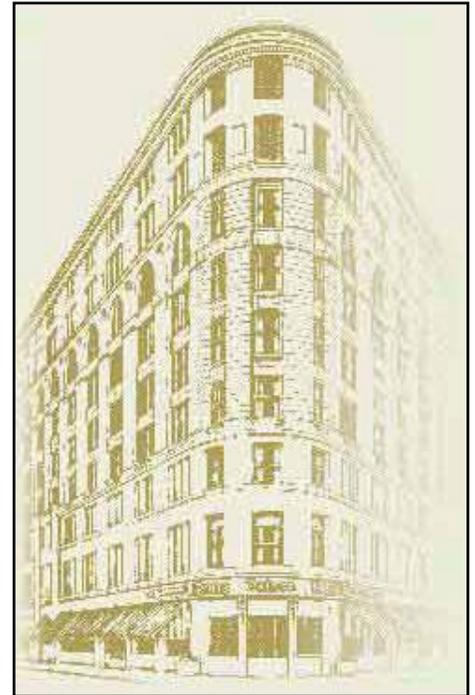




Denver skyline.



Historic Brown Palace Hotel.

## ASEH Conference 2002 Denver, Colorado

### *Producing and Consuming Natures*

### Brown Palace Hotel March 20-23, 2002

#### **ASEH Awards, 2002**

ASEH awards annual prizes for the best book, dissertation, article in *Environmental History*, and article outside *Environmental History*. This fall, the Society's prize committees will evaluate submissions that appear between November 1, 2000 and October 31, 2001. If you are interested in having your work considered, please send 3 copies of each submission by November 9, 2001 to Lisa Mighetto, HRA, 119 Pine Street, Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. Prizes will be awarded at the ASEH conference in Denver, March 20-23, 2002. See the Spring issue of *ASEH News* (available at ASEH's website) for more information.

## ◆ From the President's Desk

### Preserving ASEH's Heritage

This year, 2001, is the 25th anniversary of our society's journal. Originally published as *Environmental Review* in 1976, the journal became *Environmental History Review* in 1990 and *Environmental History* in 1996. Moreover, next year, 2002, will mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the American Society for Environmental History in 1977. Past-president, Susan Flader writes of those formative years in the mid-1970s, "ASEH was very much John Opie's idea. I recall a discussion about it while riding in the back of Estella Leopold's jeep in Denver, where we were gathered for an OAH conference." Next year also marks the 25th anniversary of the first ASEH conference which was organized by Kendall Bailes in Irvine, California, January 2-3, 1982. As a profession, with a journal, a society that has grown to 1400 members, and annual conferences attracting some 400 persons, we have come of age. It is time to document our own history.

We need to collect the memories of our founders, copies of our earliest newsletters, conference programs, photographs, issues of our journal, early course outlines, and other documents. I invite any of you who have such materials to contact our secretary, Lisa Mighetto, via e-mail <mighetto@hrassoc.com>, phone (206-343-0226; fax: 206-343-0249), or letter (119 Pine St., Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101). I would like all of you who were participants in those formative years to send a paragraph detailing your recollections to Lisa or me <merchant@nature.berkeley.edu>. We hope to publish excerpts in

### American Society for Environmental History

**President:** Carolyn Merchant, *University of California-Berkeley*  
**Vice-President:** Douglas Weiner, *University of Arizona*  
**Secretary:** Lisa Mighetto, *Historical Research Associates, Inc.*  
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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>. Contact <dwilliam@gw.snu.edu> to discuss including material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by September 14, 2001 to: Lisa Mighetto, Editor, 119 Pine St., Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. E-mail to <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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future issues of *ASEH News* and to exhibit materials pertaining to our own history at the ASEH conference in Denver, March 20-23, 2002.

To begin the project of documenting our history, I invited John Opie to share his recollections of the founding of the journal and the society. He writes:

"My interest in something definable as environmental history goes back to an 11,000-mile camping trip with my three sons in 1969 in my 109-lwb Land Rover that covered the Rockies, the California coast, and the redrock country of southern Utah. Wilderness protection lacked an historical perspective. This reinforced what I had already learned through my doctoral work on Jonathan Edwards and Perry Miller (unsung forerunners of environmentalism). I was already teaching intellectual and cultural history at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. I tried out a primitive environmental history in the fall of 1970 and an equally naive Heath sourcebook of 1971. My search in the literature from Rene Dubos and Lewis Mumford, through Ian McHarg to Clarence Glacken was rewarding, but revealed no focus in "environmental history." I devised AHA sessions in 1972, 1973, and 1976, and at the American Studies Association in 1975 that attracted interested audiences, including early contacts with Don Hughes, Sam Hays, and Don Worster. Rump sessions of fewer than 20 people at the AHA, OAH, and ASA suggested the need for a newsletter to find out 'who was out there.'"

"*The Environmental History Newsletter*, first published in April, 1974, reached less than 100 people. Five issues of the semi-annual newsletter made me foolhardy enough to wonder about a journal and society, and a call went out in the March 1976 newsletter for *Environmental Review* and ASEH."

"Other key players in 1976 were Kent Shifford, Keir Sterling, Rod French, Michael Brodhead, John F. Reiger, Edward L. Hawes, Joe Petulla, Joel Tarr, Harold Pinkett, Thad Tate, Tom Cox, Susan Flader, Tom Dunlap, John Perkins, Will Jacobs, and Rod Nash."

This year, John Opie donated his copies of the journal to ASEH's office in Seattle Washington, helping to establish our own archival collection. This creates an important cornerstone for our society's history, one that I hope will be followed by additional contributions and recollections of numerous other early participants in the field.

*Carolyn Merchant*  
**ASEH President**

## ◆ Announcements

### Visiting Scholars Program

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma seeks applicants for its Visiting Scholars Program. The purpose of this program is to assist researchers by providing financial awards for on-campus work in the Center's archives. Awards are normally from \$500 to \$1000 to defray the cost of travel and lodging.

The Center's holdings include the papers of 52 former members of Congress, but topics cover more than just the history of that legislative body. Included in the Center's collections is information on government

*continued on page 4*

**From the Archives ... 1978 ASEH Meeting**

ASEH held its third meeting in 1978, at the American Historical Association conference, Hilton Hotel, in San Francisco. The following members attended:

John Opie	Dick Johnson	Harold Pinkett
John H. Perkins	Ron Fahl	Harlan Hague
Conner Sorensen	Pete Steen	Galen Fisher
Harold L. Burstyn	Albert Hurtado	Martin Reuss
Michael J. Brodhead	Jeffrey Stott	Joseph Petulla
Gerald R. Ogden	Joseph V. Siry	Morgan Sherwood
Thad Tate	Mick Polos	Donald C. Swain
Nelson Van Valen	Neil L. York	Frank Norris
Martin V. Melosi	Wilbur R. Jacobs	

At this meeting President John Opie installed Wilbur Jacobs as the new ASEH president. "We are still trying to establish a 'network,' or identification of those interested in environmental history," the minutes read. "A desire to identify those working or interested in the field was a chief reason for the founding of ASEH." Additionally, "there was a discussion on the continuing need to determine where environmental history was now being taught." Topics of discussion also included *Environmental History News*. First issued in 1974, this newsletter resumed publication in 1978.



**Travel Grant Program**

Through a generous gift from Jeanie Sherwood, ASEH has received two \$500 annual grants, each to be entitled the Morgan and Jeanie Sherwood Travel Grant. In addition, Don Hughes has thoughtfully established a multi-year J. Donald Hughes Travel Grant. Along with the E. V. and Nancy Melosi Travel Grant, donated by Martin Melosi, these grants will be awarded each year by the ASEH Program Committee to support graduate students, low-income, and international scholars who present original research at ASEH conferences. The ASEH Denver Program Committee has itself contributed to the effort with 100% giving.

If you would like to make a donation to the ASEH Travel Grant Endowment Fund or create a named \$500 annual travel grant with a multi-year year pledge, please mail the form in this issue to Mark Madison, ASEH Treasurer, National Conservation Training Center, Rte 1, Box 166, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The first ten persons to contribute \$500 or more will receive a copy of Donald Worster's *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell*, personally autographed and mailed to the person of your choice.

**◆ Member News**

**Outstanding Faculty Award**

Hal Rothman, former editor of *Environmental History* and University of Nevada – Las Vegas history professor, recently received the UNLV Alumni Association's annual Outstanding Faculty Award. "Presenting this award to Hal Rothman is a real pleasure," commented Fred Albrecht, UNLV vice president for university and community relations. "Hal is a professor who excels both in teaching and in research. Students find his lectures informative and challenging. When it comes to research, writing, and publication, he is no doubt one of the most prolific writers on campus and has published works in a number of scholarly arenas." Among Rothman's areas of expertise are the American West and environmental history.

Rothman, who has taught at UNLV since 1992, is author of *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth-Century American West* (1999), which won received the Western Writers of America's Spur Award for Contemporary Nonfiction. His books also include *Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century* (2000); *Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the U.S. Since 1945* (1998); and *I'll Never Fight Fire With My Bare Hands Again: Recollections of the First Forest Rangers of the Inland Northwest* (1994).

Rothman has received numerous awards during his years at UNLV, including the Marjorie Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, the Marjorie Barrick Research Scholar Award, and the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts.

**◆ In Memory**

**Joseph M. Petulla, 1932-2001**

Joseph M. Petulla, a founder of the field of environmental history, passed away on June 9 in Berkeley, California. Petulla developed the first course taught in American Environmental History at the University of California, Berkeley, where he lectured from 1972 to 1978. From 1978 until his retirement in 1994, he directed the master's Program in Environmental Management at the University of San Francisco. At a time when the field of environmental history was in its formative stages, Petulla combed the libraries of the San Francisco Bay area for books and illustrations pertinent to the field, traveled the country

*continued on page 4*

\_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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[Scholar's Program ... continued from page 2]

agriculture programs, flood control activities, water and soil conservation projects, federal-Native American relations, drought relief, and rural development and electrification. The states best represented are Oklahoma and other western states, such as California, during the twentieth century. One collection covers Kansas during the nineteenth century. The Center's collections are described on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/>> and in the publication titled A Guide to the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives (Norman, Okla.: The Carl Albert Center, 1995) by Judy Day, et al., available at many U. S. academic libraries. Additional information can be obtained from the Center.

The Visiting Scholars Program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those doing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students involved in research for publication, thesis, or dissertation are encouraged to apply. Interested undergraduates and lay researchers are also invited to apply. The Center evaluates each research proposal based upon its merits, and funding for a variety of topics is expected.

No standardized form is needed for application. Instead, a series of documents should be sent to the Center, including: (1) a description of the research proposal in fewer than 1000 words; (2) a personal vita; (3) an explanation of how the Center's resources will assist the researcher; (4) a budget proposal; and (5) a letter of reference from an established scholar in the discipline attesting to the significance of the research. Applications are accepted at any time.

To obtain more information, please contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Telephone: (405) 325-5401. FAX: (405) 325-6419. E-mail: <[kosmerick@ou.edu](mailto:kosmerick@ou.edu)>.

**Todd Kosmerick**  
Carl Albert Center –University of Oklahoma

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## ◆ Books

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John F. Reiger, *American Sportsmen and the Origins of Conservation*, Third Edition, Revised and Expanded (Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2001).



[Petulla ... continued from page 3]

visiting relevant historical sites, and assembled a large collection of slides, which he used extensively in his lectures. He was the author of a widely used, comprehensive textbook, *American Environmental History* (Boyd and Fraser, 1977; 2nd ed., Merrill Publishing Co., 1988).

In addition to his work in environmental history, Petulla also taught courses on environmental philosophy and ethics and on the political economy of natural resources use. He published several books on environmental ethics, regulation, and philosophy, including: *American Environmentalism: Values, Tactics, Priorities* (Texas A&M, 1980); *Environmental Protection in the United States: Industry, Agencies, Environmentalists* (San Francisco Studies Center, 1987); *Edgar Beaver's Destiny: An Environmental Fable* (Ex Libris Corp., 2000); *Tao Te Ching and the Christian Way* (Orbis books, 1998). He received his doctorate from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California with a dissertation titled, "Christian Political Theology: A Marxian Guide."



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### Attention ASEH Members

Now is your chance to be heard. This issue includes an ASEH Membership Survey – please complete and mail or e-mail your responses by October 12, 2001. **Details provided inside.**

*ASEH News* is now available online.

See <<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/index.html>> for back issues.

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