



# ASLE News

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

Spring 1997

Volume 9, Number 1

## President's Column

♦ This has been a busy Spring for the ASLE leadership. The 1997 conference in Missoula is off to a fine start, thanks to the generous efforts of Hank Harrington and the staff of the University of Montana Office of Continuing Education. Those of you who submitted proposals for the program have already received the registration brochure and complete preliminary program, both of which we hope will generate wide interest in the conference. We have lined up a great slate of keynote panelists and readers, including Gary Snyder, Pattiann Rogers, and Rick Bass. The Montana rendezvous should be stimulating, challenging, and entertaining. Plan to be there!

♦ I'd like to say a word about how the program came together. We received over 400 proposals for papers, readings, and poster sessions, the overwhelming majority of very good quality. ASLE aims to be an inclusive organization, and we were able to accommodate most submissions. Melissa Walker handled the roundtables and publishers' exhibits, and Don Scheese and I put the program together during a marathon weekend in Cincinnati in late February. Thanks to Dan (and a fancy database), we were able to send the whole thing to Montana on disk so that the program could be in your hands before the end of May. If you haven't seen the program, it is now available on the Web, via the ASLE Homepage, linked to the University of Montana WebSite: <http://wsrv.clas.virginia.edu/~djp2n/conf/conferences.html>.

♦ Meanwhile, ASLE officers and executive council members are working to help ASLE make the transition from a small nascent fellowship run by its founders to a large, growing, and sustainable organization. I have invited the officers, executive council, and others involved with major ASLE projects to convene for a planning retreat before the July conference. We intend to discuss the mission of ASLE, develop budget priorities and regular financial procedures, set long and short term program goals, and brainstorm new ways to serve and involve the membership on a regular basis. If you have issues you'd like to have us consider, please send them to me via email: [jtall@interramp.com](mailto:jtall@interramp.com).

♦ One big topic on our agenda will be *ISLE*, which ASLE agreed to publish in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities at the University of Nevada, Reno. Due to a variety of circumstances that *ISLE* editor, Scott Slovic, explains in his report on page 16, *ISLE* has been held up in the production pipeline, and many subscribers have begun to lose confidence in both the journal and in ASLE. To deal with this crisis, we have taken two actions. First, in consultation with ASLE officers, we advanced a large sum from ASLE's treasury to cover the costs of producing the three outstanding issues of *ISLE* in time for the July conference; these are at the printer and will reach subscribers by July. Second, we have developed a financial and management

plan to insure timely production of the journal for at least the next four years. This plan provides for UNR's Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities to handle all editorial and production matters except printing, and for ASLE to adopt a combined fee structure whereby all members would receive an *ISLE* subscription as part of their regular membership.

♦ The combined fee would give ASLE sufficient funds to cover its share of publication costs, maintain normal operations, and support new projects. We would like to establish a fee that would not have to be raised for at least four years, and which would be lower than the current cost for ASLE membership plus subscription. In other words, we want a good deal for everyone. The details will be worked out at the planning retreat and presented at the ASLE Town Meeting right after the conference. Any alterations in this vital component of ASLE's daily operations will be detailed in the fall issue of *ASLE News*. If you have any thoughts on this, please send them to me.

♦ Other ASLE projects are moving steadily toward fruition. The syllabus collection compiled by our graduate liaisons, Peter Blakemore and Laird Christensen, is nearly done and should be available by July. The book of papers from the 1995 conference is due out soon, and we have received queries from several publishers interested in publishing papers from the Missoula conference as well. We are considering several proposals for hosting the 2001 conference. (If your institution would like to be considered, please get in touch with me.) We are continuing to pursue affiliate organization status with the MLA in hopes of increasing such things as ASLE's visibility and professional viability, as well as job opportunities for our members (even though most of us would rather go camping).

♦ To conclude on a personal note, I would like to thank Mike Branch for his invaluable leadership and inspiring example during the past year, when I was learning the ropes as vice-president. That office has now passed to Molly Westling, who promises to bring a new level of wisdom and honor to our young organization. I also want to acknowledge the good, committed work of out-going Executive Council members Mark Schlenz and Stan Tag, and to welcome in their place Chris Cokinos and David Teague. Working with the committed, smart, and creative folks on the executive council has been a joyful experience. The synergy and good will at work in this community is a constant source of inspiration to me. Perhaps it arises from our mutual dedication to something larger than departments or careers, namely, the establishment of healthy and honorable relations with the earth.

John Tallmadge, Union Institute  
President, ASLE

## Letter from ASLE Vice-President

♦I am honored to have been chosen as this year's ASLE Vice-President and next year's President. But at the same time, it is a bit daunting to have to follow the remarkably energetic group of people who created the organization and got it running in so lively and effective a way during the short space of four years. I was present at the organizational meeting in Reno, during the Western Literature Association Conference of 1992, and I marveled at the ambitious plans that Cheryll Glotfelty, Scott Slovic, and Mike Branch were generating. Now of course the plans have become realities, and John Tallmadge has shepherded ASLE through some important transitions and planned for an exciting second ASLE conference to be held in Missoula this July with some 400 presentations by participants from many countries.

♦My goals as president will be rather simple. I want to follow John and Cheryll, Scott, and Mike in continuing to make ASLE's organizational processes and structures efficient. I will also continue their efforts to increase membership both in the

U.S. and abroad. The more networks and relationships we can shape, the likelier we are to have a serious effect on the cultural work necessary to develop an environmental consciousness. That purpose suggests an important issue that has recently arisen regarding the degree to which ASLE should be linked to environmental activism. I think we need to spend the next year or two carefully working out our approach to this question. But basically, I will hope to work with John and the other ASLE officers to learn how we can remain a vital forum for the widest kind of ecocritical thinking and writing that includes both professional academics and members of the larger community.

♦I look forward to communicating with as many ASLE members as possible in pursuit of these goals. Please let me know what you want the organization to do, where you think there may be weaknesses or problems, and what are the most productive directions for our future work. See you in Missoula!

Louise Westling, University of Oregon  
Vice-President, ASLE

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

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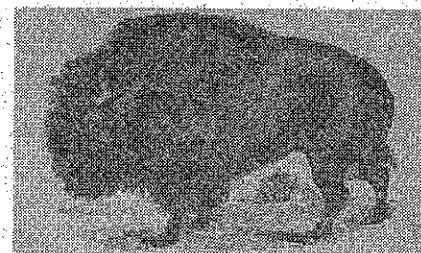
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## By Way of Bison: An ASLE Roundtable Discussion



*It was a hard, cold winter in the Yellowstone Basin. Substantial snowfalls were followed by periods of freezing rain which were followed in turn by more snow. And still more. Whatever topographical changes are wrought by such severe weather, one imagines that most boundaries become blurred, indistinguishable. The last wild herd of American Bison which makes its home in Yellowstone National Park was forced to seek shelter and grazeable land at lower elevations—elevations that brought them onto ranch land beyond the park boundaries. The neighboring ranchers, concerned that the bison would infect their cattle herds with the disease brucellosis, contacted state authorities (including the Département of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Livestock, and what became known as "the Yellowstone bison slaughter" began. By early January, 1997, bison that had wandered beyond the Yellowstone borders were being shot or sent to slaughter houses. By late March more than 2,000 bison—more than half of the park herd—had died; half of them had succumbed to the brutal winter, the other half to the management plan of the National Park Service and Montana State officials.*

*ASLE members expressed their concerns and frustrations about the bison slaughter in a number of ways: the ASLE listserv was lit up with passionate postings, calls for action and circulated petitions; some ASLE members suggested that we move the conference to another state in protest against Montana wildlife policies; others felt that ASLE's purpose was not and should not be about politics, per se, whatever "issue" we might be confronted with. The question—which might come down to the role of advocacy (individual or organizational) in literary scholarship—is of course a complex one. It is with the hope of bringing these issues and questions to all ASLE members, that I have organized this Roundtable discussion. As we approach ASLE's second national conference, I hope that the following statements help us all to reflect on ASLE's "mission,"—as it is now expressed in the bylaws and as it may yet evolve. I also hope that they provide food for thought for a more in-depth "roundtable" that will be held during the Conference (July 17, at 3:15). Participants will include ASLE members and local environmental activists and journalists.—ed.*

### **POLITICS ABHORS A VACUUM**

ASLE's non-response to the bison slaughter is circumscribed by how the ecocritical project has been defined until now. John Tallmadge's post on the ASLE listserv, in which he notes that ASLE is an "educational professional society" and not an "advocacy group," parallels Cheryl Glotfelty's definition of ecocriticism in *The Ecocriticism Reader*. She writes that "Simply put, ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment." Apparently underwriting the claims of Tallmadge and Glotfelty is the ideal of scholarly detachment, which then gets used by ASLE to foreclose consideration of its own "relationship" with the physical environment.

♦ The relationship between ASLE's conference literature and the northern Rockies environment reveals the danger of claiming this ostensibly neutral position. The promotional literature for the conference offers four pages of general information, with a one page registration insert. Appearing twice in those pages are illustrations of bison. The bison illustration appears next to the bold-faced, large font heading "Recreational Opportunities." The bison illustration on the registration insert appears next to the bold-faced, large font heading "ASLE Conference Recreational Activities." These illustrations, in the well-intentioned vacuum of ASLE's non-response, fill in as signifiers of the relationship between "the study" being done by ecocritics and this region: the bison represent Montana wilderness, which offers itself up to ASLE for recreational purposes. Never mind how ASLE's disavowal of its own relationship to the physical environment leaves unchallenged the vilification of bison by the cattle industry and by advocates of the sanctity of private property, or how the eschewal of ethical and political responsibility supports yet

another act of imperial aggression against Native American cultures. We are simply students of literature and environment. And we're on summer vacation!

♦ A rethinking of what it means to be an "educational professional society"—what it means to "study" "relationships"—is in order. As Glotfelty also notes in her definition of ecocriticism in *The Ecocriticism Reader*, "all ecological criticism shares the fundamental premise that human culture is connected to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it". ASLE should not claim exemption from human culture of the basis of scholarly detachment. ASLE members, most of whom occupying positions in university humanities departments, are primarily cultural workers. Let us redefine the ecocritical project with our cultural responsibilities in mind.

Bob Mellin, Wayne State University

### **PRESERVING A DIVERSITY OF IDEAS**

The germ of the ASLE mission statement asserts that ASLE exists "to promote the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to literature that considers the relationship between human beings and the natural world." Of course, some of these "ideas" and "information" should and do represent the activist concerns of our members, which is why we often organize conference and colloquia discussions (and forums such as this one) around questions regarding the relationship between scholarship and activism. However, I believe it is vital that we maintain a distinction between our stated mission to "promote the exchange of ideas"—all ideas—and an alternative mission to promote a particular set of ideas.

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◆ ASLE has gone from being a small group of twenty-five interested readers to being a 900-member organization with international affiliates, a major conference, a scholarly journal, a newsletter, international symposia, websites and Internet discussion groups, an annotated bibliography, a graduate handbook, a collection of syllabi (forthcoming), a mentoring program, an annotated journals list (forthcoming), numerous affiliations with other scholarly associations, and other projects too numerous to mention. In doing so, we have also helped hundreds of people to connect and share views, publish ideas, get jobs, attend symposia and conferences, and achieve the credibility necessary to move literature and environment into the curriculum and into the discourse of the academy; likewise, we have brought our interests to the pages of the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Chronicle*, and countless scholarly journals. Indeed, it is because we have aggressively pursued our stated mission that this very discussion of scholarship and activism is now taking place.

◆ ASLE members constitute a surprisingly diverse group of people. We come from different countries; different religious, social, and economic backgrounds; and different political and ideological orientations. We are creative writers, literary scholars, historians, activists, philosophers, resource managers, biologists, painters, government officials, lobbyists; we are teachers, ranchers, priests. If ASLE were to function as an activist organization—by which I mean an organization that promotes one set of ideas rather than promoting the open exchange of all ideas—those who disagree with the politics of a particular ASLE administration would vanish, leaving those of us who already agree talking amongst ourselves.

◆ I hope that I will always have the opportunity to devote my energies to political action on behalf of environmental protection. ASLE members who care about the land and its creatures *should* organize people—people including but not limited to other ASLE members—around their interests and concerns. However, I think it would be our loss if ASLE (and of course I mean ASLE as an organization, not ASLE members) were to adopt an explicitly activist agenda that might threaten the open exchange of diverse ideas that our mission statement asks us to reserve and promote.

Michael Branch, University of Nevada, Reno

### ETHICS, ACTION, AND INSTITUTIONS

Having come to rely on the ASLE discussion list for information, inspiration, and a sense of shared values, I found the recent discussion regarding the slaughter of much of the bison herd at Yellowstone both educational and distressing.

◆ Three main perspectives seemed to emerge: those who want to consider environmental issues within a “reform” agenda that assumes there is not link between global capitalism, social justice concerns, and threats to the environment; those (including myself) who see urgent connections among all these; and those who seem to feel that discussion of issues of environmental action or policy is inappropriate to an academic organization such as ASLE, suggesting, quite logically, that other organizations are available for political and activist concerns. The difficulty here, I think, is that even if an organization one belongs to is not primarily activist, one wants to respect its ethical positions.

◆ Some ASLE members seemed to see no conflict of interest between the scientifically and morally unjustified killing of the

bison in Montana, and our organization’s covenying in Missoula this summer. Others saw a conflict of interest, but felt that to take action would threaten the organization, and thus came down on the side of keeping the discussion as limited and as quiet as possible. What strikes me as odd about this is that other “activist” postings have appeared fairly often on the ASLE list, and have in fact been helpful and informative, at least to me and my students. I wonder if there might have been an unconscious desire to avoid an ethical dilemma that came so close to us.

◆ A few years ago the American Historical Association went so far as to move its convention from Colorado only seven months prior to their convention—changing plans that had been in place for two years—in protest against the passage of laws discriminating against gays and lesbians. This courageous, and difficult stand was made in response to a legal and ethical issue that might arguably have less obvious (though no less valid) connection to the AHA’s mission than the bison killing must have for any organization which has the word “environment” in its title. We at ASLE have settled for a less difficult and less emphatic action, but at least attention is being paid. Through the persistence and hard work of a few people, and the concern of others on the list, a petition was circulated and sent to appropriate “officials”; and a roundtable has been organized and admitted to the Missoula conference program. The roundtable includes activists locally involved in the issue as well as two members of ASLE, and the resulting dialogue should prove to be of genuine significance.

◆ It is almost “poetic,” isn’t it, that we should be faced with the issue of the bison—themselves highly symbolic of the connections between myth, politics, social justice, and environmental destruction—in the very year that we meet in Montana? That we came so close to ignoring that poetic justice/injustice is amazing. For me at least, it would have damaged much of the value of ASLE, had we dashed ourselves upon those rocks. I have seen too much in my academic life of what I might call institutional moral shipwreck!



Thomas Pennant, *History of Quadrupeds* (1793)

◆ Instead, in our discussion of the bison issue we were able to witness ourselves and each other in a process of growth, exchanging ideas and perspectives, and seeking appropriate action. I’m grateful that we have kept talking about these issues and have been moving forward in our understanding of the relations between environmental literature and environmental (political) action.

Charlotte Zoe Walker, SUNY Oneonta



## LITERATURE, ETHICS AND ACTIVISM

♦ Christian traditions of morality center primarily on direct relations of human beings to one another and to God. They tell us relatively little about our relations to institutions and less still about bonds with animals and plants, let alone complete environments. Other traditions including those of Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Native Americans may provide alternative sources of inspiration, but they were also developed in circumstances very different from those which confront us today. Over the past few decades, a substantial literature has been produced on such subjects as environmental ethics and animal rights.

The ideas presented in this literature, however, remain abstract, and we will need decades, if not centuries, to integrate them into the patterns of everyday life.

♦ In natural environments we not only confront issues which place the interests of one human group against those of others. We not only weigh the interests of human beings against those of other living things. We also must constantly balance the conflicting interests of various species: deer against trees, puffins against gulls, rabbits against wolves. As Gene Namkoong has put it, "there are so many different beneficiaries and different values affected by forests that ethical issues can obviously be as complex as are the biological dynamics."

♦ Ethics, particularly with reference to the natural world, is one area where literature, so trivialized and marginalized in most of our society, can still make a tremendous difference. Without the guidance of comprehensive secular or religious traditions, we must rely more than ever on the creative imagination to negotiate ethical complexities. Poets must help us to envision alternatives, while critics must assist us in choosing among them. This is why organizations such as ASLE should not ignore such issues as the slaughter of bison in Montana. It is also, however, a reason why ASLE is not obligated, as an organization, to articulate an official position. Organizations with a purely social agenda can often, in the context of their traditions, assume an ethical consensus. The problem for them is simply a matter of tactics and of will. We in ASLE, by contrast, are trying to create new traditions rather than simply to realize familiar ones. Through publicizing the slaughter of bison, we may facilitate traditional activism, but the mandate of ASLE is more visionary than pragmatic.

♦ Traditional activism is based on human solidarity, whether in a union, social class or ethnicity. Because of this, even the most radical movements reinforce received categories and, thereby, the status quo. This is probably why these movements are usually domesticated by society within a generation or two. We not only challenge the goals but also the dynamics of traditional activism when we proclaim our solidarity with rivers, trees or bison.

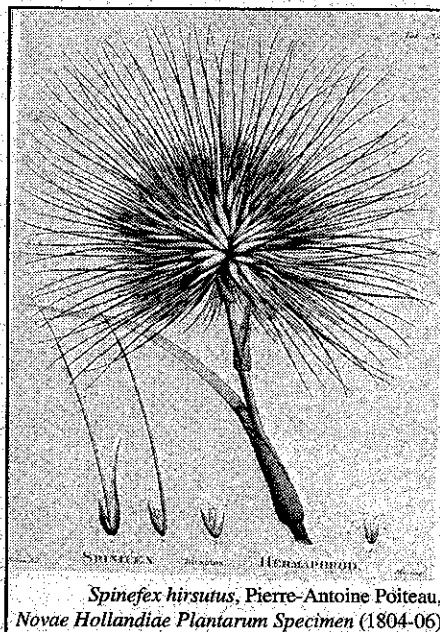
Boria Sax, NILAS: "Nature in Legend & Story"

## Notes from the Editor's Desk

♦ This issue of *ASLE News* is certainly one of the largest we have had. This is partly due to our decision to include the brochure for ASLE's forthcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference (see pages 8-13 for information & registration form). Even without a conference program, the Missoula gathering looks to be a dynamic and multifaceted event. If you, as a conference participant, have already received a brochure, I hope you will share the enclosed version with a friend or colleague and invite them to join us on (or at least near) the banks of the Bitterroot, Clark Fork, Grant,

Pattee, and Rattlesnake Rivers. This is the heart of the heart of Hugo Country (Richard, not Victor), Maclean Country (Norman, not Don), and Guthrie Country (A.B., not Woody, or even Arlo), and, as such, the natural and cultural resonances promise to be rich.

♦ But another reason for the *News's* heft is, I think, that ASLE continues to grow and flourish. This is partly demonstrated by the fact that almost 100 more copies of this issue went into the mail than last fall's issue. Also, this issue brings to light some of our inevitable and, I think, healthy, growing pains. John Tallmadge's and Scott Slovic's missives (pages 1 & 16, respectively) both highlight our determination to identify institutional sore spots and urge them toward vitality and dependability. Though there was considerable, and often quite heated debate about how ASLE, as an organization, should best respond to the state-of-Montana-sanctioned



slaughter of more than half of the last wild herd of bison in Yellowstone National Park, I hope the tenor of the debate (as demonstrated in the roundtable discussion that starts on page 3), serves as a centripetal rather than centrifugal force. Molly Westling's remembrance of Paul Shepard (page 7), marks the passing of one of our preeminent forebears. Sad to say, there have been others. The too-sudden vanishings of Sherman Paul, Roger Tory Peterson, and Wallace Stegner, make us all reflect on lives fully- and fruitfully-lived. The road here would have been far less certain and far more arduous without them.

♦ At the same time, there has been a word-hoard of new, exciting books coming out in the field of literature and environment. Many of these are by ASLE members (see page 6, and please let me know if you have titles you'd like to see "shelved" in future incarnations of the *ASLE Bookshelf*). On that note, you may want to make room in your conference schedule for the Friday afternoon (July 18<sup>th</sup>) reception for ASLE authors—this will give you a chance to put a face beside the eloquent and informed voices that have been so influential to you all these years. Mike Branch's nostalgic "view" (see page 14) that few on his dissertation committee even knew who John Muir was, is countered by the recent decision by the distinguished imprint, The Library of America, to bring out a collection of Muir's finest nature writing—an act of canonization that is, no doubt, for better and for worse. Such publishing decisions are rarely made out of some purely altruistic, bibliophilic sensibility, but out of good, old-

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## The ASLE Bookshelf

If the breadth and depth of the ASLE Conference program isn't evidence enough of the remarkable productivity and felicity (creative, scholarly, artistic, philosophical) of ASLE members, we are inaugurating a Newsletter feature wherein books and significant accomplishments by ASLE members can be announced. So, in the best tradition of singing and celebrating ourselves (shameless promotion and bolstered booksales notwithstanding), here is a sampling of recent work (I didn't dare go further back than 1995) by ASLE members. N.B. If you have a book that we should know about, please send word of it to me. —ed.

- Rick Bass. *The Book of Yaak*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996.  
 —. *In the Loyal Mountains: Stories*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995.  
 —. *The Lost Grizzlies: A Search for Survivors in the Wilderness of Colorado*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995.
- Stuart C. Brown and Carl G. Herndl, eds. *Green Culture: Environmental Rhetoric in Contemporary America*. Wisconsin, 1996.
- Lawrence Buell. *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*. Harvard, 1995.
- SueEllen Campbell. *Bringing the Mountain Home*. Arizona, 1996.
- Jim Dwyer, ed. *Earth Works: Recommended Fiction and Nonfiction about Nature and the Environment for Adults and Young Adults*. Neal-Schuman, 1996.
- John Elder, ed. *American Nature Writing*. Scribner's, 1996.
- Cheryl Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, eds. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Georgia, 1996.
- Gretchen Legler. *All the Powerful Invisible Things: A Sportswoman's Notebook*. Seal Press, 1995.
- Patrick D. Murphy. *Literature, Nature, and Other: Ecofeminist Critiques*. SUNY, 1995.
- Gary Paul Nabhan and Stephen L. Buchmann. *The Forgotten Pollinators*. Island, 1996.
- Daniel G. Payne. *Voices in the Wilderness: American Nature Writing & Environmental Politics*. New England, 1996.
- Diane Dufva Quantic. *The Nature of the Place: A Study of Great Plains Fiction*. Nebraska, 1995.
- C.L. Rawlins. *Broken Country: Mountains and Memory*. Holt, 1996.
- David Robertson. *Real Matter*. Utah, 1997.
- Scott Russell Sanders (& Robert Hynes, illustrator). *Meeting Trees*. National Geographic, 1997.
- . *Writing from the Center*. Indiana, 1995.
- Don Scheese. *Nature Writing: The Pastoral Impulse in America*. Twayne, 1996.
- Richard J. Schneider, ed. *Approaches to Teaching Thoreau's Walden and Other Works*. MLA, 1996.
- Gary Snyder. *A Place in Space: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Watersheds*. Counterpoint, 1995.
- . *Mountains and Rivers Without End*. Counterpoint, 1996.
- John Tallmadge. *Meeting the Tree of Life: A Teacher's Path*. Utah, 1997.
- Mitchell Thomashow. *Ecological Identity: Becoming a Reflective Environmentalist*. MIT, 1995.
- Stephen Trimble and Terry Tempest Williams, compilers. *Testimony: Writers of the West Speak On Behalf of Utah Wilderness*. Milkweed, 1996.
- Gyorgyi Voros. *Notations of the Wild: Ecology in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens*. Iowa, 1997.
- Laura Dassow Walls. *Seeing New Worlds: Henry David Thoreau & Nineteenth-Century Natural Science*. Wisconsin, 1995.
- Louise Westling. *The Green Breast of the New World: Landscape, Gender, & American Fiction*. Georgia, 1996.
- Ann Zwinger. *Downcanyon: A Naturalist Explores the Colorado River Through Grand Canyon*. Arizona, 1995.
- . *Yosemite: Valley of Thunder*. Harper Collins, 1996.
- Susan Zwinger (& Jeff Garton, photographer). *Still Wild, Always Wild: A Journey into the Desert Wilderness of California*. Sierra Club, 1997.

## Ecocriticism and the European Community: A Conference Report

♦ Swansea is an industrial city on the edge of the old South Wales coalfield (all but one of the deep pits are closed now). Swansea is also a seaside resort with a strong urban flavour: arcades, pubs, motorbikes, blasts of music, shout of laughter. Across the bay the huge Port Talbot steelworks is like another city, humming and flashing at night. Swimmers nearby are reported to have shown symptoms of poisoning because of pollutions from the city. Behind the coastal strip are scree slopes and mountains, and immediately to the west of Swansea is the Gower peninsula: moors, woods running down to long sandy beaches, adders basking beside paths, ponies standing in groups at the sea's edge, old tyres lying in the heather.

♦ In March, the University of Wales at Swansea hosted a conference entitled "Literature and the Natural Environment", organized by Greg Garrard. The conference centre was Clyne Castle, a Victorian folly, surrounded by botanical gardens and a short walk

from the sea. The mornings were misty but warm; trees were dripping steadily and birds calling everywhere. Breakfast was bacon, eggs and lava-bread, a local seaweed dish. And then the conference papers....

♦ By my reckoning, this was only the second conference in Britain devoted to ecocriticism, and the first to include a good proportion of American speakers. My desire for a dialogue between British and American perspectives was given a sharp nudge by Jonathan Bate's characteristically graceful, clear and provocative opening plenary. After discussing Rousseau, Malthus and W.H. Hudson's *Green Mansions*, he ended with what he called the "melancholy" suggestion that environmental aesthetic sensibilities were so likely, in practice, to produce authoritarian politics that literary environmentalism, at least, should restrict itself to the artistic and imaginative sphere; should be a poetics rather than a politics. This was in punishing contrast, at Bate acknowledged, to his eloquent

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continued from page 6

recommendation of the turn "from red to green" in *Romantic Ecology* (1991), the book which seemed to inaugurate British ecocriticism. Bate seemed now to be recoiling from what he saw as the dangers of having a politics emerge from an aesthetics. If one immediate response is to doubt the sheer practicability of such Rortyan separation of the private and public spheres, then Bate's argument raises fears about the dangers, even, of environmentalist aesthetics. A debate ensued, which resurfaced at different points in the conference. Greg Garrard's paper, in a substantial panel session on environmentalism and D. H. Lawrence, explored Lawrence's ambivalent fascination with Nietzsche's concept of "a gay science." Garrard, sharing some of Bate's concerns, argued that Lawrence's version of Nietzschean amoral joy in nature turned disturbingly frequently to a belief in the unrestrained rule of the strong and instinctual, nature's aristocrats. How, Garrard asked, could "an adequate conception of the moral value of the human person" be reintroduced to environmental ethics? Martin Ryle's paper, in another session, seemed to underline this question by pointing out how in British cultural politics the ideas of nature and "organic community" had so often been associated with the pre-industrial rule of feudal aristocracy.

♦ To American ecocritics, the argument may sound trapped and laboured, given that American environmentalism, while continuing to confront its own involvement with "frontier" and "wilderness" myths, has long given significant space to ecofeminists and Native American writers. Environmentalism is much more strongly established in the United States—and much of the rest of the world—as a movement in alliance with oppressed groups (though, in the U.S., environmentalism is able to occupy this space partly because of the historical weakness of socialist traditions). Without having set out specifically to respond to Bate, many of the American contributors, including the plenary speakers Patrick Murphy and Lawrence Buell, gave him a partial answer. Both outlined the possibilities of a dialogic, multi-cultural, multi-perspectival and self-consciously "situated" environmental writing. What the debate seemed to call for—and what it began to articulate, which is why Bate's provocation was so valuable—was British ecocriticism's emergence from traditions of pastoral alternative to modernity, into more materialist and contemporary forms.

♦ But I have imposed this dialectic on the whole conference; and it wasn't like that. Many papers were powerful and intriguing in their engagement with other topics and arguments. Lots I wanted to attend but couldn't. One I will mention is Christina Lupton's brilliant cultural analysis of the view of Southern English chalk downland seen from the window of her student hostel at Sussex University, which she connected with the patriotic ideal imaged by soldiers at the front in World War One, and with colonial perceptions of colonised landscapes as excess, needing to be filled.

♦ The conference had a *ceilidh*. Distinguished lecturers were dragged struggling onto the dance floor to take part in complicated barn dances. There was a coach-trip into the rain-drenched Gower. There were readings of nature-writing and poetry. And I met some of the friends I knew from the ASLE e-mail group. And, as we came back from the pub, there was Hale-Bopp, over the city and over the Welsh mountains.

Richard Kerridge, Bath College of Higher Education

## In Memoriam, Paul Shepard (1925-1996)

♦ The obituary in *The Salt Lake Tribune* called Paul Shepard "a man outside his own time." Although he wrote many books and taught for some 40 years at four different colleges, he was never a typical scholar or professor.

♦ He earned his Ph.D. in the new interdisciplinary conservation program at Yale in the early 1950s and remained an interdisciplinary thinker all his life, pursuing his own ecological purposes outside of traditional fields. For this reason his ground-breaking books such as *Man in the Landscape* and *Nature and Madness* never achieved wide recognition.

♦ In the classroom he was a challenging, unconventional presence as well. "I've never fit the Warmheart role even if I wanted to," he said. But students remember him as a humble, gentle teacher with a terrifying intellect and a profound relationship with nature.

♦ Shepard grew up in Kansas, where he collected butterflies and birds' eggs as a child and kept turtles, owls, crows and other animals as pets. He spent his adolescence in the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri, hunting and fishing with his horticulturist father. During college summers he worked in national parks, but later the Park Service banned him forever from employment because he organized a letter-writing campaign protesting the logging of the Olympic National Park.

♦ At the end of his life, Shepard intensified his writing activity in a race against the lung cancer that finally claimed him at the age of seventy-one. His books are jeremiads against the domestication and sentimentalization of the natural world that make many readers uncomfortable. For him, pets are drooling slaves infantilized to please desperate human needs for relationships with animal "others," zoos are concentration camps, nature writing is "a spurious substitute for experience in the natural world," and the animal rights movement is sentimental hysteria. These positions are important challenges to common assumptions among environmentalists. They will continue to tease and trouble us for years to come.

♦ Lucian Marquis, a longtime friend of Shepard's at Pitzer College where he taught for the last twenty years of his career, recalls an experience that typifies Paul Shepard. It offers a fitting coda to a remarkable life. A small hawk had flown into his artist wife Jane Marquis's studio, and seemed about to destroy the stained glass window she was working on. They called Paul Shepard for help. "He came and in the blink of an eye had the hawk in his ungloved hand. It was clear from Paul's body-language that he really didn't want to let the hawk fly away. He held it in his hand and gave us a dissertation on the kinds of hawks to be found in North America—and then he opened his hands and the bird flew up, circled our little group once and disappeared. Jane in assessing the damage found only one broken pane which had the word *night* engraved on it."

♦ There was a memorial service at the Episcopal Cathedral of Saint Mark in Salt Lake City. One of its most dramatic moments came when Paul Winter, musician and composer—a longtime friend of Shepard's—played an instrumental solo "Wolf Eyes," which began with the recorded howling of wolves, followed by a soprano sax solo and ending with the howling of the whole congregation.

Louise Westling, University of Oregon

# The Second Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

Missoula, Montana  
July 17-19, 1997  
"The Last Best Place"

ASLE's second biennial conference will be held at The University of Montana, Missoula, on July 17-19, 1997. We hope to build upon the spectacular success of our first conference, held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, in June, 1995, which drew more than three hundred scholars, writers, and teachers. We are planning the 1997 conference to combine a great location with abundant academic sessions, a varied and capacious program, planned recreation, evening readings and entertainment. Our goal is to make this event more fun and rewarding than the typical academic conference, to maintain our literary focus while reaching out to other disciplines and sectors of environmental practice, and to achieve both a high level of scholarship and a strong sense of community.

The conference is being planned by ASLE's officers and executive council, and coordinated by Conference Director Hank Harrington and President-Elect John Tallmadge. Registration, housing, and other site and local arrangements are being handled by the Office of Conferences and Institutes of The University of Montana's Center for Continuing Education.

## Academic Sessions

### Keynote Plenary Sessions

There will be one keynote plenary session each morning. The conference will open with a panel of seniors scholars whose thought and writings helped constitute the field of literature and environment. They will share their reflections on the growth and development of the field in a discussion moderated by Cheryl Glotfelty. Panelists include Thomas J. Lyon of Utah State University, editor of *Western American Literature* and author of *This Incomparable Land: A Book of American Nature Writing*; Joseph Meeker of the Union Institute, author of *The Comedy of Survival*; Ann Zwinger, author of *Down the River* and recipient of the Orion Society's John Hay Award; and Louise Westling of the University of Oregon, author of *The Green Breast of the New World*.

The second plenary session will feature a keynote panel of scholars and writers whose work is actively defining future directions for our field. Participants include philosopher and magician David Abram, author of *The Spell of the Sensuous*; Shoko Itoh of Hiroshima University, translator of Thoreau; David Robertson of the University of California-Davis, author of *Real Matter*; and Pulitzer Prize winning poet and essayist Gary Snyder, author of *Turtle Island*, *No Nature*, and *The practice of the Wild*. Sean O'Grady will moderate. The third keynote session will feature a reading by Montana writer and activist Rick Bass, author of *Platte River* and *The Book of Yaak*. Rick is a member of ASLE's advisory board and powerful advocate for wilderness in the northern Rockies.

### Paper Sessions

Paper sessions will last one hour and 15 minutes, with four presenters. To facilitate more conversation and dialogue at these sessions, participants will present rather than read their papers, and chairs will be encouraged to limit total delivery time to 15 minutes.

### Program Slots

The current program design provides for 5 periods each day, with ten concurrent academic sessions during each period except for the plenary sessions. Most periods will include a session of readings of original nature writing as well as one roundtable discussion. The poster session, to be held in the Davidson Honors College lounge, is scheduled for the fourth period of the second day of the conference.

### Evening Readings

On Thursday evening ASLE will host a banquet. Pattiann Rogers will read her poetry after dinner. Pattiann Rogers has published six books of poetry: *The Expectations of Light* (Princeton, 1981), *The Tattooed Lady in the Garden* (Wesleyan, 1986), *Legendary Performance* (Ion Press, 1987), *Splinting and Binding* (Wesleyan, 1989), *Geocentric* (Gibbs Smith, 1993), and *Firekeeper* (Milkweed, 1994), about which Barry Lopez has written, "If angels were to agree upon a language to describe creation, a tone of voice and a point of view that would adequately celebrate the divine, these would be the poems they would write." She has been a Guggenheim and Lannan Fellow and received two NEA awards for her work.

On Friday evening, Gary Snyder will read his poetry under the sky at Caras Park, about six blocks from the university along the Clark Fork River. This event is cosponsored by Wilderness Watch. Gary Snyder has published 16 books of poetry and prose. *Turtle Island* won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1975. *No Nature*, a volume of selected poems, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 1992. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent work is *Mountains and Rivers Without End*, which has been referred to as a "modern *Leaves of Grass*." Snyder began the epic poem in 1956 and it encompasses his experiences in Europe, North America, the Pacific Rim, East Asia, and the Arctic.



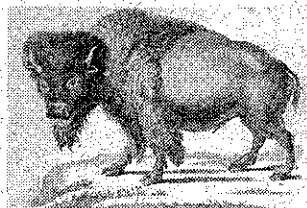
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# The ASLE Conference will also feature...



## Entertainment

On Wednesday evening, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Greg Keeler from Bozeman, Montana, and Sid Marty from Calgary, Alberta, will be singing their songs and satire on the plaza above the Urey Lecture Hall. Bring something soft to sit on and enjoy the fun.

## International Scholar's Reception

On Thursday evening, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center will host a reception to honor ASLE scholars from abroad. Invitations to this reception will be sent out under separate cover.

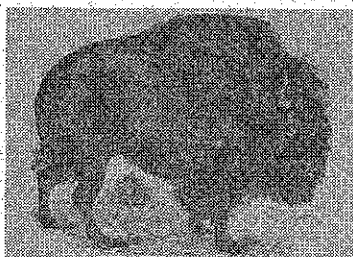
## Author's Reception

On Friday afternoon, following the day's last paper session, the University Center Bookstore will host a reception and book signing for all members of ASLE who have books in print. The reception will take place in the atrium of the University Center. In order to have books available for signing, ASLE authors must, by March 31, contact Stan Tag, Department of English, Albertson College of Idaho, 2112 Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, ID 83604 (208-459-5894 or stag@stimp.acofl.edu) with the title, publisher, and ISBN number of their work. Everyone attending the conference is invited to attend this reception which will last 1 hour and 15 minutes.

*and...*

## Recreational Opportunities

On the afternoons of Thursday (July 17) and Friday (July 18), there will be a number of field trips for ASLE Conference participants and their families. We have designed these field trips to acquaint participants with the history and natural history of western Montana, the site of the conference. All field trips will return in time for scheduled evening events, but the departure times of some of them will conflict with the last scheduled sessions on Thursday and Friday.



Comte de Buffon, *Natural History of Man, the Globe, and of Quadrupeds* (1857)

**Please see insert for more details and to register for these activities.**

Family trips are geared for children, ages 8-14. Parents are encouraged to come along and may bring younger children.

The modest charges for the field trips will cover the costs of transportation and a naturalist guide. The trips are being sponsored by the Montana Natural History Center who will use any additional proceeds from the trips to support their educational programs in the Northern Rockies Region. Advance reservations and payment for these recreational events can be made at the time of registering for the conference.

Recreational activities will be scheduled to begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. each day with the exception of the "Early Bird Trip" which will be held in the morning before the first session begins. Activities are:

### Thursday, July 17:

Pattee Canyon (Family oriented) for \$12.00/person  
Wallace Ranch for \$15.00/person  
Metcalf Wildlife Refuge for \$20.00/person  
Mt. Jumbo for \$12.00/person

### Friday, July 18:

Early Bird Trip (Family oriented) for \$7.00/person  
Blackfoot River Rafting for \$37.00/person  
National Bison Range for \$20.00/person  
Rattlesnake Creek for \$12.00/person

**All field trips will depart from the parking lot behind Pantzer Hall.**

In addition to these planned activities, the surrounding national forests offer spectacular opportunities for mountain bikers, rock climbers, and fishers of trout. Useful information about these activities can be obtained from the following retail stores:

Miller Barber's Streamside  
Anglers  
317 S. Orange  
Missoula, MT 59801  
Telephone: (800) XL-CATCH

Missoulain Angler  
420 N. Higgins Ave.  
Missoula, MT 59801  
Telephone: (800) 824-2450

Grizzly Hackle  
215 W. Front  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Telephone: (800) 297-8996

Pipstone Mountaineering  
101 South Higgins Ave.  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Telephone: (406) 721-1670

The Trailhead  
Higgins and Pine  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Telephone: (406) 543-6966



## On-Campus Lodging

Pantzer Hall is a smoke-free dormitory and only nonsmokers are assigned to this residence hall. Each suite has four private bedrooms (each equipped with a telephone), two bathrooms, common living room, storage closet, refrigerator and microwave oven. Pantzer Hall is 100% accessible to people with disabilities. Each room in Pantzer Hall's thirty suites costs \$22 per night.

Another on-campus dormitory will house ASLE participants at \$12.50 per person per night, double occupancy. Each dormitory room is equipped with a telephone. Bed linens are provided, and lavatory facilities are conveniently located on each floor. There is a no sleeping bag policy in the dormitories.

Conference attendees desiring alternate accommodations should reserve a motel room.

## Food

### Thursday Banquet/BBQ:

\$15 per person

### Conference Meal Plan:

\$25 per person for the following meals:

Thursday, July 17: box/bag lunch

(Remember to register for the ASLE Conference banquet/BBQ on Thursday)

Friday, July 18: box/bag lunch & cafeteria style dinner

Saturday, July 19: box/bag lunch

(Don't forget that Wilderness Watch is sponsoring a Western BBQ on Saturday night)

### Meals On-Your-Own:

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks may be purchased on a cash a la carte basis in the University Center Student Union Building. Headquarters during the ASLE Conference will be in The University of Montana's centrally located Urey Lecture Hall. Sessions will be held in ULH and nearby classroom buildings.

## Nearby Motels

Motels within walking distance (1/2 mile) of The University of Montana campus include the following. Call the motel of your choice directly to make your reservations.

Bel Aire Motel (moderate rates)  
300 E. Broadway  
Telephone: (406) 543-3183 or (800) 543-3184

Best Western Executive Motor Inn (moderate rates)  
201 E. Main  
Telephone: (406) 543-7221 or (800) 528-1234

Campus Inn (moderate rates)  
744 E. Broadway  
Telephone: (406) 549-5134 or (800) 232-8013

Creekside Inn (moderate rates)  
630 E. Broadway  
Telephone: (406) 549-2387 or (800) 551-2387

Goldsmiths Inn Bed & Breakfast (luxury rates)  
809 E. Front  
Telephone: (406) 721-6732

Holiday Inn Parkside (luxury rates)  
200 S. Pattee  
Telephone: (406) 721-8550 or (800) 399-0408

Hubbards Ponderosa Lodge (moderate rates)  
800 E. Broadway  
Telephone: (406) 543-3102 or (800) 341-8000

Thunderbird Motel (moderate rates)  
1009 E. Broadway  
Telephone: (406) 543-7251 or (800) 952-2400

Village Red Lion Inn (luxury rates)  
100 Madison Street  
Telephone: (406) 728-3100 or (800) 547-8010

## Camping Sites

El-Mar KOA  
3695 Tina Avenue  
5 miles from campus  
Telephone: (406) 549-0881

National Forest Campgrounds  
25-30 miles from campus  
Telephone: (406) 329-3750

## Contacts for More Information

### Registration:

Conferences & Institutes  
Center for Continuing Education  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812  
Telephone (406) 243-4600  
FAX (406) 243-2047  
E-mail cni@selway.umd.edu

### Program Content:

Dr. Hank Harrington  
Environmental Studies & English  
101 Jeannette Rankin Hall  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812-1084  
Telephone (406) 243-2904  
FAX (406) 243-6090  
E-mail hrh@selway.umd.edu

## Meeting Location

## T-shirts!

T-shirts with the (6-color) ASLE Conference Graphic will be available for sale for \$10.00 at the ASLE Conference registration desk in Urey Lecture Hall.



## Transportation

ASLE has selected Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines as the official air carriers and Wide World of Travel as the official travel agency for its biennial conference in Missoula. Both airlines are offering special fares for ASLE Conference participants. Compared to larger cities, Missoula has a limited number of flights in and out and mid-July is the peak tourist season, so ASLE Conference participants are encouraged to make early contact with Wide World of Travel (1-800-735-7109).

Missoula is served by Delta, Northwest, and Frontier/Alaska Airlines; by Greyhound and Intermountain buslines; and by automobile on Interstate Highway 90 from the east or west, U.S. Highway 93 from the north or south, and U.S. Highway 12 from the southwest.

A special ASLE Conference shuttle van will be available on Wednesday, July 16, and Sunday, July 20, to transport participants to and from the airport. Fare: \$5 each way.

Twenty-four hour taxi and Airport Shuttle services to and from the airport are available. Car rentals are available at the Missoula airport, but advance reservations are recommended. UM campus parking permits cost \$1 per day.

## Concurrent Events

The ASLE Executive Council will hold a planning retreat the day before the conference.

Wilderness Watch will be holding their first national conference Friday through Sunday and will collaborate with ASLE on several conference events. An insert describing events of this conference which may be of interest to ASLE members is enclosed.

One of the events Wilderness Watch will be sponsoring which ASLE members may enjoy is a Western Barbecue on Saturday night. This BBQ will be held on a ranch outside of Missoula. There will be a fee and advance registration is required. To find out more please contact Wilderness Watch at their number below.

Wilderness Watch is a wilderness monitoring and advocacy group based in Missoula but operating on a national scale. Members travel through wilderness areas and file reports on local conditions with the national office. The group is dedicated to insuring that the provisions, goals, and values of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are realized and maintained. They advocate appropriate wilderness use and management through a rigorous analysis and application of law, policy, and regulation. Their program includes field observation, public education, legal action, and dialogue with management agencies. For more information, please see their brochure insert or contact Janet Rose, Executive Director, Box 9175, Missoula MT 59807. Phone: 406-542-2048.

## About Missoula and Vicinity

Surrounded by mountain peaks ranging from 7,600 to 9,075 feet elevation, the city of Missoula is nestled in a high valley (3,205 ft.). During the Pleistocene, the valley was filled repeatedly by Lake Missoula, and as many as 34 benches can be found on the surrounding slopes.

The population of Missoula is about 80,000. The city is noted for its spectacular scenery and accessible recreational opportunities. For instance, within five miles is the Rattlesnake Recreational Area and Wilderness. There are nearly 450 miles of fishing streams and rivers and more than 10 small lakes in the area. Thousands of acres of surrounding wilderness and national forest lands offer exceptional opportunities for hiking and camping.

Missoula is also a major wildlife center for the nation and home base for several organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation (such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Boone and Crockett Club), environmental protection (such as the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Wilderness Watch), and environmental education (including the Environmental Studies Program at The University of Montana, The Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the International Wildlife Film Festival). Nearby are several of the nation's largest national parks and wildlife preserves, including the National Bison Range (50 miles north of Missoula), which supports a herd of 250-300 bison; Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River (67 miles north of the city); and Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks (150 to the north and 269 miles to the south, respectively).



## Missoula Weather for ASLE

Statistics for the week of the 1997 ASLE Conference are as follows:

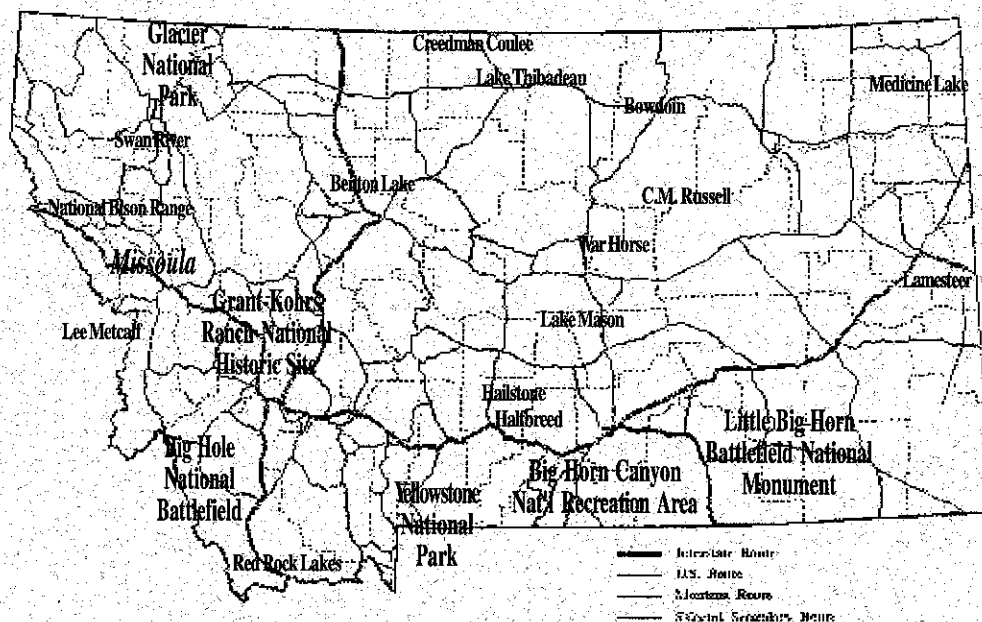
Average High: 84; Record High: 103

Average Low 50; Record Low: 35

Average Daily Humidity: 44%

Average rainfall for this week: .03 inches

## Montana's National Parks and Wildlife Refuges





# ASLE Conference Registration Form

Please PRINT or TYPE a separate form for each registrant.

This form may be copied for additional registrants.

You are encouraged to make a copy of both sides of this page for your information before sending in this form.

Thank you!

Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you plan to share a Double Occupancy Dormitory Room with another registrant, please indicate the name & phone number of that person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pantzer Hall is a **smoke-free** dormitory and only non-smokers are assigned to this residence hall. Each suite has four private bedrooms (each equipped with a telephone), two bathrooms, common living room, storage closet, refrigerator and microwave oven. Pantzer Hall is **100% accessible** to people with disabilities. Each room in Pantzer Hall's thirty suites costs \$22 per night.

Another on-campus dormitory will house ASLE participants at \$12.50 per person per night, double occupancy. Each dormitory room is equipped with a telephone. Bed linens are provided, and lavatory facilities are conveniently located on each floor. There is a **no sleeping bag policy** in the dormitories.

Conference attendees desiring alternate accommodations should reserve a motel room. Motels are listed in the ASLE conference information.

Make Check Payable to: The Univ. of Montana

**Registration Deadline**

**June 13, 1997**



The University of  
**Montana**

## Cancellation Refund Policy

Before May 14, 1997.....100% refund  
May 14-June 14, 1997.....less \$15 refund processing fee  
June 14-July 15, 1997.....less \$50 late cancellation fee and \$15 refund processing fee  
After July 15, 1997.....No refund

Send Payment With

Completed Registration Form to:

ASLE Conference  
Conferences & Institutes  
Center for Continuing Education  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812-1900

Check box & fill in amount for each appropriate item below (for yourself and additional family members - food, on-campus lodging, and recreation arrangements, indicate quantity).

### Registration Fee

☐ Professional ..... \$80.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Student ..... \$40.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### ASLE Membership (required)

Current Member ☐

☐ Professional ..... \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Student ..... \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sustaining ..... \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Patron ..... \$50.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Food

☐ Thursday, July 19 ... \$15.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
• Banquet/BBQ (dinner)  
☐ Conf. Meal Plan ..... \$25.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
• Includes meals for:  
• Thursday, July 17 - box/bag lunch  
• Friday, July 18 - box/bag lunch  
• Friday, July 18 - cafeteria style dinner  
• Saturday, July 19 - box/bag lunch

Don't forget the Wilderness Watch BBQ on Saturday (See their insert for details)!

### Recreational Activities\*

#### Thursday, July 17

☐ Pattee Canyon ..... \$12.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Wallace Ranch ..... \$15.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Metcalf Refuge ..... \$20.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mt. Jumbo ..... \$12.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_

#### Friday, July 18

☐ Early Bird ..... \$7.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Blackfoot River ..... \$37.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Bison Range ..... \$20.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Rattlesnake Creek .. \$12.00  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please see the reverse side of this page for detailed descriptions of these activities

### On-Campus Lodging\*

#### Double Occupancy Dormitory

☐ Wed., July 16 ..... \$12.50  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Thurs., July 17 ..... \$12.50  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Fri., July 18 ..... \$12.50  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sat., July 19 ..... \$12.50  $\chi$  = \_\_\_\_\_

#### Pantzer Hall (Smoke-Free)

☐ Wed., July 16 ..... \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Thurs., July 17 ..... \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Fri., July 18 ..... \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sat., July 19 ..... \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please see Nearby Motels & Camping Site section of brochure for alternative lodging arrangements.

### Total Amount Enclosed

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

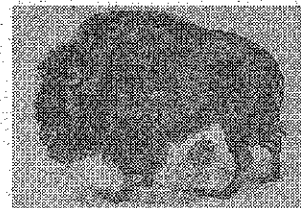
### Method of Payment

☐ Check/Money Order Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ VISA \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Discover Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## ASLE Conference Recreational Activities



### Thursday, July 17

#### Pattee Canyon (Family/Children oriented)

**\$12.00/person**

Travel to Pattee Canyon with Missoula's "bug man," Byron Weber. Find and identify insects, including a diversity of the colorful butterflies of the Northern Rockies.

#### Wallace Ranch

**\$15.00/person**

Travel east of Missoula along the Clark Fork River to the historic Wallace Ranch. This 13,000-acre ranch includes remnants of a stage coach stop along the Mullan Trail completed in 1862 to link the steamship routes up the Missouri to Fort Benton, Montana, and up the Columbia to Walla Walla, Washington. John Mullan began a tradition by writing the first guide to Montana for "miners and travelers" in 1865, the same year that 23-year-old William Wallace began ranching. The Wallace Ranch has been a working cattle ranch ever since. Portions of the ranch are now protected by a large Nature Conservancy conservation easement, including one of the healthiest cottonwood stands along the Clark Fork River. The diverse habitat supports several hundred elk, a blue heron colony, and a large variety of other birds. July is a great time for butterfly watching as well.

#### Metcalf Wildlife Refuge

**\$20.00/person**

Travel south down the Bitterroot Valley, bounded by the jagged Bitterroots on the Montana-Idaho border and the relatively low, forested peaks of the Sapphires on the east. Lewis and Clark followed this route on their way to the Columbia and again on their return. Metcalf Refuge is a small, but diverse riverside refuge. We'll drive along Wildfowl Lane to view nesting ospreys, Canada geese, and eagles and a variety of waterfowl and also take a short walk through forest habitat.

#### Mt. Jumbo

**\$12.00/person**

The mountain named after a Barnum and Bailey Circus elephant has become a talisman for the community of Missoula. Protected and acquired as a cornerstone of open space, its wildflowers, butterflies, birdlife, elk and views into the geologic phenomenon of Glacial Lake Missoula have been revealed as an important part of the community's "sense of place." Join local naturalists whose field notes inspired the local paradigm shift from "big, grassy hill" to a diverse and dynamic ecosystem. The trip involves a moderately strenuous hike up a hillside through meadows and hawthorne thickets to view fragile alpine areas home to the bitterroot, a plant of cultural importance to the Salish people. From the saddle of the mountain, besides a bird's-eye view of the Missoula area, a series of terraced shorelines of Glacial Lake Missoula is visible on the hillside. The dramatic outbreak of this lake 15,000 years ago formed the Columbia Gorge.

### Friday, July 18

#### Early Bird Trip (Family/Children oriented)

**\$7.00/person**

Meet to take a 20-minute walk to Greenough Park, an outstanding city park. Paved and unpaved trails wind through stands of large, old cottonwoods along beautiful Rattlesnake Creek, making this a great spot to walk, jog, or birdwatch (interpretive signs identify those most commonly seen, including the pileated woodpecker). The Montana Natural History Center will sponsor breakfast and a Raptors of the Rockies presentation by artist/naturalist Kate Davis. Kate will bring several of the captive raptors she cares for and discuss their ecology.

#### Blackfoot River Rafting

**\$37.00/person**

Travel northeast of Missoula up the scenic Blackfoot River Valley, one of Missoula's "five valleys," and yet another place discovered by Lewis & Clark. This is the setting that inspired Norman McLean's *A River Runs Through It*. It remains a much-beloved Montana trout-fishing stream despite a history of pollution by mining wastes and an imminent threat from the proposed Seven-up Pete open pit gold mine. The Bob Marshall Wilderness, better known locally as "the Bob," forms the northern boundary of the valley and links it with a home of the griz. A short raft trip with local guides from the 10,000 Waves Raft and Kayak Adventure Company is the perfect and "cool" way to experience the river in July.

#### National Bison Range

**\$20.00/person**

Travel 40 miles north to the National Bison Range, one of the oldest and most spectacular units in the entire national wildlife refuge systems and one of Montana's premier wildlife areas. Enjoy views of the rugged Mission Mountains and Montana's megafauna. The range was established to protect some of the last remaining American bison and is now home to a herd of 300-500. A loop road drive will provide opportunities to view the native Palouse prairie, bison, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep, white-tailed and mule deer, and a variety of grassland birds. The trip includes a special guided tour of the visitor center and its wildlife exhibits. If time permits, we'll stop to view waterbirds, including nesting great blue herons and double-crested cormorants at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge, an exceptional wetland complex of glacial potholes and a reservoir.

#### Rattlesnake Creek

**\$12.00/person**

Rattlesnake National Recreation Area is Missoula's gateway to the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area, just five miles north of Missoula. Enjoy a hike along a clear mountain stream and learn about the local ecology.

## The View From Here

♦ Views, wherever they may be “from,” are retrospective, prospective, or both; as I step down from four years of service to ASLE, I’d like to offer a view of our organization that begins with hopeless, retrospective nostalgia but moves quickly to shameless, prospective idealism.

♦ The field of literature and environment has come a long way in a short time. I well remember the genuine skepticism I encountered when, back in 1990, I proposed to the senior faculty of the English Department at my university a dissertation that was to include a chapter on a fellow named John Muir. Most faculty I spoke with had not heard of Muir, and the few who did know of his work questioned the prudence of including Muir in the dissertation. Indeed, the Muir books I borrowed from the university library had not been checked out for twenty, thirty,

forty years, and most were then out of print. When it came time to assemble a dissertation committee, I wandered from department to department in search of kindred spirits, managing only with difficulty to persuade a few sympathetic faculty to give a hearing to the scholarly approach we now call ecocriticism.

♦ It was about this time that, in desperate need of a sense of intellectual community, I began writing letters to the people whose books and articles I found most useful. My early correspondents—Cheryll Glotfelty, Scott Slovic, SueEllen Campbell, Terrell Dixon, Michael Cohen, Bill Howarth, Sean O’Grady, Betsy Hilbert, John Tallmadge, John Elder—turned out to be sympathetic, interesting, energetic folks whose love for nature writing and for the world encouraged and supported my work during those dark days. In these early conversations I often wondered aloud why scholars of literature and environment had no professional association or conference, no journal or newsletter, no decent bibliography of work in the field, no organized network of mutual support, no real recognition or credibility in the profession of literary studies.

♦ As modest as it may now sound, our initial goal in forming a scholarly association in literature and environment was simply to create a list of contacts. It seemed that we were crossing trails with more and more people interested in nature writing, and most told stories of the isolation in which they worked at their home institutions. Finally, in the fall of 1992, a group of interested scholars met at the Western Literature Association conference—held that year at the Sands Casino in Reno, Nevada—to see what could be done. We bootlegged bylaws from the Stephen Crane Society, crammed ourselves into a small room above the casino, passed around a sign-up sheet, and proceeded to name our new

group. I remember with pleasure the spate of comic acronyms suggested—as a zymurgist, my own favorite was A.L.E., Association for Literature and Environment—before we settled on ASLE. We had about fifty people present that day, and a good time was had by all. The rest, as they say, is history.

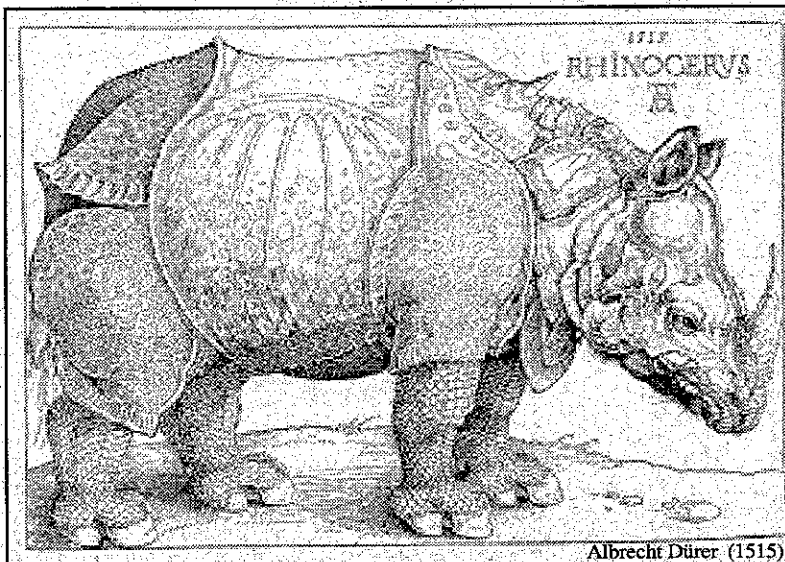
♦ Five years later, ASLE now has a conference, journal, newsletter, symposium, bibliography, listserv, website, mentoring program, journal list, syllabus collection, and archives, as well as a number of incipient programs and publications. We are a thriving international group of nearly 1,000 members, and we are quickly earning standing for literature and environment within the larger profession of literary studies. Of all that ASLE has accomplished, though, I’m most pleased with the way the group has functioned to create and maintain a sense of commu-

nity, providing student and faculty scholars with a strong network of support, information, and ideas. The “list” we initially hoped to compile—now ASLE’s annual Membership Directory—remains among the most useful documents I possess, and continues to offer an avenue to friendships, collaborations, and provocative intellectual and creative exchanges of every sort. When I recall how hard I once had to argue for the legitimacy of studying such authors as William Bartram, John James Audubon, John Muir, and Mary Austin, this substantial

list of remarkable people helps remind me of how far we have all come.

♦ It is to be expected, and to be hoped, that ASLE will continue to grow and change in the years to come; the focus of the group has already expanded in a number of important, interesting ways, and it is impossible to predict what interests ASLE will serve in the coming decades. However, I do hope that changes in organizational structure and goals will continue to be made with an eye to preserving the spirit of community and collaboration that initially brought the group together. Because my life has been immeasurably enriched, both professionally and personally, by the good folks I’ve met through this organization, my idealistic vision of ASLE’s future is simply that it will continue to bring people together in useful and interesting ways. I’d like ASLE to remain a network of friends rather than becoming a monolithic, bureaucratized institution vying for professional power. We aren’t the MLA, of course, but that’s exactly the point.

♦ Time now to ride my bike home—right past the Sands Casino, of course. That’s the view from here.



Michael Branch, University of Nevada, Reno

## Conferences and Gatherings

**June 20-22, 1997.** *Cultures & Environments: On Cultural and Environmental Studies*. An online conference hosted by the American Studies Program of Washington State University. This conference will explore the ways in which cultural and environmental studies meet, overlap, and enter into dialogue. Contact T.V. Reed, Director of American Studies, Washington State U., Pullman, WA 99164-5022. E-mail: reedtv@wsu.edu. WebSite: <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~ammerstu/ce/conference.ht>.

**June 21-28, 1997.** *Willa Cather's Southern Connections* presents the 7th International Willa Cather Seminar, Winchester, VA. A faculty of literary scholars, a folklorist, historians, a photographer, quilters, musicians, storytellers and cooks will introduce us to Shenandoah Valley culture. Visits will be made to Willa Cather's childhood home, and Washington, DC. Contact Prof. Ann Romines, Dept. of English, George Washington U., Washington, DC 20052. Fax: (202) 994-7915. E-mail: annrom@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu.

**July 2-6, 1997.** "Melville 'Among the Nations'": *The First International Melville Conference*. Sponsored by The Melville Society, Volos, Greece. Scholars and critics from the U.S., Europe, and Asia will offer presentations on Melville's life and works. Contact program co-chairs: Sanford E. Marovitz, Secretary, The Melville Society, English Dept., Kent State U., Kent, OH 44242; or Ekaterina Georgoudaki, Director, American Literature Section, School of Philosophy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 540-06 Thessaloniki, Greece.

**July 10-18, 1997.** *Sixth Annual Living Deep Ecology Workshop, "Coming To Our Senses: Roots, Places, and Tools"* Under Sacred Shandoka Mountain, Faraway Ranch, Colorado. Registration and \$250 deposit due by June 15. Information: PO Box 280, Norwood, CO 81423. Phone: (970) 327-4317.

**July 11-13, 1997.** *Talking Gourds 1997, A Nature Writing Retreat* hosted by The Telluride Writer's Guild and the Ah Haa School. Talking Gourds 1997 will focus on exploring Nature Writing, Ethnopoetics, Deep Ecology, Drumming, Mycology, Botany and the Creative Arts. Registration and \$250 deposit due by June 15. Information: PO Box 280, Norwood, CO 81423. Phone: (970) 327-4317.

**July 12-20, 1997 and August 8-16, 1997.** *Action for Earth, Applied Deep Ecology Training*. West Coast Training July 12-20, Chinook Learning Center, Whidsey Island, WA. East Coast Training August 8-16, High Mowing School, Wilton, NH. Information contact Institute for Deep Ecology, P.O. Box 1050, Occidental, CA 95465. Phone: (707) 874-2347. Email: ide@igc.com.

**July 13-25, 1997.** *Sixth Annual Summer Institute, Reading and Writing the West, Mining Gold and Metaphors: Science, Technology and the American West*. The institute will be conducted in conjunction with the sixth annual Great Basin Chautauqua of the Nevada Humanities Committee, which is held

July 14-17. The institute will focus on science, technology, and western landscapes and cultures. Topics: fiction, nonfiction, poetry and developing a "rhetoric of inquiry." Information: Stephen Tchudi (stuchu@power.net); or Stephen Adkinson (adkison@scs.unr.edu); Dept of English/098, U. of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557. Phone: (702) 784-6689; or Stephen Lafer, Curriculum and Instruction/282, UNR, Reno, NV 89557. Phone: (702) 784-6381. Email: lafer@unr.edu.

**July 26-29, 1997.** *Conference on Communication and Environment*. Focus on communicational aspects of addressing environmental issues will bring together professionals from academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Information: James Cantrill, Communication & Performance Studies, Northern Michigan U., Marquette, MI 49855. Phone: (210) 381-3583. E-mail: jcantril@nmu.edu.

**September 1-6, 1997.** *The Summit of the Sea Core Conference* (Aug. 27-Sept. 19) and *Understanding and Managing the Oceans* (Sept. 1-6) will both focus on a wide range of issues pertaining to sustainability and the ocean resources. Information contact: Summit of the Sea Core Conference Secretariat, John Cabot 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, Box 1997, Station C, St. John's, NF A1C 5R4 Canada. Phone: (709) 729-1997. Fax: (709) 579-2067. E-mail: dfinn@cabot500.gov.nf.ca. WebSite: <http://www.newcomm.net/cabot500/summit.htm>.

**September 11-13, 1997.** *Conference on Women and Literary History*, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The Orlando Project is a collaborative enterprise combining interdisciplinary research and humanities computing to produce the first full scholarly history of women's writing in the British Isles. Information: Katherine Binhammer or Jeanne Wood, Conference Organizers, The Orlando Project, 3-5 Humanities Centre, U. of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5. Phone: (403) 492-7803. Fax: (403) 492-8142. E-mail: orlando.project@ualberta.ca. WebSite: <http://www.ualberta.ca/ORLANDO>.

**September 28-30, 1997.** *People and Place: The Human Experience in Greater Yellowstone*. The Fourth Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone will focus on the changing relationships between culture and nature and on the challenges of preserving and interpreting the region's culture heritage. Information: Joy Perius. Phone: (307) 344-2209. WebSite: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/ycr.htm>.

**October 15-18, 1997.** *Ninth International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology* held in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. Topics: population issues, evolution and human behavior, democratic processes, and advances in educational, ethical and aesthetic approaches to human ecology. Proposals at earliest convenience. Information: Melville Coté, Executive Director, Society for Human Ecology, c/o College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Phone: (207) 288-5015.

Fax: (207) 288-4126. E-mail: she-conference@ecology.coa.edu.  
**October 17-19, 1997.** *Celebrating the American Woman: Native Voices.* The Women's Studies Program at Columbia College of SC. Information: Paula W. Shirley, Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures, 1301 Columbia College Dr., Columbia College, Columbia, SC 29203. Email: pshirley@colacoll.edu.

**November 14-15, 1997.** *Geography and Genre: The Empire State & Other Literary Landscapes.* A Graduate Student Conference. Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus, New York City. Topics: intersections of region and writer, genre and geography. Information: Lynne Bongiovanni, Conference Dir., Dept. of English, Fordham U., 441 East Fordham Rd., Bronx, NY 10458-5158. Phone: (718) 817-4034. Fax: (718) 817-4010. Email: bongiovanni@murray.fordham.edu.

**November 14-15, 1997.** *"Nature" in the Political and Scientific Discourse.* Organized by the Austrian UNESCO-Commission, the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and the Rosa-Luxemburg-Institute. Invites an interdisciplinary scientific public to discuss meanings of "nature" and its implications. Conference language mainly in German; however contributions in English are possible. Information: Dr. Otmar Hoell, AIIA, Schlossplatz 13, A-2361 Laxenburg. Phone: 43-2236-71-575-15. Fax: 4333-2236-72-514; Dr. Christian Schaller, Johannagasse 36/11, A-1050 Vienna. Phone: 43-1-547-11-92; Dr. Margarete Maurer, Rosa Luxemburg-Institute, Julius-Tandler-Platz 5/24, A-1090 Vienna. Fax: 43-1-317-49-29. Email: rli@iguwnext.tuwien.ac.at. WebSite: <http://iguwnext.tuwien.ac.at/~rli>.

*continued from page 5*

fashioned market research. Yes, there is an audience for *My First Summer in the Sierra* and *The Mountains of California*; and though ASLE members no doubt constitute a sizable portion of that audience, we do far more work as the "runners" and proselytizers of such books. We are the rooftop yawpers, spreading the good word of nature writing with our lectures, discussion groups, conference papers, web pages, flurries of e-mail, seminars, articles, and arguments. Let's not go gentle....

♦ One of the outcomes of such growing pains (and pleasures) is that there is always work to be done. Volunteers are always welcome (of course, we're all volunteers), and we'd love to make use of your expertise, whatever it might be. The ASLE Executive Council, and key administrative positions are renewed each year, and the next round of ASLE elections is coming up fast (ballots and candidates' statements go out with the fall issue of the *News*), so if such positions interest you, now is probably the time to let your interests be known and to start grilling present ASLE officers for tales from the trenches and hillocks of ASLE administria. Another great way to become more closely involved with ASLE is to check the ASLE Classifieds (see page 18), which includes our current search for: a conference tracker and an editor/officiator for the ASLE Annotated Bibliography. Queries are welcome from all prospective candidates.

♦ Please let me know if you have any questions about, or suggestions for future incarnations of the Newsletter. Until then, here's wishing everyone a flourishing spring (& all).

♦ From the Piedmont,

Ralph Black  
 Wake Forest University

## Update on *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies In Literature and Environment*

♦ Subscribers to ASLE's journal have been heard to mutter "Where's my *ISLE*?" with increasing frequency and frustration in the past year. *ISLE*'s editorial staff, which has been hard at work preparing future issues of the journal, has felt similarly distressed because of production delays that have clogged the pipeline since the appearance of issue 2.2 in June 1996. Let me offer an abbreviated sketch of *ISLE*'s recent history, aiming to alleviate some of the concern that subscribers and ASLE members may have about this publication.

♦ Months before I assumed the editorship of *ISLE*, the journal's founding editor, Patrick D. Murphy, arranged for the University of Nevada Press to produce the journal, beginning with issue 2.2. Despite lacking a journals division (or even a single staff member dedicated to journal production), the Press committed itself to producing two issues of *ISLE* per year. ASLE formally adopted *ISLE* as its official journal in the spring of 1995, and I was appointed *ISLE*'s new editor in September 1995.

♦ In November 1995, Patrick provided me with the disks for issues 3.1 and 3.2, his final act as outgoing editor of the journal. These materials were immediately turned over to the Press with the understanding that the issues would appear in the early fall of 1996, following a standard ten-month production process stipulated by the Press. Meanwhile, *ISLE*'s new editorial staff was busily compiling issues 4.1 and 4.2; the manuscript and disk for 4.1 was delivered to the Press in June 1996, the materials for 4.2 in December 1996.

♦ Frustration among editorial staff members continued to mount until, in January 1997, I issued a stern letter to the Press, explaining that it was necessary for us to find a way to get the belated issues into print ASAP and to revamp the journal's production process in order to avoid future delays and to keep expenses to a minimum. At an "*ISLE* summit meeting" in February, the Press agreed to spare no effort in working to get issues 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1 into print before the ASLE Conference in mid-July. With the help of a crucial financial subsidy from the central budget of ASLE, everything currently seems to be set for this to happen: the printer has 3.1 already, and 3.2 and 4.1 will be mailed simultaneously to the printer during the second week of May. Meanwhile, we have altered the production process for future issues of *ISLE* so that the editorial staff will prepare camera-ready copy and the Press will merely send the issues to the printer; this will enable us to cut the cost of each issue by some \$2,000 and also keep the journal on a regular February-and-August publication schedule.

♦ *ISLE*'s editorial staff regret the recent production problems and hopes that with the arrival of issues 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1 this summer we will all be able to glimpse the future of this journal a major medium of scholarship and artistic expression in the field of literature and environment.

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



## Calls for Papers: Deadlines for Submissions

**June 15, 1997.** *32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Western Literature Association Conference*, October 15-18, 1997 welcomes papers, readings, and proposals for sessions that explore and define various traditions and influences shaping the literatures of the American West. Session topics may include: Literature of the borderlands, Latino and Native American literary traditions, Nature writers of the desert Southwest, Issues of class in western literature and Ecological approaches to western writings. Ten double-spaced pages and a 125-word abstract by June 15, 1997 to: Gary Scharnhorst, President, WLA, Dept. of English, U. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Phone: (505) 277-6347. Fax: (505) 277-5573. E-mail: gscharn@unm.edu. WWW: [http://www.unm.edu/~english/WLA/97\\_call\\_for\\_papers](http://www.unm.edu/~english/WLA/97_call_for_papers).

**June 15, 1997.** *Center for the Rocky Mountain West ("The Big Sky at 50")*: September 1997. This conference offers a chance to contrast our mid-century visions and our late century revisions from cross-disciplinary perspectives. Topics: successes and failures of western revisionism, gender and ethnic studies, the Blackfeet or the Métis in relation to Guthrie, the rise of environmentalism and its relation to western myths, international considerations, the Canadian and U.S. Rocky Mountain front, western film and fiction of the forties, Guthrie's career and associates, contemporary history, governance and land use, regional genesis and regional identity. Papers and Proposals due by June 15, 1997 to the conference organizers (Daniel Kemmis, Dir.; William E. Farr, Associate Dir. and Prof. of History; Mark A. Sherouse, Executive Director of the Montana Committee for the Humanities; William W. Bevis, Prof. of English) at: The Center for the Rocky Mountain West, U. of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-1205.

**July 15, 1997.** *Snapshots from Abroad: A Conference on American and British Travel and Writing*, November 14-16, 1997, U. of Minnesota, Minneapolis welcomes proposals for topics on all aspects of anglophone travel writers and writing, especially from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onward. Topics: the "outside world" as seen from national perspectives, discovery and re-discovery, the effects of transportation, tourism etc. Abstract (500 words) and queries to Prof. James Schramer, English Dept., Youngstown State U., Youngstown OH 44555-3415. E-mail: jjschram@cc.yosu.edu.

**July 1, 1997.** *Partnerships Without Borders, Second International Conference on Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage*, November 17-20, 1997, welcomes paper submissions: Environmental Justice; Business and NonProfit Organizations: A Part of the Solution; Cultural Heritage: Values and Natural Resources; and Ecosystem Sustainability, Protection And Restoration. Double-spaced proposals should include the following information: Cover page with the title of the presentation, Name(s) of the presenter(s), Contact's name, Address, Telephone, FAX number, e-mail address, and track under which the proposal fits and an abstract of your proposal of maximum fifty words for use in the conference program. Send materials to: HACU/Second International Conference, Office of Public Affairs & Sponsored

Events, 4204 Gardendale St., Suite 216, San Antonio, TX 78229. Email: donna@hispanic.com.

**October 15, 1997.** *American Women Nature Writers*. The Westbrook College Campus of the University of New England (Portland, ME), June 19-21, 1998. Submissions on any aspect of women and nature writing, including explorations of how women record, are inspired, or serve as advocates for nature. Paper proposals (one page abstract and one page c.v.), and Session proposals description of the theme, abstracts for each paper, name of session chair, and one page c.v. for each participant. Due by October 15, to Elizabeth De Wolfe, American Studies, University of New England, Westbrook College Campus, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland, ME 04103. Information: Elizabeth De Wolfe, American Studies (ext. 307), or Nancy Noble, Maine Women Writers Collection (ext. 330), Phone: (207) 797-7261. Fax: (207) 797-5779. Email: nnoble@saturn.caps.maine.edu.

**October 31, 1997.** *"Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands."* Hosted by The Institute of Island Studies and the Dept. of English at the U. of Prince Edward Island, June 1998. The conference will include performances by writers, storytellers, and songwriters associated with small islands. In conjunction with the L.M. Montgomery Institute, there will be special sessions on L.M. Montgomery during the conference. Topics: island as a theme and metaphor in literature; literary works rooted in islands; writers and scholars rooted in islands; works written by individuals who live(d) on islands. Two-page proposals for personal essays and scholarly papers to: Dr. Richard Lemm, Conference Chair, Institute of Island Studies, U. of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 4P3, Canada. Phone: (902) 566-0596. Email: amacdonald@upeu.ca.

**November 10, 1997.** *Practicing Places and Tourist Performances Conference*, Collingwood College, Durham, April 6-7, 1998. Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of place in relation to tourism practices. Topics: consuming landscapes, traveling cultures, the multivocality of place, manufactured visions of place etc. 400-word abstracts by November 10 at the latest. Information: Simon Coleman at the Dept. of Anthropology, 43 Old Elvet, U. of Durham, DH1 3HN, England. Email: s.m.coleman@durham.ac.uk.

**December 1, 1997.** *Studies in Canadian Literature* invites submissions on the role of space and spatiality in anglophone and francophone Canadian literature and culture. Topics and approaches: the uses of spatial theory and/or cultural geography in Canadian literary criticism; representations of space (e.g., urban, rural, wilderness, institutional) in Canadian literature, from exploration journals to contemporary texts. . . maps and itineraries (actual and metaphorical); . . . aboriginal conceptions of space; spaces and subjectivities; time and space; "space" vs. "place" etc. Two copies of manuscript (max. 7,000-word) in English or French by 1 December 1997, to: *Studies in Canadian Literature*, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3.

## Special Announcements

### ASLE Classifieds

◆ We are looking for an ecocritical bibliophile to serve as the editor and coordinator of the **ASLE Bibliography**. The position entails coordinating the efforts of a team of annotators, and editing and producing an annual *Bibliography* covering relevant scholarship published during the previous year. Our infrastructure of volunteers and contributing editors/annotators is largely in place; and Zita Ingham, the outgoing bibliography editor, is happy to help train the new Bibliographer, so the transition of the project should be relatively smooth. The ongoing ASLE Bibliography Project is an extremely valuable contribution to the field, and we are anxious to commit our full support to Zita's successor. To learn more about the project please contact: John Tallmadge, ASLE President, The Union Institute, 6538 Teakwood Court, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

◆ *ASLE News* is looking for someone to fill the distinguished shoes of David Taylor as **Conference Tracker**. The position entails gathering and codifying a list of professional conferences, meetings, workshops, calls for papers, etc. (gleaned from a variety of written and electronic sources), that may be of interest to and provide vital professional resources for ASLE members. If you are interested, please contact either Ralph Black, editor, *ASLE News*, or John Tallmadge, ASLE President.

### *An Encyclopedia of American Literature of the Sea and the Great Lakes*

seeks contributors. An alphabetical reference work covering the prose, poetry, and drama of the sea. Seeking writers on authors, titles, places, ships, and topics of sea literature. Entries range from 50-1500 words and emphasize the significance of the sea or the Great Lakes in an author's life, in the literary work, in a particular geographical area or port, or as developed by a unified theme. The work is directed to lay readers and scholars. For a list of entries, guidelines, sample submissions, and with other queries: Jill B. Gidmark, General Editor, U. of Minnesota, 140 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Phone: (612) 625-0855. Fax: (612) 625-0709.

E-mail: gidma001@maroon.tc.umn.edu.

**The special issue of *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* entitled "Women and Nature," edited by Rochelle Johnson.** Available for \$36 (\$11 to MLA members), order volume 25.5. Issue includes articles and reviews by Rebecca Merrens, Cheryll Glotfelty, Linda Walsh, Rachel Stein, Donna Walsh Shepherd, Rebecca Ragon, Tom C. Bailey, Gretchen Legler, and Vera Norwood. Information: Charlie Reynolds at (800) 545-8398 or Brian Marcus at (201) 643-7500 x205.

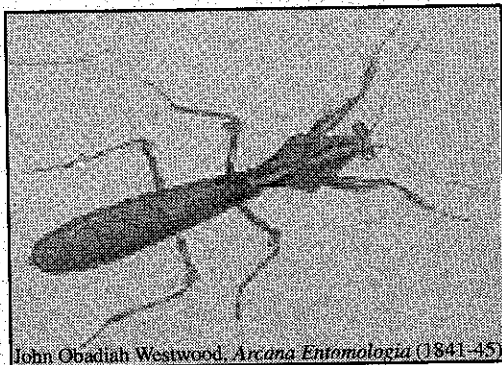
**"Local News From Around the World" is the mission at *Earth Island Journal*,** the environmental international news magazine of Earth Island Institute. Uncompromised reporting

and commentary brings news from around the world unavailable anywhere else and offers solutions for a healthy planet. One-year memberships starting at \$15 to EII comes with four issues of the *Journal*. Subscription information: 300 Broadway #28, San Francisco, CA 94133-3312. Phone: (415) 788-3666.

**Graduate Study in Literature and Environment.** Anyone interested in receiving information about the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in literature and environment at the University of Nevada, Reno, should contact: Michael Branch, Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Literature and Environment, Department of English/098, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557. E-mail: mbranch@unr.edu.

***Nineteenth-Century Contexts* is committed to interdisciplinary recuperation's of "new" nineteenth centuries and their relation to contemporary geopolitical developments.** The journal challenges traditional modes of categorizing the nineteenth-century by forging innovative contextualizations across a wide spectrum of nineteenth-century experience and the critical disciplines that examine it. Articles not only integrate the theories and methods of various fields of inquiry—art, history, musicology, anthropology, literary criticism, religious studies, social history, economics, popular culture studies and the history of science, among others. In conjunction with *Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies*, the journal also sponsors an annual

international conference. Inquiries to: Greg Kucich, Dept. of English, U. of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Email: gregory.p.kucich.1@nd.edu.



John Obadiah Westwood, *Arcana Entomologia* (1841-45)

**The National Outdoor Book Award.** Sponsored by Idaho State University and the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education recognizes the work of outstanding writers and publishers of outdoor books. Application forms and eligibility requirements are available

from Ron Watters, Chairperson, National Outdoor Book Awards, Box 8128, Idaho State U., Pocatello, ID 83209. WebSite: <http://www.isu.edu/departments/outdoor/bookpol.htm>.

**ASLE E-mail Network Thriving.** The ASLE e-mail network continues to bustle with "virtual" conversation on literature and environment. There are currently approximately 280 subscribers. To subscribe to the ASLE network, simply send a message to: **Majordomo@unr.edu**. The message should read, "subscribe asle"—(or "unsubscribe asle" if you wish to unplug). You'll be sent a generic "welcome" message with friendly user instructions. If you have a question about the network, please direct it to Cheryll Glotfelty, list manager, at **glotfelt@unr.edu**.

**The ASLE Webpage,** produced and maintained by ASLE's Public Relations officer, Daniel Philippon, continues to evolve: <http://wsrv.clas.virginia.edu/~djp2n/asle.html>



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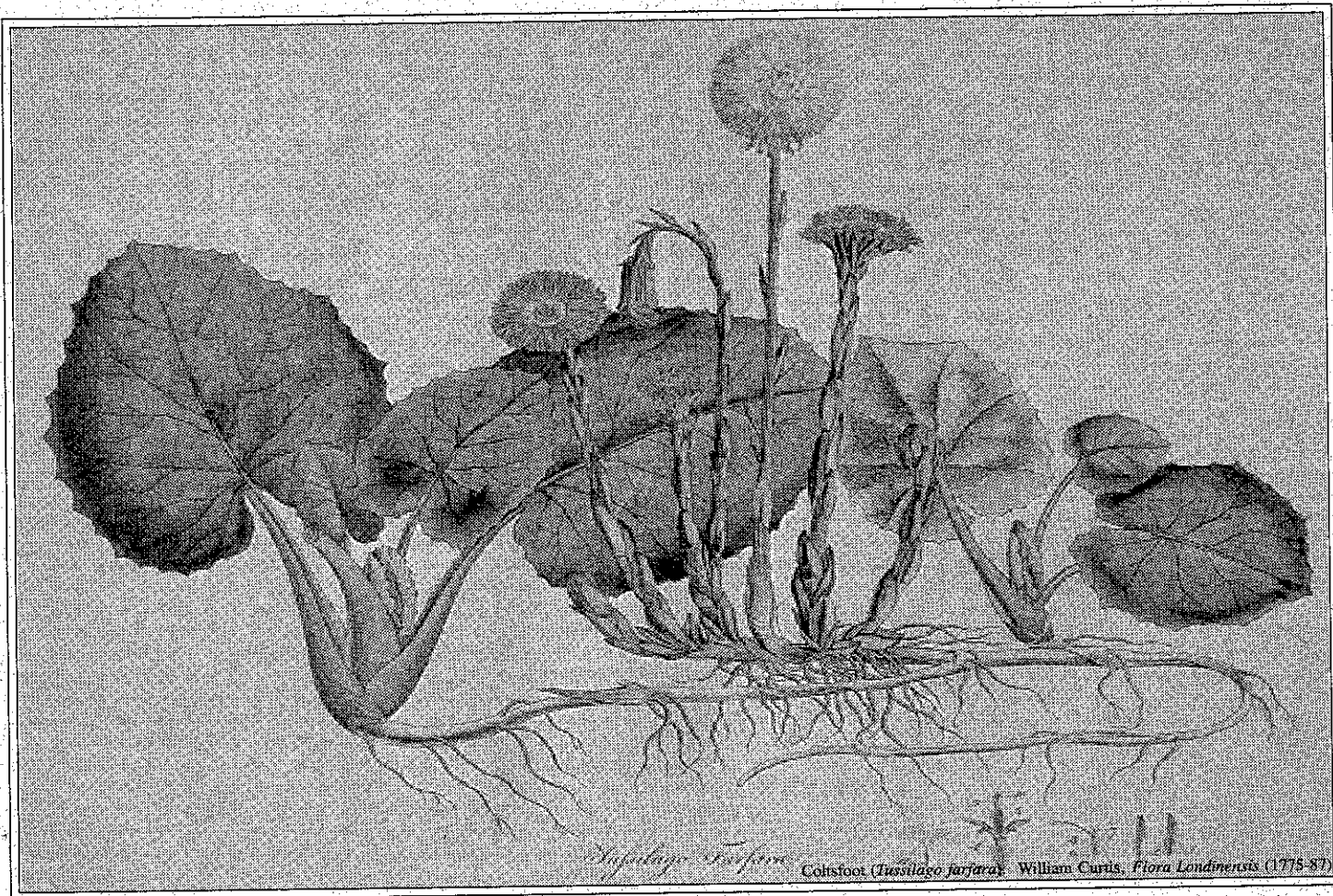
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