

Association for
the Study of
**Literature &
Environment**



ASLE News

Summer 2014

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

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Notes from Underground:

**The Depths of Environmental
Arts, Culture and Justice**

ASLE Eleventh Biennial Conference
June 23-27, 2015 ♦ University of Idaho

ASLE 2015 Biennial Conference Call for Papers is out!

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Introducing: Moscow, Idaho!

By Anna Banks, Jennifer Ladino, Scott Slovic, and Erin James, University of Idaho

The 2015 ASLE conference, "Notes from Underground: The Depths of Environmental Arts, Culture and Justice," will be hosted in Moscow, Idaho, from June 23-27. Home to the [University of Idaho](#), Moscow is a hip little city nestled among the rolling green hills of the Palouse--a distinctive, beautiful region in the inland Pacific Northwest that offers some of the best photographic and birding opportunities in Western North America. The forests of Northern Idaho form the eastern border of the Palouse and the Snake River the southern, while flat terrains and shallow soils mark the region's northern and western edges. Once the site of diverse grasslands and wildflowers, the Palouse is today one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world and grows the nation's richest crops of barley, wheat, lentils, and chickpeas. (Conference participants who return to the region in August can delight in the annual national pea and lentil festival, featuring the world's largest bowl of lentil chili!) In particular, the region is known for dryland farming, an agricultural technique that uses no irrigation to produce crops.

Known as the "heart of the arts," the [city of Moscow](#) boasts a vibrant arts and culture scene that features independent bookstores, over forty restaurants and coffee houses, a thriving local Co-op and farmer's market, art galleries, lively bars, and an independent movie theater. The university campus is likewise energetic and

Quick Links

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Comp Exam List Database

ASLE is compiling a database of comprehensive exam lists for students working in the environmental humanities, writing, and ecocriticism to use as reference in their own preparations for exams. If you have an environmental list that you would be willing to share, please email it to Clare Echterling, Graduate Student Liaison, at cechterling@ku.edu. Thank you!

ASLE Bookshelf

The following works were recently published by ASLE members. If we've missed your publication, please send bibliographic information to editor [Catherine Meeks](#).

Brazeau, Robert and Derek Gladwin, eds. [EcoJoyce: The Environmental Imagination of James Joyce](#). Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press, 2014.



Geometry in the Landforms of the Palouse Region of Idaho.

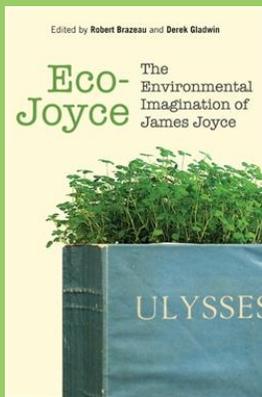
is home to a century-old, 63-acre arboretum and botanical garden and public golf course. The city lies within easy distance of a host of outdoor activities, including birding and hiking, biking, and running along miles of local paved paths and mountain trails. Given all that the region has to offer, it is no surprise that Moscow was recently named one of the nation's five best places to live among college towns by *Men's Journal*, and the University of Idaho was recently named one of the top thirty great universities for "hitting the books and the back country" by *Outside Magazine*.

For those looking for adventures a bit farther afield before or after the conference, the region will not disappoint. You might consider the ample opportunity for fishing and Lewis and Clark memorabilia on the nearby Snake River, or head to local whitewater capital Riggins, Idaho, where wilderness outfitters offer faster thrills in rafting trips along the Salmon River and through Hell's Canyon. To recover from the bustle of the conference (or prepare for it), try Walla Walla, Washington, the capital of Washington Wine Country that lies only a few hours from Moscow. Home to over 100 wineries and 1800 acres of grapevines, Walla Walla was recognized by Fodor's as one of the "10 Best Small Towns in America" in 2013.

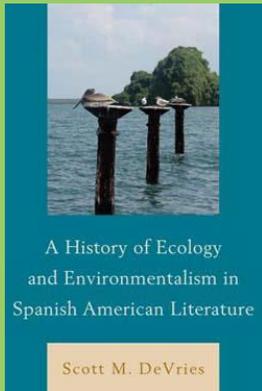
We very much look forward to seeing you here and can't wait to share our town and campus with you. We'll be in touch with more details about our university and the area as the conference approaches. See you in June 2015!



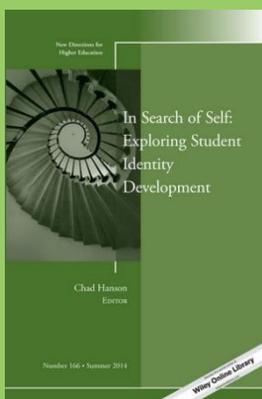
Our 2015 Conference Hosts at University of Idaho:
Scott Slovic, Jennifer Ladino, Anna Banks, and Erin James.



DeVries, Scott. [*A History of Ecology and Environmentalism in Spanish American Literature*](#). Lanham, MD: Bucknell University Press, 2013.



Hanson, Chad, ed. [*In Search of Self: Exploring Student Identity Development*](#) (New Directions for Higher Education, Number 166). Jossey-Bass, 2014.



ASLE Grants Awarded

We are extremely pleased to announce the winners of our new ASLE grants in several categories. Translation Grants were established in order to support work in ecocriticism from international scholars and to expand exchanges across cultures and continents. Book/Article/Media Project Subvention Grants were created to support innovative projects in ecocriticism and the environmental humanities. The Community Grants seek to support projects that will help build connections between the environmental humanities and place-based environmental organizations working outside the academy.

Our grant committees worked very hard to complete their evaluations and deliberations and were extremely impressed by the fine quality of all the proposals received in this pilot year. We look forward to a rich array of submissions in the future.

Translation Grants

by Heather I. Sullivan, Trinity University, Chair of Translation Grants Committee

Our first year with the ASLE translation grant was a great success: we received very impressive applications and made three awards of \$1,000 each. These include:



Patricia Liu, UIBE, Beijing

Patricia Liu's translation of Xu Gang's book, *Wake up, Loggers!* This is a collection of reports published 1988-1996. It is considered the first reportage on environmental issues, and the first piece of nature writing, in modern China. The five chapters report the deteriorating situations in China caused by forestry, water and land pollution. She is translating the second edition, one of the eleven "Green Classics" compiled by Jilin People's Publishing House in 1997.

Patricia Liu is a poet, writer, college English teacher at the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Beijing. She writes in both English and Chinese.

Michael Berman's translation of Yuki Masami's book, *Around the Hearth of Modernity: Ecocritical Approaches to the Literary Foodscapes of Contemporary Japanese Women Writers*, previously published in Tokyo by Suiseisha, 2012. Masami describes the book in terms of how food binds us to each other and the environment, though each place and situation alters the "foodscape." In this



Michael Berman, UC San Diego



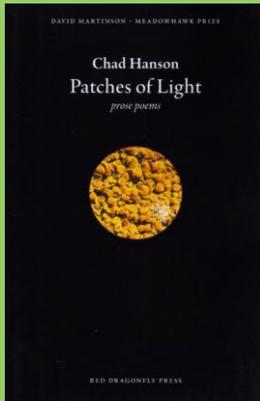
Yuki Masami, Kanazawa University

book, Masami explores the logic and systems of value surrounding food in the works of four popular Japanese female authors: Ishimure Michiko, Taguchi Randy, Morisaki Kazue, and Nashiki Kaho. The translation will be published by Palgrave Macmillan (in the book series Literatures, Cultures, and the Environment).

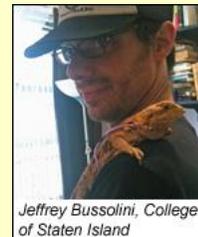
Michael Berman is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego.

Jeffrey Bussolini's and Matthew Chrulw's translation of Dominique Lestel's book, *Les Origines animales de la culture (The Animal Origins of Culture)*. The book was originally published in Paris by Flammarion, 2001, and became part of their "Champs Essais" or "Field Essays/Tests" series, in which books by Alice Miller, Jurgen Habermas, Bertrand Russel, Bernard Stiegler, Julia Kristeva, and Réne Girard, among others, are published. Bussolini and Chrulw describe the book's

Hanson, Chad. [Patches of Light](#) (prose poems). Red Dragonfly Press, 2014.



premise as an assertion "that culture is not antithetical to nature, but rather intrinsic to the living, at even the most basic levels, and that it constitutes a particular niche of the living." They note that Lestel states "that the book is situated at the crossroads between a marginal current of phenomenology, not frequently taught in academic coverage of the topic, and the results of the 'ethological revolution' of the last thirty years."



Jeffrey Bussolini, College of Staten Island

Jeffrey Bussolini is Associate Professor of Sociology, The College of Staten Island of the City University of New York. Matthew Chrulew is on the Faculty of Humanities, Curtin University, Australia.

Subvention Grants:

Christopher Cokinos, Eric Magrane (Co-Editors) and Paul Mirocha (Artist) won a grant to assist with the cost of illustrations for *A Literary Field Guide to the Sonoran Desert* (\$2000), under contract with the University of Arizona Press. Paul Mirocha has done artwork for books by writers Gary Paul Nabhan and Barbara Kingsolver, and for periodicals such as *Smithsonian Magazine*. These illustrations will be integral to the field-guide portion of the anthology. *A Literary Field Guide to the Sonoran Desert* gathers creative responses--poetry and prose--to some of the iconic and more obscure plants and animals of this region. Not simply an anthology, his volume is also a field guide, with information on the habitats, appearances and life histories of plants, invertebrates, birds, mammals, and reptiles and amphibians. Science and emotion combine to create a multi-species poetic ecology.

Houser, Heather. [Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction: Environment and Affect](#). New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.



Chris Cokinos, University of Arizona



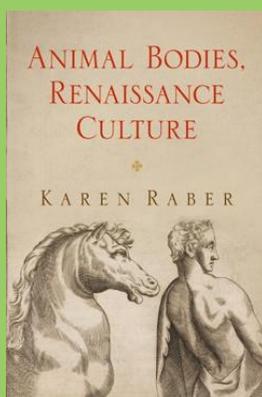
Artist Paul Mirocha



Eric Magrane, University of Arizona. Photo by Thomas McDonald.

Christopher Cokinos is Director of Creative Writing and Associate Professor of English at University of Arizona. Eric Magrane, MFA, is a Ph.D. student in the School of Geography and Development at University of Arizona. Paul Mirocha is an artist and book illustrator.

Raber, Karen. [Animal Bodies, Renaissance Culture](#). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.



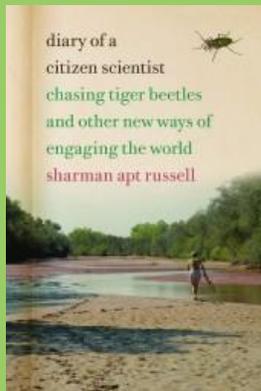
David Taylor, Stony Brook University

David Taylor (Lead Editor) has been granted \$1000 to offset the printing costs for a color insert of a photomosaic in the volume *Sushi in Cortez: Interdisciplinary Essays on Mesa Verde*. The manuscript will be published in May, 2015 by the University of Utah Press. This tri-fold will be printed in color on both sides and contains two photographic mosaic panoramas created by Steve Bardolph as part of this interdisciplinary project. *Sushi in Cortez* is a collection of interconnected essays about the Mesa Verde Region put together by an interdisciplinary group of academics, artists and cultural observers. From ethnopoetics and poetry, to documentary film, to environmental philosophy, nature photography, native Pueblo perspectives, and archaeology, the essays represent stories of the discomfort and rewards of traveling to archaeological sites together. The book will offer a thorough introduction to Mesa Verde with maps of the area as well as an introduction to the history of its archaeology and tourism. This volume will not only touch on Mesa Verde but on the changing nature of universities, research, teaching and interdisciplinary work.

Russell, Sharman Apt. [Diary of a Citizen Scientist](#).

[Chasing Tiger Beetles and Other New Ways of Engaging the World.](#)

Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 2014.

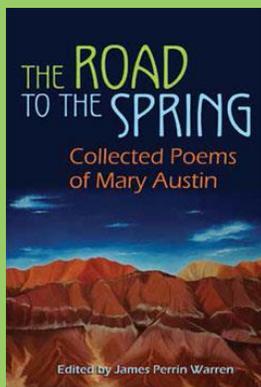


Warren, James Perrin, ed.

[The Road to the Spring:](#)

[Collected Poems of Mary](#)

[Austin.](#) Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 2014.



White, Steven F., ed.

[El consumo de lo que](#)

[somos: muestra de poesía](#)

[ecológica hispánica](#)

[contemporánea \(Aridijs,](#)

[Calderón, Galeano, Huenún,](#)

[Riechmann\).](#) Madrid:

Amargord, 2014.



David Taylor is Visiting Professor of Sustainability at Stony Brook University.

Rayson K. Alex and S. Susan Deborah have been awarded \$1000 to support the 2015 tiNai Eco-film Festival (TEFF). Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani (BITS-Pilani) in Goa, India, will present its second edition of tiNai Ecofilm Festival at Goa. TEFF 2015, with a theme of "Landscapes," will present 30+ ecological and environmental documentaries with pressing ecological issues to students, ecoenthusiasts, activists, journalists and filmmakers over two days in October 2015. The ASLE grant funds will be used toward creation of an interactive video-space at the festival website, documenting the festival extensively (through talks, lectures, panel discussion, screenings, responses and papers), and publication of a critical book on the documentaries screened.



Rayson Alex,
BITS Pilani, India

Rayson K. Alex is Assistant Professor of English and S. Susan Deborah is an independent researcher, both at Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani (BITS-Pilani), K.K. Birla Goa Campus, India.

Community Grant:

The University of Idaho's Department of English and local nonprofit organization Backyard Harvest, Inc. have received a \$5,000 community grant. In preparation for the June 2015 ASLE conference in Moscow, they will work together to articulate explicit, compelling connections between local food systems, food security, and environmental justice and sustainability.



Jessica Bearman,
Backyard Harvest

[Backyard Harvest](#) (BYH) is a Moscow-based nonprofit organization serving communities across the region which works to outgrow hunger on the Palouse (Northeastern Washington and Northern Idaho) by connecting local growers with low-income children, families, and seniors to increase access to healthy food choices across the region, through a variety of locally-based growing, gathering, and gleaning activities.

The grant will assist BYH in enhancing its communication effectiveness and outreach to the local community. BYH would like to encourage more members of the community to become involved and also to draw out the environmental and food justice aspects of their work. In particular, BYH would like to demonstrate how they address the critical intersection between food security, local food systems, and environmental sustainability. Highlighting the environmental aspects of this work will allow BYH to reach an entirely new audience of potential supporters, funders, and volunteers.

The funding will be used to hire a fellow, a graduate student enrolled in the University of Idaho's English department, who will work with Backyard Harvest to develop creative, compelling materials, including a brochure, an annotated photographic exhibit, and a short visual or film that can be used in public presentations. The grant will also support graphic design and printing/materials production, advertising, and outreach costs. The brochure, exhibition, and public presentation materials produced from this project will help to articulate clearly the inextricable links between human culture and the environment on the Palouse.



Anna Banks, University of
Idaho

Grant Committee Members: Jessica Bearman and Carol Spurling, Board of Directors, Backyard Harvest; Anna Banks, Erin James, Jennifer Ladino, and Scott Slovic, English Dept., University of Idaho

ASLE Emeritus

Monica Weis SSJ,

ASLE member since the creation of the organization, has retired from Nazareth College and been granted emeritus status by the Board of Trustees. She is planning to write a book on Thomas Merton and Celtic Spirituality which, for sure, will involve ecological themes. In May, she was one of five inter-faith plenary speakers at the 5-day "Festival of Faiths" in Louisville, KY whose 2014 theme was Sacred Earth/Sacred Self. Monica's presentation was entitled: "Finding Oneself in the Cosmic Dance: Nature's Grace for Thomas Merton."

ASLE Ph.D.

Monica Ehrlich recently completed her PhD in the Department of French at the University of Virginia, titled "Saints, Sex, and Species: Ecology and Sexuality in French Hagiography from the Late Twelfth and Early Thirteenth Centuries." Her committee was directed by Amy Ogden, and included Deborah McGrady, Claire Lyu, and Willis Jenkins (Dean's Representative, Religious Studies).

Bylaws Change Summary

The Executive Council has made several changes to the ASLE bylaws this year. Most of them are minor updates to the language, either to reflect organizational structure or process that has changed over time, or to more accurately reflect the current mission and direction of the association. Two are more substantive changes worth noting:

- As announced in the Spring 2014 newsletter, the election process has been changed so that both a VP and President will be elected for two year terms on a staggered cycle, and the VP will be a separate office and no longer automatically become president.
- The Graduate Student Liaison position, since it carries voting privileges in its second year, has been changed to an elected position starting with the 2015 nomination and election cycle.

Please see the following sections of the bylaws for these changes, posted in full on the website here: <http://www.asle.org/site/about/policies/>. Modified sections: 2.1, 2.1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 4.3, 4.5, 5.1-5.4, 6.2, 6.4, 8.1, 9.2, 9.5, 10.2

Report on "Writing in Place" Summer Writers' Workshop

By Stella M Čapek, Hendrix College

This past June, [Sterling College](#) offered a "Writing in Place" workshop (June 9-20) that was co-sponsored by ASLE. Located in the tiny Vermont town of Craftsbury Common, Sterling is known for its Wildbranch Workshop. This summer, though, it tried out a different model. Instead of working with one visiting writer for a week, the seven of us who signed up for the workshop encountered four different writers over the course of two weeks--Clare Walker Leslie, John Elder, Rowan Jacobsen, and Ginger Strand. Each visiting writer took a turn facilitating group discussions as well as meeting with us individually to offer feedback on our writing. Our group activities included plenty of writing prompts, shared readings of our writing, and wide-ranging discussions in response to assigned readings. With the exception of two evening readings (Clare Walker Leslie with John Elder, Rowan Jacobsen with Ginger Strand), there was no overlap between the visiting authors. Pavel Cenkl, Dean of the College and Faculty, organized and facilitated the writing workshop, meeting with us at the beginning, setting us up to share our work on Google Drive, and concluding with a session that included a reading of our pieces.



Reading with John Elder and Clare Walker Leslie at the Sterling College Writing in Place Workshop.

The pattern for the workshop included two to three days with each visiting writer. The contrasts between them enhanced the workshop experience. Although Clare Walker Leslie commented that she "isn't a writer," after sharing her illustrated journals with us, she got our eyes (and drawing pencils) attuned to what was around us in that particular season. Personally, I enjoyed starting out this way, although some of us were more challenged than others by drawing (or thinking that they had to draw well). John Elder came next, with a segment focused on memoir. We couldn't have asked for a better mentor to kick off the more writing-focused part of the workshop. He encouraged us to see the workshop as a chance for everyone to develop, and modeled that for us. He also hosted us one afternoon at his cabin on a nearby lake, a cozy place on that chilly day for our lively discussions of our assigned readings. Our last session with him was in the pavilion/gazebo on the commons, assisted by some local microbrews (or in my case, Vermont hard cider, gluten-free). He took great care to give us useful personal feedback and a thought-provoking collective experience.

Next, Rowan Jacobsen brought us his expertise on writing about food and place, and shared his experience with successfully placing his nature-related essays in a broad range of publications. He invited us to think about movement in our writing, including communicating the adventure of discovering a local place and bringing in its broader context. He was happy to give in to our requests for a small field trip to a local farm that produces cheese, and turned it into one of our writing prompts. Our concluding session was outside in a small garden pavilion, accompanied, in the spirit of local food and place, by Vermont hard cider, including some of his own making (we thought it beat out the best commercial contender in the local store). Last--but certainly not least--in the lineup, Ginger Strand offered us her experience with writing fiction and nonfiction, including spunky stories about her background research for *Inventing Niagara* and *Killer on the Road*. Like all of the visiting writers, she pushed us beyond superficial responses to readings that we didn't immediately connect with, encouraging us to find the careful art and technique practiced by each author so that we could make more informed choices about our own writing. We also had a helpful discussion of background research sources. Our last session with her included individual writing conferences on the front porch of one of the white wooden campus buildings. Besides that, in the two evening readings, each of the visiting writers offered us their own carefully crafted words and informal comments about their writing.

This summary doesn't do justice to the details and the intensity of the two week experience, but it gives some idea of how we spent our time. You might ask, when were we writing, in the midst of all of this? We were writing every day, responding to many writing prompts, and often at night, putting work into a longer piece. Having four visiting writers to work with was exciting, but coordinating all of the different activities was a challenge. Fortunately, while all four visiting writers came "loaded for bear" with readings, prompts, and ideas about how best to structure our time, they were very open to our needs. They balanced their desire not to shortchange us in any way with our need for time on our own or individual conferences. Their flexibility helped us make the best use of the workshop experience.

Sterling College hosted us well, from the student who came and picked me up from my very late flight into Burlington and drove me the hour and half to Craftsbury Common, to all of the staff at the college. The food, much of it locally grown, all of it carefully labelled, practically got up and danced with us, it was so inviting. The hours were tough on night owls, though--breakfast at 7:30, workshop starting at 8:30. It was fun to explore miniscule Craftsbury Common, especially with the help of one of our workshop participants, Michelle, originally from Canada, who had almost earned the status of a local, and could tell us the difference between the "regular" general store down the road and the fancy one for "flatlanders."

As for me, I took advantage of the beginning of a sabbatical to do something I've long meant to do: take part in a writers' workshop, instead of always writing alone. The seven of us were a perfect number for interacting and sharing writing. I liked

the diversity in age, occupation, ambitions, where we hailed from, and reasons for wanting to develop our writing. I came away glad for the experience, and enjoying writing about lilacs.

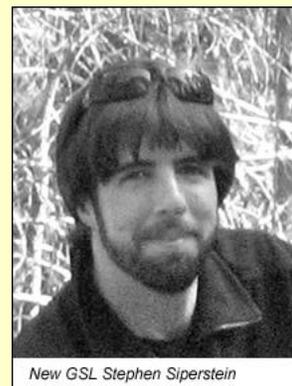
Nominees Sought to Run for ASLE Office

Candidates are being sought to run for ASLE Executive Council (EC) and Vice President (VP), for terms beginning January 2015. EC members serve a 3-year term, and beginning this year the VP term will be as follows: two years as VP, and one as Immediate Past Vice President. If you or another member you know would like to run for an ASLE office, please contact 2014 President Mark Long (mlong@keene.edu) by September 20, 2014.

Welcome to New GSL

ASLE is pleased to welcome the newest member of our leadership team, Graduate Student Liaison Stephen Siperstein. Stephen is a PhD candidate in the English Department at the University of Oregon. His areas of research include climate change cultures, 20th century U.S. environmental literature, and ecocomposition. His dissertation focuses on the U.S. cultural and literary responses to climate change, particularly in contemporary North American literature. His poetry has been/will be published in *Town Creek Poetry*, *ISLE*, and *Poecology*. In 2012, he organized a conference at the University of Oregon on environmental pedagogy, and is currently co-editing with Stephanie LeMenager and Shane Hall an international volume of essays on Teaching Climate Change in Literary and Cultural Studies.

Stephen sees ASLE as a potential home not only for graduate students in the fields of literature and the environment, but also for graduate students in the environmental humanities more broadly. With this in mind, he hopes to "continue to increase the involvement of new graduate students in ASLE, even--and perhaps especially--those who may not yet consider themselves 'ecocritics.'"



Stephen also hopes to use current venues (such as the [Graduate Student Blog](#) and [Facebook Page](#)) and create other forums for graduate students to share what they're doing in their classrooms. He states: "Whether TA-ing for a large intro to the major lecture, teaching a first year composition course, or developing an innovative interdisciplinary course, graduate students often engage in some of the most important environmental pedagogy, and ASLE should continue highlighting their work."

Update from the ASLE Diversity Officer

By Sarah D. Wald, University of Oregon

The ASLE Diversity Caucus now has an Access Initiatives Working Group (Nicole Seymour, J.C. Sibara, Sarah Jaquette Ray, and Sarah D. Wald). As its first task, this group drafted a set of "Access Guidelines for the ASLE Biennial Conference." The Access Guidelines are currently available on the [ASLE Diversity Blog](#). They will also be posted on the new ASLE website.

In drafting these guidelines, the Access Initiatives Working Group considered the access guidelines of several other professional organizations including MLA, AHA, and ARA. We also considered Margaret Price's "Access Imagined: The Construction of Disability in Conference Policy Documents," published in *Disability Quarterly* 29.1 (2009). We revised the guidelines using feedback from the ASLE Diversity Caucus and the ASLE Executive Council. The local site coordinators for ASLE's next biennial conference are already working on implementing the new guidelines. If you have feedback on the guidelines or you are interested in getting more involved in the Access Initiatives Working Group or the Diversity Caucus, please contact SarahDWald@gmail.com.

Thoreau Society ASLE-Sponsored Panel

By James Finley, New Mexico State University

At the 2014 [Thoreau Society Annual Gathering](#) the ASLE-sponsored panel addressed questions of materiality and the nonhuman in Thoreau's writings. Considering the relation between the so-called "material turn" and Thoreau studies, participants on the roundtable examined ways in which Thoreau's writings anticipate the new materialism, the materiality inherent to his processes of writing and observation, his critique of nineteenth-century science, how his writings about animals engage materiality, and the materiality of the objects he left behind. Each participant posted a position paper to a ["Thoreau and the Material Turn" blog](#) and audience members were encouraged to read the papers in advance and comment on the blog. Revised versions of the papers will be published in *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* and *The Thoreau Society Bulletin*, the two publications of the Thoreau Society.

Ecocriticism Sessions at ALA 2014

By Ian Marshall, Penn State Altoona

The American Literature Association Conference in Washington, DC, May 22-25, 2014, included two ASLE-sponsored sessions on the topic of the new nature writing.



Lentil Field in the Palouse Region of Idaho.

The first session was chaired by Ian Marshall and entitled "The New Nature Writing I: New Explorers, Young Writers, New Ecocriticism." Susan Cohen from Anne Arundel Community College presented "Cosmic Outlaws: Coming of Age After the End of Nature," in which she reported on her anthology, now in the review stage, about nature writing by young writers who came of age after 1989, the publication date of Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature*. In "Selfies on Everest: The New Explorers Leave Their Mark," Frank Fucile of the College of William and Mary examines *National Geographic's* coverage of the 2012 Legacy Climb (including magazine articles, online content, and the book *The Call of Everest*) in comparison to its coverage of the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition. Frank explores the ways in which documenting and writing about the mountain in a twenty-first century context has forced critical self-examination not only of why climbers climb but how they should and even whether they should. Sarah Daw from the University of Exeter "New Ecocriticism and Old War: The Potential of Contemporary Ecocriticism to Reorient the Critical Field of Cold War Literary Studies," has two interrelated foci, both of which engage with the most recent developments in ecocritical theory. The first is the critical neglect of the place and function of the natural world within early Cold War American literature. The second focus of the paper involves outlining the critical methodology which underpins the critical neglect of Cold War nature writing, relying on two recent ecocritical studies, Scott Knickerbocker's *Ecopoetics* (2012) and David Abrams' *Becoming Animal* (2011).

The second session, "The New Nature Writing II: Going West," was chaired by Megan Simpson. In "The Dark Side of Nature Writing: *Nature Noir* and *Wisconsin Death Trip*," Richard J. Schneider (Wartburg College) explores the dark anti-pastoral side to the nature writing tradition in two recent texts, *Nature Noir* and *Wisconsin Death Trip*. In "Changing the Mid-American Landscape: The Vulnerable Nature of John Price," Linda Lizut Helstern (North Dakota State University) reports on the work of nature writer John Price, who has been called "the funniest man in the nature business." In "Done with the Past(oral)? New Nature Writing and the American West," Austin Hetrick (University of Virginia) wonders what a future-oriented nature writing would look like.

The ALA is a rewarding event for anyone interested in ecocriticism and the environmental humanities. The ASLE session at ALA in 2015 will be organized by Nicole Merola. A call for papers will circulate later this year.

Member News

Ann Fisher-Wirth has received the 2014 Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches English and directs the Environmental Studies minor. This university-wide award is given to one faculty member nominated via letters to a selection committee by faculty, students, and alumni.

Chad Hanson's collection of prose poems, *Patches of Light*, won the 2013 David Martinson-Meadowhawk Prize in Poetry. (see our [Bookshelf](#) section for more information)

Associate Professor of English at the University of British Columbia **Vin Nardizzi's** eco-materialist, eco-historical book, *Wooden Os: Shakespeare's Theatres and England's Trees*, was recently short-listed for the 2013 Theatre Book Prize by the Society for Theatre Research. A full report and photographs are available here: <http://www.str.org.uk/events/bookprize/>.

N. Sethu Narayanan, PhD Scholar at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India, published the paper "A Study on the Anthropocentric Impact on Wildlife Habitat in Jeyamohan's Forest (Kaadu)" in the December 2013 issue of *Transactions on Engineering and Sciences* (TES), a peer reviewed international journal from India.

ASLE News Notes

Member News

Whether you got a new job, won an award, or did something interesting, enlightening, or exciting, we want to know what you're up to! If you have some news to share with other ASLE members, and it doesn't "fit" into the Bookshelf, PhD, or Emeritus categories, please contact Catherine Meeks (catherine.meeks@gmail.com) with the Subject heading "Member News."

ASLE Emeritus

ASLE News honors those ASLE members retired or retiring from teaching. If you would like to acknowledge someone in this new feature--or if you yourself will be retiring during the coming academic year--please contact Catherine Meeks (catherine.meeks@gmail.com). We will include a brief account of scholarly interests, the institutions of employment and years taught in the next newsletter.

ASLE PhDs

Have you or one of your students recently defended a dissertation? If so, ASLE News wants to know. Each issue, we include announcements commemorating those members who have recently completed their doctoral work. If you would like to be included in this feature, please contact Catherine Meeks (catherine.meeks@gmail.com) with the dissertation title, degree-granting institution, and committee members.

Contact Information

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