



New Society dedicated to Latin American and Caribbean Environmental History formed at Symposium in Havana, Cuba

By Paul S. Sutter, University of Georgia

I had the honor of serving as the official ASEH representative at the “Second International Symposium on the Environmental History of the Americas” (“II Simposio Internacional de Historia Ambiental Americana” – this is not a precise translation, I realize, but one that I hope finds some middle ground between divergent meanings of “American”), which was held in Havana, Cuba, on October 25-27, 2004.

The Organizing Committee - and particularly the local members, Reinaldo Funes, Armando Fernández, Enrique Beldarraín, and Leída Fernández – deserve tremendous credit for hosting a spectacularly successful symposium. This was the second in what will be an on-going series of biennial meetings of environmental history scholars, mostly from Europe and the Americas (including a dozen or so North American historians and geographers), who study Latin American and Caribbean environmental history. The first meeting was held two years ago in Santiago, Chile, and the next meeting, in 2006, is planned for Seville, Spain.

The Havana meeting was an historic one, not only because of the remarkable strength and diversity of the papers and sessions, but also because the symposium culminated in the formation of a new environmental history society, SOLCHA (La Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribena de Historia Ambiental).



Some conference participants enjoy lunch during a field trip to the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve in Pinar del Río, Cuba.

SOLCHA is another important step in the international development of our field, and I hope you will join me in welcoming this new society into existence. I imagine that we will be hearing more about this exciting development – in this newsletter and on H-Environment – from SOLCHA’s organizers in the near future.

ASEH’s next conference will be held in Houston, Texas, March 16-20, 2005.
For details and a copy of the conference program, see ASEH’s website at <www.aseh.net>.

Minority Grant Available for Houston Conference

ASEH wishes to encourage minority scholars to attend its conference in Houston, March 16-20, 2005. The minority travel grant for minority/non-white scholars from North American, Mexico, and the Caribbean to attend the annual meeting is still available. If you are interested in applying, please send your vitae or resume, brief statement explaining your interest in attending the ASEH conference, and a list of other sources of funding received. Send these three items to:

Professor Stephen Pyne
School of Life Sciences
P.O. Box 4701
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 8537
e-mail address: <stephen.pyne@asu.edu>

Deadline for application: *January 31, 2005*
Recipients will be notified by: *February 15, 2005*

From the President's Desk

In a few brief months, in Houston, I will be turning over the reins of the ASEH to the incoming president, Stephen J. Pyne. As is our practice, I will join my two predecessors on the Executive Committee to provide whatever assistance we can to Steve and the society. This will in fact be a continued reward, not a burden, for I can think of no other academic society that has enriched our scholarly lives so abundantly and so consistently.

Among the more attractive features of the presidency of an academic society, as opposed to that of a nation, is that the capacity to inflict harm is infinitely less ample in the case of the former. The ASEH president has no military to command, nor do the health care needs, educational integrity, or, indeed, environmental security of multitudes, hinge on his or her worldview and personal qualities. To a great extent the post is largely honorific, which also means that the president's ability to undertake radical departures for the society or even to have unbridled use of this column as a bully pulpit are necessarily constrained by custom, an awareness of the sensibilities and diversity of the membership, and the good sense and collective wisdom of the Executive Committee.

This culture of deliberate and considered evolution has served the ASEH well, in my estimation. From our beginnings almost three decades ago as the first institutional clearinghouse for historians who wished to explore central (but then somewhat marginalized) questions regarding the interaction of human and environmental factors in social change, we have grown numerically to some 1,000 members (including joint members).

Past presidents have skillfully built a mutually beneficial and fruitful relationship with the Forest History Society, with whom we co-publish *Environmental History*, a journal that continues to grow in prestige and

counts more than 500 libraries and other institutional subscribers. From biennial conventions we now meet annually, and we have now held two conventions jointly with other societies – with the Forest History Society in Durham and most recently last year with the National Council on Public History in Victoria, Canada. We are talking to SHOT and the Society for Conservation Biology about organizing joint sessions at conferences, we have held a successful mini-conference for Grad Students with SHOT, and Jerry Melillo (outgoing ESA President) and I have just agreed to organize a joint panel for the August 2006 Ecological Society of America meeting in Memphis.

During the past two years, I have tried to continue our incremental institution-building. Because we had come of age in so many other ways, it seemed timely to apply for membership in the American Council of Learned Societies, and our application was accepted. Lisa Mighetto, our Acting Executive Director, has already attended her first meeting, enabling her to gain invaluable insights about administrative and fundraising-related matters from her peers and the ACLS staff. My immediate predecessor, Carolyn Merchant, had already elevated the question of the ASEH's need for an executive director to the front burner, and so I am now submitting to the membership for its consideration and, I hope, its approval, a change in the bylaws that will officially provide for such an appointive position. Although I regret that my presidency was unable to make much dramatic headway with the fund-raising needs associated with this initiative, we have cobbled together arrangements that will last us at least through the end of my term – until the windfall that I know will come our way during the presidency of my successor, Steve Pyne.

Actually, that was said only half in jest. Truth to tell, we are currently caught between a rock and a hard place. We are too big not to have an Executive Director (plus an elected Secretary), yet we are still not well-heeled enough properly to fund it. Of course, we will need to continue to explore every potential avenue for securing funding for our programmatic and administrative needs (and that means that we should all seriously consider making some place, however modest, for ASEH in our planned giving).

At the same time, however, I would make a plea. An academic society is not a box store. Membership and fiscal growth are desirable ends not for their own sakes, but only insofar as they increase our power to generate important intellectual conversations and to continue to expand the pathbreaking research that has characterized our field. As we necessarily continue to concern ourselves with attaining a greater financial comfort zone, let us continue to nourish that wonderful, intimate human scale, that intrepid élan of intellectual exploration, and the values of academic freedom and integrity that have defined the ASEH since its inception.

Finally, I am sure that it has escaped no one that the fragile craft of our planetary civilization has entered the new millennium greeted not by balmy breezes but by churning waters and menacing storm clouds. Much of this turmoil has an environmental component; we have burned off half of the earth's fossil fuel, we have fished out our seas, we have converted forests to fields and pastures, wetlands to brownfields, subsistence agriculture to export-crop-oriented agribusiness. An expected "peace dividend" following the collapse of the Soviet Union never materialized; instead, we entered what Michael Klare has termed an era of "resource wars." The integral of our choices has produced islands of technological wonder, but these exist amidst an ocean of rural and urban misery. It has deepened a perspective that sociologists of the peasantry called a philosophy of "limited good," a zero-sum view of the world. It has truncated our time horizons; many have an inchoate feeling that the future has been cancelled and that therefore one should get what one can while one can.

This situation poses a danger and an opportunity for environmental history. On the one hand, we have left behind the safe shoals of academia as it existed during the salad days of the 1940s through the 1960s. As a subset

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The American Society for Environmental History seeks understanding of the human experience of the environment from the perspective 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 website at <www.aseh.net>. Contact <K.J.W.Oosthoek@newcastle.ac.uk> to discuss including material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by *March 25, 2005* to: Lisa Mighetto, Editor, 119 Pine St., Suite 301, 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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from **President's Desk** page 2

of history we suffer from the same complex of maladies: a less intellectually oriented culture of publishing, including academic publishing; a disappearing educated lay public interested in our insights and our narratives; an increasingly functionally illiterate population of college students looking only to get through our classes so they can graduate and make money; universities that devalue us because our subject matter is allegedly not "scientific" and because we do not haul in large amounts of grant money; and, most recently, a resurgence of anti-intellectualism that seeks to take the "critical" out of critical thinking (An anthropology professor at my own university was forced to apologize publicly this month following complaints from students' parents about his discussion in class of the fossil record existing within a context of measurable geological time!). To these challenges the ASEH, together with academia as a whole, must respond by creatively reaffirming the incalculable benefits to society of having a haven where inconvenient thoughts may be voiced and assayed. Without a reserve of nonconformist frameworks of analysis, societies lose their capacity to adapt, and they collapse. Without the critical environmental histories that we write, that

disclose the often hidden environmental, and hence, social costs, of our past choices, we would be unable to think more clearly about the environmental and social implications of our current ones.

But that is not enough. Environmental history can also hold up a beacon of hope in these times. We can point to Stephen Lansing's example of water management in Bali, where trust in the impartiality of Hindu water temple priests (and their dedication to the ethic of fairness) has allowed agriculture to flourish in a climate of resource security and cooperation. And with Melissa Leach, James Fairhead, and Conrad Totman, we can assert that societies have proven themselves capable of reforestation and of setting environmental limits for themselves, as Guinea and Tokugawa Japan did. Inescapably, being academics means occupying a social role. If we expect society to set aside resources for us, we must be prepared to explain why we merit those resources. Our current age has once again compelled us to think about those important questions. I am confident that we will find the language to make the case successfully, and to be a part of our civilization's collective striving to make the planet more friendly to life, including human life.

Douglas Weiner, ASEH President

Proposed Amendments to ASEH Bylaws

ASEH's Executive Committee has approved the proposed amendments to the bylaws listed below, which retain the office of Secretary as a voting member of the Executive Committee and establish an Executive Director as a non-voting, ex officio member. The Executive Committee will appoint the Executive Director. The proposed amendments also include adding a representative of H-Environment to the Executive Committee as a non-voting, ex officio member. Please review these changes to the bylaws, and indicate approval or disapproval on the ballot provided on page 8.

Proposed new language is underlined.

ARTICLE II: Officers

Section 1) OLD LANGUAGE

The officers of the society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Editor of *Environmental History* (ex officio, without vote), and seven elective Executive Committee members. These officers, with the three immediate past presidents, shall transact such business as may be assigned to it under these bylaws or by the society.

Section 1) NEW LANGUAGE

The officers of the society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Executive Director (ex officio, without vote), and seven elective Executive Committee members. Additionally, the Editor of *Environmental History*, a representative of H-ENVIRONMENT, and the Executive Director are members ex officio, without vote. These officers, with the three immediate past presidents, shall transact such business as may be assigned to it under these bylaws or by the society.

Section 4) OLD LANGUAGE

The Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee, shall give at least four weeks notice to all members of the time and place of all stated meetings of the society, meetings of the Executive Committee, and elections of officers; shall send out lists of nominees to all members in advance of the election of officers; shall report election results to the membership at the next stated meeting; shall maintain a list of members; shall have charge of the corporate seal of the society, and shall notify all committees of their appointment. These items of information may be disseminated by means of the ASEH newsletter.

Section 4) NEW LANGUAGE

The Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Society's business meetings, and shall assist the President in arranging these meetings and distributing materials for review.

Section 6) OLD LANGUAGE

The Editor of *Environmental History* (published jointly by ASEH and the Forest History Society) shall have charge of all editorial and production

decisions subject to the approval of the ASEH Executive Committee and the governing board of the Forest History Society. He/She may select an advisory committee to assist in making editorial decisions.

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The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a renewable four-year term and generally will oversee the administration of the Society. Responsibilities include editing the newsletter; organizing and maintaining the archives of the Society; coordination with committees, including program, local arrangements, awards, site selection, nominating, liaison, and development committees; fundraising; oversight of annual conference; general correspondence; and review of website and assisting webmaster. The Executive Director shall do and perform such other duties as this Code of By-Laws provides or as may be assigned to that person by the President and/or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV: Elections and Resignations OLD LANGUAGE

Section 1)

The President and Vice-President shall hold office for a term of two years, and may be re-elected. The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office for four years, and may be re-elected. The other elective members of the Executive Committee shall serve staggered four-year terms. Elections are to be held in odd calendar years, at which time all officers with expiring terms and three or four (roughly half) of the members of the Executive Committee shall stand for election. No member of the Executive Committee (with the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of *Environmental History*) may serve more than two consecutive terms in office.

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New Members 2004

ASEH welcomes the following new members:

Joy Ackerman	Karen Brown	Hoefel	Douglas Harris	C. J. O'Brien	Heather Thorwald
Ryan Acton	David Brownstein	Dayna Decker	Bernd Herrmann	Timothy A. Orr	David Torres-Rouff
Abel Alves	Sean Cadigan	Eric Dinmore	Jennifer Hughes	Lois L. Orr	Jane Turner
Renata Marson T.	Ann Elizabeth Camp	Todd M. Dresser	Arn Keeling	Robin K. O'Sullivan	David Verhulst
Andrade	Brian Caton	Tara Eberhart	Vagel Keller	Christopher Otter	Ruth Wachter-Nelson
Jonathan D. Anzalone	Clara Caudle	Sylvia H. Elliott	Sean Kheraj	Wendy W. Patzewitsch	Jerry Wallace
Ellen F. Arnold	Mark Chambers	Julia Evans	Merle E. Kindred	Scott Perez	Robert Weis
Mitch Aso	Matt Chew	Michael J. Feary	David Kinkela	Matthew Poslusny	Christine Wenc
Andrew Bacha	Richard Clarkson	Patrick Ferguson	Diane Krahe	Dale Potts	Samuel A. White
James Bamberg	Ross Coen	Alison F. Frank	Diane Laffin	Joseph Pratt	Michelle Wieland
Brittany N. Bayless	Jon T. Coleman	Mathias Friman	Daniel Lanpher	Josh Reid	Aaron Wilcher
Anya Bernstein	Julie Corley	Victoria Garcia	Carol MacLennan	Douglas B. Schoppert	Stephen Williams
Richard Besel	Jason Dampier	Matthew Godfrey	Michelle Mart	William Shatswell	Steve Wills
David Biggs	Martin Davenport	Maya Golden-Krasner	Keely B. Maxwell	Richard M. Spencer	Emily T. Yeh
Chris Bocast	Diana Davis	Will Guthrie	Bruce Mayer	Lance D. Stewart	Christopher York
Christina Bolgiano	Rynetta Davis	Clarence Hall	James McDougal	Richard Stradford	Kimberly A.
Margaretta S. Brokaw	Joao Luiz de Moraes	Roger Hamilton	Tom McGuire	Criss Swaim	Youngblood
			Scott Miltenberger	Kenneth Michael	Suzanne Zeller
			Grant Murray	Sylvester	
			Milford Muskett	Travis Tennesen	
			Henry Vivian Nelles	Brian P. Thompson	

Donors 2004

ASEH acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals and sincerely thanks them for their generosity:

Steven Anderson	Susan Flader	Prof. James C. McCann	Jeanie Sherwood
Richard Batteiger	Brian Foley	Russell McKinley	Dr. K. Sivaramakrishnan
Sandra L. Chaney	Dolores Greenberg	Betsy Mendelsohn	Leo B. Slater
Anne Gilbert & Jon T. Coleman	David Hsiung	Nick Menzies	Thomas G. Smith
Craig Colten	Linda J. Lear	Carolyn Merchant	Thompson R. Smith
Rebecca Conard	Douglas W. MacCleery	Lisa Mighetto	John M. Soluri
Steven H. Corey	Gerald Markowitz	Ellen Nore	Jeffrey K. Stine
Sarah S. Elkind	Robert Marks	Eric Perramond	William K. Storey
		Martin Reuss	Joel Tarr
		Christine Rosen	Petra Van Dam
		Hal Rothman	Douglas R. Weiner
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		Paul Sabin	Donald Worster
		Mr. & Mrs. John A. Sandor	



ASEH Donation Form

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John D. Wirth Travel Grant to assist international scholars in presenting research at ASEH annual meetings.

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Mail to: Mark Madison, ASEH Treasurer, National Conservation Training Center,
698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV 25443-9713

ASEH Election 2005

The candidates are listed below, along with biographical statements. The winning candidates will take office after the Houston conference, in March 2005.

OFFICERS

Vice President/President Elect

Nancy Langston, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nancy Langston is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Forest Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West* (1995), and *Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed* (2003), and co-author of the interdisciplinary textbook *Ecology* (2000). Her current research examines the links between environmental toxins and women's bodies. Her ASEH service has included: member of the Executive Committee, 2004-on; member of the Editorial Board, *Environmental History*; co-chair, 2004 Conference Program Committee; member of 2000 Conference Program Committee; member of George Perkins Marsh Prize Committee 1999. She served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Forest History Society, and she served on the National Resource Council Committee on Endangered Fishes in the Klamath Basin.

Personal statement: I would be honored to serve. As a former scientist who became an environmental historian, I've always felt welcomed by ASEH and its members, and this collegiality and willingness to explore the intersections of disciplinary boundaries are among the aspects of ASEH I most value. I believe ASEH should continue to work to encourage active engagement between environmental historians and scientists, activists, resource managers, and other practitioners, even as we increase our influence among historians.

Treasurer

Mark Madison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mark Madison is the historian for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He teaches environmental and conservation history at the National Conservation Training Center and Shepherd University. He is currently finishing a book on the history of wolf reintroductions. He has been the ASEH treasurer since 2001 and has begun rationalizing our record-keeping and auditing procedures as our Society expands.

Secretary

Ellen Stroud, Oberlin College

Ellen Stroud has been an assistant professor of U.S. Environmental History at Oberlin College since 2001. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan, her M.A. from the University of Oregon, and her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She is on leave this year with fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and Harvard's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, where she is researching her second book, *Dead As Dirt: An Environmental History of the Dead Body*. Her first book, *Seeing the Trees: Urbanization and Reforestation in the Northeastern United States* is near completion. Her publications include articles in the *Radical History Review*, *History*

and *Theory*, and *Environmental History*. Her 1999 *Radical History Review* article "Troubled Waters in Ecotopia: Environmental Racism in Portland Oregon" won the ASEH Alice Hamilton prize for the best article in environmental history published outside of the society's own journal. She has been a member of ASEH since 1995, and served on the 2003 committee to choose the recipient of the Rachel Carson Prize, awarded for the best dissertation in environmental history completed that year.

CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (10)

Mary Elizabeth Braun, Oregon State University Press

Many thanks for the invitation to run for election to the ASEH Executive Committee. Trained as a geographer, I appreciate the complex and dynamic research, writing, and teaching of ASEH members. As an acquisitions editor at the University of Wisconsin Press and now at the Oregon State University Press, I have been pleased to publish various titles in environmental history, most recently *Natural Enemy, Natural Ally: Toward an Environmental History of War*, a volume edited by Richard Tucker and Ed Russell. I first joined the ASEH in 1995, and have been impressed with its growth and development since then, especially its increasingly diverse geographic focus and its incorporation of interdisciplinary work from within and beyond the academy. ASEH will prosper if its outlook and outreach continue to expand while maintaining its foundation of outstanding scholarship. I would be honored to help facilitate the work of the ASEH, and to further promote environmental history, which is now more important than ever.

Kathleen A. Brosnan, University of Houston

It is an honor to be nominated for the executive committee of the American Society for Environmental History. Attending my first meeting in Tucson, as a graduate student, I was impressed by the gracious welcome I received. Participation in subsequent meetings and my service as local arrangements chair and an ex-officio member of the program committee for the 2005 meeting have revealed the intellectual depth, interdisciplinary nature, and social relevance of the scholarship produced by ASEH members. As it has grown and recruited participants from around the globe, ASEH has remained one of those unique organizations that balance conviviality and professionalism. If elected to the executive committee, my focus would be on enhancing the Society's underlying financial structure in an effort to increase graduate student opportunities, to find means for reducing costs of annual meetings, and to facilitate hiring a permanent executive director. ASEH's continued ability to promote engagement across disciplines and between academic and nonacademic participants, to maintain the excellence of *Environmental History*, and to nurture young scholars ultimately depends upon its financial strength. Among other works, I am the author of *Uniting Mountain and Plain: Cities, Law and Environmental Change along the Front Range* (2002). I am currently writing an environmental history of the Napa Valley wine industry and its consumer culture. Thank you for this opportunity.

Kate Christen, Smithsonian Institution

In recent years ASEH has welcomed an increasingly diverse membership, including many more non-U.S. historians and professionals in allied fields. This wealth of new experiences and perspectives places ASEH at the center of a larger professional community valuing environmental history scholarship and, on occasion, its thoughtful deployment in policy formulation. Building on this base, ASEH should further facilitate public engagement among historians and others, especially natural scientists, activists, resource managers, and the public at large. Sometimes public history approaches can be key to accessible outreach and exchange. Coinciding with our 2004 joint meeting with the National Council on Public History (NCPH), Lisa Mighetto and I guest edited *The Public Historian's* Winter 2004 special issue, "Environmental History as Public History," exploring research and outreach at the intersections of these sub-fields. Archival vigilance should be another key sector for ASEH influence, both in the struggle for access to U.S. presidential and government records, and in promoting archiving by conservation organizations and similar institutions.

I live and work at the Smithsonian's Conservation and Research Center (CRC), the National Zoo's research arm in rural Virginia. I'm surrounded by exotic animals and the scientists struggling to understand and conserve them, a wonderful opportunity to observe firsthand narratives pertinent to my main interest, history of conservation biology and conservation policy, practice, and institutional development. My research topics and publications include history of tropical biology field stations in Latin America and interactions with local land use imperatives; uses of long-term Landsat satellite monitoring for conservation; and ethics of past and present human/elephant interactions in captivity and in the wild. I actively participate in CRC's undergraduate, graduate, and professional teaching curriculum on conservation biology, expanding each course with environmental history components. My ASEH service has included: Outreach Committee (created in 2004); chair, 2000-2002 Nominating Committee; and member of the 2000 Program Committee. Additionally, in NCPH, I serve on *The Public Historian* editorial board (since 2001). As an element of my ASEH outreach committee work, I also serve on the board of the Society for Conservation Biology's new Social Science Working Group.

Peter Coates, University of Bristol, UK

I've been an environmental historian since 1983, when I began working for my doctorate on opposition to Arctic oil development and other environmental causes in Alaska (to the bemusement and incredulity of many in Cambridge University's fraternity of historians). My ulterior motive (naturally) was to spend a decent chunk of time on the last frontier. In addition to undergraduate studies at Scotland's University of St. Andrews, my training included an academic year at both Union College, Schenectady, and the University of California, Berkeley. I am currently Reader in American and Environmental History at the University of Bristol in southwest England. My publications include *The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Controversy: Technology, Conservation and the Last Frontier* (1991); *In Nature's Defence: Americans and Conservation* (1993); *Environment and History: The Taming of Nature in the USA and southern Africa* (with William Beinart, 1995) and *Nature: Western Attitudes since Ancient Times* (1998). Recent interests include invasive species of flora and fauna and the history of the Atlantic salmon.

Though I've been an ASEH member for twenty years, as a European based in Europe, I've not been able to attend conferences annually. I've published in *Environmental History* and also reviewed books and articles for our journal. I'm a member of the editorial collective for the British-based journal, *Environment and History*. Environmental historians remain thin on the ground in Britain. But the field is entering an exciting phase of growth across Europe as a whole as the European Society for

Environmental History spreads its wings. ASEH is a commendably cosmopolitan organization that is becoming ever more internationalist in outlook. I'm keen to encourage this trend, more comparative histories, and to contribute to developing links between ASEH and ESEH.

Craig Colten, Louisiana State University

Since my first meeting in 1987, I have found the ASEH to be a community of scholars who greatly stimulated my thinking about the environmental past and the most satisfying organization that I belong to. Consequently, I became a long-time member, regular meeting participant, organizer of sessions, and advocate of ASEH to my geography colleagues. My service to the organization includes: member of the Conference Site Selection Committee, current member of Local Arrangements Committee (Houston), and organizer for the 2007 meeting in Baton Rouge, and Editorial Board (currently). I would bring extensive experience as a practicing environmental historian – 10 years state government and 2 years private-sector engagement – and the perspective of a historical geographer. If elected, I would strive to extend the interdisciplinary reach of ASEH to related fields of academic inquiry and also spark interest among practitioners and the lay audience. I am currently Carl O. Sauer Professor of Geography at Louisiana State University and author of *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature* (2004).

Jose Drummond, University of Brasilia, Brazil

Jose Drummond obtained a B.S. in Social Sciences at a federal university in the state of Rio de Janeiro, an M.Sc. in Environmental Science from The Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington, and a Ph.D. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Professor Drummond worked at a federal university in Rio de Janeiro for more than 20 years, and since August of 2004 is a professor and graduate programs coordinator at the Center for Sustainable Development of the University of Brasilia, located in the nation's capital. His major research interests include conservation policies, natural resources development, and environmental history. He also taught environmental history courses at two USA universities – Alabama (Birmingham) and Illinois Wesleyan (Bloomington). He has published in and reviewed articles for the journals *Environmental History* and *Environment and History*. He also co-edits the on-line Latin American Environmental History Bibliography with Lise Sedrez and the late John D. Wirth. He also publishes regularly in Portuguese, and is currently preparing a historiographical essay on Brazilian environmental history and participating in the organization of Brazil's first national EH Conference, scheduled for May of 2005.

Personal Statement: Although I am not a historian by trade, I am proud to be involved with ASEH. I am an avid reader of English-language EH texts and enjoy uncovering texts and documents relevant to Brazilian EH. I also try to stimulate colleagues and students interested in Brazilian EH, among other things by directing them to ASEH materials. It would be both an honor and a great professional opportunity for me to become formally involved in ASEH.

Dale Goble, University of Idaho

I am honored to have been invited to stand for election to the Executive Committee of ASEH. As a professor of law, I have found the ASEH and its members to be a welcoming group of scholars that fosters interdisciplinary perspectives. The ASEH should continue to work to increase the involvement of historians, scientists, resource managers, and other practitioners. I believe that I can contribute to this cross-fertilization: for the past four years I have been a co-convenor of a diverse group of nearly 30 scholars that has been evaluating the Endangered Species Act.

I am currently the Margaret Wilson Schimke Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Idaho. My scholarship focuses on the intersection of natural resource law, policy, and history. In addition to the

usual numerous articles, essays, and reports, I am the co-author of two books: *Wildlife Law: Cases and Materials* (2002) and *Federal Wildlife Statutes: Texts and Contexts* (2002); I have also co-edited a collection of essays on the environmental history of the Pacific Northwest, *Northwest Lands, Northwest Peoples: Readings in Environmental History* (1999). I am currently editing a collection of essays growing out of the Endangered Species Act project, *The Endangered Species Act at Thirty: Lessons and Prospects*. My service to ASEH has included: co-chair, Program Committee for the joint conference of the ASEH and Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina in 2001; member, Program Committee for the ASEH conference in Denver, Colorado in 2002; co-convenor, Pacific Northwest Environmental History Symposium in Pullman, Washington in 1996 – the first of the short-lived ASEH regional conferences.

Laurel Sefton MacDowell, University of Toronto

Laurel Sefton MacDowell is a professor in the Department of History, University of Toronto, with a PhD from the University of Toronto, and an M.Sc. (econ.) from the London School of Economics. She teaches Canadian environmental history, and a graduate course in North American environmental history. As a social historian for many years specializing in Canadian working class history, she published two monographs: *“Remember Kirkland Lake”: The Gold Miners’ Strike 1941-42* (1983, 2nd edition 2001) and *Renegade Lawyer: The Life of J.L. Cohen* (2001) on a leading labour lawyer in the 1930s and 1940s. She has published numerous articles in various Canadian history journals, edited a journal, *Ontario History*, for three years, and published several edited books in Canadian history. As a result of her interest in health issues in the workplace, in the early 1990s she began to reread Canadian history from an environmental perspective, attended several conferences of environmental historians, and wrote a paper to try to link her two fields entitled, “Greening the Workplace: Unions and the Environment” which was published in L. Sandberg and S. Sorlin, eds. *Sustainability: The Challenge*, Montreal, 1998. Also in 1998, she organized a conference at the University of Toronto on “Themes and Issues in North American Environmental History” to encourage Canadians to work in the environmental history field. Currently, MacDowell is writing a text for UBC Press, tentatively titled, *Fragments and Patterns: An Environmental History of Canada* and is preparing a course reader to accompany it. To contribute to biodiversity, she has worked with a community group and a museum to establish heritage community gardens in both Toronto and Haliburton.

Personal statement: I am interested in comparative aspects of environmental history between Canada and the United States, especially the problem of how to develop a sustainable society in North America when our cultural values, our political interests, and our social structures work against it. I am convinced that education about our shared past, increasing physical pressure from the planet itself, and political activism by concerned citizens globally will result in greater environmental sensitivity. As a Canadian, I feel honoured to be invited to stand for election to the ASEH executive committee.

Katherine G. Morrissey, University of Arizona

It’s an honor to be nominated for election to the ASEH Executive Committee. As the ASEH continues to grow, I’d welcome the opportunity to help sustain its success and to be part of the conversation about new directions. This organization has been especially prescient in fostering both interdisciplinary and international collaborations. Indeed, my recent work on the organizing committee for the 2004 Globalization and Environmental Justice Movement symposium reminds me of the critical importance of continuing these efforts to reach across borders.

An Associate Professor of History at the University of Arizona, I received my Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. My current research project, *The Nature of Conflicts*, examines the environmental and cultural history of mining pollution in the early 20th-century North American West. Other related publications include: *Mental Territories: Mapping the Inland Empire*, “Mining, Environment and Historical Change in the Inland Northwest,” in *Northwest Lands and Peoples: An Environmental History* and the forthcoming “Dams and Erosion: Interpretations and Representations of Arizona’s Environment,” in *Visions in the Dust*. My previous service to ASEH has included: elected member of the Nominating Committee; chair and member of the Aldo Leopold Prize Committee; member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1999 Tucson Conference. I’ve enjoyed opportunities to participate in ASEH conferences – both regional and national – as a paper presenter, chair and commentator. I would also bring to this position my experience from council and committee work for other professional organizations (including the Organization of American Historians, Western History Association, and American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch) as well as collaborative research institutes (such as the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth).

Verena Winiwarter, University of Vienna

Verena Winiwarter was first trained as a chemical engineer and earned her Ph.D. in environmental history at the University of Vienna in 1998. There, she has been a lecturer (Dozent) in Human Ecology since 2003. She currently holds a postdoctoral fellowship in environmental history (APART fellowship) awarded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences at the Institute for Soil Research, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, and is a guest professor at the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Research of Klagenfurt University. Her main research interests comprise the micro-history of landscapes, history of waste, images, and, most recently, knowledge about soils. She was one of the founding members of ESEH, the European Society for Environmental History. Since 2001 she has served as president of ESEH (until 2/2005).

Personal statement: Environmental History is a field that is best served through interdisciplinary cooperation. I have always enjoyed the variety of trainings among environmental historians I meet at ASEH and ESEH conferences. I would certainly want to encourage such collaboration in the future. I have worked for international co-operation, too, creating an umbrella organization (ICE-HO) together with Doug Weiner and Steve Anderson. I would like to see us get together at a World Environmental History Meeting in the not-too-distant future. I also bring my experience running a scholarly network and organizing meetings. I am honoured that as a European I have again been asked to serve ASEH. International solidarity matters for us. By strengthening trans-Atlantic ties I would hope to work for the benefit of the ASEH community.

CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (4)

Sara Pritchard, Montana State University

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University. My research focuses on environmental management and technological development in 20th-century France and French empire. I have been a member of the ASEH since 1992 and attended my first meeting in 1997. Since then, the ASEH and the Society for the History of Technology have been my primary intellectual and professional communities. As a member of the ASEH, I have organized numerous conference panels, served as H-Environment web editor, and co-founded with Jim Williams “Envirotech,” a special interest group at the

intersection of environmental history and the history of technology. I would like to see the ASEH expand its collaborations with the ESEH and organizations in related sub-disciplines such as SHOT and the History of Science Society. In addition, I hope that the ASEH forges stronger connections with international scholars and further strengthens its commitment to underrepresented groups within academe and within our field.

Adam Rome, Pennsylvania State University

I teach in the history department at Penn State, and my research has focused on the history of environmental reform in the United States. I soon will finish four years as editor of *Environmental History*. As editor, I serve ex officio on the ASEH Executive Committee, so I have a good sense of the qualities that make for effective service to the organization. The editorship also has allowed me to get to know hundreds of ASEH members. I have tried to make the journal exciting to all ASEH members. In a similar fashion, I would work as a member of the nominating committee to ensure that the officers of ASEH represent the extraordinary richness and breadth of our field.

Mark Stoll, Texas Tech University

Mark Stoll teaches in the History Department at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Author of *Protestantism, Capitalism, and Nature in America* (1997), as well as numerous other articles and book chapters, Mark's research interests lie mainly in the influence of religion on ideas about nature. Recently, he has begun work in comparative environmental movements. Along with Dianne Glave, he is editor of the forthcoming

"To Love the Wind and the Rain": Essays in African American Environmental History. Mark is also currently editing a 14-book series on world environmental history for the publisher ABC-Clío that will begin appearing in 2005. He is active in both ASEH and ESEH (European Society for Environmental History), and sees a source of vitality in the field in its growing internationalization and increasing diversity. As a member of the Nominating Committee, he would attempt to ensure that this vitality, breadth, and diversity continue to guide the future of ASEH.

Melissa Wiedenfeld, Charles Darwin Research Station, Galapagos, Ecuador

I am currently a research associate at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands, where I am working on an environmental history of the archipelago. A long-time member of the organization, I attended my first ASEH meeting in Houston in 1991 and have organized several panels for subsequent meetings. Since 1997, I have served as an H-Environment (formerly H-ASEH) list editor, and for the past four years, I have served as the H-Environment book review editor. I have also served on ASEH's Rachel Carson Dissertation Award Committee for two years, the second year as chairperson. I am committed to improving and updating the on-line resources of the organization, as well as promoting a broader membership base outside of North America. Because environmental history serves not just our understanding of the broader patterns of history, but other academic disciplines and the general public as well, I would like to see ASEH promote the discussion of environmental history among a wider audience.

Thank you for your consideration.



ASEH 2005 Election Ballot

Please mail to Lisa Mighetto, 119 Pine Street, Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98101. *Must arrive by February 25, 2005.*

Officers

Vice President/President Elect

Nancy Langston

Write-in candidate: _____

Treasurer

Mark Madison

Write-in candidate _____

Secretary

Ellen Stroud

Write-in candidate _____

Nominating Committee – Vote for TWO

Sara Pritchard

Adam Rome

Mark Stoll

Melissa Wiedenfeld

Write-in candidate _____

Executive Committee – Vote for FOUR

Mary Elizabeth Braun

Kathleen A. Brosnan

Kate Christen

Peter Coates

Craig Colten

Jose Drummond

Dale Goble

Laurel Sefton MacDowell

Katherine G. Morrissey

Verena Winiwarter

Write-in candidate _____

Changes to Bylaws

I approve the amendments to the bylaws presented on page 3.

I do not approve the amendments to the bylaws presented on page 3.

ASEH Committees, 2004-2005

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Lisa Mighetto at <mighetto@hrassoc.com>.

Officers:

Douglas Weiner, University of Arizona (President)
 Stephen Pyne, Arizona State University (Vice President/President Elect)
 Lisa Mighetto, Historical Research Associates, Inc. (Acting Executive Director)
 Mark Madison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Treasurer)

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 Sarah Elkind, San Diego State University
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 Adam Rome, Pennsylvania State University (Editor, Environmental History)
 Jan Oosthoek, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (Webmaster)

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 Steven Corey, Worcester State College
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 Sarah Elkind, San Diego State University
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 Char Miller, Trinity University
 Monica Perales, University of Houston
 Joseph A. Pratt, University of Houston
 Tyler Priest, University of Houston
 Sarah Thal, Rice University

George Perkins Marsh Prize Committee (best book in environmental history)

Michael Bess, Vanderbilt University, Chair
 Lynne Heasley, Western Michigan University
 Alan MacEachern, University of Western Ontario

Alice Hamilton Prize Committee (best article published outside *Environmental History*)

Thomas M. Lekan, University of South Carolina, Chair
 Lisa Kiser, Ohio State University
 Deborah Fitzgerald, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Rachel Carson Prize Committee (best dissertation in environmental history)

Steven Stoll, Yale University, Chair
 Neil Maher, NJIT-Rutgers University - Newark
 Kavita Philip, University of California - Irvine

Leopold-Hidy Prize Committee

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 Cynthia Melendy, University of Maine
 Mark Stoll, Texas Tech University
 Melissa Wiedenfeld, Charles Darwin Research Station, Galapagos
 Dennis Williams, Southern Nazarene University

H-Environment Web Page Editor

Ryan Schumacher, University of Kansas

H-Environment Book Review Editors

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 Susan Flader, University of Missouri - Columbia

Martin Melosi, University of Houston
 William TeBrake, University of Maine
 Verena Winiwarter, Vienna University

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 Donald Worster, University of Kansas

Announcements

Conferences

Western History Association Met in Las Vegas

by Michael J. Brodhead, Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The annual meeting of the Western History Association, held October 13-16 in Las Vegas, Nevada, featured a number of sessions that dealt directly with environmental topics: "Western Nature: Plants, Gardens, and Fire in the West"; "Government Power in the West," with papers on National Parks and Forests; "Representing Western Region and Landscape," with papers on wilderness and geomorphology in the Southwest; "Animals and Culture in the West"; "Photography and Art in the West"; and "Southern California's Quest for Water: New Photographic Images of the Altered Landscapes."

All of the presentations at the Phi Alpha Theta session were devoted to "The [National] Parks and the Public." Papers read in other sessions included "William O. Douglas . . . Masculinity, the Wilderness Frontier, and the Twentieth Century West" and "How the Central Arizona Project Contributed to the Death of the Great Spirit."

The welcoming reception was held at the Atomic Testing Museum, on the grounds of the Southern Nevada campus of the Desert Research Institute. Preceding the reception was a tour of the Nevada Test Site. Other bus tours with an environmental emphasis were of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, and Valley of Fire State Park. The American Society for Environmental History hosted a breakfast.

The Western History Association's next conference will take place in Scottsdale, Arizona, from October 12 - 15, 2005. For more information, see <<http://www.unm.edu/~wha/conf/confinfo.html>>

American Council of Learned Societies Met in Cleveland

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) accepted ASEH as a constituent society this year, and as ASEH's representative, Lisa Mighetto attended the conference of administrative officers in Cleveland, from November 4-7, 2004. Session topics included the public role of a learned society; how to manage conference finances; reviewing hotel contracts; and fundraising. Affiliate societies of ACLS include the Association of American Geographers, History of Science Society, Society for the History of Technology, and Society of Architectural Historians – organizations of interest to ASEH members. Membership in the ACLS provides an opportunity for ASEH to strengthen liaisons with these other organizations.

Call for Papers

Rivers Run Through Them: Landscapes in Environmental History

St. Paul, Minnesota, March 29-April 3, 2006

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JULY 1, 2005

The program committee for the joint meeting of the American Society for Environmental History and Forest History Society invites panel, paper, and poster proposals for its March-April 2006

meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. Proposals may address any area of environmental history, but in keeping with the conference themes the committee specifically solicits submissions examining the place of landscapes in environmental history. The conference site, hard by the Mississippi River, is a perfect setting in which to discuss the role of water in defining landscapes, natural and built, and their intersection and evolution. The committee encourages the formation of panels that might focus on the following broad themes:

Water and watersheds - The Mississippi's impact on the development of North America has been immense, and other river systems here and abroad have profoundly influenced the course of life within their bioregions.

Cross geographical and transnational boundaries - Landscapes do not necessarily recognize political boundaries but are often determined by them. Issues such as pollution, wildlife, global climate, population, among others, ought to be discussed across boundaries and borders.

Land-use and landscape histories - Land-use histories are some of the most useful points of reference that inform present decision-making. A growing international focus on valuing historical landscapes is sure to affect political discussions.

Cross-disciplinary landscapes - Environmental history is a product of a transforming intellectual landscape. From the first it has experienced changes in shifts in scholarly emphasis, intensified interactions with other disciplines, from cultural and urban studies to the natural and social sciences, each of which has helped reinvigorate this still-young field.

Individual papers are welcome, but they are more difficult to accommodate. To maximize the number of papers yet maintain opportunities for creative interaction between panelists and the audience, the committee also requests that panel proposals be limited either to three papers (commentator optional), or four papers and no commentator. Participants may only present one formal paper, but they may also engage in roundtable, chairing, or commenting duties.

To submit a proposal for a paper or a poster, see ASEH's website at <www.aseh.net> and click on "conferences."

Should you have questions, please contact any member of the program committee:

Char Miller, Chair, Trinity University <fmiller@trinity.edu>

Steve Anderson, Forest History Society <stevena@duke.edu>

Polly Fry, University of Minnesota <pfry@hickorytech.net>

Kathryn Morse, Middlebury College <kmorse@middlebury.edu>

Adam Sowards, University of Idaho <asowards@uidaho.edu>

Gerald Williams, USDA Forest Service <gwilliams02@fs.fed.us>

from **Announcements** page 10

Thinking through the Environment. A joint meeting of The 8th Turku Methodological Conference and The 6th Nordic Environmental History Conference

15-17 September 2005, Turku, Finland

We are pleased to invite proposals for papers, sessions and posters on the methodology of environmental history. We welcome proposals that examine the application of methods and theoretical frameworks to the historical research of the environment. We aim to bring both established and younger scholars together to share their ongoing research as well as broader perspectives on themes and opportunities in environmental history. The keynote speakers will include:

Donald Worster, University of Kansas, USA,
Fiona Watson, University of Stirling, UK,
John McNeill, University of Georgetown, USA,
Yrjö Haila, University of Tampere, Finland, and
Kristin Asdal, University of Oslo, Norway.

The deadline for paper and session proposals is February 15, 2005. Proposals ought to be 200-300 words accompanied by a curriculum vitae of no more than one page for each participant. We encourage submissions also from non-Nordic scholars and students of all historical periods and places.

The webpages of the Conference are available at the following site: <http://www.tte2005.utu.fi/>

These pages include further information and an electronic form, by which you may submit your proposals for individual papers, sessions of 3-5 contributions, or posters. Please, read instructions on the webpage: <http://www.tte2005.utu.fi/cfp.php>

The regular registration fee will be 120 euros and 40 euros for students. These rates are valid until May 31, 2005. Higher rates will be applied after that date.

The joint conference will be held in Turku/Åbo, Finland and it will be hosted by the University of Turku and the Åbo Akademi University.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

On behalf of the organizing committee

Laura Hollsten
Conference Secretary
Department of History
Faculty of Humanities
Åbo Akademi University
Fabriksgatan 2,
20500 Åbo, Finland.
Phone: +358-2 215 4397
Fax: +358-2 215 4845
E-mail: TTE2005@utu.fi

Joint Annual Meeting of the Pioneer America Society and the Eastern Historical Geography Historical Society, Baton Rouge, LA, October 27-29, 2005

“Changing Landscapes of the Lower Mississippi River Valley”

Thursday, Oct. 27 - Field Trip

New Orleans and Creole Architecture, Jay Edwards

Friday, Oct. 28 - Paper Sessions and Banquet;
Guest Lecture: Charles Aiken, University of Tennessee

Saturday, Oct. 29 - Field Trip
River Road and Bayou Country - Craig Colten

Lodging: Sheraton Hotel (225-242-2600), 102 France Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; next to Mississippi River and adjacent to downtown and historic old state capitol

Local Arrangements: Craig Colten, 225.578.6180
<ccolten@lsu.edu>

Abstracts due by August 31, 2005

SEE:

<http://www.lsu.edu/lsupress/catalog/Fall2004/books/Colten_Unnatural.html>

Future ASEH Meetings

ASEH Meeting 2005

Houston, Texas

“Energy Space Time”

March 16-20, Houston, Texas. Warwick Hotel. For more information and for a copy of the program, see ASEH's website at <www.aseh.net> or contact local arrangements chair Kathleen Brosnan at <kbrosnan@uh.edu>

ASEH Meeting 2006

St. Paul, Minnesota

“A River Runs Through Them: Landscapes in Environmental History”

March 29 - April 3, 2006. Radisson Hotel. For more information, contact John Anfinson at <John_Anfinson@nps.gov>

ASEH Meeting 2007

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

March 1- 4, 2007. For more information, contact local arrangements chair Craig Colten at <ccolten@lsu.edu>

Attention Authors

If your press is not planning to exhibit at the Houston conference, you can display your books at the Scholars Choice table. Contact Judy Lohr at <judylohr@scholarschoice.com>. Phone: 585.262.2048, ext. 105.

Hosting Future ASEH Meetings

ASEH's Site Selection Committees is now soliciting proposals from individuals or groups interested in hosting the annual meeting of the ASEH in 2008 and 2009. Those interested should contact Paul S. Sutter, Site Selection Committee Chair, Department of History, LeConte Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-1602; phone: 706.542.2487; e-mail: <sutter@uga.edu> for a copy of the ASEH Conference Guidelines and other information. *The deadline for submission of proposals for the 2008 meeting is January 15, 2005.*

Please keep in mind that hosting a conference requires substantial effort and time as well as significant institutional support.

- In this issue ...**
- **Minority Travel Grant to Houston Conference Available**
 - **Call for Papers, St. Paul Conference**
 - **Proposed Revisions to ASEH Bylaws**
 - **Special Insert: ASEH Election 2005**

ASEH News 

American Society for Environmental History

c/o Historical Research Associates, Inc.
119 Pine Street, Suite 301
Seattle, WA 98101-1592