panel at a symposium on “Ecologies and Environments in an Expanded Field” held at Adelaide University in early July.

The inaugural ASLE-ANZ conference will be held at Monash University in Melbourne on March 31-April 1 this year, under the Nietzschean rubric, “Be true to the earth” (<http://arts.monash.edu.au/lcl/conferences/earth>). The conference is being hosted by the editors of the postgraduate journal *Colloquy* in the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Monash,

under the leadership of our postgraduate representative, Peter Coleman, and our international keynote speakers are Louise Westling, Richard Kerridge and David Abram. Shortly before that, many Australian scholars, writers and activists who work in culture and environment will foregather at the “Two Fires Festival” in Braidwood from March 18-21. Inspired by the legacy of Australian poet, conservation and Indigenous rights campaigner Judith Wright, this event is a celebration of arts and activism, society’s “two fires” (<http://www.twofiresfestival.com/twofires>).

We also have the second Watermark Nature Writers’ Muster (Oct. 4-8) to look forward to (<http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au>). Meanwhile, across the Tasman, our Vice President (New Zealand), Charles Dawson, is helping to set up a multi-disciplinary conference on rivers that will run in about November.

—Kate Rigby, President, ASLE-ANZ

Akam (ASLE-India) Is Born

Akam (ASLE India) was born on January 14, 2005, the day which celebrates the fertility of the land that nourishes and sustains the household (*akam*). Even as the house (*akam*) is surrounded by the outside world (*puram*), the heart/soul (*akam*) is housed in the body (*puram*). *Akam*, as the household, affirms the kinship among humans, nature, and culture.

Akam intends to provide a platform for its members to explore the literary/artistic representations of the household in which both humans and non-human beings have their essential being. Today this area of exploration, known as eco-criticism, engages the scholarly attention of

researchers, intellectuals, professionals and academics alike. *Akam* will be the site of such explorations particularly relevant to the Indian context. Activities will include conferences and workshops, and a newsletter will function as the organ of the collective.

Akam is co-founded by Dr. Nirmal Selvamony, Department of English, Madras Christian College, Chennai; e-mail: selvamony@satyam.net.in and Dr. S. Murali, Department of English, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, India; e-mail: smurali1234@yahoo.com

—Nirmal Selvamony

ASLE-J Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In 2004, ASLE-Japan celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the anniversary issue of our annual journal *Literature and Environment* included a conversation between the founding president Ken-ichi Noda and the then president Katsunori Yamazato. We also held our annual fall conference at Kanazawa, the place where ASLE-Japan was launched ten years ago. The three-day conference included presentations regarding literary environmentalism of the United States, New Caledonia and Japan, a roundtable session on theoretical dimensions of ecocriticism, and an over-night field trip to a topographically- and culturally-unique yet depopulated village at the foot of Mt. Hakusan.

Also, the congratulatory messages from Scott Slovic and Terry Tempest Williams were special gifts, which have been collected in the journal and the anniversary issue of ASLE-J Newsletter respectively. Another milestone for ASLE-J is the publication of *Nature: Urban, Rural, Wild* (Sairyusha 2004: all entries are in Japanese), which collects the speeches of Korean, American, and Japanese writers, poets, and scholars given at the ASLE International Symposium held in Okinawa in March 2003.

Our next annual conference will be held in Sapporo, Hokkaido, in October 2005. For more information, e-mail ASLE-J's Secretary Masami Raker Yuki at yuki@ge.kanazawa-u.ac.jp. Also, visit our Web site at <http://www.asle-japan.org>.

ASLE-Korea Update

The two big pieces of news from ASLE-Korea in addition to its successful winter seminar series and upcoming May 28 Annual Spring Conference are that Prof. Won-Chung Kim of Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul will receive \$500 from ASLE-US to attend the Eugene Conference, and ASLE-Korea has decided to run a series tentatively entitled "ASLE's Theory to Practice Series," the first volume of which will be a vegetarian cookbook written in Korean by Simon Estok. For more information about ASLE-Korea and its projects, contact the International Liaison Officer, Simon Estok at estok@konkuk.ac.kr or scestok@chollian.net.



Cloudbow over Prairie Oaks Metro Park, Madison County, Ohio.
Photo by Lewis Ulman.

The ASLE Online Bibliography Settles Into a New Home

Imagine receiving weekly, annotated notices of the books, essays, journal articles, films, artworks, TV shows, magazine articles, and newspaper articles related to literature and environment studies that ASLE members have been reading and viewing. It is possible with the ASLE online bibliography!

The ASLE bibliography depends on members' submissions to develop a resource that reflects the interests, commitments, and critical perspectives of ASLE members. Anyone with access to the World Wide Web (whether at home, at work, at a public library, or wherever) can contribute entries and search the bibliography. Please join your fellow ASLE members in building this community resource!

In mid-January 2005, the ASLE online bibliography—more specifically, the searchable database—moved to a new, more powerful, and more user-friendly site:

<http://www.biblioserver.com/asle/>.

If you haven't visited the bibliography in a while, check out the new design and features, and let me know what you think. For the first time in the history of the online bibliography, ASLE is paying a hosting fee for the new site, and at the end of this year the Executive Council will evaluate usage of the bibliography and decide whether to continue the service.

This move is just one part of a year-long effort to improve the bibliography. We also plan to highlight the bibliography at the upcoming ASLE conference in June 2005 and, as always, we welcome your suggestions for improving the bibliography.

To learn more about searching or contributing to the bibliography, point your Web browser to the ASLE online bibliography information Web site at <http://www.english.ohio-state.edu/organizations/asle/>.

The next time you read a good book or article, see a film, or visit an online site that might benefit ASLE members' and friends' teaching and research—or the next time you respond to a bibliographic question on the ASLE listserv—please consider contributing a bibliographic entry, accompanied by a brief abstract, to the bibliography. It is easy, and your contribution will be available to all via the Web within a day or two. If every ASLE member contributed just one entry in 2005, the size of the online bibliography would more than double.

The value of the bibliography to ASLE increases along with the number of entries it contains and the number of people whose reading in the field it reflects. Please consider contributing to the ASLE bibliography on a regular basis.

—Lewis Ulman, *The Ohio State University*
ASLE Bibliographer, ulman.1@osu.edu, (614) 292-2275



“
*If every ASLE member
contributed just one entry in
2005, the size of the online
bibliography would more
than double.*

—Lewis Ulman”

Skunk cabbage in bloom, Prairie Oaks Metro Park, Madison County, Ohio. Photo by Lewis Ulman.

The ASLE Mentoring Program at Work

In the last *ASLE News*, Henrik Otterberg and Mike Branch's reflections offered an inspired example of the kind of exchange the Mentoring Program was designed to promote. In this issue, Jeanne Sokolowski and Scott Slovic provide another glimpse into the rewards of mentoring for both the mentee and the mentor.

Interested in the Mentoring Program? Contact Mark at mlong@keene.edu.

—Mark C. Long, Keene State College,
Coordinator, ASLE Mentoring Program

I'm just starting my PhD program at Indiana University-Bloomington and I come to the advanced study of literature with a slightly unusual background: I spent three years teaching in Japan and then one year doing research for my Master's thesis in education on a Fulbright grant in Seoul, South Korea. Starting my program, I wondered how I could merge my interests in 20th century literature, Asian-American writers, and Japanese and Korean language and culture with a burgeoning interest in environmental studies.

I outlined what were fairly vague research interests and was excited when Dr. Long contacted me with the information that Dr. Slovic was willing to work with me. I first contacted Dr. Slovic and asked his opinions on a paper idea I was trying to formulate—something that had nothing to do with contemporary environmental writers, but rather with *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. There was a great feeling of relief to know that there was someone I could run ideas past (other than my professor for the course, who, though an excellent teacher, was admittedly not conversant with environmental theory). Dr. Slovic suggested various approaches that might be useful, from looking at the novel in context of the pastoral and Georgic traditions to pairing my reading of the novel with the writings of Wendell Berry. Funny coincidences can also arise. Over winter break, I wanted to get ahead with the reading for my spring courses, especially one in environmental criticism. Looking at the reading list, I found listed Humboldt's *Cosmos*, and later recalled reading somewhere that Dr. Slovic, like me, had received a Fulbright: to research Humboldt in Germany!

—Jeanne Sokolowski, Indiana University Bloomington

As someone who has often benefited from generous mentoring, I never hesitate to return the favor whenever I'm given the opportunity. It's interesting that Jeanne should mention my work on Alexander von Humboldt as a graduate student in Germany. It was during my 1986-87 stay at the University of Bonn that I first became fully aware of what it means to give and receive academic mentorship through my reading about Humboldt's work as an intellectual patron for younger scientists and writers and through the generous gifts of conversation and books that I received from Germany's foremost Humboldt scholar, Professor Hanno Beck. Professor Beck's kindness and support helped me to appreciate, in retrospect, the attention I had received from Albert Gelpi and John Felstiner at Stanford and the guidance I was soon to receive from Bart St. Armand, my dissertation advisor at Brown. Later, when I was deliberating about my possible move to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Bart helped tilt me toward UNR by encouraging me to take a teaching job where I could work with Ph.D. students and in this way help guide future generations of ecocritics into the profession.

Here at UNR, none of my current students are particularly attuned to Asian or Asian-American literary or environmental issues, so I was excited to hear that Jeanne Sokolowski was looking for a mentor who shared her interests in these areas. As Jeanne mentions, our initial mentoring exchanges focused on her seminar paper about *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, not Asia or contemporary literature. I tried to make it clear to her that I hadn't read the novel closely for nearly twenty years, but I was still willing to brainstorm a bit over e-mail and offer some suggestions about how ecocritics might approach this work. She kindly considered my ideas and then proceeded to develop her own powerful idea about how the "reflexive relationship between agriculture and slavery" emerges in Stowe's work.

It is always a pleasure to participate in give and take with energetic, committed scholars, whether these exchanges occur in one's own department or via the more abstract medium of e-mail. I'm pleased to know that my support might have been helpful. I look forward to future correspondence on topics ranging from Alexander von Humboldt to Japanese environmental writing.

—Scott Slovic, Department of English, University of Nevada Reno

Results of 2004 ASLE Graduate Student Survey

Through the summer and fall months of 2004, the ASLE Graduate Student Working Group and the ASLE Executive Council sought opinions as to how ASLE can best serve the needs of its graduate student members. The survey was distributed three ways: as part of an email sent to graduate student members; through a link on the ASLE Web site; and as part of the Fall 2004 issue of ASLE News.

By February 2005, thirty-four usable responses were received, representing 14% of the student membership. The names of all respondents who provided them will be entered into a drawing for 10 prizes at the upcoming conference in Eugene, Oregon.

The full results of the survey, including all written comments, have been distributed to the Executive Council (EC), the Graduate Student Working Group, and other ASLE officers. While all of the responses provide valuable information for the EC's ongoing discussion regarding a wide array of issues related to ASLE's student members, particular highlights of the results include the following:

- High percentages of respondents reported being aware of ASLE's mentoring program (91%), the online bibliography (94%), and the online syllabi collection (74%). Only 5% of respondents reported that they were aware of the ASLE listserv.
- In terms of ASLE services and resources actually used by respondents, the online bibliography and graduate student handbook led the pack with 65% and 62% reporting having used them, respectively. The syllabi collection and the listserv followed with 41% and 32% reporting use, respectively. Several respondents reported using the handbook in their selection of and preparation for graduate school, and while only 7 respondents having used the mentoring program to date, several indicated they hoped to do so in the future.
- The ASLE Web site and newsletter appear to be very effective means of introducing ASLE services to student members, with 76% and 35% of respondents identifying them, respectively, as the means through which they heard about these services. Other students wrote of being introduced to ASLE and its services through professors at their home institutions and/or through ASLE conferences.
- In written responses, the mentoring program, graduate student handbook, online syllabi collection, and online

bibliography (especially) get almost universally rave reviews, with some common caveats regarding the need to keep the latter three updated, and a wish that the handbook would provide more resources regarding non-US schools.

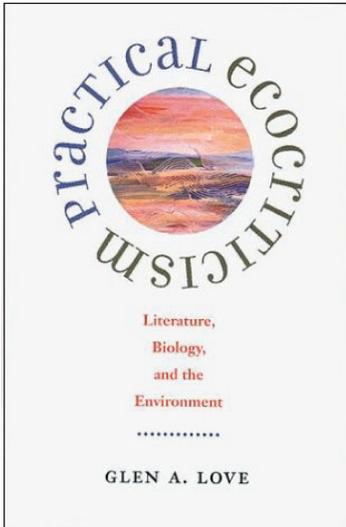
- Respondents enthusiastically recommended that ASLE consider the creation of student travel stipends for presentations at ASLE and related conferences (82%), a mechanism for formal job postings in ecocriticism and related fields (and possibly interviews) at the biennial conference (76%), professional development workshops for students at conferences and other ASLE venues (68%), and the establishment of an endowment for a dissertation fellowship fund (59%).
- 100% of respondents felt that ASLE's current \$20 membership fee for students was fair; 26% said they'd be willing to pay up to \$25, 21% said up to \$30 would still be reasonable.
- Regarding offerings for student members at future ASLE conferences, 71% liked the idea of a designated graduate student room, 65% liked the idea of a prize for the best graduate student paper presented and the idea of a graduate student general meeting, 59% would welcome job postings and interviews, and 47% would welcome some means of getting feedback on works-in-progress from fellow graduate students in the field.
- Looking ahead to the 2007 conference, respondents suggested offerings focusing on ecocomposition in practice, ecocriticism and interdisciplinarity, internationality in ecocriticism, the application of ecocriticism to mainstream literature and culture, the intersections between ecocriticism and post-colonial theories, and the issues of canonicity and the academic acceptance of ecocritical work, among other topics. Respondents also suggested new terms for the online bibliography, which have been forwarded to H. Lewis Ulman.

The Executive Council and the Student Working Committee greatly appreciate the efforts of all respondents and deeply value the planning value of the data provided. The Executive Council looks forward to discussing the full results of the survey in the months ahead, especially at their meeting in June.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact George Grattan at grattang@bc.edu.

ASLE Bookshelf

The following works were recently published by ASLE members. If we've missed your publication, please send the bibliographic information to Karla Armbruster at armbruka@webster.edu.



Barron, Patrick, and Anna Re, eds. *Italian Environmental Literature: An Anthology*. Foreword by John Elder. New York: Italica P, 2003.

Couterier, Lisa. *The Hopes of Snakes and Other Tales from the Urban Landscape*. Boston: Beacon, 2005.

Hood, Mary A. *The Strangler Fig and Other*

Tales: Field Notes of a Conservationist. Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira-Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.

Love, Glen. *Practical Ecocriticism: Literature, Biology, and the Environment*. Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2003.

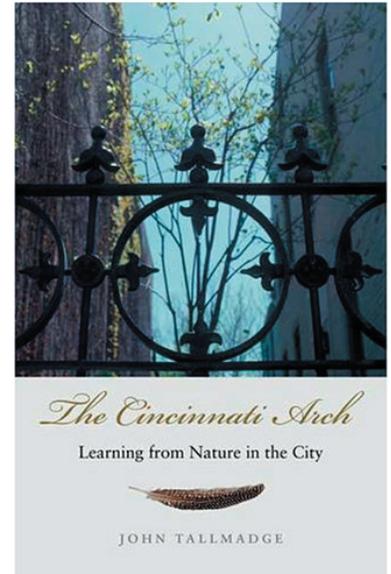
Monaghan, Patricia. *The Encyclopedia of Celtic Myth and Folklore*. New York: Facts on File, 2004.

O'Donnell, Kevin E., and Helen Hollingsworth, eds. *Seekers of Scenery: Travel Writing from Southern Appalachia, 1840-1900*. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 2004.

Tallmadge, John. *The Cincinnati Arch: Learning from Nature in the City*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2004.

Weishaus, Joel, and David Rosen. *The Healing Spirit of Haiku*. Ill. Arthur Okamura. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books, 2004.

Yake, Bill. *This Old Riddle: Cormorants and Rain*. Astoria, OR: Radiolarian P, 2004



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 or (208) 459-5894.

Conferences of Interest

April 15-17, 2005. *Structure, Space, and Transmigrations*. SUNY at Albany. The Center for Humanities, Arts, and TechnoScience (CHATS) meeting will focus on the intersections between the humanities, science, and technology.

June 15-17, 2005. *Rapid Landscape Change and Human Response in the Arctic and Sub-arctic*. Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. This meeting will focus on the effects of climate and landscape change in the North and on past environmental events in the region. Information at www.taiga.net/rapidchange.

June 18-25, 2005. *Violence, the Arts, and Cather*. University of Nebraska-Lincoln & Red Cloud, Nebraska. The 10th International Cather Seminar will feature papers on all aspects of Willa Cather's work, life, and times. For further information, visit www.unl.edu/cather and www.willacather.org, or email Beth Burke at eburke3@unl.edu.

September 1-4, 2005. *Shakespeare and Ecology*. University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The 2005 meeting of the British Shakespeare Association will include a seminar on "Shakespeare and Ecology," led by Gabriel Egan and Kevin De Ornellas. For more information, contact the seminar directors at k.deornellas@qub.ac.uk.

see CFPs on page 12



Spirit Sands, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Manitoba, Canada. Photo by Lewis Uhlman.

CFPs continued from page 11

September 2-4, 2005. *Animal Presences, Animal Geographies.* Literature & Ecology Colloquium at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. For information, contact Dr. Dan Wylie, Dept of English, Rhodes University, Box 94, Grahamstown 6140; or e-mail D.Wylie@ru.ac.za.

October 19-23, 2005. *Wild Words.* Alberta Literary Centennial Celebration. The University of Calgary is hosting this international literary celebration and conference on the province's literature, drama, and film. For more information, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/conferences/WildWords2005/>.

November 4-5, 2005. *"Scapes"/English Language Poetry.* Universite Paris. This conference will discuss aspects of poetry as they relate to the very productive word "scapes" (sea-scape, cloud-scape, city-scape, mindscape). For information, contact Paul Volsik at volsik@paris7.jussieu.fr.

Calls for Papers

May 1, 2005. *Action in Place: Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability.* October 6-9, 2005. Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. This meeting will bring

together people who have engaged in (or are interested in) community and place-based initiatives to promote environmental, economic, and community sustainability, and will include a variety of perspectives, from the arts and culture to the sciences, and from educators and scholars to activists. Seeking proposals for presentations, full panels, and other activities that address the conference theme in diverse ways. For more information and submission details, email LuttsR@goddard.edu. or visit www.goddard.edu/academic/actioninplace.html.

May 1, 2005. *Emergent Systems: Cognitive Environments.* November 10-13, 2005. Intercontinental Hotel, Chicago. The Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts invites submissions concerning all

science-oriented topics, especially those related to emergence and cognition as these themes appear in science, literature, technology, and the arts. Individuals may submit abstracts of 150 words and proposals for panels, round-table discussions, and any non-traditional formats. For more information, visit www.press.jhu.edu/cgi-bin/associations/sls_membership.cgi. Send submissions to both Joseph Tabbi (jtabbi@uic.edu) and Bruce Clarke (bruce.clarke@ttu.edu).

May 1, 2005. *The Endangered Planet in Literature.* November 16-18, 2005. Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey. The Fourth International Conference of the World Association for Studies in Literatures in English invites papers on topics linking literature to the following: the natural, the local and the global; technology and nature; colonialisms; self and the other; constructing gender in the matrix of ecology; nature threatened, nature as a threat. For information on submitting proposals, contact Defne Demir at ddemir@dogus.edu.tr.

May 6, 2005. *Southern Writers, Southern Writing.* July 21-23, 2005. The University of Mississippi Graduate Student Conference will be held in conjunction with the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference and invites

see CFPs on page 13

CFPs continued from page 12

submissions about the South. Topics for papers or panels may include: race, gender and 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, oral culture, and community; and theoretical approaches to the South in a global context. Send one- to two-page abstracts for 20-minute presentations of critical or creative works to: Southern Writers/Southern Writing, 210 Somerville Hall, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. Send inquiries to sww@olemiss.edu. For information, visit www.olemiss.edu/conf/sww.

June 15, 2005. *Travel and Tourism*. November 4-6, 2005. New Brunswick, New Jersey. The annual Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association plans to run several panels on this topic and encourages a wide range of presentations, papers, and multi-media displays. Send queries to Gene McQuillan at Genekcc@aol.com.

Calls for Manuscripts

June 30, 2005. *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual*. *Crossroads* is dedicated to the

interdisciplinary study and artistic appreciation of the South (broadly defined) and Southern culture, and includes both scholarly and creative work. Submissions can include academic essays, oral histories, memoirs, profile essays, photo essays, creative writing, and artwork. To ensure consideration, all submitted materials should (to borrow Faulkner's famous phrase) "tell about the South" and do so memorably. Send materials postmarked before June 30 to: Ted Olson, Editor, *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual*, ETSU, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614. For more information, contact the editor: olson@etsu.edu or tedolson_99@yahoo.com.

July 1, 2005. *Citing Cities*. Cities play a special role in theoretical constructs of the social order as well as

providing a key part of history. *EnterText*, a refereed free-access online journal, will feature a special issue on the significance of cities--in the past, present or future, whether as actualities, representations or myths. For information, visit www.brunel.ac.uk/faculty/arts/entertext.

August 31, 2005. *Mosaic* special issue on "The Animal." *Mosaic* invites submissions for on the question of "the animal" in literature and/or in theory. Submit critical essays that consider the animal question in the work of specific writers or texts, including such topics as: history, ethics, ontology, culture, mourning, death, selfhood, self-identity, sexuality, bestiaries, beasts, animal others, orality, speech, phonocentrism, genre, gesture, architecture, and human/non-human relations. For more information, visit <http://www.umanitoba.ca/mosaic>.

No deadline given. *Eco-Criticism of Literature in Africa*. *African Literary Journal* invites papers from scholars interested in the development of eco-criticism in the literature of Africa and its Diaspora. Contributions may include research papers, text or book reviews, book news and publications information, photographs, drawings, and artistic impressions. Please direct all submissions to Charles Smith at ircalc_nnp@yahoo.co.uk or Chin Ce at ccce@37.com.

see CFPs on page 14



Wind on the dunes, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Manitoba, Canada. Photo by Lewis Ulman.

CFPs continued from page 13

No deadline given. *The Fourth River: Nature and Culture*, the journal of Chatham College's MFA program, is moving to a print format in May 2005. *The Fourth River* is interested in literature and art that represent, engage, and explore the relationship between the human world and the natural environment. We want work that is thoughtful but not cautious, daring but richly situated at the intersections of place, space and identity. Please send your best work to *Fourth River*, Chatham College, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15232. More information is at fourthriver.chatham.edu.

No deadline given. *Wild Thoughts* publishes environmental fiction and non-fiction online twice each week. Essays range from 400 to 2000 words, and authors retain all rights to their work. The magazine focuses on all incarnations of environmental writing. For more information, visit www.wildthoughts.org/.

No deadline given. *The McNeese Review*. The new editor invites submissions to *The McNeese Review*, which has been published since 1948 and serves as a forum for articles and essays in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Articles and essays should be of a high scholarly standard but also directed towards an audience of multiple disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. Articles firmly rooted in a specific discipline are welcome, as are works that explicitly utilize interdisciplinary approaches. For more information, contact Jacob Blevins, Editor, *The McNeese Review*, McNeese State University, P.O. Box 93465, Lake Charles, LA 70609-3465.



Sustaining Members

Bruce Allen
Shelley Armitage
Roxanne Bok
Laird Christensen
John Felstiner
Janice Fiamengo
Cheryll Glotfelty
Ellen Goldey
Richard Hunt
John Knott
Paul Lindholt
Glen A. Love
Kevin Maier
Ian Marshall
Priscilla Paton
C.L. Rawlins
Randall Roorda
Scott Slovic
Rachel Stein
William Stowe
Stephen Topping
William E. Tydeman
Colleen Webster
Monica Weis



Patron Members

Lorraine Anderson
Marie Bongiovanni
Michael P. Branch
Terrell Dixon
John David Gresham
Annie Merrill Ingram &
Randy Ingram
Walter Isle
Shoko Itoh
John Lane & Betsy Teter
Mark C. Long
Jeri Pollock-Leite
Steven Marx
John Sitter
Lisa Slappey
Adam Sweeting
H. Lewis Ulman
Fred Waage
Allison B. Wallace
Jim Warren

With your support, ASLE publishes a biannual journal, ISLE, a newsletter, sponsors regular symposia, and hosts a conference every other year.

All this work is accomplished through members who volunteer their time.

Your contributions, though, support ASLE's operating costs. If you consider the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment to be one of your primary intellectual and creative homes, please consider joining your friends and colleagues by giving an additional gift.

Interested in Literature and the Environment? Join ASLE!

ASLE members receive:

- Two issues per year of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, the field's foremost journal of academic criticism and creative writing
- Two issues per year of *ASLE News*, the newsletter of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment
- Access to collegial conversations and networking on the ASLE-sponsored listservs
- Mentoring for graduate students
- Lots of opportunities to meet new colleagues and friends in fun, creative, and engaging conferences and symposia

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.)

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Preferred mailing address _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Fax number _____

Email address _____

Research/writing interests _____

Regular Membership—\$40 (\$20 students)

Gift Membership—\$40

Couples Membership—\$50*

Sustaining Membership—\$75**

Patron Membership—Above \$75**

Donor Membership—**

International members, please add \$10 USD to the appropriate category.

Total Enclosed _____

* Couples: Please send contact information for both people.

** Names of sustaining, patron, and donor members will be published in *ASLE News* unless anonymity is requested.

Please make checks payable to ASLE. All checks must be in U.S. dollars, drawn on U.S. banks. International members may pay by Visa or MasterCard.

Send this form, along with your check or credit card information (type of card, card number and expiration date), to:

Amy McIntyre, Managing Director, ASLE, P.O. Box 502, Keene, NH, 03431

If you are interested in an institutional subscription to *ISLE*, please contact Tracy Sangster at sangster@unr.nevada.edu.



ASLE News Editor
Karla Armbruster
English Department
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119



*New Year's thaw, Franklin
County, Ohio. Photo by Lewis
Ulman.*