



ASLE News

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

Spring 1998

Volume 10, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ASLE is off to a lively start for 1998, following a planning retreat for the Executive Council held during the North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community at the University of Nevada, Reno in February. In addition to sampling the stimulating program arranged by Scott Slovic and the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities, ASLE officers reviewed the Association's budget and ongoing matters such as *ISLE* and conference planning, welcomed newly elected members, and discussed arrangements for the 1999 ASLE conference in Kalamazoo. John Tallmadge passed the baton to me during the proceedings, having led the Association through a remarkable year of development that witnessed a phenomenally successful conference in Missoula, our first year of real budget security, and the launching of many exciting initiatives.

Scott Slovic presented all in attendance at the planning retreat with a fresh copy of *ISLE* 4.2 (Fall 1997), the newest issue which will have arrived in ASLE members' mailboxes well before this newsletter. The next issue—*ISLE* 5.1 (Spring 1998)—is in production. Thus Scott has brought the journal up to date, solving past production problems and directing the journal in imaginative new editorial directions. We are confident that timely production is assured for the future. Now that subscription to *ISLE* is part of regular ASLE membership, the journal will be a seamless part of our scholarly lives. We owe a very large debt to Scott. Many thanks also to 1997 President John Tallmadge for introducing the new membership fee structure that streamlined *ISLE* subscription.

The ASLE syllabus collection compiled and edited by Graduate Liaisons Laird Christensen and Peter Blakemore has turned out to be a much bigger task than anticipated, including some 2,000 pages of material. It is now complete but too lengthy to be affordable in hard copy. The Executive Council decided that the best way to disseminate the collection would be on compact disks, or by way of the ASLE web page. The encoding of the material will be accomplished in the coming months, at which time we will decide which vehicle proves more effective.

Other important news concerns the summer symposium to be held July 3-5 in Bath, England, by British ASLE members, with Richard Kerridge and Greg Garrard as organizers. Anyone interested in attending the Bath symposium should contact Richard (rkerridge@bathhe.ac.uk). Also John Tallmadge and Hank Harrington are working with the University of Idaho Press on the publication of a book of selected papers from the 1997 Missoula conference.

Tom Bailey is well along with plans for the 1999 ASLE

conference in Kalamazoo, working closely with ASLE Vice-President Walter Isle on an exciting program. The tentative theme for the conference is "What to do with a diminished thing"—focusing on the challenge of understanding the human-shaped environments in which most of us live. Excellent field trips to bird refuges and many other regional environments of interest are in the works, and the conference will widen ASLE's gaze to include more formal engagement with urban and suburban landscapes as well as wilder parts of the midwestern region of the continent.

This leads to the subject of a recent flurry of discussion on the email network about the location of the 2001 conference. The ASLE Executive Council has been discussing the need to hold an eastern conference, and there's much sentiment in favor of a moveable feast which will be held at varying conference sites in all the major regions of the U.S. We have met so far at sites where a university offered itself as host, and we have as an operating premise the notion that universities are more pleasant and affordable settings than big hotels in urban areas. As of now, Salisbury State University is the leading candidate for the 2001 meeting, and it's a site offering exciting possibilities because of the history of the Maryland Eastern Shore and the complexity of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystems.

One provocative anecdote from the Reno conference that speaks to the diversity of perspectives on the landscape and its life comes as a follow-up to last year's debate among ASLE members about the killing of bison who strayed out of Yellowstone park during the harsh winter. Two Indian ranchers—one a Cheyenne and one a Crow—who live on reservations near the park discussed bison in relation to cattle as a presence on the land. One of these ranchers took a group of unemployed young men from his reservation, up to the site of the killing to butcher some of the bison under a federal contract, and he caught brucellosis from the carcasses on which he worked. He will suffer from the disease for the rest of his life. The multiple ironies here, from the circumstances in which he and his fellow Cheyenne happened to be butchering the bison, to the heated controversy over whether the bison even had the disease or should be killed, should help underscore the complexities involved in decisions about human relations with others of our living kin. Environmentalists who live in cities (myself included) have very different experiences with such animals as bison, cattle, bears, salmon, and elk than do people who work in rural areas; and our regional orientation is another limiting factor. Having ASLE meetings in varying

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*stay together
learn the flowers
go light*

—Gary Snyder

PHOTO AND ART CREDITS

Special thanks to Deborah Welsh of the University of Nevada, Reno, for providing the conference photos on pages 3, 4, and 5. All remaining artwork is from S. Peter Dance's *The Art of Natural History: Animal Illustrators and their Work*. Woodstock, New York: Overlook Press, 1978. **page 6** Fifteen-Spined Stickleback and Great Weever. Wood engraving after an original drawing by Philip Henry Gosse, from his *A Year at the Shore in Good Words for 1864*. **page 7** Spiny Cross-Fish, *Uraster glacialis*. Wood engraving from Edward Forbes' *History of British Starfishes*, 1841. Hermit Crab and Pipefish. Handcolored steel engraving by G.B. Sowerby from his *Illustrated Companion to Charles Kingsley's Glaucus*, 1858. **page 8** detail of Mosquito and its mouthparts. Copper engraving from Jan Swammerdam's *Bible of Nature*, 1758. detail of Grasshoppers. Hand-colored copper engraving from Dru-Drury's *Illustrations of Natural History, wherein are exhibited Figures of Exotic Insects*, 1770-82. **page 9** Gnat. Copper engraving from Robert Hooke's *Micrographia Restaurata*, 1745.

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ASLE News

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

Daniel J. Philippon, *University of Virginia*

GRADUATE MENTORING

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BIBLIOGRAPHY EDITOR

Kenton Temple, *University of Tennessee*

CONFERENCE TRACKER

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GRADUATE LIASONS

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NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR

Ralph Black, *Wake Forest University*

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Shannon Bothwell, *Wake Forest University*

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

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am very honored to have been elected Vice-President (and President-elect) of ASLE. For the coming year, I see my vice-president's role having two main elements: assisting Molly Westling, our 1998 president, in whatever way I can to keep ASLE working smoothly and growing stronger; and working with Conference Director Tom Bailey to organize our 1999 biennial conference at Western Michigan.

Molly and I met with outgoing officers and the Executive Council during the Environment and Community conference at UNR in February, and we had a very productive two-day discussion on everything related to ASLE, from the budget to the 1997 conference. Lots of ideas were generated such as linking with other organizations, as we have already done with the MLA, creating honorary memberships for distinguished writers, establishing ASLE service awards, setting up regional conferences on alternate years, and many other exciting possibilities to pursue over the next two years. One of the strengths of our organization is the continuity provided by the active interest of past leaders like Scott Slovic and Mike Branch and our continuing reliance on them for guidance and support. For example, Cheryl Glotfelty, John Tallmadge, and I are working together to revise and update

the ASLE bylaws, which need to reflect the change and growth of ASLE over the past six years since it was founded in 1992. Larger, more general issues we all need to address are: the degree to which ASLE should be linked to environmental activism; achieving greater diversity in our membership; and establishing our presence in academic departments and providing greater help in job placement for our members.

Tom Bailey and I have already had a number of discussions about the 1999 conference, and we will continue to work together to provide an exciting opportunity to develop our community of interests in a new setting. See Tom's report on early plans elsewhere in this Newsletter. We plan to issue a call for papers toward the end of the summer, but let me give you early notice that we welcome proposals for papers, for roundtables, for special sessions, for keynote speakers at any time (the deadline will be January 15, 1999). Just write to me: Walter Isle, ASLE 1999, English Department MS30, Rice University, 6100 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77005 or email me: wwisle@rice.edu. I want to encourage everyone to contribute to our ongoing planning of the conference.

Walter Isle, *Rice University*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *continued from page 1*

regions around the country will help to educate us all.

ASLE has been challenged by a number of members to address the issue of diversity. We are primarily an organization of middle-class European American professionals, but the ecological questions and problems that led to the creation of ASLE affect all classes and backgrounds. In fact, as the environmental justice movement has made us aware, people living in poverty, and ethnic minorities in inner cities and rural areas alike suffer disproportionately from environmental problems. Their problems are ours, though we may not yet know it. And these communities have eloquent spokespersons and writers. While most of us are aware of all of this, and our previous conferences have included panels that deal with ethnic minority literatures, ASLE needs to make increased efforts to diversify our membership and make minority literatures and writings about environmental justice central to our thinking. To that end a Task Force on Diversity has been formed by Mei Mei Evans of the University of Washington, David Mazel of Adams State College, and Rachel Stein of Siena College. They will be advising the Executive Council and suggesting initiatives for the Association.

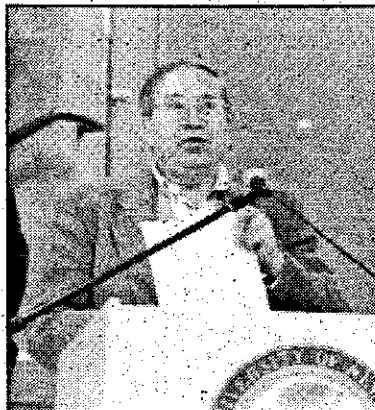
In addition, our two new Graduate Liaisons, Wes Berry of the University of Mississippi and Mei Mei Evans of the University of Washington, will focus on diversity and environmental justice, making available bibliographies and other materials concerning writers from ethnic minority communi-

ties and their environmental concerns.

Welcome to new ASLE Vice-President Walter Isle and Executive Committee Members Ann Fisher-Wirth and Rochelle Johnson, as well as our new MLA Liaison Bonney MacDonald. Walter will be stepping into a big job with the planning of the 1999 conference in Kalamazoo, but he has an excellent host and co-conspirator. Now that ASLE is an MLA affiliate, Bonney will have a challenging but rewarding job preparing two panels for each annual MLA meeting, establishing our presence firmly in the profession.

ASLE continues to expand and communicate the vitality of the exciting new field we represent. With this summer's symposium in Bath signaling the inception of a British ASLE organization and increasing interest among Mexican colleagues and writers, ASLE Japan should have lively new sister organizations increasing the international study of literature and environment. Homero Aridjis, Mexican poet and International President of PEN, spoke movingly in Reno about his environmental work in Mexico City and other parts of his country, and read poems he has written about his land. With Scott Slovic's sponsorship, he is a new honorary member of ASLE and took ASLE brochures away with him. There is much work to do, much remarkable literature from around the globe to explore, much to learn from colleagues such as Señor Aridjis.

Louise Westling, *University of Oregon*
President of ASLE



Homero Aridjis, poet, novelist, and International President of PEN, addresses the Reno conference.

WILD CARDS: NOTES FROM THE RENO CONFERENCE

I arrived in Reno for the North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community (NAICEC) around midnight on Wednesday, February 18. Coming into Reno late at night, what you see are the lights of the casinos—garish neon, huge buildings in shapes incongruous to the Western landscape, signs made of at least a thousand points of lights that form into words and pictures before your very eyes. Waking in Reno early the next morning, what

I saw was a hazy winter sky and, just beyond the middle-ground of the casinos, snow-dusted mountains everywhere in the distance. For a transplanted Westerner like myself, the sight of those mountains was a terrific welcome to Reno.

Scott Slovic—past President of ASLE, Director of UNR's Center for Environmental Arts & Humanities, and the organizational wizard behind the Reno conference—gives the following history of the conference: "The NAICEC used to be

REBECCA SOLNIT: ON ADVOCACY AND NEUTRALITY

One of the useful jobs postmodernism did was to confirm that there was no such thing as neutrality, that it was impossible to speak from no position, to be without being located, and to be located is to be in relation to something—to have a position. All positions are political, and I think here of Carrie Dann here a couple of days ago citing that activist adage, "Not to resist is to collaborate." But we still tend to accept certain positions as neutral: white positions, straight positions, middle-class positions, male positions. To speak from these positions is to be considered sane, to speak from any other may be to be considered wacky, difficult, demanding, hysterical—or "political," which nowadays means the same thing. After all, you don't have to advocate, don't have to raise your voice for the status quo; you don't have to put your neck out for business as usual. One of the great privileges of being in the mainstream is that of being considered calm and reasonable. Advocating neutrality—a.k.a. noninvolvement, affirmation of one's own objectivity, etc.—is not considered political, but it too is a position and one that gets widely advocated.

Some scientific information, if you'll excuse such a loaded term, can be regarded as apolitical in what it describes, but not in what it implies we ought to do. Over and over, in health, agriculture, forestry, and nuclear waste disposal, the scientists involved become 'advocates' because the status quo will not accept the implications of their facts. In fact, the status quo will often not accept the facts, if they're sufficiently inconvenient, as are many facts about pesticides, chemicals, and nuclear waste. Other scientists, however, advocate a version of neutrality which is tantamount to amorality: a position that one can deal in facts and not in consequences, or that the facts are scientific but the effects and consequences are political and thus someone else's job. Scientists at Livermore Labs, birthplace of the hydrogen bomb, once told an activist that nuclear waste was really a geologist's problem and since they were physicists, it was not their concern.

The media is another arena in which a pernicious myth of neutrality and objectivity prevails, one that more and more means cleaving to the status quo of mainstream val-



Rebecca Solnit, author of *Savage Dreams: A Journey into the Hidden Wars of the American West*

ues and government position (one example is the Theodore Kaczynski/Unabomber case in which holding extreme views about technology was widely equated with insanity). In the shameful coverage—or lack of coverage—of the Gulf War, showing Pentagon-supplied video loops of "deep-target penetrators" was considered neutral; showing dead children was considered propaganda. And almost no mainstream American publi-

cations have documented some of the carnage of that war in any meaningful way; few have done a good job on Gulf War Syndrome, which the Pentagon suggested was a psychosomatic condition.

But before we get all smug, I want to say that the environmental community has its status quo, its unexamined assumptions, too. As Ben Sáenz said on an earlier panel, a lot of environmental activism is just about setting aside nice places for middle-class people to vacation in. I'm one of those vacationers from time to time, but I try to keep track of where my values come from, and they come from the European romantic tradition. Rousseau and Wordsworth begat the backpacking industry and most of us. I believe it's an honorable tradition—but it is a tradition and a perspective, not a neutral truth.

I'd like to close by referring to the popular concept of 'thinking like a mountain' that's come up several times in this conference. Who gets to travel to the mountains? Who wants to travel to the mountains? And who gets to say what mountains think like? Most of the guys who've managed to interrogate mountains and report back to us at this conference seem to have encountered mountains that think a great deal like Rousseau and Thoreau and Wordsworth. In fact, mountains seem to think like them. What I'm really saying is, with apologies to Aldo Leopold, that we don't know how mountains think and maybe we should start by worrying about how we think.

called the North American Interdisciplinary Wilderness Conference and met for six years in Ogden, Utah, at Weber State University before we hosted that meeting in Reno in February of 1996. Last year the Wilderness Conference did not take place, so when we began planning this year's meeting in Reno, I decided to re-name it in a more general way—thus the change from 'wilderness' to 'environment and community.' Previous participants in the conference, in fact, often were not speaking specifically about wilderness anyway, so 'environment and community' seemed to fit the scope of the actual meeting and to invite a broader range of participants. In fact, this year's meeting in Reno attracted about 350 participants from all across North America, while earlier versions of the conference had attendance hovering around 100. The recent conference in Reno featured thirteen plenary sessions and forty-seven concurrent panels in three days, plus three hikes, an exhibit of environmental art, and an open mike for music one evening. Disciplines and topics represented in plenary sessions at the conference included environmental history, multicultural environmental education, land politics, anthropology ('ethnography of place'), ranching, rural artists/writers, ecology, advocacy vs. neutrality in environmental studies, nature poetry, environmental sculpture, environmental activism, and environmental philosophy/linguistics."

The conference opened with remarks by Scott Slovic and a folksy welcome from UNR's president, Joseph Crowley, who proudly shared (among other details) a list of the movies that had been made in Reno. The first two plenary sessions soon followed. One of the best features of these sessions was their genuine interdisciplinarity: panels included environmental activists, poets, multicultural educators, artists, ranchers, and academics from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Some of the plenary speakers were familiar from this past summer's ASLE conference (environmental historian Hal Rothman, writer Sharrman Apt Russell, poet Pattiann Rogers, philosopher/magician David Abram), but most were entirely new to me.

I especially enjoyed listening to the plenary presentations by people whose work I might not otherwise have encountered. Running Grass, the founder and director of the Three Circles Center for Multicultural Environmental Education (Sausalito, CA), addressed the crucially important issues of environmental justice and multicultural education, and he exhorted the audience to learn about and validate "the environmental histories of people of color in the United States." He provided not only a wealth of information and resources but also a lot of practical advice and inspiration; I'd love to see him return to an ASLE conference sometime in the future, maybe even to run an interactive workshop on multicultural environmental issues. Another plenary panel was comprised of ranchers, all of whose families have been ranching for generations. They told the stories of their lives and work; several showed slides of their magnificent lands; and again, the variety of their experiences (e.g., a Chicana taking over the family business in south Texas, Native Americans ranching on reservations in Montana) added

a welcome and appropriate note of diversity to this conference on environment and community.

Scott Slovic notes that "there was also a concerted effort to include Native Americans, Hispanics, and African Americans on the program. One of the key, behind-the-scenes occurrences during the conference is that the prominent Mexican poet, novelist, and environmental activist Homero Aridjis, president of PEN International and co-founder with his wife Betty of El Grupo de los Cien, met with the ASLE officers and executive council to discuss his plans to create a standing PEN committee on literature and environment; Homero and Betty also became ASLE members during the conference (perhaps our first Mexican members) and promised to involve ASLE in relevant activities of PEN, the major international literary organization."

The concurrent sessions were also very informative and diverse—the biggest challenge came in having to choose among sessions that all looked interesting and relevant. I settled on several that were most closely related to my own current work—"Eco-Teaching," "Environmental Literature: Poetry and Prose," "Getting Organized: Forming Environmental Communities," and "Ecocriticism"—and encountered the

same level of variety, innovation, and commitment as in the larger plenary sessions. The sessions were small enough to encourage real discussion after the formal papers or remarks; these open conversations between "audience" and "presenters" not only eliminated those distinctions but were also among the most valuable and rewarding elements of the meeting.

Overall, the conference combined the best of the worlds that many of us inhabit: full-time activists inspired us with their passion and commitment; instructors at all levels gave us new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for



Running Grass, founder and director of the Three Circles Center for Multicultural Environmental Education

the classroom; artists shared their visions and creations, encouraging us to stretch our imaginations beyond the everyday; and scholars from disparate specializations, both the established and the new, engaged us in intellectual dialogue and debate beyond the comforting or confining limits of our usual disciplines. Rarely have I been so energized by just a few short days away from home. Best of all, a friendly and supportive collegiality permeated the entire meeting, from plenary presentations to concurrent sessions to workshops to informal chats in the coffee shop and hotel lobby.

I'm already looking forward to next year's NAICEC, hosted by Weber State in Ogden, Utah (the conference will now alternate annually between UNR and WSU). If this year's gathering was any indication, it will be well worth attending!

Annie Ingram, *Davidson College*

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee met in February during the Literature and Community Conference at the University of Nevada-Reno. The meeting was held as a kind of continuation of a meeting at the summer conference in Missoula, when a number of ongoing issues were discussed but left incomplete. New members of the board included the recently elected Walter Isle as vice-president and Anne Fisher-Wirth and Rochelle Johnson as the new executive committee members.

The following is a summary of the issues discussed and debated by the board:

A question was raised about where to spend any surplus funds generated by the new memberships and the Missoula conference. Among the ideas: funding dissertation fellowships or manuscripts; creating an "Environmental Teacher of the Year" award for high school teachers; providing regional "seed grants" for worthy groups such as The Orion Society; providing travel grants for ethnic scholars; researching and funding urban environmental projects; developing field programs, on which members could explore various environments and companion texts as well. It was decided that discretion would be the better part of valor, so the money for now will be kept in a bank account.

Under the department of the continuing reorganization of officer duties, Rochelle Johnson volunteered to serve as graduate mentoring coordinator.

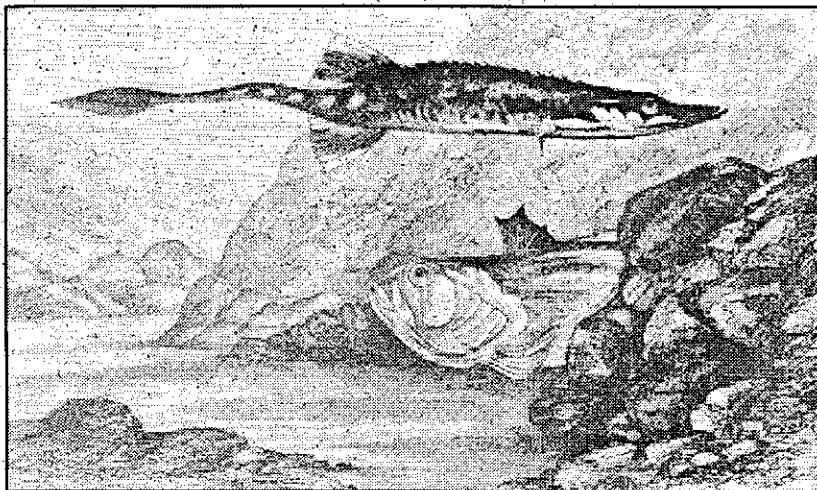
Rochelle will also take over the conference tracking duties from the current secretary, who has little acumen for the task. Cheryll Glotfelty, Walter Isle and John Tallmadge will oversee the rewriting of the ASLE By-Laws. Bonney McDonald will be ASLE's liaison with the MLA. Ann Fisher-Wirth volunteered to become involved with the "River of Words" literacy project.

From our All-Universe Treasurer, Allison Wallace: the new membership directory has some fancy new indexes in the back, making it easier to cross-reference members by region. New brochures have also been printed, with the "permanent" correspondence address now officially designated as Unity, Maine. For a variety of reasons, we missed the Spring, 97 membership renewal cycle, but renewals should hopefully stabilize this spring.

From the secretary: Questions were raised about what we should charge institutions for the membership mailing list. In the past, the secretary has essentially judged for himself

the size (and pocket depth) of each group, and charged accordingly; smaller groups received more generous pricing. It was decided that such a flexible approach remains appropriate, and could be augmented with such practices as trading the list for in-house ads in catalogs or journals. With this in mind, the secretary has contracted with a desktop publishing expert at the University of Delaware to do work on an as-needed basis.

From the editor of the newsletter: It was decided that a color insert—rather than tear-offs—would be a more useful way of advertising elections. A teaser such as "BALLOTS ENCLOSED" printed on the cover of the newsletter was also recommended as a way of alerting voters. To accommodate various membership deadlines, the fall newsletter, it was urged, should be mailed by the end of September, and the spring newsletter by the middle of April. With this in mind, it was recommended that the president maintain a master calendar with all important (and regular) dates listed, so that missed deadlines of all kinds can be avoided.



From the editor of *ISLE*: Scott Slovic delivered a handsome 4.2, and promised 5.1 by summer. He asked that *ISLE* mailing list and the membership mailing lists be coordinated. He also asked that some money, perhaps \$300 per issue, be granted a graduate editorial assistant.

Some concern was expressed about the quality of some of the papers presented

at the conference, and questions were raised about how to improve that quality without making the conference "exclusive." Requiring full papers rather than abstracts for panel proposals was one suggestion.

Discussion was held about the need to take ASLE global. Molly Westling, on the invitation of Richard Kerridge, will be speaking at a nature writing conference in England this summer. Thoughts were also raised about a "sponsoring program" to bring in more international members—as ASLE members meet interested scholars in their travels, they might consider buying them a membership in the group as a way of spreading the word.

It was suggested that we get folksinger Greg Brown to sing at the Michigan conference. Proposals for the 2001 conference are still being entertained; among those on the table is Salisbury State College on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

McKay Jenkins, *University of Delaware*

ASLE BOOKSHELF

Once again, ASLE members are proving themselves to be a most imaginative, enervated and productive lot. This edition of the "bookshelf" features all manner of books taking their shapes and styles; finding their ontological and aesthetic trajectories from some interaction with or response to the natural world. Here are critical and personal essays; poetry collections and anthologies; field guides, memoirs, and biographies. Let your independent bookseller set you up with the crispest copy on the block. My apologies to everyone I've overlooked: if you have a new book that you'd like ASLE members to know about (published in any country, in any language), please send word of it (or of them) to me.—ed.

Ruth Baetz, *Wild Communion: Experiencing Peace Through Nature*. Hazelden, 1997.

Rick Bass, *The Sky, the Stars, the Wilderness*. Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

Michael P. Branch and Daniel J. Philippon, eds. *The Height of Our Mountains: Nature Writing from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains and Shenandoah Valley*. Johns Hopkins, 1998.

Michael J. Caduto, *Earth Tales from Around the World*. Fulcrum, 1997.

Philip Daughtry, *Celtic Blood: Selected Poems, 1968-1994*. New Native Press, 1995.

Alison Hawthorne Deming, *The Monarchs: A Poem Sequence*. Louisiana State, 1997.

_____, ed., *Poetry of the American West: A Columbia Anthology*. Columbia, 1996.

John Elder, *Reading the Mountains of Home*. Harvard, 1998.

Don Gayton, *Landscapes of the Interior: Re-Explorations of Nature and the Human Spirit*. New Society, 1996.

Albert Gelpi, *Living in Time: The Poetry of C. Day Lewis*. Oxford, 1998.

Richard F. Fleck, *Where Land is Mostly Sky: Essays on the American West*. Passeggiata, 1997.

Daniel Halpern and Dan Frank, eds. *The Nature Reader*. Ecco, 1996.

Linda Hasselstrom, Gaydell Collier, and Nancy Curtis, eds., *Leaning into the Wind: Women Write from the Heart of the West*. Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

Doug Johnson, *Roots and Wings: A Bicycle Journey Across the West*. San Francisco, 1996.

Richard Kerridge and Neil Sammells, eds., *Writing the Environment*. UK: Zed Books, 1998.

Michael Kowalewski, ed., *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*. Heyday Books, 1997.

_____, *Reading the West: New Essays on the Literature of the American West*. Cambridge, 1996.

Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, *Hunting the Wren: Transformation of Bird to Symbol: A Study in Human-Animal Relationships*. Tennessee, 1997.

Linda Lear, *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*. Henry Holt, 1997.

Ian Marshall, *Story Line: Exploring the Literature of the Appalachian Trail*. Virginia, 1998.

Leo Marx and Bruce Mazlish, eds., *Progress: Fact or Illusion*. Rpt., Michigan, 1998.

Carolyn Merchant, *Green Versus Gold: Sources in California's Environmental History*. Island 1998.

Gary Paul Nabhan, *Cultures of Habitat: On Nature, Culture, and Story*. Counterpoint, 1997.

Scott Olsen and Scott Cairns, eds. *The Sacred Place: Witnessing the Holy in the Physical World*. Utah, 1996.

Elizabeth A. Petrino, *Emily Dickinson and Her Contemporaries: Women's Verse in America, 1820-1885*. New England, 1998.

Emma Bickman Pitcher, *Of Woods and Other Things*. Beech Leaf, 1996.

Rachel Stein, *Shifting the Ground: American Women Writers' Revisions of Nature, Gender, and Race*. Virginia, 1997.

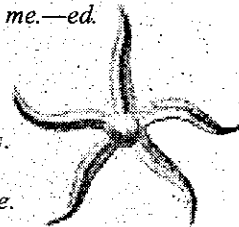
Adam W. Sweeting, *Reading Houses and Building Books: Andrew Jackson Downing and the Architecture of Popular Antebellum Literature, 1835-1855*. New England, 1996.

Deborah Tall, *From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place*. Rpt., Johns Hopkins, 1996.

David W. Teague, *The Southwest in American Literature and Art: The Rise of a Desert Aesthetic*. Arizona, 1997.

Jean Troy-Smith, *Called to Healing: Reflections on the Power of the Earth's Stories in Women's Lives*. SUNY, 1996.

Peter Wild and David W. Teague, eds. *The Secret Life of John C. Van Dyke: Selected Letters*. Nevada, 1997.

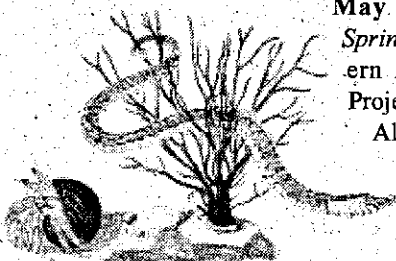


CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

May 22-25, 1998. *Heartwood Spring Fest Council*. The Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project (SABP) and the Dogwood Alliance will host Heartwood's annual spring gathering of forest activists and concerned citizens in western North Carolina. The

agenda will focus on chip mills and ending commercial logging on our national forests. Information: SAPB at 704/258-2667 or sabp@main.nc.us

May 29-31, 1998. *National Wilderness Conference*. The Wilderness Society, WAFC and dozens of other cosponsors present the National Wilderness Conference 1998 in Seattle, WA. The conference will both inspire and equip you to help secure lasting protection for the remaining unprotected wil-



derness. Hear and meet people from throughout North America who share your passion for wild land. Information: wildcon@twsw.org, National Wilderness Conference 1998, 12730 9th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98177-4306.

June 26-28, 1998. *Defining Problems and Solutions for Appalachian Restoration.* Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Conference. Scientists and activists will gather at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia to define our ecological crisis and identify strategies for action. Keynote presentations by Dr. Orie Loucks (Miami Univ.) and Dr. John Cairns (Virginia Polytechnic Institute). Contact: Appalachian Restoration Campaign, 614/592-3968, arc@frognet.net, <http://www.heartwood.org/ARC/>

September 4-5, 1998. *Writing the Environment.* The graduate students of the Dept. of English at the University of Nevada, Reno announce this interdisciplinary graduate student conference. Proposed topics include: Environments for writing, Composition pedagogy, Environmental rhetoric, Language environments, Nature writing, Writing in digital environments, dramatic or rhetorical environments. Limited housing is available at The University Inn: (702) 323-0321. Website: <http://www.unr.edu/unr/colleges/arts-n-science/eng/announce/wte.html>

October 15-18, 1998. *Cormac McCarthy: An International Colloquy.* Univ. of Texas, El Paso. Inquiries: Rick Wallach, 11401 SW 87th Ave., Miami, FL 33176, fax: 305-378-1117, Email: rwallach@bellsouth.net, <http://www.cormacmccarthy.com>.

October 16-18, 1998. *Cross-Currents in Romanticism.* The 1998 American Conference on Romanticism meeting will be held at the Univ. of California, Santa Barbara. Topics: international, interliterary, interdisciplinary connections and contrasts; crossing of genres; ways of dissemination, intermediaries; utopias and images of "the other"; literature and history; romantic literature and philosophy, the arts, and the sciences; romantic poetics and modern theory. Information: Gerhart

Hoffmeister, ACR Organizing Committee, Dept. of Germanic, Slavic, & Semitic Studies, UC, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, Ph: 805/893-2131; Fax: 805/893-2374; email: hoffmeis@humanitas.ucsb.edu, or Elizabeth

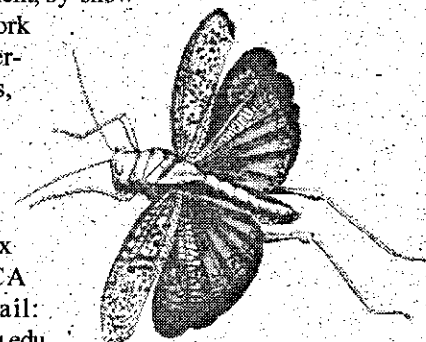
Heckendorn Cook, Dept. of English, UCSB, or Didier Maleuvre, Dept. of French and Italian, UCSB.

October 30-November 1. *The Second Annual Flint Hills Literary Festival—"Writing From the Land"*, at Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS. Featuring a keynote reading by nature writer Barry Lopez. Also, readings by Kansas writer Thomas Fox Averill, and the creative writing students at Washburn

Univ. ASLE members are invited to submit 250-word abstracts (by Aug. 30, 1998) on the work of writers who "write from the land." We welcome papers (10-15 minutes) that "triangulate" lesser-known work with that of better-known texts and writers. Pedagogically-inclined papers and original creative writing whose impulse comes from the human relationship to the nonhuman world are also welcome. Abstracts and queries to: Steve Heller, Dir., Creative Writing, English Dept. Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506, Email: sheller@ksu.edu

November 6-8, 1998. *Literature and the Environment*, a special session to be held at the annual meeting of the P.A.M.L.A. (Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association) at Scripps College, Claremont, CA. Through this panel, we hope to demonstrate the varieties of scholarship in the field of literature and environment, by showcasing papers that work with texts from different periods, genres, and places of origin.

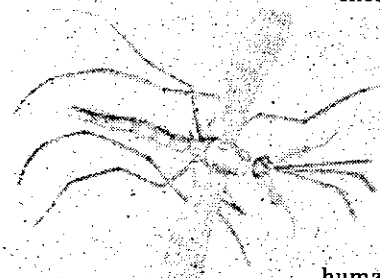
Information: Rochelle Johnson, Claremont Graduate Univ., c/o P. O. Box 750, Crestline, CA 92325-0750, email: rochelle.johnson@cgu.edu.



CALLS FOR PAPERS

June 1, 1998. *Representing Place: A Conference on Literature, Language, and the Arts*, November 5-7, 1998 in Flagstaff, AZ. This conference will be an opportunity for artists, writers, and scholars to explore connections between the language we use, the stories we tell, and the places we inhabit. We invite proposals that address the ways that language, literature, and the arts reflect and construct our impression of the world around us. Topics: The relationship between "the place itself" and language, Deconstructing nature/culture, Ideologies of place, Nature as depiction/Nature as advocacy, Speaking for nature, "Inhabiting" place, "Place-centered" fiction, Teaching environmental literature and the arts. Submit abstracts by June 1, 1998 to: Steven Rosendale, Dept. of English, Box 6032, N. Arizona Univ., Flagstaff, AZ 86011, Tel: (520) 523-5846, Email: Steven.Rosendale@nau.edu, Website: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~writcnt/english/fallconf.html>

June 15, 1998. *Crossing the West(s): Inventing Frontiers*, the Joint Annual Meeting of The Western Literature Association and the Canadian Association for American Studies, October 14-17, 1998. Discussions will center on the ways we think about The West as cultural production, historically and actually, and across national boundaries. Papers and panels will consider a wide range of theoretical, material, social, and



cultural issues in the ongoing "invention" of The West. Deadline: June 15. For more details, contact: Robert Thacker, President, Western Literature Association, Canadian Studies Program, St. Lawrence Univ., Canton, NY 13617, Phone (315) 229-5970 Fax: (315) 229-5802, Email: rtha@ccmaillink.stlawu.edu

September 1, 1998. *Appalachia and the South: Place, Gender, and Pedagogy*, a special issue of the *NWSA Journal*, a publication of the National Women's Studies Association, seeks contributions which explore the unique position of women in Appalachia and/or the southern U.S. Suggested topics: the role of women in public and private education, regional women artists & writers, gendered ethnicity issues, the changing labor market, sustainable communities, women and political action, the new New South, women and religion, the new spirituality, health and healing, ecology, environment, sustainability, regional studies. Abstracts by Sept. 1, 1998; papers by Dec. 1, 1998. For consideration, send three double-spaced copies of your manuscript (20-30 pp), to one of the three editors: Margaret McFadden, Ed. Pat Beaver, Assoc. Ed., Marilyn Smith, Assoc. Ed., *NWSA Journal*, PO Box 32132, Appalachian State Univ., Boone, NC 28608-2132 Email: Amy Speer: speeraw@appstate.edu

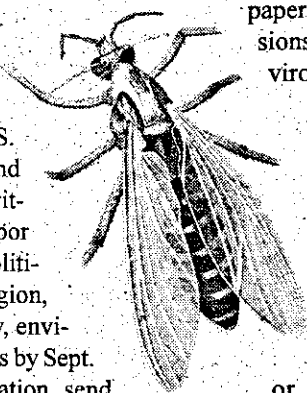
November 1, 1998. *Western Futures*, The Halcyon Series, Volume 22. This book will examine at the future of the West as we enter the next millennium. Contributions may deal with such issues, problems, and phenomena as: open space, closed space, land and resource use, human resources, the economy, western politics, the wild-west spirit, learning from history, prophecies and imperatives. The Editor welcomes essays that reflect on the past and the future—and their implications. Inquires and/or submissions: Stephen Tchudi, Editor, *Halcyon*, Dept. of English (098), Univ. of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557

December 11, 1998. *Gendered Landscapes: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Past Place and Space*, a conference to be held May 31-June 1, 1999 at State College, PA. The conference is co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Architecture and The Center for Studies in Landscape History and the Women's Studies Program. The conference will bring together scholars from many disciplines that study, create, and are inspired by issues of gender and landscape history: historians, geographers, landscape architects, art historians, urban historians, sociologists, artists, scholars of American and women's studies. A call for papers will be available in August 1998, and abstracts will be due Dec. 11, 1998. Website: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/GenderedLandscapes/> Information: Roberta Moore, Conference Planner, The Pennsylvania State Univ., 225 The Penn State Conference Center Hotel, University Park, PA 16802-7002, Phone: (814) 863-5120, Fax: (814) 863-5190, E-Mail: ConferenceInfo1@cde.psu.edu.

December 15, 1998. *The North American Interdisciplinary*

Conference on Environment and Community will be held at Weber State Univ., Ogden, UT, February 18-20, 1999. This conference features a gathering of scholars (from biology, economics, geology, history, literary studies, philosophy, and psychology), artists, natural resource managers, ranchers, rural dwellers and city dwellers, government officials, and recreational wilderness users. We invite abstracts, completed papers (15-minutes), proposals for roundtable discussions, workshops, and panels. Possible topics: environmental activism in developing nations; environment and the visual arts; indigenous cultures and natural resources; art, literature, and community-building; sense of place/time; living off the land; urban nature; Deep Ecology; Wise Use; government-community cooperation; ecocriticism; and tourism. Inquiries and submissions to: Mikel Vause, English, or William McVaugh, Psychology, Weber State Univ., Ogden, UT 84408, phone: 801-626-6659 or 801-626-6660, fax: 801-626-7760, email: mvause@weber.edu or wmcvagh@weber.edu

December 15, 1998. *Romanticism and the New*, the seventh annual conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, to be held August 12-15, 1999 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. We welcome presentations from a variety of disciplines, methodological perspectives and media that explore the technological, pedagogical, literary and ideological inno-



SNOWY Egret

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Founded as *The Bird World* in 1922 by Humphrey A. Olsen, *Snowy Egret* assumed its now-familiar title in 1924 and adopted its present magazine-sized format in 1929. In 1951, under Olsen's continuing editorship, the journal expanded its coverage from its original ornithological emphasis to include all types of nature writing and illustration. Now approaching its second century, *Snowy Egret* continues to explore the literary, artistic, historical, and philosophical aspects of natural history and invites all those with strong affinities to the natural world to join us in celebrating our psychological and aesthetic connection to the landscape and living things.

Snowy Egret is published semi-annually, in the spring and autumn. Subscriptions: \$12 per year, \$20 for two years. Address all inquiries, subscriptions, articles, fiction, reviews, artwork, and poetry to *Snowy Egret*, P.O. Box 9, Bowling Green, IN 47833.

ventions, renovations and transformations of Romanticism. Topics include: Romanticism and Technology, Romanticism and the New World, Romanticism and Millennialism, The 'New Romantics', Romanticism and the Contemporary, The Romantic Postmodern/The Postmodern Romantic, Romantic Beginnings, Romanticism and the Avant-Garde, Romanticism and the News, and The Romantic and the Novel. Submit papers or detailed proposals by Dec. 15, 1998 to NASSR '99, c/o Judith Thompson, Dept. of English, Dalhousie Univ., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3J5 CANADA. Fax: (902) 494-2176. Email: jthompso@is.dal.ca.

January 15, 1999. *Feminism, Literature, and the Environment.* *The Bucknell Review*, a biannual, multidisciplinary journal, invites critical or creative essays for a special issue on feminist literary ecocriticism. Topics include: manifestos of critical theoretical practice, relationships between literature and environmental activism, feminist readings of literary text(s), gender and environmental literary history, interrelations between ecofeminist literature and the other arts, ecofeminist perspectives on literature and race, cross-cultural studies of constructions of nature, intersections of sexuality, language, and culture, and queer studies. We are especially interested in essays exploring issues, writers and writings that are marginalized in existing ecocriticism. We encourage experimental, transgressive, and nonconformist critical writing, including criticism in a personal voice. Contributions and inquiries to: Glynis Carr, Dept. of English, Bucknell Univ.,

Lewisburg, PA 17837, 717-524-3118, gcarr@bucknell.edu.

Call for Manuscripts. The William Wordsworth Page (<http://members.aol.com/wordspage/home.htm>) invites papers on any aspect of Wordsworth's life and career. Of particular interest are papers that discuss the "landmark" works of Wordsworth's career, or the relationship between Wordsworth and other writers. Inquiries: David K. Rasnake, wordspage@aol.com.

Call for Art and Articles. The quarterly journal, *Organization & Environment*, as part of its regular "Arts and the Natural Environment" section, invites submissions of original creative work—poetry, photo-essays, and nonfiction—that explores the human relationship to the environment. We also would like to consider ecocritical articles. Please send work, after Sept. 1 to: Christopher Cokinos, Editor, Arts and the Natural Environment Section, *Organization & Environment*, English Dept., Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506.

ASLE-MLA UPDATE

Thanks to the hard work of Cheryll Glotfelty and Mike Branch, ASLE has now attained an affiliation with the MLA that increases opportunities for scholarly exchange among current as well as new members. As the last Newsletter reported, ASLE has been granted Allied Organization status. Among other things, this means that ASLE will have two sessions automatically scheduled at each year's meeting of the MLA.

As the recently appointed ASLE Liaison to the MLA, I would like to inform members of the procedures by which we will go about filling those sessions. First, since the Allied Organization status came too late in the year for there to be a timely Call for Papers, the two sessions for the 1998 MLA Conference in San Francisco have been arranged following discussion at the ASLE Leader's Retreat in Reno this February. For the San Francisco MLA Conference, there will be one panel on Twentieth-Century Ecopoetry and a Roundtable Discussion on Current Trends in Ecocriticism. The panels, in this inaugural year, are intended not only to reflect current scholarship among ASLE members but, in so doing, to offer to newcomers a wide sampling of the genres and periods covered in our field. Moreover, the panels should provide a welcome opportunity for graduate students and established scholars to present their work together.

The 1999 MLA Conference will have plenty of lead time during which to put sessions together. There will be a Call For Papers in the Fall ASLE Newsletter with a deadline for submissions in late December 1998. The two sessions will be organized during January and February, and the program copy will be sent to the MLA in time for their early April deadline. Any members with ideas for a panel or interest in learning more about taking part in one of the sessions, are encouraged to contact me at Union College.

Bonney MacDonald, *Union College*



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ASLE 1999: THE MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

Plans for the 1999 ASLE Conference in Kalamazoo are developing nicely. The Conference theme comes from the last lines of Robert Frost's poem, "The Ovenbird": "What to Make of a Diminished Thing: Preservation, Restoration, Cooperation."

In addition to our usual sorts of sessions, we will feature sessions on midwestern and eastern nature writers, on biological matters related to lumbering and farming on midwestern and eastern lands, on river systems of the region polluted by PCBs, on how wildness can be maintained and enhanced when and where wilderness is a thing of the past; all sessions will be developed and organized by Walter Isle and Molly Westling. A formal call for papers will appear in the Fall Newsletter, but until then you can mark your calendars with the tentative proposal deadline of January 15, 1999.

Field trips will go to the Lake Michigan Dunes, to the Great Lakes Maritime Museum in South Haven Michigan, to wild and lovely stretches of the Kalamazoo River which are also an EPA Superfund Site, to pollution abatement projects of local drug and paper companies, to local nesting sites of rare and unusual birds hosted by some of the Midwest's leading ornithologists. For those of our membership still deciding whether to make the trip to Kalamazoo and its environs, an

enticing photographic essay, accompanied by the prose of local residents and artists, will appear on ASLE's homepage sometime early next Fall.

For those of us who aren't quite certain where Kalamazoo is, it is important to note that it is in Southwestern Michigan, 140 miles east of Detroit, and 140 miles west of Chicago on Interstate 94. It can be reached by most mass-transit systems. It is a city of about 80,000 people in a county of about 140,000 people, with vigorous cultural, agricultural and economic activity. Western Michigan University is a Carnegie Doctoral I University within easy striking distance of Research II status, with a student population of 27,000, of which 7,000 are graduate students. WMU has a renowned Water Quality Institute, an established and complex [and underfunded and understaffed] Environmental Studies Program, a newly established Institute for Environmental Research, and numerous programs and courses in agriculture, ecology, bioregionalism and public history.

We look forward to being your hosts in Kalamazoo next summer, and to our first conference east of the Mississippi River. Come our way and we will cook you 'hot dish.'

Tom Bailey, *Western Michigan University*



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

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

Name _____

Affiliation (if not listed below) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

(o); _____

(h)

FAX Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Research/Writing Interests _____

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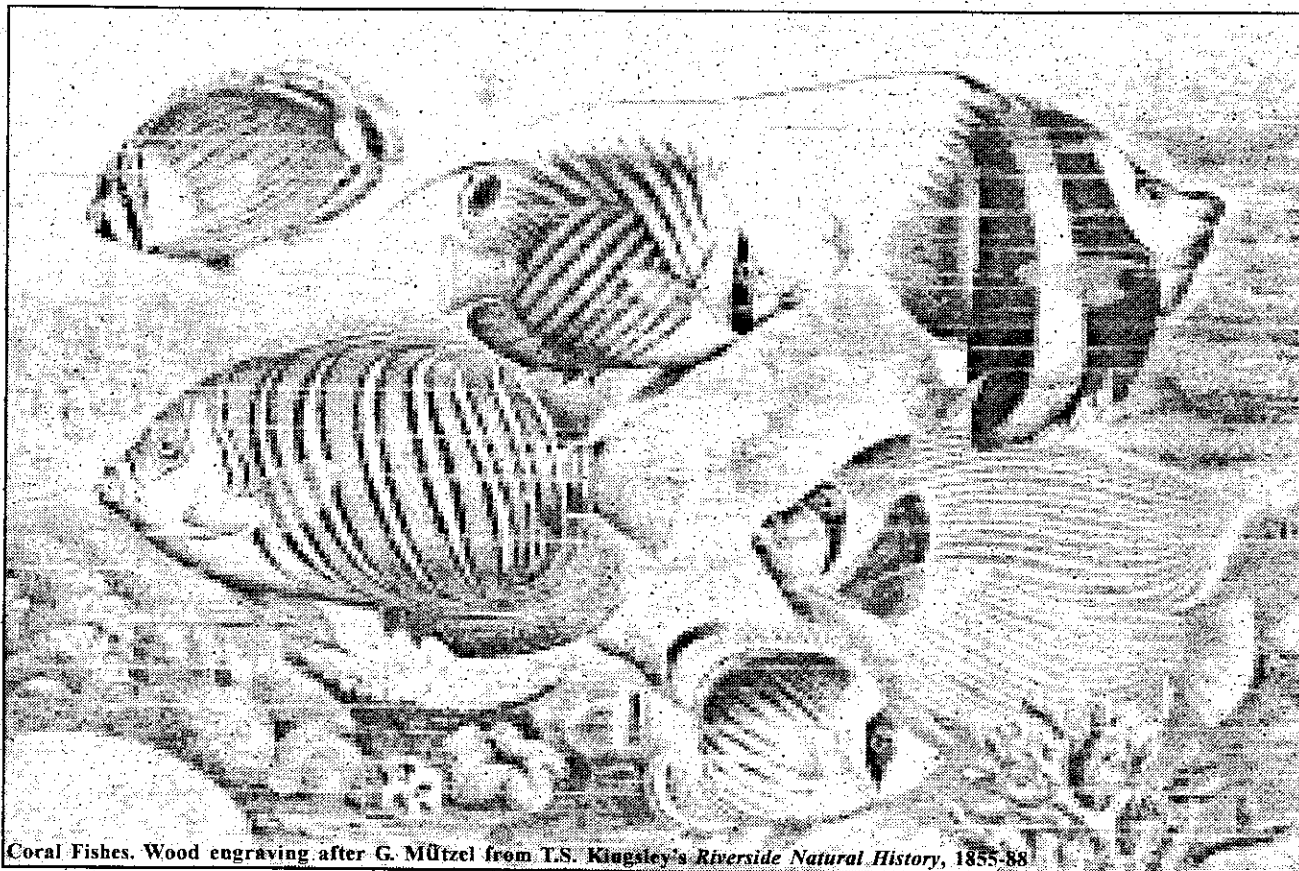
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Please make checks payable to ASLE and return dues with this form to:

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

*Couples please include contact information for both people!

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



Coral Fishes. Wood engraving after G. Mützel from T.S. Klugstey's *Riverside Natural History*, 1855-88



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