

## When the G.O.P. Was Green

By William Cronon, University of Wisconsin

This article appeared in *The New York Times* on Monday, January 8, 2001; reprinted with permission.

The past [few months have] seen stark reminders of just how much the Democratic and Republican parties differ on environmental policy.

As President-elect George W. Bush nominated cabinet secretaries committed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and promoting development on public lands, [outgoing] President Clinton issued an order . . . putting nearly one-third of national forest land off limited to road building and logging and preserving millions of acres in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

What is odd about this stark contrast is that no one seems surprised by it. Yet Republican hostility to environmental protection is quite a recent development. Indeed, until the 1980's, Republicans could claim with considerable justification that their party's environmental record was no less distinguished than that of the Democrats.

After all, Theodore Roosevelt, one of the greatest Republican presidents, launched conservation as a national political movement. Roosevelt set aside the first national monuments and wildlife refuges. In 1906, Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act, which has enabled Mr. Clinton to protect wild lands as national monuments (and which Republican congressmen would like to radically weaken for that reason). Among the places Teddy Roosevelt protected by the Antiquities Act was no less a national treasure than the Grand Canyon.

Roosevelt was by no means the only Republican president eager to protect America's lands and resources. Although this is not the way we remember him, Herbert Hoover was a dedicated conservationist. And we should not forget that Dwight Eisenhower set aside lands on the North Slope of Alaska, protecting one of the last great caribou herds on earth. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a Republican creation, which makes the Republican eagerness to drill it all the more distressing.

Perhaps the most surprising Republican environmental legacy is that left by Richard Nixon. Nixon's personal commitment to conservation was not especially strong, and his policies can be mainly ascribed to his intense competition with two Democratic presidential contenders in the Senate – Henry Jackson and Edmund Muskie – who were both strongly pro-environment.

Nonetheless, many of the laws that have defined modern American environmental policy – the Clean Air and Clean Water

Acts, the National Environmental Policy Act, even the Endangered Species Act – were signed by Nixon with strong bipartisan support. And we owe the existence of the Environmental Protection Agency to Nixon's genuine enthusiasm for government reorganization.

History's lesson is that for most of the 20th century, conservation enjoyed the support of both parties. Although they often approached the issue in different ways and with different emphases, Democrats and Republicans agreed that conserving natural resources, reducing pollution and preserving wild lands were clearly in the national interest. Strange as it may seem today, the parties even competed over which was more committed to environmental protection.

The great sea change in Republican policies toward the environment did not come until the election of Ronald Reagan. By 1980, conservatives in the party had begun their attack on big government as a way to reduce the scope of federal power.

Environmental protection during the 1960s and 1970s had become associated with federal regulation – in no small measure because of bipartisan legislation passed during the Nixon years. And so environmental protection was demonized as a symbol of government usurpation of liberty and property, especially among those in the West who had long chafed at federal ownership of western land.

Although opposition to environmental protection seemed to make good sense as part of the conservative assault on government

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regulations, this stance has been a political loser for the Republican party. Few features of Republican politics have provoked more backlash, or lost more potential votes, than the party's anti-environmental stance. James Watt and Anne Burford were disasters for the first Reagan administration. And Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America" came to grief in good measure because most Americans continue to believe that protecting the environment is a good thing.

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## ◆ From the President's Desk

### Greetings from the New ASEH President

I am indeed fortunate to take the reins of the ASEH at this time in its history. When I first served on the executive committee in the early 1980s, we met in a committee member's hotel room and sat around on the floor, the bed, and a couple of straight-backed chairs wondering if the society and the journal could survive. How could we induce others to join? We desperately needed members, for they determined if a university press would take on the publication of our journal. We needed to collect dues, for they determined if we could advertise our society to others. We distributed flyers at meetings; we begged for members at our first conference in January 1982 organized by Kendall Bailes at U.C. Irvine; we called our friends. Personal computers were barely on the horizon. H-Environment was unheard of and the citizen's internet did not exist.

### The State of ASEH

Today I can report: The state of ASEH is the best it has ever been. We have just emerged from the most well-funded conference we have ever put on. We are grateful to Steven Anderson for hosting the 2001 joint meeting of ASEH and the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina. An energetic and efficient local arrangements committee saw to thousands of behind-the-

scenes details that oiled the wheels of a four-day conference attended by over four hundred registrants. A program committee armed with spreadsheets, e-mail, listserves, and dedication organized a rich and varied set of sessions reflecting the current state of the field. A partnership organization, the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), is holding its first conference in September and the formation of other environmental history societies around the world is imminent. We are becoming an international presence.

### Supporting our Graduate Students

Where is ASEH headed? Perhaps the most dynamic indicator of our current strength was the presence of 97 graduate students at the Durham conference – a mind-boggling one quarter of all attendees. As recently as the Baltimore conference of 1997 a handful of graduate students eagerly sought each other's presence in the crowd. In Durham, a reception held especially for graduate students attracted a hundred people seeking out conversation with our student members.

Our graduate students are our field's future. They will take us to the next level as we expand our regional and international foci and our interpretative frameworks. They need our support. In addition to keeping conference costs at the lowest levels possible for students, ASEH needs a travel fund to enable graduate students, low-income, and international scholars to present research at future meetings.

### How You Can Help

Martin Melosi, winner of this year's George Perkins Marsh Prize for the best book in environmental history, has donated his prize money and \$500 per year for the next ten years to establish the E.V. and Nancy Melosi Travel Grant in honor of his parents. Melosi's generosity is an example for the rest of us to follow.

This year ASEH hopes to raise enough funds to create several more travel grants to be awarded to graduate students, low-income, and international scholars to present their work at future ASEH conferences. To this end, we are calling on our membership to assist in establishing additional travel grants on the Melosi model as well as contributing to our ASEH Endowment Fund for the same purpose.

To initiate the Travel Grant fund, Donald Worster has agreed to donate and autograph copies of his new book *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell* (2001) to the person of your choice when you contribute \$500 or pledge \$500 a year to the Travel Grant fund. You can honor a special person by creating a multi-year Travel Grant in their name. You can receive a handsomely autographed hardcover copy of *A River Running West* for your own library or as a gift to someone else. Please clip and mail the form on page 3 of this newsletter today with your tax-deductible contribution. Thank you for your help and support.

*Carolyn Merchant*

### American Society for Environmental History

President: Carolyn Merchant, *University of California-Berkeley*  
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The American Society for Environmental History seeks understanding of the human experience of the environment from the perspectives of history, liberal arts, and sciences. The Society encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue on every aspect of the present and past relationship of humankind to the natural environment. ASEH maintains a web site at <[www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ](http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ)>. Contact <[dwilliam@gw.snu.edu](mailto:dwilliam@gw.snu.edu)> to discuss including material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by July 2, 2001 to: Lisa Mighetto, Historical Research Associates, Inc., 119 Pine St., Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. E-mail to <[mighetto@hrassoc.com](mailto:mighetto@hrassoc.com)>

Other correspondence should be directed to: American Society for Environmental History, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC 27701-3147.

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**Mark Madison Becomes New ASEH Treasurer**

ASEH extends many thanks to Char Miller for his service as treasurer. When Char decided not to serve a second term, the ASEH Nominating Committee selected Mark Madison as the new treasurer and the Executive Committee approved. Mark will stand for election by the general membership during the next general election.

Mark is currently working as the environmental historian for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He spent three years doing tropical reforestation in the Philippines before completing a Ph.D. on the history of agrarian conservation at Harvard University. He has taught environmental history and the history of ecology on the faculty of Harvard and the University of Melbourne, Australia. He has published several articles on environmental history and is currently finishing a book based on his thesis. Two years ago he joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as its first historian to help create a new wildlife conservation archive and museum at the National Conservation Training Center. He is actively working on a new book and documentary examining the history of 20th-century federal wildlife protection. He is a chair and co-founder of the Federal Land Ethic Council an organization dedicated to sustainable federal land management.

**ASEH Election Results**

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◆ **Carolyn Merchant**

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Nominating Committee

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Make checks payable to American Society for Environmental History.  
Please mail your order to:  
Mark Madison, Treasurer  
National Conservation Training Center  
Route 1, Box 166  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Your name and address:

I enclose a tax-deductible contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ for the ASEH Travel Endowment Fund to support travel for graduate student, low-income, and foreign scholars to present research at the annual ASEH conference. For my contribution of \$500, I will receive a copy of *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*, autographed by Donald Worster to the following person:  
(Print name to appear in book)

I pledge \_\_\_\_\_ per year for the next \_\_\_\_\_ years to support travel for graduate student, low-income, and foreign scholars to present research at the annual ASEH conference. My tax-deductible contribution of \$500 per year for 10 years will establish an ASEH travel grant in the name of:  
(Print name for travel grant)

and I will receive a copy of *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*, autographed by Donald Worster to the following person:  
(Print name to appear in book)

I enclose a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ for the general ASEH Endowment Fund.

Ship my autographed book to:  
Name:

P.O. Box or Street Address:

Apt. or Suite #:

State:

Country:

Zip:

# ASEH/Forest History Society Conference a Success



**Incoming President Carolyn Merchant congratulates Alfred W. Crosby on receiving the Distinguished Scholar Award.**



All Durham Conference photos by Marcel LaFollette and Lisa Mighetto.



**At the ASEH luncheon, President Jeffrey K. Stine delivered a talk on "Placing Environmental History on Display."**



**When the G.O.P. Was Green (continued from p. 1)**

There are two distinct Republican traditions regarding environmental protection. The more recent one is that people should be able to do pretty much what they please with natural resources and wild lands without government interference. Although this tradition plays well in certain western states – which opposed even Teddy Roosevelt’s policies – anti-environmentalism does not represent the broad center of American popular opinion.

It is in fact the second, older, Republican tradition that is more in tune with public sentiment. Even conservatives who favor limited state power understand that government has an appropriate role to play in domains that the private sector does not

handle well on its own. One of these is national defense. Another is conservation. Honoring our heritage by preserving public lands, remembering the deep spiritual ties to the land that led the United States to be the first nation in the world to create wilderness parts – what actions could more conservative that these?

George W. Bush has the opportunity to reinvigorate the Republican legacy of conservation. His party’s support for environmental protection would surely be good for the environment – and good politics for the Republicans as well.



**ASEH Prizes Awarded at Durham Conference**

The following scholars received ASEH awards during the lunch banquet at the ASEH/Forest History Society conference in Durham, March 29, 2001.

**Distinguished Scholar Award**

- Alfred W. Crosby

**George Perkins Marsh Prize** (Best Book in 2000)

- Martin V. Melosi

*The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present.* (Johns Hopkins University Press.)

**Rachel Carson Prize** (Best Dissertation in 2000)

- Matthew Dominic Evenden

“Fish vs. Power: Remaking Salmon, Science and Society on the Fraser River, 1900-1960”

**Alice Hamilton Prize** (Best Article Published Outside *Environmental History* in 2000)

- Karl Appuhn

“Inventing Nature: Forests, Forestry, and State Power in Renaissance Venice,” *The Journal of Modern History* 72 (Dec. 2000), pp. 861-889

**Aldo Leopold Prize** (Best Article Published in *Environmental History* in 2000)

- Chad Montrie

“Expedient Environmentalism: Opposition to Coal Surface Mining in Appalachia and the United Mine Workers of America, 1945-1977” 5 (Jan. 2000), pp. 75-98

Congratulations to all. Information about submittals for next year’s prizes, which will be awarded at the meeting in Denver, Colorado, is provided below.

**Submissions for Next Year’s Prize**

This year, the prize committees will evaluate submissions (published books and articles and completed dissertations) that appear between November 1, 2000 and October 31, 2001. Please send 3 copies of each submission by November 9, 2001 to Lisa Mighetto, HRA, 119 Pine Street, Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. For more information, please see the article on highlights from the Executive Committee meeting in this newsletter. If you have questions, please contact [mighetto@hrassoc.com](mailto:mighetto@hrassoc.com)

## ◆ Conference Highlights

The American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society held a joint conference in Durham, North Carolina, on March 28-April 1. More than 400 people registered for the conference, including 97 students, and scholars from 13 countries in addition to the United States. ASEH appreciates the efforts of Steven Anderson and the Local Arrangements Committee, and Dale Goble and Paul Hirt and the Program Committee, in making this meeting a success.



The conference opened with a lively plenary session discussing the theme “Making Environmental History Relevant in the 21st Century.” Paul Hirt, Washington State University, served as moderator, and the panelists included (left to right) Val Plumwood, University of Sydney; Nancy Langston, University of Wisconsin; Donald Worster, University of Kansas; and Patricia Limerick, University of Colorado.

The conference opened Wednesday evening, March 28 with an opening plenary session, a lively discussion of the theme of the conference, “Making Environmental History Relevant in the 21st Century.” Paul Hirt (Washington State University) moderated the session of five distinguished scholars: Val Plumwood (University of Sydney), Nancy Langston, (University of Wisconsin), Patricia Limerick (University of Colorado), Norman Christensen (Duke University), and Donald Worster (University of Kansas).

At Thursday’s ASEH Luncheon, the Society’s prizes were awarded, including the Distinguished Scholar Award, presented to Alfred W. Crosby for his lifetime of dedication and achievement in the field of Environmental History. In his acceptance speech, Professor Crosby humbly reminded us that his first article submitted to the AHA was dismissed as “nonsense.”

Following the awards, outgoing president Jeffrey Stine delivered his ASEH Presidential address, “Placing Environmental History on Display.” He stressed the need for cooperation between environmental historians and museums so that current research in the field can be made relevant to the public.

Dr. Stephen Pyne, professor in the Biology & Society Program at Arizona State University, gave the Distinguished Lecture in Forest and Conservation History on Thursday evening, March 29. He gave a lecture titled “The Source.” Pyne discussed the Big Blowup, a fire that destroyed 50 million acres in the American West in 1910, but he brought the topic to the present in

a discussion of what he termed a “flawed debate” in the National Forest Service about either starting fires or putting them out.

Dr. David Lowenthal delivered the Saturday evening banquet address on “Man and Nature in the 21st Century: The Environmental Stewardship of George Perkins Marsh,” Lowenthal explored how Marsh’s experience and ideas might be useful today in historical and environmental contexts quite different from his own. Lowenthal is Professor Emeritus of Geography, Hon. Research Fellow, University College London; Visiting Professor of Heritage Studies, St. Mary’s University College, Strawberry Hill, Twickersham. The lecture was sponsored by the Conservation Study Institute.

*Courtesy Melissa Wiedenfeld  
H-Environment Editor*



## Taking More Seriously the “Environmental” in Environmental History: Reflections on Relevance and the 2001 ASEH Conference

By Michael B. Smith, Indiana University

It has been a week now since I returned home from Durham and the 2001 ASEH conference. As David Lowenthal observed in his keynote address at the conference, the sheer volume of provocative papers and the intellectual ferment taking place informally in the hallways, exhibit hall, and eateries in and around the hotel reassures me that this is a very healthy field indeed. I left the conference with many pages of notes and a renewed conviction that environmental historians constitute a community of scholars at the vanguard of the historical profession. I believe this to be true not only because doing good environmental history requires a finely honed historical imagination (an attribute much in evidence at the conference) but also because many of us do see our work as relevant: relevant to the field of history, relevant to public policy, relevant to the choices individuals make about personal behavior.

As the conference progressed I found myself pondering this last dimension of relevance. We are a community of scholars, true, and that remains the *raison d’être* for a conference. Certain conversations and exchanges of ideas can happen only at conference gatherings where a physical community develops for a few days. I know my own scholarship and teaching benefited enormously from such exchanges in Durham. By virtue of our attendance at the conference, however, we are inevitably also individuals making decisions about resource use and management. At the opening plenary session and, even more explicitly, at the Global Change Workshop on the final morning of the conference I finally heard a discussion of our individual agency in ecological and historical change. As we busy ourselves with investigations of the feedback loop that runs between natural history and human history our own role as actors in this process tends to fade into the background. During one session I noticed the sounds of the hotel staff in the corridor that ran behind the back wall of each room. I began thinking about this activity as a kind of metaphor for environmental change and the implications of it to a gathering of

environmental historians. It was easy to ignore this invisible and barely audible activity. And yet I maintain that we should – as individuals *and* as a community of scholars whose behavior has environmental consequences – pay attention to it and to all the other dimensions of what sustains an academic conference such as ours. At our own peril we ignore the faint (and sometimes not so faint) background noise of what it takes to sustain our work and our privileged lives as academics.

In traveling to and from Durham, taking taxis, staying in a hotel, eating mass-produced food, generating waste streams, and

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*“...our very work as environmental historians compels us to think about ecological ‘footprinting’ across time and space.”*

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doing and consuming all the other things that conference attendance requires, we each create, to use Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees’ term, an “ecological footprint.” In their 1996 book *Our Ecological Footprint*, Wackernagel and Rees develop this concept of an ecological footprint as a more elegant way of expressing a fundamental principle of accounting: debits cannot exceed credits, at least not in the long run. Or, to put it another way, we cannot continue to ignore ecological constraints and demand more of natural systems than they can support. If the earth declares bankruptcy, the restructuring that follows will happen according to terms that may preclude civilization as we know it.

Now, I suspect most of the attendees at the conference have contemplated this reality of the early twenty-first century. If the “true confessions” discussion that followed Tom McCarthy’s conference paper on S.U.V.’s is any indication, environmental historians seem painfully aware of the relationship between their own behavior as consumers and the environmental impact of consumptive acts. Most of the environmental historians of my

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**The exhibit hall at the Durham conference included posters illustrating research on a variety of environmental issues.**

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**Taking More Seriously ... [continued from page 7]**

acquaintance would consider themselves environmentalists. Many even live according to certain principles that help create a shallower ecological footprint, at least at the level of lifestyle choices: eating organic or at least locally produced food whenever possible; walking, bicycling, or utilizing public transportation to go from one place to another whenever possible; making as many consumer choices as possible based on genuine needs rather than acquisitive desires; maintaining a living space that conforms to high standards for energy efficiency; and so on. Even when we do not manage to tread as lightly as we could, our very work as environmental historians compels us to think about ecological “footprinting” across time and space. So I suspect this concept has in one way or another made an imprint on the consciousness of nearly everyone who attended the conference in Durham.

My intention here is not to ladle guilt over our collective heads; heaven knows there are enough such ladlers in our culture. I merely want to suggest that our conference left a rather heavy footprint. We could, if we wished, leave a lighter one, and thereby become relevant not merely as historians but as stakeholders in the long-term sustainability of the planet.

Let me share a few of the costs of our conference that did not appear on the fee schedule of the registration form. Most of us, of necessity, flew to Durham. Although putatively a form of “public” transportation, air travel remains the most profligate public transportation mode in terms of fuel consumption and embodied energy, not to mention the toll exacted by jet engine emissions on the atmosphere. (Unfortunately, given the vastness of this country and the absence of good regional rail service, I see no way to reduce this dimension of the footprint apart from returning to a

footprint would be a laudable goal for our organization. Doing so would require some creativity – but the scholarship I saw on display in Durham demonstrated we have a surfeit of that. In monetary terms the conference would probably cost more for the participants – yet as we all know, price of consumption seldom reflects ecological costs.

What would an ASEH conference with a mandate to leave a lighter ecological footprint look like? The most dramatic step we could take would be to hold the meeting at one of the many conference centers in every region of the United States that are committed to more sustainable kinds of consumption. Such a choice would in itself address some of the issues I raised. More local and organic food would be served at the lunches, dinners, and breaks at the conference. Most such centers are committed to waste reduction and recycling as well. There would be trade-offs as well, of course. The remoteness of some of these conference centers would limit the possibilities for doing things not on the program, for example. If memory serves, however, a few of the regional meetings that used to occur in years when there was no national convention happened at just such places.

If the collective will or logistics rendered such a choice for a conference site impossible, it still seems there are things we could do to diminish the footprint of our conference. For starters, we could make a decision right now never again to hold the conference in a city such as Las Vegas or Tucson. The very existence of these cities – as large urban centers at least, and perhaps as places of permanent human settlement at all – defies ecological common sense at every turn. Conversely, we could reward communities that have implemented sprawl control and brownfield development initiatives with our conference and the revenue that comes with it. The site selection for our conference is, after all, a collective consumer choice. In much the same way as the Organization of American Historians used its boycott of the Adam Marks Hotel chain as an opportunity for public education, the ASEH could make public statements about why and how it makes decisions about conference sites.

I suspect – I hope – other members of the ASEH are sympathetic to the idea of reducing the ecological footprint of our conference. I am quite certain there are dimensions to this issue I have not thought of. The topic might even merit a discussion at next year’s meeting. Then again, maybe I am part of a tiny minority within our organization. I will always be proud to be a part of this particular community of scholars regardless of whether our conference leaves the ecological footprint of a waffle-tread hiking boot or a moccasin. Our own scholarship, however, has taught us over and over that human activities have ecological implications. It is time to contemplate the ecological implications of these annual gatherings that do so much to advance our scholarship. In considering the environmental impact of our conference, I think we will see we have a splendid opportunity to be relevant as more than participants in public policy debates and bearers of the torch of history.

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*What would an ASEH conference with a mandate to leave a lighter ecological footprint look like?*

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biennial format.) There were the cab rides to and from the airport. Much, if not most of the food we consumed was trucked in from far away. By virtue of long trips from the tropics the energy embodied in pineapple, coffee, tea, and chocolate is enormous. I suspect none of the food was organic. The tote bag, though a nice souvenir, bears a Made in Thailand tag, a fact that has several implications for the ecological footprint of the conference. By accident one evening I found myself behind the hotel near the loading docks-the waste stream the hotel generated (a good portion of it ours) was staggering. The list could go on.

Again, I wish to make it clear that I intend none of this serve as an indictment of the organizers of the conference or of the consciences of conference attendees. Given the demands of our personal and professional lives the fact that the form and supporting infrastructure of the conference followed a conventional organizational model is neither surprising nor does it merit condemnation. I just don’t think that, at an organizational level, we ponder the issues raised above often enough. I also think that trying to put on a conference that left a lighter ecological



## ◆ ASEH Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Outgoing President Jeffrey Stine presided over the ASEH Executive Committee meeting at the Durham conference on Friday afternoon, March 30, 2001. Major developments are summarized below.

### ◆ ASEH Awards

The Executive Committee adopted the following recommendations of the ASEH Ad Hoc Committee on ASEH Awards, which included Martin Reuss, chair, and Susan Flader and Doug Weiner.

For future awards, the award period shall be November 1 – October 1, to allow sufficient time for award committee members to review submissions prior to the next annual conference. Dating the eligibility period in this manner also eliminates questions about journal articles published in an issue dated one year but appearing the following year.

For the Alice Hamilton Prize for best article published outside *Environmental History*, in addition to articles published in professional journals, submissions may now include original essays in anthologies, contributions to government reports and studies, and articles from reputable online journals. Foreign language articles may be submitted in English translation, with a copy of the original foreign language publication appended.

Submissions for the George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book may now include edited collections of primary sources with annotations or commentary.

### ◆ New Treasurer

ASEH Treasurer Char Miller decided not to run for a second term, due to a significant increase in administrative responsibilities at his university, including serving as chair of the History Department and the Interdepartmental Urban Studies Program. The Nominating Committee selected Mark Madison, historian for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as the new treasurer, and the Executive Committee approved this selection. Mark will stand for election by the general membership during the next general election.

### ◆ Future Conference Sites

Knoxville Tennessee was selected as the site for the 2005 conference. Jackie Corn reported that the Site Selection Committee is currently evaluating proposals for sites for 2004 and 2006.

### ◆ Fund-Raising Efforts

Carolyn Merchant will be reporting on fund-raising efforts in her newsletter column throughout the coming year.

### ◆ Resolutions of Thanks

The Executive Committee expressed warm appreciation for the efforts of outgoing members Elinor Melville, Christine Rosen, and Christopher Sellers, along with outgoing Past President Marty Melosi. Outgoing President Jeffrey Stine also received a resolution of thanks; he will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as a Past President.

## ✓ Mark Your Calendars

**ASEH Conference 2002**  
***Producing and Consuming Natures***  
**Denver, Colorado**  
**Brown Palace Hotel**  
**March 20-23, 2002**

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◆ Call for Papers

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**Producing and Consuming Natures**

American Society for Environmental History Conference  
Denver, Colorado, March 20-23, 2002

The conference seeks to explore the various ways humans have historically drawn nature into their lives – through working and imagining, devouring and debating, transforming and transporting it. We encourage papers on the human history of nature as symbol as well as substance, in popular culture and consumption as well as production and extraction. By framing nature as plural, we also invite topics that engage a diversity of views about what nature is or should be, within or across cultures.

The program committee STRONGLY ENCOURAGES proposals for complete panels with two or three individual papers, a chair, and a commentator. Although we also welcome individual paper proposals, such proposals are more difficult to accommodate than full panels. The committee is seeking proposals from scholars across a broad range of disciplines. Interdisciplinary panels are particularly encouraged.

Proposals must include FIVE copies of the following:

- 1) For panel proposals, provide a cover sheet with
  - a. the title of the panel;
  - b. 250-word abstract for the panel;
  - c. the title of each paper and the full name, title if applicable (e.g., professor), and affiliation (e.g., university) of each presenter;
  - d. the name, title, and affiliation of the chair and commentator (it is preferable to have different individuals for chair and commentator); and
  - e. the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact person for the panel.

[This information will be used to identify participants in the conference program]

- 2) For each paper proposal (including those on an organized panel),
  - a. submit a 250-word abstract of the paper,
- 3) A short (two-page maximum) cv for each participant

The deadline for submission is June 1, 2001.

Please send all five copies to:

Christopher Sellers; Department of History; State  
University of New York at Stony Brook; Stony Brook, NY  
11794. (631) 632-7514

For more information, please contact members of the program committee:

Chair: Christopher Sellers <csellers@notes.cc.sunysb.edu>  
Committee Members:

Dale Goble <gobled@uidaho.edu>  
Don Hughes <dhughes@du.edu>  
Jennifer Price <jjprice@ucla.edu>

**Women's Studies Seeks Manuscripts**

*Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* solicits manuscripts for a special issue on ecofeminist approaches to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature and history. The recent wave of ecocriticism in the study of Romanticism has focused almost exclusively on texts by male writers. This special issue is intended to initiate a discussion of women's views of nature and the environment both during the Romantic era and in the larger context of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As an interdisciplinary journal, *Women's Studies* welcomes not only literary analysis, but also perspectives from the fields of history, art history, sociology, law, political science, economics and anthropology. The editors welcome articles grounded in both theory and practice. From a theoretical perspective, to what extent did the role of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women as mothers, as caretakers, as domestic workers, or as an oppressed group determine their relationship to nature? Is a woman-nature, man-culture dichotomy present in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century texts or practices, and is such a dichotomy useful or detrimental to feminist approaches to literature and history? From a practical standpoint, were there any proto-green movements initiated by women in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? How did women respond to science, technology, industrialization and urbanization? Are there connections between environmental issues and social issues, including colonialism, slavery or labor issues? Examinations of the intersections between post-colonial critiques and ecofeminism are particularly welcome. All literary traditions are of interest. Book reviews will also be considered.

Send three copies of manuscripts (approximately 25 pages long and in MLA format) by August 15, 2001 to Guest Editor Donna Coffey, Dept. of English, Reinhardt College, 7300 Reinhardt College Circle, Waleska, GA 3018

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◆ Books

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**New Publication**

**George M. Warecki**, *Protecting Ontario's Wilderness: A History of Changing Ideas and Preservation Politics, 1927-1973* (Peter Lang Publishing, 2000)

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## ◆ In Memory

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### Harold T. Pinkett 1914 – 2001

Dr. Harold T. Pinkett, archivist and historian, died on March 13, 2001, and was buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, DC. He had a long, varied, and most productive career.

Environmental historians who had occasion to do research at the National Archives will remember him best as the knowledgeable and dignified, but also friendly and kind person who freely shared his expertise on the records related to the environment. He had written most of the preliminary inventories of the record groups in the agricultural core of the archives. Later he supervised the units that did the reference and description work on the records of the Department of the Interior and of the Department of Agriculture, two groups of records of primary interest to environmental historians. He joined the American Society for Environmental History in its formative years and assisted many of the first group of environmental historians doing research in the National Archives. He was a model and inspiration for young employees who combined careers as archivists and historians. Among other honors he was the first African-American to be appointed an archivist at the National Archives.

He was appointed an archivist at the National Archives in 1942 and became the first African-American to hold this position in an American archival institution. At the National Archives, he served for more than 35 years as a specialist in agricultural archives, senior records appraiser, and chief archivist of the Natural Resources Records Branch. He was also a lecturer in archival training programs and symposia. In 1972 he received a travel fellowship award to study archival practices in England, Canada, and five American States.

In 1968, Dr. Pinkett received a book award from the Agricultural History Society for a biography of Gifford Pinchot, the famous forest conservation pioneer. He was coeditor of a National Archives publication entitled *Research in the Administration of Public Policy* and the author of more than fifty articles on archival and historical subjects in journals and encyclopedias. From 1970 to 1977, he was an adjunct professor in history and archival administration at Howard and American Universities. After his retirement from the National Archives in 1979, he was an archival consultant for Howard University, Cheyney University, several colleges affiliated with the United Negro College Fund, National Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation. He helped draft legislation for an archival program for the government of the District of Columbia

*Douglas Helms, Historian  
Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
USDA*

### Ruth Edgecombe

It is with great sadness that I write to note the death of Ruth Edgecombe of the University of Natal - Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Dr. Edgecombe was a specialist in the environmental history of mining in South Africa and member of the editorial board of *Environmental History*. She received her degrees from Rhodes University in South Africa and Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. She served on the faculty of the University of Natal - Pietermaritzburg for over twenty years, eventually rising to the rank of Professor of Economic History. Her major publications include: *The Constancy of Change A History of Hlobane Colliery 1898-1998* (1998) and a forthcoming edited volume, with Stephen Dovers and Bill Guest, *Perspectives on South African Environmental History*. She worked tirelessly to promote the study of South Africa's environmental history and to make that history relevant to the needs of a nation undergoing a rapid transition. Her energy, insight, and warmth will be sorely missed.

*Gregory H. Maddox  
History, Geography & Economics  
Texas Southern University*

