Women, Philanthropy, and the Environmental Movement

by Cindy Ott, PhD, Communications Director, Rachel's Network

After thirty years of service in the environmental community, including chairing boards of environmental organizations, being an active funder, and helping to run her family’s McIntosh Foundation (established in 1949 with wealth from the A&P grocery store chain and now focused on southeast Alaska environmental projects), Winsome McIntosh felt both frustrated by the lack of women in top positions in the environmental field and devoted to the belief that they brought different yet vital perspectives and solutions to the table compared to men. In response, and in partnership with a development director, Tjiska Van Wyk, she created Rachel’s Network, “an ol’ girls network,” for founders of the environmental movement.

Founded in 2000, Rachel's Network is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is “to promote women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth.” Its members, which now number fifty, are active and influential philanthropists, who are also leaders of grassroots organizations, and board members and chairs of national and international environmental organizations.

Representative examples are the four members who spoke about their work at this year's ASEH conference in Providence. They include McIntosh, who is chair of the board of Defenders of Wildlife and a board member of the League of Conservation Voters; Caroline Gabel, who besides running her own environmental foundation is on the board of Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, American Forests, and Fauna and Flora International; Kathy Borgen, who is on the board of the Sonoran Institute and several Colorado-based organizations; and Dane Nichols, who is past chair of the board of the Natural Step US, and a board member for Island Press and The Nature Conservancy. (This is just a small sampling of each of their volunteer and philanthropic work.) Rachel's Network also has a Circle of Advisors that includes CEOs of environmental organizations, such as Natural Resources Defense Council and Scenic America, and prominent women in the fields of science, literature and the arts, such as Jane Goodall, Terry Tempest Williams, and Carolyn Merchant.

Named in honor of Rachel Carson, the organization's focus is twofold: environmental advocacy and women's empowerment. It seeks to increase the recognition and leadership capacities of women in the environmental field. Women funders provide over fifty percent of financial backing to the average environmental organization yet only represent thirty percent of the board positions at best. Rachel's Network seeks to close this “gender gap” through board placement on nonprofits, corporations, and government advisory commissions. It provides networking opportunities for these philanthropists and leaders so they can assist each other with their individual projects and organizations, and it offers educational workshops for board service and communication skills. In broader terms, it wants to use the clout and influence of its distinguished membership to help influence public policy and corporate practices (through shareholder advocacy and socially responsible investments), and to be a vehicle for getting women's voices heard through media campaigns now in development.

What interest should environmental historians have in wealthy women environmentalists? While scholars often focus on broad cultural influences, scientific factors, biographies of well known foresters and conservationists, or economic factors that relate to people's relationships with the natural world, examining the roles of women philanthropists demonstrates how the environmental movement is also shaped by individual women making personal decisions about what to do with the resources they have; after all, their decisions and deep pockets actually make a lot of what happens in the environmental arena possible.

What may be particularly interesting about this group is that it is composed, for the most part, of women active outside traditional academic and work settings who are making a huge impact on environmental programs and organizations. Where do they get

Rachel's Network members and staff at their 2002 fall meeting, held at the Sleeping Lady Retreat in Leavenworth, Washington. This is a "green" resort owned and operated by member Harriet Bullitt, a leading conservationist in the Pacific Northwest.
A Note of Thanks

While the memory is still fresh, I would like to express deep thanks on behalf of the ASEH to all those who helped us to launch our first conference fund-raising event this past March, the product of past-president Carolyn Merchant's energetic efforts to enhance our society's operations. Above all, the gratitude of the ASEH goes out to the staff of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology in Bristol, Rhode Island, the evening's hosts. Its director, Shepard Krech III, Business Manager Marion Wingfield, and other staff in attendance and behind the scenes provided wonderful food and drink - a major contribution in-kind - while Deputy Director and Chief Curator Kevin P. Smith, an expert on circumpolar peoples but obviously a polymath, served as a fascinating guide to the exhibits. Also deserving special thanks are Karen Christensen and David Levinson of Berkshire Publishing, publishers of the Encyclopedia of World Environmental History (eds., Carolyn Merchant, John McNeill, and Shepard Krech III), which is expected to be available this summer. Originally, they had intended to take the volume's editorial advisory board to dinner in Providence, but upon learning of the fundraiser diverted the invitation to the Haffenreffer, where they made a generous contribution to the society. As most of you know, the proceeds are being dedicated to Haffenreffer, where they made a generous contribution to the learning of the fundraiser. A Note of Thanks

Environmental History in the Global Village

As I write these lines, a letter of invitation will be mailed out to the governing bodies of all scholarly and scientific societies for which the human-environmental nexus constitutes a major interest or focus. This letter will introduce a new international scholarly organization, ICE-HO, or the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations. Initiated by our society, the European Society for Environmental History, and the Forest History Society, the consortium's aims envision a discussion list for member organizations, a website for the exchange and dissemination of information and scholarship (graciously hosted by the Forest History Society's Duke website), and other activities to be determined by the expanded membership as a whole. One benefit that should result in reasonably short order will be the linking up of scholarly literatures and conversations that have been separated sometimes only by the accident of disciplinary boundaries. I hope that the FHS's Biblioscope is ready for what's to come!

Such an international initiative is especially relevant in these times. Between the last issue of this newsletter and this current one, we have witnessed a short but bloody war in Iraq. There, in other parts of the Middle East, in Africa, and elsewhere conflicts that may be summarized as “resource wars,” to borrow Michael Klare's term, bubble violently and threaten to boil over into full-scale conflagrations, or even genocidal situations. Who better than our community of scholars - environmental historians - can identify, analyze, and explain the dynamics of these conflicts, and not only point to cautionary analogs in the past but also to historical examples of peaceful partitioning of resources, cooperation, and inclusive access to them? I would like to set up a data bank to make available our broad and diverse expertise. This will be pursued as part of the compilation of a membership directory for the society, which is being drafted this week by Vice President Stephen Pyne and myself.

In other news, I can now report that Steven Anderson of the Forest History Society and I have signed the contracts to put Environmental History on line by early 2004 at the latest. Thanks to the hard preparatory work of EH editor Adam Rome, Steve Anderson, and past president Carolyn Merchant, the agreement reached with the University of Illinois Press's History Cooperative will allow the current volume (2003) to go on line along with future issues.

As co-publishers of EH we and the Forest History Society were presented with a special challenge this year - a kind of academic “Enron” affair. Roweocom/Divine, one of the largest subscription agencies in the United States, through which almost forty libraries subscribe to EH, declared bankruptcy early this year. Most of
Announcements

Kenneth L. Maddy Research Fellowship Grant, 2004-2005

Central Valley Political Archive
California State University, Fresno

The Research Fellowship

The Central Valley Political Archive at California State University, Fresno, is pleased to announce the availability of a research fellowship grant. Generously supported by the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Affairs, the purpose of the research fellowship is to support the individual research of graduate students, university professors, and independent scholars for an extended period at the Central Valley Political Archive. Fellows will have the opportunity not only to conduct intensive research but also give a lecture on their research to the campus community. The availability of the fellowship runs from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

The Resources


The Grant

This grant will provide up to $2,000 to fund transportation, lodging and related research costs such as photocopying and photographic reproduction. One grant is available in each fiscal year.

CVPA staff will assist the chosen fellow in obtaining housing. Free borrowing privileges within the Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno during the fellow’s stay will also be offered.

Application

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae and a research proposal of no more than 4 pages, including the dates of your visit, a proposed budget and a description of the ultimate end result of your research. Letters of recommendation may be requested during the review process. We encourage you to contact us prior to applying in order to ascertain the viability of your proposal. You may call the Central Valley Political Archive at (559) 278-8573. Please send all materials by March 31, 2004 to: Glenn R. Gray Archivist, Central Valley Political Archive 5200 N. Barton Avenue M/S ML34 California State University, Fresno Fresno, CA 93740-8014

All applicants will be notified by April 30, 2004.

Boston Environmental History Seminar Schedule, 2003-2004

2003

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
September 30 Anne Whiston Spirn, MIT, “Tracing the Past, Shaping the Future: Buried Floodplains, Urban Watersheds, and City Design and Development”

November 18* Brian Donahue, Brandeis University, “The Great Meadow: Husbandry in Colonial Concord”

December 9 John Durant, Tufts University, “Restoring Water Quality in the Mystic River”

2004

February 10 Chris Bosso, Northeastern University, “Beyond Conservation: The Evolution of the Environmental League of Massachusetts”


April 13 Michael Rawson, University of Wisconsin, “The Nature of Water: Antebellum Reform and the Crusade for Municipal Water in Boston”

All sessions except the keynote address involve the discussion of a precirculated paper. For information on the series, check the Massachusetts Historical Society's web site, <www.masshist.org>, or call 617-646-0518.

*The date of the November session is tentative. For updated information, check the Massachusetts Historical Society's web site, <www.masshist.org>

Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) holds its 26th annual conference on October 31-November 1, 2003 in Worcester, Massachusetts. For information, contact the program chair, Peter Holloran, NEPCA, Worcester State College, Department of History, Worcester, MA 01602; <pch@world.std.com> or see our webpage at <www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html>

Call for Papers for The Journal of American Culture

Now that summer is here, you may be contemplating where to send your journal articles for publication. Please consider The Journal of American Culture (formerly the Journal of American and Comparative Cultures). This reformulated journal, with its new look and revised editorial board, is seeking contributors and currently has no backlog. Thus, if your article is accepted, you can accept publication within a year. In keeping with its long-standing tradition, the journal will showcase articles on the Americas, especially those addressing broad and substantive cultural issues. While the journal frequently will include research on entertainment media and the popular arts that so effectively characterizes life in
ASEH Conference in Victoria, British Columbia
March 31-April 4, 2004

Our next conference will meet in beautiful Victoria, at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel. The theme of the conference is “Cultural Places and Natural Spaces: Memory, History, and Landscape” and it will be a joint meeting with the National Council on Public History (NCPH).

Preliminary information on events and costs for hotel and registration are provided below. Registration information and conference programs will be mailed to all ASEH members near the end of this year, and additional details on the conference will appear in the fall issue of *ASEH News*. Also, check our website at <www.aseh.net> throughout the summer and fall for updates on the conference.

**Hotel**

Fairmont Empress
Toll free reservation numbers:
Canada/USA (800) 441-1414
Australia (800) 804-456
Japan (0120) 711018
Germany (0800) 181 1462
France (0800) 907 253
UK and the rest of Europe (44) 20 7025 1625

*Be sure to mention that this is for the ASEH/NCPH conference*

**Cost in U.S. dollars:**
Approximately $99/night (cost will vary according to value of U.S. dollar)

**Cost in Canadian dollars:**
$158/night
17% tax added

**Conference Registration**

Cost in U.S. dollars:
Pre-Registration:
- ASEH or NCPH Member: $85
- ASEH or NCPH Student Member: $40
- Non Members: $95

On-Site Registration:
- ASEH or NCPH Member: $100
- ASEH or NCPH Student Member: $50
- Non Members: $115

**Conference Events**

**Plenary Session, Wednesday Evening, March 31**

*Environmental and Public History*

Donald Worster has observed that “history ought to be more than knowledge chasing its own tail. Environmental history ought to have a few ideas to offer the public.” Has environmental history answered that call? With its emphasis on communication and audience, has public history answered that call? Should historians be answering that call? Eight environmental and public historians will consider these and other questions at the plenary session.

**Evening Reception, Thursday Evening, April 1**

**Held at the Royal British Columbia Museum**

**Field Trips, Friday Afternoon, April 2**

**Field Trip 1:**
Wilderness and the Garden. Join paleobotanist Dr. Richard Hebda on a visit to a century-old industrial plant that has taken two distinct reclamation paths: as the recreational park Tod Inlet, popular with hikers and kayakers, and as the world famous tourist attraction, Butchart Gardens, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

**Field Trip 2:**
Maritime History. Visit one of the oldest naval harbours in western North America. A naval history tour will visit Parks Canada's site Fort Rodd Hill and Esquimault Naval Museum, and the historic Dockyards.

**Field Trip 3:**
Canadian Forests. Join ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner on a forest-related tour, which will include examples of First Nations fire-managed Garry Oak and camas ecosystem. The timing of the conference is excellent for viewing local wildflowers.
**Summer 2003**

---

**Field Trip 4:**
The Uplands: Designing with Nature. Award winning urban geographer Larry McCann will lead a tour of the last neighbourhood designed by John Olmsted, including mansions and streets that were planned down to the level of placement of individual trees.

**Field Trip 5:**
A walking tour of Victoria's Inner Harbour. Join RBCM archaeologist Grant Keddie on a leisurely walking tour that explores the First Nations use of the harbour, the original Hudson's Bay Company headquarters, the impact of the 1858 gold rush, and the harbour's development, finishing at an excellent brew pub.

**Field Trip 6:**
Take a bus along the scenic Malahat Drive, looking down on Victoria, and visit Duncan in the Cowichan Valley, home of the First Nations run Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre and the BC Forest Discovery Centre.

**Field Trip 7:**
Skylarks and Shorebirds. Join ASEH's avid birder Kurk Dorsey in looking for skylarks and a variety of marine birds. Skylarks, very rare in North America, can be found in the fields near the Victoria airport.

---

**Banquet, Friday Evening, April 2**

For more information, check out these websites:

- Information on Victoria: [http://tourismmall.victoria.bc.ca/](http://tourismmall.victoria.bc.ca/)
- Victoria Clipper (this ferry from Seattle stops very near the conference hotel): [http://www.victoriaclipper.com/marketing/information_fares.shtml](http://www.victoriaclipper.com/marketing/information_fares.shtml)
- Royal British Columbia Museum: [http://rbcm1.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/](http://rbcm1.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/)
- Birding in Victoria: [http://birding.bc.ca/](http://birding.bc.ca/)
- Skylarks: [http://birding.bc.ca/articles/skylarks.htm](http://birding.bc.ca/articles/skylarks.htm)

---

**ASEH Future Meetings**

**Next Meeting:**
Fairmont Empress and Victoria Conference Centre. Joint Meeting with the National Council on Public History (NCPH). Local Arrangements Chair, Lorne Hammond, Curator of History, Royal British Columbia Museum, <lhammond@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>

**Note Location Change:**
2005. Houston, TX. [not Knoxville, TN, as initially planned].
March 2005. Local Arrangements Chair, Kathleen A. Brosnan, Department of History, University of Houston, TX 77204. (713) 743-3008.

**Hosting Future Conferences**
Anyone wishing to submit a proposal to host the annual conference of the ASEH in 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009, should contact Marty Reuss at <martreuss@aol.com> or phone him at 703-428-9560. He will be glad to discuss the requirements and to send a copy of the conference guidelines. Marty notes that hosting a conference requires considerable effort and time and requires institutional support. Those interested in proposing to host a conference should evaluate carefully the support available. Proposals for 2006 are due by August 1, 2003.

---

**Attention Authors and Presses**
The Victoria conference will include a book exhibit. For information on exhibiting and on Canadian customs, please contact:

- Lorne Hammond, Local Arrangements Chair
  Royal British Columbia Museum
  675 Belleville Street
  Victoria, British Columbia
  CANADA V8W 9W2
  Phone: 250 387-2486
  <L.Hammond@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>

- Scholars Choice (if your press does not plan to exhibit):
  <www.scholarschoice.com>
Travel Grants

ASEH is pleased to announce a travel grants competition for presenters attending the 2004 Victoria Conference. Eleven travel grants of $500 each will be available for ASEH graduate student members and ASEH members from non-North American countries.

If you are an ASEH member and would like to compete for one of these travel grants, please email the following to Nancy Langston at <nelangst@wisc.edu> by August 1, 2003, saved in one single Word or Rich-text file with the following name:

yourlastname travel

1. One-page CV, including a statement that you are an ASEH member. Please do not go over one page. Membership information can be found at <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/ASEH/announce.html>.

2. One-page statement describing why you need this travel fellowship. If you are a graduate student, this letter should include information about how close you are to finishing your degree, and how you are currently funding your education.

3. 250-word abstract for your presentation. This abstract should state your argument, not merely describe something. We regret that no late applications can be accepted, and we can only handle applications submitted as a single file. We will notify applicants of the decision by August 20, 2003.

Nancy Langston
Associate Professor

ASEH Donation Form

I am pleased to support the ASEH through a gift, which is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Please check all relevant boxes:

☐ Benefactor $25,000  ☐ Patron $10,000  ☐ Sponsor $5,000  ☐ Scholar $1,000
☐ Sustainer $500  ☐ Associate $250  ☐ Friend $100  ☐ Contributor up to $100

Please send me information on gifts of:

☐ Appreciated stock certificates  ☐ Bequests  ☐ Planned giving

I am contributing to the

☐ General Endowment  ☐ Travel Endowment  ☐ Minority Challenge Grant  ☐ S.P. Hays Research Fund

☐ In return for my contribution of $500 or more, on a first-come, first-choice basis, I wish to receive one personally autographed copy of:

☐ Lear (Rachel Carson)  ☐ McNeill (Something New Under the Sun)  ☐ Melosi (Sanitary City)  ☐ Williams (God’s Wilds: John Muir’s Vision of Nature)

☐ Merchant (Columbia Guide to American Environmental History)

☐ My check in the amount of $____________ is enclosed. Make checks payable to American Society for Environmental History.

☐ My pledge in the amount of $____________ is payable ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ annually for ____ years (Reminders are sent)

☐ Credit card in the amount of $____________

☐ Mastercard  ☐ Visa  Expiration Date: ________________

Account #________________________ Name as it appears on card ________________________________

Unless otherwise indicated all donors will be listed in the ASEH Newsletter. ☐ I prefer to be listed as anonymous.

Mail to: Mark Madison, ASEH Treasurer, National Conservation Training Center, Rte. 1, Box 166, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443
Awards

Each year, the ASEH awards the following four prizes for outstanding published work in the field of environmental history:

- George Perkins Marsh Prize for Best Book in Environmental History
- Leopold-Hidy Prize for Best Article in Environmental History
- Alice Hamilton Prize for Best Article Outside Environmental History
- Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation in Environmental History

The organization also presents awards to individuals outstanding for distinguished service and scholarship.

Award Submissions for 2004

This year ASEH's prize committees will evaluate submissions (published books and articles and completed dissertations) that appear between November 1, 2002 and October 31, 2003. Please send three copies of each submission by November 7, 2003 to:

Lisa Mighetto
Historical Research Associates
119 Pine Street, Suite 301
Seattle, WA 98101

There is no need to send copies of articles published in Environmental History. If you have questions, contact Lisa at <mighetto@hrassoc.com>

from Announcements page 3

the Americas in the twenty-first century, it also will provide a steady and wide-ranging forum for aesthetic, historical, sociological, and ethical inquiries into the diverse cultures of the Americas, representing various times, places, and orientations. The journal is meant to be a useful resource, with articles written in accessible language and reflecting interdisciplinary approaches and comparative analyses that will be of interest to the American Culture Association's diverse membership.

In order to publish in the journal, you must be a member of either the American Culture Association or the Popular Culture Association. Authors should submit papers in current MLA style with a works cited page and a minimum of endnotes. Please send two copies of the paper for the peer-review process, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want them returned. Upon acceptance of your work, you will be asked to submit the material electronically via e-mail attachment or on disk in PC/IBM format.

This journal has a long and distinguished history. We are proud to accept responsibility for carrying it forward. Come join us and together we will continue to ensure that The Journal of American Culture is the definitive journal in its field.

Kathy Merlock Jackson and William M. Jones, Editors
Virginia Wesleyan College
1584 Wesleyan Drive
Norfolk, VA 23502-5599
<kmjackson@vw.edu> (757-455-3308)
<wmjones@vw.edu> (757-455-3360)

Member News

Alan MacEachern's Natural Selections: National Parks in Atlantic Canada, 1935-1970 was shortlisted for both the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald Prize, for best book in Canadian history, and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences' Raymond Klibansky Prize, for best English-language book in the Humanities, in 2002. His second book, The Institute of Man & Resources: An Environmental Fable, will be published this summer.

National Endowment for the Humanities Award for Historicizing Ecological Restoration

Anita Guerrini, Professor of History and Environmental Studies in the University of California, Santa Barbara's Program in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, and Dr Jennifer Dugan of UCSB's Marine Science Institute, will co-direct a multi-year study funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Historicizing Ecological Restoration project brings together historians and ecologists in a site-specific study and includes monies for pre-doctoral assistants. Other team members include Professor Randy Bergstrom of UCSB's Program in Public Historical Studies; consulting historian Dr. Beverly Schwartzberg; and the historian of technology and industrial ecology, Dr. Peter Neushul.

from President page 2

those libraries had already paid for the current year’s issues to RoweCom, but because of the bankruptcy those monies were not forwarded to publishers, including us. Nor were the monies refunded to the libraries. We have continued to supply libraries with the journal through the April 2003 issue, and will continue to do so even as Kathy Cox and Steve Anderson of FHS work closely with each of the libraries to examine our options to recover the losses. Fortunately, they have the situation in hand and the bankruptcy affected less than 10 percent of our more than 500 library subscriptions.

As I write these lines, wildfires are raging at my city's doorstep. From my backyard I can see the flames atop Mount Lemmon and the smoke plumes rising from the Rincons. A gigantic cloud of white smoke, the size of a small nuclear explosion, hangs over the Catalinas, framed by an otherwise cloudless blue sky. And I think of how complicated the story of those fires is. And it is only because environmental historians such as Hal Rothman, Nancy Langston, and, of course, Steve Pyne, among others, have given us rich histories of wildfire that we can begin to think holistically about these things. But the story is also simple. The “Aspen” and other fires now blanketing southern Arizona also remind us of one other important thing, reflected in the scholarship of Paul Hirt, Ann Vileisis, Don Worster, and many more scholars, namely, that nature, while socially constructed, has an indissoluble materiality. In the longest run, no doubt, nature seems to bat last.

Douglas Weiner, ASEH President
In this issue...

ASEH Travel Grants

Victoria Conference Planning Guide

Victoria, British Columbia