



Report from ASEH's Publications Committee: Back Issues of ASEH's Journal Will Soon Be Available Online

By Jay Taylor, Simon Fraser University

The ASEH Publications Committee wishes to announce an agreement with JSTOR to electronically archive all back issues of *Environmental History* and its predecessor journals *Environmental History Review* and *Environmental Review*, published from 1977 and 2002. As part of the agreement, JSTOR will also archive the Forest History Society's predecessor journals *Forest & Conservation History*, *Journal of Forest History*, and *Forest History*, published from 1957 to 1995. As has been the case for several years now, however, current issues of *Environmental History* published since 2003 will continue to appear on the History Cooperative site.

This project has been several years in development, involving numerous discussions with the ASEH Executive Committee, the FHS Board of Directors, the Executive Directors of the two organizations, and the two primary online storage systems for history journals. The arrangement was finally concluded this fall with JSTOR, which estimates that the conversion process will take two years. The journals will be placed in one of JSTOR's broad arts and sciences collections that focus on the humanities, but the actual title of this collection, which will include a number of other recent history journal acquisitions, has not yet been determined. A generous grant from the Lawrence Foundation assisted ASEH with this process.

From the beginning of this process, a central concern about the move to online journals has been the issue of accessibility. The Executive Committee has maintained a longstanding concern about resisting the gating of the History Cooperative collection, but there have been increasing pressures to create at least a rolling gate because of insufficient subscriptions to the History Cooperative collection. These same issues affect the move to JSTOR, but they have been mitigated in two important ways. First, the new collection is likely to be readily available to members who affiliated with schools and other institutions that will subscribe. In consideration of the many ASEH and FHS members who are not affiliated with such libraries and organizations, however, the ASEH has also secured as part of the agreement with JSTOR a separate members subscription to the collection for \$15. Thus members of the ASEH will be assured of ready access to the entire run of journals by the two organizations, which, for younger scholars and scholars at institutions without full runs, the ASEH membership is becoming an even more valuable research tool.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: ASEH and FHS are providing JSTOR with hard copies of our journals for scanning. We still need the issues listed below. If anyone has **unmarked** back copies of these or other issues that you'd like to donate, please send them to Andrea Anderson at Forest History Society, 701 William Vickers Avenue, Durham, NC 27701-3162.

Missing Issues:

Environmental Review:

- 1977 Issue No. 1 – 3; Bibliographic Supplement I; Issue No. 4
- 1978 Bibliographic Supplement II; Issue No. 5
- 1979 Vol. III, No. 2
- 1980 Vol. IV, No. 2
- 1981 Vol. IV, No. 3; Vol. V, No. 1; Vol. V, No. 2
- 1982 Vol. VI, No. 2

Environmental History Review:

- 1990 Vol. 14, No. 1-2
- 1991 Vol. 15, No. 1
- 1994 Vol. 18, No. 1-2
- 1995 Vol. 19, No. 1-2

Brief Updates

ASEH Website Update: ASEH's Directory of Members and Experts is Growing

The Outreach Committee is please to report that more than 100 scholars have signed up for our online directory of experts (available on our website). This directory is available to journalists and others who might want to consult environmental historians for their expertise. If you would like to add your name and expertise, visit our website at <www.aseh.net> and click on "membership".

Baton Rouge Conference Update: New Orleans Rolling Seminar

All conference registrants are eligible to attend the day-long trip to New Orleans on February 28, 2007, for no additional charge, but space is limited, so sign up soon if you plan to attend. Please sign up only if you are certain that you will attend. As of mid-December 2006, space was still available. Weekly updates will be posted in the "News" section of ASEH's website, located on the homepage (<www.aseh.net>). We will post a notice here once the seminar fills. A description of the seminar, along with a conference registration form, is provided in the "conferences" section of our website.

ASEH Celebrates 30 Years

ASEH will celebrate its 30-year anniversary at the conference in Baton Rouge. What has the Society meant to you and your career? Please visit our booth in the exhibit area to record your experiences and your memories. Also, to commemorate our 30th anniversary, we will launch an oral history project at the conference, interviewing senior members familiar with the development of ASEH. We hope to post transcriptions and audio excerpts from these interviews on our website. If you are interested in participating as a narrator, interviewer, or editor, please contact Lisa Mighetto at <director@aseh.net>. As a separate project, Mark Cioc and Char Miller are conducting interviews with pioneering environmental history scholars, which will appear in the journal throughout 2007.

From the President's Desk

Still on the Road

Thirty years ago, a recent PhD, languishing as the “winter seasonal” at the Desert View district on the South Rim, I conceived the idea of writing a history – the kind of history I had been trained in – but about fire. That spring I was married, and we had a passage read at the ceremony from Walt Whitman's “Song of the Open Road,” and then, buying a used Timberline travel-trailer and a very used International Harvester pickup, and after refurbishing a camper shell for the latter into a roving office, Sonja and I took to the literal road, which is, as Whitman understood, the Great American Place. It was the same year that our founders chartered the American Society for Environmental History. For me this year commemorates a triple anniversary.

I have two offices now, one at a campus and one attached to my home, and neither requires me to fill them with unleaded petrol in order to work. That seminal book has spawned a dozen others. And the ASEH is no longer a paper dream. It has a substantial membership; it co-publishes a major journal; it has joined the American Council of Learned

Societies; it sponsors annual meetings, complete with travel funding, prizes, and fellowships; it has invented a field, and by the collective mental force of its members has shaped scholarship elsewhere. Intellectually, it has long punched above its weight. Yet we remain a young comity of scholars. To paraphrase a famous banquet toast, today we are privileged to sit side by side with the giants on whose shoulders we stand. (Maybe you need to practice pilates to see how that might work. Copy-editors or folks hampered by logic need not apply.)

There is much to celebrate at this year's meeting. We have a full-time executive director in Lisa Mighetto, and have successfully met a \$10,000 challenge grant toward a permanent ED fund. We have raised an endowment to support the Hal K. Rothman Fellowship. We have modernized our website. We have signed a contract with JSTOR to post past issues of *Environmental History* and the newsletter on-line. We are active participants in the planned 2009 environmental history world convention. We can look forward to another outstanding meeting, spiced by a special tour through areas pummeled by Hurricane Katrina. All these accomplishments do not generate spontaneously out of the institution: they occur because members do the work necessary to make them happen. The Society is what its members are willing to do.

This is my parting column (you are permitted to cheer), so let me thank in particular Mark Madison and Nancy Langston who were always available for a consultation and ever savvy in their counsel; Lisa Mighetto, without whom I would have foundered; and the entire executive committee, who reliably managed too frequent and often too-complex requests with enthusiasm and close attention. They deserve your thanks.

Good anniversaries, all. *Awful Splendour: A Fire History of Canada* should appear almost 30 years to the day after I set off to write *Fire in America*. Sonja and I are settling into a semi-dotage of boisterous grandkids. And the American Society for Environmental History is ready for its own new generations. After all we have nature as our guide, and nature is nothing if not infinitely fecund. The road remains open before us all.

See you in Baton Rouge.

Steve Pyne
ASEH President

American Society for Environmental History

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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 <webmaster@aseh.net> regarding material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by March 16, 2007, to:
Lisa Mighetto, Editor, <director@aseh.net>.

ASEH learned just before this newsletter went to press that the National Science Foundation is recommending awarding a grant to fund a workshop on environmental toxicology and the connections between history and science at our conference in Baton Rouge on March 2, 2007. Check our website (<www.aseh.net>, “conferences”) for more information on how to enroll.

The Profession

Conference Papers: How to Prepare and Present

By Nancy Jacobs, Brown University

So, you've got something important to say, 15 minutes to say it, and you have a sense that your career prospects might hinge upon your performance. If you've never delivered a paper before, the pressure can be intense. Over time, you'll develop your own methods to prepare and style of presentation, but if you haven't had a lot of experience, you might consider the following suggestions:

Cut it down: You may be working from a dissertation chapter, or maybe with an extensively developed idea. You'll have to whittle down to the core of your argument and be very selective about the evidence.

Make it linear: Your written work may be complexly argued, with many allusions to earlier or coming points. In a verbal presentation, it's easier for the audience if the argument is more linear, with clear signposts about the direction.

Break it up: Remember that the audience is listening, not reading, and that it's easier if you have shorter and more straight-forward sentences than in your written work.

Decide about reading or extemporaneous speech: This is an individual decision. Some people read very well, but for others it's better to talk through most the paper, reading only selected passages. Consider what you'll do best with and decide which parts of the paper will be read or delivered extemporaneously.

Practice, but don't over-practice: Presentations can sometimes go in unexpected directions, to the chagrin of the presenter. Practice can reduce this risk and will also help you approach the fifteen-minute ideal length. But over-practice can take the fun out of it. My general rule of thumb is that once a conference paper is prepared, I shouldn't go over it more than twice.

Attend to the set-up: Check out the room, visualize your position in relation to the audience and any presentation equipment you'll be using. Make sure that all equipment is working properly and seek expert help in good time if it isn't.

Feel welcome: During the conference session remember that we have come to listen to you because we are interested -- in the subject and in you. We are

hoping to learn something interesting and to engage your ideas. Assume the sympathy of the audience, look us in the eye, project your voice; make it easy for us to leave with a sense of what's interesting about your work.

ASEH's Next Conference will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 28 - March 3, 2007. The conference program and registration form are available on our website at <www.aseh.net>; click on "conferences." All conference registrants are eligible to attend the day-long field trip to New Orleans, but space for this event is limited, so please sign up soon if you plan to go.

2007 Travel Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following individuals, who received ASEH Travel Grants to the Baton Rouge conference in 2007:

Elizabeth Ann Herbin (Minority Grant)

David Kenneth Aftandilian (Donald Worster Travel Grant)

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Film Review: Ready to Rock and Roll? Journey with Aboriginals Back to the Bush in Chris Walker's "The Dreamers of Arnhem Land"

By Linda L. Ivey, California State University, East Bay

It's a perennial conversation in the environmental history classroom: the demise of native environmental relationships in the face of colonialism. While understanding that "pre-modern" peoples left their own ecological imprints, we bemoan still the suppression of cultures that seemed to have lived in a more perfect synergy with nature. In an era of precarious environmental stability and cultural divestment from land, even the most objective historian is subject to romanticizing the "pre-contact" past.

Alas, as the saying goes, you can't go home again. As scholars, we understand that changes in the land meant the demise of traditional means of sustenance and survival. Culturally, economically, geopolitically, indigenous cultures cannot go home again. Or can they? Director Chris Walker has documented an extraordinary story of cultural recovery in our contemporary world. In his film "The Dreamers of Arnhem Land," Walker provides an opportunity to witness the "rebirth" of cultural and environmental relationships in the North Country of Australia, as aboriginal peoples go home – attempting to revitalize their cultural identity, and to create a stable community, based on traditional culture, in a modern world.

It is a globally familiar backstory. In the 1950s, state-sponsored assimilation programs encouraged resettlement of indigenous peoples with "the promise of a modern life." In 1977, however, the Australian government granted ownership of traditional lands back to aboriginal control, setting in motion a slow migration north to ancestral lands, and back to traditional ways. Now, a small group of community leaders – many of whom remember the old days and the old ways – have returned to the land, hoping to pass along traditional ways of living on the land to the next generation.

Here the film embraces the complexity of this repatriation. Indeed, the bulk of Walker's film considers the challenge of enticing the younger generation back to the bush. While the homeland holds the promise of cultural rejuvenation for the older generation, to those who know only the modern world, the bush seems remote and devoid of economic opportunity; any primordial tug is countered by the pull of economic security.

But while Europeans who first visited Arnhem Land considered the region a "barren land," the elder aboriginals see something quite different – an environment that provides sustenance, and opportunities for small industry as well. Capitalizing on organic and homeopathic trends, the community has begun gathering traditional medicinal plants to be replanted and harvested on larger scale, and marketed

in health food stores around the world. Similarly, long-neck turtle eggs – a traditional foodstuff – are gathered and harvested for sale in pet stores. Walker's film shows how traditional knowledge and skills can be paired with contemporary trends and marketing schemes to bring stability to the bush.

The coalescence of old and new does not end there. Also brought into the mix are modern notions of sustainability. If traditional products are to survive capitalist markets, let not the long-neck turtle go the way of the New England beaver. Outside expertise guides these industries so the result does not simply bring back the community, but keeps it stable and vital.

The film's visuals and narrative bring together the old and new, significantly contributing to conversations about cultural revitalization and indigenous sovereignty in the modern era. This story – told largely in the words of the people themselves – adds complexity to these conversations, and promotes an understanding of the adaptations a community will make for success. The economic growth serves as a stabilizing force for the community, and as a magnet for more native people to return to their traditional lands.

As the film ends, the community – ever growing in size – gathers for a party. "Are you ready to rock and roll?" asks the band. A group of boys in western attire scream "yeah!" It is somehow heartening that the performance is aboriginal music – complete with didgeridoo – and the dance mastered by the boys is a traditional one. The people are coming home again, even those who had never been there. "The Dreamers of Arnhem Land" documents a unique moment of cultural recovery in our contemporary world, and inspires an important conversation about modernity and traditional cultures, stability and sustainability.

Announcements

Member News

Chris J. Magoc's book, *Environmental Issues in American History*, was published in May 2006 by Greenwood Press.

Thomas Zeller's book, *Driving Germany: The Landscape of the German Autobahn, 1930-1970*, was published in December by Berghahn Books (Oxford/New York).

Call For Papers

See ASEH's website for the Call for Papers for an international conference on the historical relationship between industrial hazards and globalization to be held at Stony Brook University, December 13-15, 2007 (<www.aseh.net>, "News").

ASEH Outreach to SCB Meetings: Building Links with Conservation Biology

By Kate Christen, Smithsonian Institution

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) 2007 meeting will include an "Organized Discussion" among historians, conservation biologists, and wildlife managers about *Environmental History and Conservation Biology: Building Links to Support Biodiversity Conservation*. This represents the latest of several ASEH Outreach Committee initiatives promoting closer ASEH-SCB contacts. The committee seeks to facilitate engagement among environmental historians and practitioners of many associated disciplines, to benefit our own EH scholarship and help enhance its applicability to formulation of present and future environmental policies and practices.

SCB has international chapters; its membership dwarfs ours; they are mostly natural scientists and conservation practitioners. Yet despite many differences, both SCB and ASEH are "absorbed in the study of the environment, and both would like our understanding to translate into real-world solutions," as ASEH President Steve Pyne expressed to several SCB officers in our discussions during SCB 2006. Both groups agreed we should interact more, initially through more papers and panels at each other's conferences.

Greater interaction offers symbiotic benefits. ASEH can bring to SCB our expertise in history and humanities, and the richly textured understanding such scholarship can convey. SCB, in turn, can recharge our historical research with vital present-day concerns, reminding us that history – the search for a usable past – will find its utility especially by engaging the issues of contemporary environmentalism.

The Outreach Committee urges interested ASEH members to submit "oral presentations" or poster proposals to SCB 2007, taking place in South Africa July 1-5. *Deadline is January 8*; for full submission instructions, follow the 2007 "Global Meeting" links at www.conbio.org. Also there see information about SCB's 2008 global meeting in Tennessee and 2009 meeting in Asia, and consider submitting an oral presentation or even a "symposium" or "organized discussion" proposal to one of those, or to SCB "section meetings," including the 2007 "Austral Asia" meeting. SCB shifts its alternate-year global meetings among continents (most section meetings are outside the US, too). Through presentations at these international meetings ASEH would be better able to engage topics on-site that, while within our intellectual reach, are beyond our institutional grasp. SCB's US meetings and ASEH conferences also offer excellent opportunities to organize panels incorporating both ASEH and SCB regulars.

Now is an optimal time for greater research exposure at each other's meetings, especially regarding parallel or collaborative projects. Conservation biologists are acutely aware of the need for aligning their research with social science and humanities approaches to improve project implementation and reach sustainable development goals. Additionally, SCB's Social Science Working Group (SSWG; <http://www.conbio.org/workinggroups/sswg/>), created in 2003, seeks environmental historians' involvement on its committees.

I'll attest firsthand to the rewards of presenting EH research papers as SCB "oral contributions;" I've been doing it since 1994. Conservation biologists' interest in what environmental history can do for them has dramatically increased in the past decade, so plan to stick around for questions after your session lets out. You're guaranteed some excellent hallway conversations and cross-discipline networking! For more information, see ASEH's website (www.aseh.net), "Committees/Outreach Report").

The Forest History Society: 60 Years of Excellence

By Steven Anderson, Forest History Society

The Forest History Society celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2006. Aldo Leopold once wrote, "In June as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them." So it was, in June of 1946, that F. K. Weyerhaeuser, on behalf of the Weyerhaeuser family,

founded the Forest Products History Foundation under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society. Later to become the Forest History Society, the organization has enjoyed 60 years of significant contributions to its members and society. F. K. Weyerhaeuser's gesture was one of many notable firsts in 1946: the first meeting of the UN General Assembly was held; the Atomic Energy Commission was established; the Xerographic photocopying process was invented; the first electric clothes dryers and suntan lotions were introduced to consumers; and "Tide", the first detergent designed for automatic clothes washing machines was introduced. I do not know how many times during the last 60 years that "Tide" became "new and improved" but certainly the Forest History Society could have periodically staked a claim to such an achievement. Perhaps the most successful achievement is the successful development of the Society during the last six decades. It has been a daily, long-term, dawn-past-dusk endeavor. That's one reason anniversaries are so important. They give us a chance to take stock of where we've been, how we've gotten to this point, and where we're headed next. So what should we remember and focus on as we recognize 60 years of excellence by the Forest History Society?

Preserving our Forest Heritage. The FHS is unique as the only international organization solely dedicated to preserving forest and conservation history and assuring its outreach. From the Alvin J. Huss Archives, which contain the records of industry and conservation organizations worldwide, to the more than 8,000 volumes of the Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Library, there is no more comprehensive compilation of materials related to forest history in the world.

Research & Publications. The FHS fosters scholarship by enabling studies related to forest conservation and use over time. Several databases such as the Environmental History Bibliography provide researchers, educators, journalists, and scholars worldwide with the tools they need to bring historical integrity to their work. Since 1958, the Society has published a quarterly academic journal that engages environmental historians and other writers. With over 50 book-length publications to its credit and the *Forest History Today* magazine, the Society provides a critical outlet for relevant research.

Education. The Forest History Society helps young people and adults understand and appreciate the varied lessons of forest history. Through programs such as the middle school curriculum "If Trees Could Talk," and the Lynn W. Day Distinguished Lectureship series, students of all ages learn to recognize the value that forests have had to individuals and societies throughout history.

Oral Histories. When a person dies, a library is lost. That is why the Society has conducted over 300 oral history interviews of workers and leaders in forestry and conservation, providing a record that is found nowhere else in historical documentation. Some have been entered into the Congressional Record and all provide relevant background to the lessons of history.

Informing Public Opinion. The Society plays a crucial role in supporting the development of rational resource policies that will lead to a sustainable future by working closely with journalists and the media to bring the lessons of forest history to bear on the most pressing issues in resource management. The FHS web site has been given the Society of Environmental Journalist's highest rating for its usefulness to journalists. These are just a few of the many achievements for which the members of the Society can be proud. Such success has certainly been due to dedicated professional staff but also to the financial support from individuals and organizations that the Society has enjoyed. Such contributions to the Society are as yeast is to a loaf of bread; expanding the scope and reach of its programs. Many of you reading this are already joint members of the ASEH and the FHS. And we invite those of you who are not yet joint members to give it a try. With it you will receive the magazine *Forest History Today*, the *Forest Timeline* newsletter and new releases of Issues Series books in addition to the leading journal in the field. And check out the web site at www.foresthistory.org.

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ASEH News

American Society for Environmental History

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ASEH Election 2007

The candidates are listed below, along with biographical statements. The winning candidates will take office after the Baton Rouge conference, in March 2007. The ASEH thanks the Nominating Committee, including John McNeill, Adam Rome, Dianne Glave, and Melissa Wiedenfeld, for preparing this slate of candidates.

Please note that ASEH members now vote online in elections. See our website at <www.aseh.net> (click on "Elections"). You must be registered on our website in order to vote. There will be a four-week window, from January 9 – 26, 2007, in which to vote – and you can vote anytime during that period. Once you have submitted your ballot, you will not be able to make changes. Information on the candidates is provided below.

VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT ELECT

Vote for One:

Harriet Ritvo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

I am the Arthur J. Conner Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I teach British history, environmental history, the history of natural history, and the history of animals. I am the author of *The Platypus and the Mermaid, and Other Figments of the Classifying Imagination* and *The Animal Estate: The English and Other Creatures in the Victorian Age*, as well as numerous articles and reviews about British cultural history, environmental history, and the history of human-animal relations. I also am the editor of the "Animals, History, Culture" series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, and a member of the editorial boards of *Environmental History*, *Victorian Studies*, and *Animals and Society*. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, I have received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, and the Stanford Humanities Center. In 1990 I received a Whiting Writers Award. I am currently working on a study entitled "The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere, and the Victorian Environment."

Like many members of ASEH, I migrated in from an adjacent field. The interdisciplinary receptiveness and hospitality of ASEH applies to approaches as well as to

people; it is one of the things that has made environmental history such a lively field, and of such increasing interest to a range of historians and non-historians. Another aspect of this openness is that environmental history has the potential to jump political borders, although this potential is not always fully realized. The topics of the presentations at recent ASEH annual meetings have demonstrated an increasing geographical range, which is a trend that I would hope to encourage, along with increasing and consolidating our interactions with international colleagues.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vote for Three:

Sterling Evans, Brandon University (Manitoba)

I am honoured to be nominated for a seat on the ASEH Executive Committee and would look forward to the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I am an associate professor and Canada Research Chair in history at Brandon University where I teach courses in Latin American, U.S., environmental, and agricultural history. Previous to graduate work, I was a high school teacher and public lands activist in Wyoming in the 1980s, especially involved with wilderness advocacy and natural resource policy. These interests, combined with a background in Latin America, resulted in an M.A. in Latin American Studies with an emphasis in conservation biology and history from the University of Kansas. I stayed at KU for a PhD in history with fields in Latin America, the American West, and environmental history. My research falls within those areas, with two books (*The Green Republic: A Conservation History of Costa Rica* [1999], and *Bound in Twine: A Transnational History of the Henequen-Wheat Complex for Yucatan and the American and Canadian Plains* [2007]), and several articles. I've also edited two volumes (*American Indians in American History, 1870-2001: A Companion Reader* [2002], and *The Borderlands of the American and Canadian Wests: Essays on Regional History of the 49th Parallel* [2006]), both of which contain a variety of environmental history entries. I am currently working on a book on the history of dams and environmental change in Sonora, Mexico, and am co-authoring a book on the landscape history of North American badlands.

The ASEH has been the perfect home base for the discussion of so many of these interest areas, and to learn from so many of our colleagues. I have been a member since 1995 when I

attended the Las Vegas meeting, and have organized, presented on, chaired, and commented on a variety of session panels ever since, missing only a couple of the conferences over the years. Likewise, I have reviewed a number of books for *EH*, and am submitting a proposal to host an ASEH conference in Winnipeg.

Our organization has certainly changed and grown in the past decade, and I'm sure it will continue to do so in the next. I'm thrilled it continues to attract graduate students who have a strong presence at our conferences, that it attracts international scholars, and that our journal and conferences continue to expand in international, transnational, borderlands, and interdisciplinary directions. I'd also like to see it continue building bridges between environmental and agricultural history, and between our new cousin organisation SOLCHA (the Latin American and Caribbean environmental history society), in which I've been actively involved. As an ExCom member, I would represent those concerns, as well as the increasing number of fellow scholars and grad students from Canada who are joining and becoming active in ASEH.

Paul Hirt, Arizona State University

Since my first environmental history conference in 1989, I have been an enthusiastic supporter of ASEH, missing but one meeting in 17 years. I always look forward to the intellectual stimulation and camaraderie I know I will find every spring at the conference. I have watched the society grow, strengthen, and diversify over the years and am proud to have been a part of it. I co-organized the Northwest Environmental History Symposium with Dale Goble in 1996, served as co-chair of the program committee for the ASEH conference in Durham in 2001, and served on the ASEH Nominating Committee for four years, chairing it in 2002-04. I serve in many capacities for many professional organizations, but this is the group I most care about. If elected, I will support greater ties to other environmental history societies around the world, enhanced collaboration with allied scholars in other disciplines, stronger networking with public historians, and increased outreach to the media and policy-makers. In other words, I think we should build bridges not boundaries and strive to make environmental history scholarship available and useful to those who address the global environmental challenges we face today. I would also like to see us increase our efforts to provide professional development tools to support graduate students and younger faculty building careers in this field. We have a web archive of environmental history syllabi and an extraordinary research tool in *Biblioscope*, but we could do more to encourage creative and effective teaching and successful grant-writing to support research and collaboration. We could also perform regular job market analyses and provide advice/resources for job-seekers. I am excited about the opportunities before us and look forward

to participating in nurturing the organization and developing its resources, whether I am elected or not. My resume can be viewed at

<http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/faculty/bios/hirt.pdf>

Nancy Jacobs, Brown University

As a graduate student in South African rural social history, I found it necessary to think about environmental dynamics, but found few models in South African historical literature. Through its journal and conferences, the ASEH helped me fill the void with comparative material. I first attended an ASEH conference in Las Vegas in 1995 and found it to be a stimulating and welcoming community of scholars. My prior involvement in the organization has been as co-chair of the local arrangements committee and a member of the program committee for the 2003 meeting in Providence. In my opinion, the ASEH has a good record in many important areas: publications, promoting international participation, fostering interdisciplinary connections, mentoring graduate students, and connecting history to contemporary environmental issues. I would be honored to serve as an executive committee member and would support continued attention to these diverse priorities.

My book, *Environment, Power and Injustice: A South African History* (Cambridge University Press 2003) is about food production among blacks in the Kuruman region under colonialism and segregation. In 2002 the ASEH awarded me the Alice Hamilton article prize. In response to the pollution in Kuruman, a former asbestos mining site, I organized a collaborative research project on disease, compensation and rehabilitation. We presented our findings to the South African government and provided support to emerging activists groups. I've now moved beyond South Africa to a project that engages evidence from around sub-Saharan Africa. I'm considering the power of birds among people, and the power of people as they know and regulate birds. My goals are to give a tight analysis of the politics in what might seem to be an apolitical subject and to demonstrate the ways human estimations and alignments affect the birds themselves.

Robert M. Rakoff, Hampshire College

I am honored to be nominated for the ASEH Executive Committee. My interest in environmental history began in 1993, when I was fortunate enough to be a member of Don Worster's NEH seminar on the environmental history of the American West. Besides bringing me a new group of friends and colleagues, that experience helped to shift my intellectual focus from political science to history; my teaching and writing have followed suit. I have attended many ASEH conferences over the years, presenting papers on land use issues as well as the art of teaching environmental history to undergraduates, and I have been a frequent book reviewer for *Environmental History* and H-

Environment. As a member of the Executive Committee I would work to maintain our interdisciplinarity and our openness to professionals in complementary fields.

Lise Sedrez, California State University – Long Beach

It is an honor to be nominated for the Executive Committee of the American Society of Environmental History, an organization that I can say has shaped my academic career. I have been a member since 1997, when I was a graduate student under Prof. John Opie. In fact, it was at the 1997 ASEH meeting in Baltimore that I met my future doctoral advisor, the late Prof. John Wirth.

Since joining, I have become an enthusiastic advocate of ASEH. It is a dynamic community, extremely welcoming of graduate students and young scholars. I served on the Program Committee for the 2004 Victoria conference, and have organized panels for several meetings, inviting both Latin Americanists and Latin American scholars – including historians, geographers, and engineers. ASEH benefits from both an interdisciplinary and an internationalist perspective of environmental history, and I would like to reinforce those attributes within the organization. As a member of the Scientific Committee of the newly founded SOLCHA (Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History), I would also encourage more links between the two organizations as well as more collaborative work, beyond the regular meetings.

I am currently an Assistant Professor at California State University - Long Beach, where I teach an upper-division seminar on Latin American Environmental History. I have also received a grant to update the Online Bibliography on Latin American Environmental History, a project that I have coordinated for five years.

Mark Stoll, Texas Tech University

I am honored and pleased to be nominated to the ASEH Executive Committee. Environmental history is a fascinating field with unique political, social, and cultural relevance that provides outstanding opportunities for interdisciplinary and international work and cooperation. The key to the health of the field and the organization is continued encouragement of new perspectives and of young scholars. I think the Executive Committee's task is to promote and facilitate both through sponsorship of a tremendously successful series of conferences, strengthening our international links, support of graduate students, and continued expansion of financial and other resources.

I have been involved in ASEH since I got my doctorate, and an editor of H-Environment for about as long. A regular contributor of papers and organizer of sessions at EH conferences, I have also served on the Alice Hamilton Prize Committee. Both the organization and the discussion list

have been caught up in a rapid internationalization and diversification of environmental history, which has been quite exciting to be a part of, and which I have tried to promote in whatever ways I can. I was a founding member of ESEH and edit "Nature and Human Societies," a world environmental history book series with ABC-Clio, soon to have seven volumes in print, with five more planned. In addition, Dianne Glave and I recently co-edited "*To Love the Wind and the Rain*": *Essays in African American Environmental History* (2005). My research focuses on the ways different cultural groups produce different "environmentalisms," with a particular interest in religion as a cultural force. Since publication of *Protestantism, Capitalism, and Nature in America* (1997), my papers, chapters, and articles have explored many different religious traditions in the U.S. and Europe and their effects in shaping ideas and attitudes about nature. A 1993 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, currently I am associate professor of history at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vote for Two:

Deborah Fitzgerald, Massachusetts Institute for Technology

I am a professor of the history of technology in MIT's Program in Science, Technology and Society, and Acting Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. My work has concerned the history of agriculture in (mostly) 20th century America, and my books include *The Business of Breeding: Hybrid Corn in Illinois, 1890-1940* (1990) and *'Every Farm a Factory': The Industrial Ideal in American Agriculture* (2003). I am currently working on the path between nature and dinner, including the way that shifting patterns of food production and consumption get written on the rural and urban landscape.

In addition to participating in the annual ASEH meetings, I have served on the Alice Hamilton Prize Committee and belong to Envirotech. I am eager to assist the Society in pursuing two slightly contradictory goals: first, to clarify and strengthen the core identity of environmental history; and second, to reach out to scholars who work in fields that often intersect environmental history – histories of science and technology, agricultural history, and historical geography. I think that as we expand we need to keep an eye on our distinctiveness, and find ways to keep the mission vibrant.

Lorne F. Hammond, University of Victoria and Royal British Columbia Museum

I joined the ASEH as a graduate student and it has shaped my teaching. My wide interests in the field, including African and Latin American studies, drew me to the

meetings. At home I worked on Canadian environmental history and world history conferences, and contributed as local organizer for the ASEH 2004 Victoria conference, co-hosted with the National Council for Public History, on the editorial board of *Environmental History* and as a peer reviewer scholarly journals, university presses and funding agencies. I support the work of the Forest History Society as a former board member; with a concern on the impact of climate change. My recent research deals with history of energy regimes, drawn from experience in very large-scale multi-disciplinary research (<www.coastsunderstress.ce>). I currently work with doctoral and master's students in environmental history and museum studies at the University of Victoria.

I urge the ASEH to be fully engaged in its external relations with organizations committed to global issues, policies and perspectives. We should continue development and diffusion of knowledge on planetary issues – climate, oceans, energy, water, food, health and environmental justice. Younger members of the profession need to be encouraged to challenge themselves and educate society through the pursuit of new areas of knowledge. That would be our greatest legacy. The ASEH serves best when we combine our roles as researchers, educators and as spokespersons for how environmental history can inform current and future policies.

Ari Kelman, University of California – Davis

I vividly remember the first ASEH annual meeting I attended – in Las Vegas – and not just because I happened upon Don Worster as he wandered through a casino. At the same conference, Marty Melosi plopped down next to me on a bus ride to the Hoover Dam and chatted with me about the built environment. Jenny Price noticed me sitting alone in the hotel lobby and invited me to her extraordinary panel. And Bill Cronon took the time to hear about my dissertation and then offered the names of what seemed like hundreds of people I should meet and thousands of books I needed to read. I was a kid, in my second year of grad school, and the whole experience was thrilling and welcoming. Since then, I've tried to help out with ASEH business whenever I've had the chance. I chaired the local arrangements committee for the Denver meeting. I've served on the conference site selection committee. And I've reviewed article submissions for the journal. I'm still indebted to the ASEH and its members, a legacy of that meeting more than a decade ago in Las Vegas. So to be asked to put my name forward as a candidate for the nominating committee is an honor. If I'm elected, I'll focus on issues that matter to me as a scholar and ASEH member: increasing diversity within the membership, improving funding for graduate students to attend conferences and conduct research, and continuing the organization's tradition of welcoming newcomers.

In terms of my credentials as a scholar and writer, I'm an associate professor of history at the University of California, Davis. My book, *A River and Its City: The Nature of Landscape in New Orleans*, won the Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize in 2004. I've also published in a variety of scholarly journals, including *Technology and Culture*, *Historical Geography*, *Journal of Urban History*, and *Reviews in American History*. And my essays, articles, and opinion pieces have appeared in *Slate*, *The Nation*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and many others. I'm now writing a book about the politics of memory surrounding the Sand Creek massacre.

Paul S. Sutter, University of Georgia

I am currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Georgia, where I teach modern U.S. and environmental history. I am the author of *Driven Wild: How the Fight against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement* (2002) as well as numerous articles and essays on the history of the wilderness movement, environmental historiography, and southern environmental history. I am currently working on an environmental and public health history of the Panama Canal, a project that reflects my strong interest in internationalizing U.S. environmental history. I am also the editor of a new book series with the University of Georgia Press, "Environmental History and the American South." I have a strong commitment to and long experience with the ASEH. I have been a member for about fifteen years, and I know the members of the organization and field well. I have served on several ASEH committees, and I currently chair the Site Selection Committee. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I would aim to strengthen the connection with other environmental history organizations (ESEH, SOLCHA, etc.) while also working to better define the ASEH's particular identity within the growing field of environmental history. I also would work to build a strong and diverse leadership that would help to make the ASEH one of the most vital and relevant historical organizations in North America.