Join Us in Ottawa for ASEH 2020

Registration for ASEH 2020 is now open!

ASEH Annual Conference
Delta Ottawa City Centre
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
March 25-29, 2020

REGISTER

Members can register at reduced rates. Not a member or need to renew?

JOIN OR RENEW

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Let's Fund the Rachel Carson Prize in 2020
ASEH faces a big problem. Together, we can solve it.

The big problem is that we are running a deficit. This year’s budget is about $20,000 in the red, income and donations are flat, and the treasurer has warned that we might see income sources decline in the near future. These are the reasons that I have made finances one of the three top priorities for my presidency. (The other two are diversity and membership.)

Part of the solution is creating a perpetual reserve fund for the Rachel Carson Prize of $30,000. The capital in the fund will generate interest to pay the cash award to the winner of the prize, which honors the best dissertation in environmental history, without drawing down the capital.

We are half way to reaching that goal—**IF we match the $15,000 already pledged**. If that is enough information for you to donate, please [click here](#).

If you are still reading, it means you would like more information. Here is the background.

Three innovations that make this appeal possible. First, the ASEH executive committee met semi-annually for the first time. The executive committee has always met at, and only at, the annual conference. The amount of business we transact has grown over the years, and we need to meet more often to keep moving ahead on ASEH’s many initiatives, including increasing diversity, revisiting our policy on advocacy, and funding scholars. So, in October, the executive committee met for its first semi-annual meeting.

The second innovation is that we met, also for the first time, on line. Instead of traveling to meet in person, which would have cost money and increased our carbon footprint, we stayed wherever we happened to be and met using Zoom. The technology worked surprisingly well, and it was a productive meeting.

The third innovation is that the executive committee in September adopted, again for the first time, a policy on funding prizes. The overall goal is to ensure ASEH’s future by creating a perpetual reserve fund. This fund will be like an endowment, in that it supports activities using interest from invested capital rather than annual donations, but our accountant advised us that calling it an endowment creates legal complications we are wise to avoid. We are achieving the same goal by creating a perpetual reserve fund.

Endowing all of ASEH is a daunting proposition—so large that one is tempted to throw up one’s hands and give up. So the fund raising committee came up with a more manageable goal: creating perpetual funds for prizes. Everyone likes the prizes, and the amount we need to fund each one is a reasonable fund-raising goal: $30,000.

We picked the **Rachel Carson Prize** as our first candidate because it is an important prize and, in being named for a woman, highlights our goal of increasing diversity in environmental history.

I think this is so important that I am offering $5,000 in matching funds for the Rachel Carson Prize Perpetual Fund. To show its support for this initiative, the
Rachel Carson Prize Perpetual Fund. To show its support for this initiative, the executive committee decided to offer $10,000 in matching funds. So we are half way to our goal—if we get matching donations.

Will you join us in funding the other half of the perpetual fund for this prize? It is a great deal. You get to double the amount of your donation by taking advantage of the matching funds, and you will be giving every year into the future by putting money now in long term investments for ASEH.

The fact of donating is much more important than the amount of donation. Please donate whatever amount you feel appropriate.

I hope that is enough information to convince you to donate by clicking here. Or you can write a check. Either way, I thank you in advance for helping us put ASEH on a solid foundation to continue its work in the future.

Edmund Russell, President

DONATE
ASEH 2020

"Reparative Environmental History"

ASEH's 2020 annual conference will feature more than 100 sessions, a plenary session, graduate student sessions and events, receptions, a poster display and session, and several field trips in and around Ottawa.

Schedule at-a-glance

Online Conference Session Schedule

The conference sessions and events will take place at the Delta Ottawa City Centre hotel.

ASEH has reserved a block or rooms at a reduced conference rate.

Book at the Delta Ottawa at ASEH's group rate

*Staying at the Delta helps ASEH meet its room block obligation and ensure the financial health of the Society.*

Rideau Canal

Central Experimental Farm

Parliament Hill
SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome and Opening Reception, Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Grad Student Reception and Caucus Meeting, Wednesday, March 25, 8:15 - 9:30 p.m.

Luncheon and Talk - An Acre of Time: The Enduring Value of Place, Thursday, March 26, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Forest History Society

Plenary Session: "Black and Indigenous Arts for Reparative Environmental Histories" - Thursday, March 26, 6:30-8:00pm

Women's Environmental History Network Reception - Thursday, March 26, 8:00-9:00 - SPONSOR THE WEHN RECEPTION

Closing Reception - Saturday, March 28, 7:00-8:00pm

ASEH 2020 FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will highlight the environmental and indigenous history in around Ottawa. Walking tours will include Central Experimental Farm, LeBreton Flats and Indigenous Walks at Parliament Hill.

Bus field trips will explore Moses-Saunders Dam, the Diefenbunker, March birding in Ottawa, Lac Leamy and Gatineau Park, and collections of the Canada Nature Museum and the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Staying after the conference? Join one of the field trips to Montreal or Kitigan Zibi in Maniwaki QC.

REGISTER

Moses-Saunders Dam

Canada Science and Technology Museum
SPECIAL LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE SESSION

Circle Sessions on Place-Based Reparative Environmental Histories

In partnership with a number of the First Nation communities that share the traditional territory of Kiji Sibi (Ottawa River) – Kitigan Zibi, Nipissing First Nation, Dokis First Nation, Pikwàkanagàn First Nation – and various interdisciplinary scholars and museum practitioners responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) recommendations, “Place-Based Reparative Environmental Histories” will address the lack of Indigenous representation, and place-based awareness, at academic-history conferences, especially those that address contemporary and historical issues that Indigenous communities daily confront. The sessions will connect Indigenous scholars, researchers, community activists, artists, and allies so that they can critically respond to this absence and foster dialogue and respect for different ways of knowing the past.

The Circle Sessions will take place on Saturday, March 28. REGISTER in advance by checking the boxes in the registration form.

EXHIBIT OR ADVERTISE OR SPONSOR AT ASEH 2020

There is still time to reserve space in the book exhibit or advertise in conference materials, or sponsor an event, break, or reception.

ASEH is looking for student volunteers to work in Ottawa. In exchange for a shift of 4 hours, approved volunteers receive complimentary conference registration. Click here for more information.

FEATURED CONFERENCE SPONSORS

[Images of sponsors]
MEMBER NEWS


Congratulations to several ASEH members who received awards given by the Western Historical Association.

- Mary E. Mendoza, assistant professor of history at Penn State University, received the Vicki L. Ruiz Award, for her article, “Treacherous Terrain: Racial Exclusion and Environmental Control at the US-Mexico Border,” *Environmental History* (January 2018).
- Mette Flynt earned the Westerners International/Phi Alpha Theta award for the best dissertation on the American West for "Becoming America's Ski City: Place and Identity on the Wasatch Front," completed at the University of Oklahoma in December 2018.
- James E. Sherow received the Hal K. Rothman prize for the best book in western environmental history for *The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble* (Oklahoma).
The January issue of *Environmental History* is out now! Features include:

- Graeme Wynn's essay "Framing an Ecology of Hope"
- Articles on afforestation in China; ocean industrialization in Japan; an energy conservation ethic in the 1970s; and, the photographs of the first Aswan Dam
- Gallery feature, book reviews, and more

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

- [University of Texas at Austin, Institute of Historical Residential Fellows, 2020-2021](#) - “Climate in Context: Historical Precedents and the Unprecedented"
- [University of Oslo - PhD Studentship in 20th-Century American Studies/American History](#)
- [College of the Holy Cross - Two-Year Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship in Environmental Studies](#)
- [University of Oregon, Center for Environmental Humanities - Mellon Visiting Scholar in the Environmental Humanities](#)
aseh news is a publication of the American Society for Environmental History

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Photos courtesy of Ottawa Tourism and David Spatz

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