

EECP Perspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

February 2003

Eagerly Awaited Seminar Schedule Finally Released!

We are proud to finally announce the EECP Spring seminar schedule. We must first draw your attention to the opening seminar of this semester, since it is just around the corner. Jay Taylor will speak on February 6 at 5:00 p.m. Paul Sutter has written a short piece about Jay, which you can read below.

Our second speaker this season is Mitchell Thomashow, Director of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies at Antioch New England Graduate School. He is also the author of the books, *Ecological Identity* and *Bringing the Biosphere Home*.

Peter Hartel and Will Power will look at the efforts of the Lakota people of the Great Plains to minimize recreational activities such as rock climbing at the sacred site of Devils Tower. They will show footage from the award-winning documentary, *In the Light of Reverence*, and will be joined by Jace Weaver, Associate Professor of Religion. Dr. Weaver teaches Native American Religion and was an environmental lawyer associated with the Devils Tower case. Paul Sutter joins in on Thursday, March 27. Please keep in mind that two of our seminars this semester are on Thursdays – mark your calendars. Except for the Philosopher's Walk, all seminars will be at 5:00 p.m. at the Founders House.

We will send details regarding Frank Golley's Philosopher's Walk (featuring bonfires and s'mores!) to everyone later in the semester.

Spring Seminar Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 6: Jay Taylor, Iowa State University
The Food of Kings: A History of Salmon, Class, and Consumption

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Mitchell Thomashow, Antioch University
Bringing the Biosphere Home: The Virtues of Natural History

Tuesday, Mar. 11: Peter Hartel and Will Power, UGA
In the Light of Reverence: Worldviews and Ways of Life in Conflict

Thursday, Mar. 27: Paul Sutter, UGA
Driven Wild: The Automobile and the Making of Modern Wilderness

Tuesday, Apr. 8: Frank Golley, UGA
Philosopher's Walk with box dinner available

EECP
environmental ethics certificate program

eeep spring

seminar

series



Mitchell Thomashow



Will Power



Paul Sutter



Frank Golley

Pilgrim of the Vertical: Environmental Author Jay Taylor

Jay Taylor, the first speaker in this semester's EECP seminar series, knows of what he writes. Before entering graduate school in the early 1990s, Jay spent more than a decade working as a commercial fisherman in the northeast Pacific and Bering Sea fisheries. From that intimate working knowledge of fisheries, Jay crafted a doctoral dissertation in environmental history, which he completed at the University of Washington under Richard White in 1996. Since then, Jay has been a member of the History Department at Iowa State University and has emerged as one of the leading young practitioners of environmental history. Jay's first book, *Making Salmon: An Environmental History of the Pacific Northwest Fisheries Crisis* (University of Washington Press, 1999) has been greeted with enthusiasm by environmental historians, receiving the George Perkins Marsh Award from the American Society for Environmental History as the best book published that year.



Making Salmon also enjoys the distinction of having angered almost everyone who has a stake in the fate of salmon fishery of the Pacific Northwest, precisely because his study provocatively suggests that, in speaking for salmon, people tend to reveal more about themselves and their interests as they do about nature's best interests. As William Cronon has put it in his introduction to *Making Salmon*, Jay's book helps us "to understand just how hard it is to grapple with ecological problems that are also intensely cultural and political and economic." Jay is spending the 2002-03 academic year as a fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, where he is busy at work on a second book project, also drawn from personal experience, whose tentative title is *Pilgrims of the Vertical: Yosemite Rock Climbing and Modern Environmental Culture*. Jay will speak about his salmon research on Thursday, February 6 at 5:00 p.m. at the Founders House.

Short Term Futures in a Short Term Month

Message from the Chair

With this abbreviated issue of *EECPerspectives*, the EECP is slowly coming back to normal. We have a modest seminar program planned for this spring semester, including our usual Philosopher's Walk. Besides roasting s'mores over Frank Golley's campfire, I'm looking forward to leading a video discussion on sacred places with Will Power. We expect to have the fall semester seminar program set for you before the end of spring semester. Although it is hard for me to believe, it will be the EECP's 20th anniversary, so please count on at least one celebratory seminar. We will also join forces with the Center for Humanities and Arts to co-sponsor a lecture on Environmental Ethics this coming November. Many thanks to Betty Jean Craige, Director of the Center (and fellow EECP faculty member) for her leadership here.

Even though I deliberately did not sign up students during the summer last year because of our budget situation, we currently have 57 undergraduates and 15 graduate students in the Program, which means we are doing particularly well considering that we 51 undergraduates and 18 graduate students at this time last year. With John Britt, our new degree program specialist aboard, I would like to make sure the Certificate is responsive to the new strategic plan being developed in College of Environment and Design (CED). I would also like to see many more students from the CED in the Program. I will be forming a committee soon to figure out how we should do the Feighner



Award, which is to be given to the outstanding undergraduate Certificate paper of the year. And, of course, Dorinda Dallmeyer's committee continues their work forming a new Certificate in Environmental Justice.

As every student enrolled in the Program will attest, I've always mentioned that there was "no hand-holding" in the EECP and if they wanted a Certificate, then they had to be sufficiently self-motivated to get it. This has not been the best approach and I personally know of several students who would have received a Certificate with a little more interest on the part of the EECP. John Britt and I hope to reverse this trend by at least creating an electronic "home" for the EECP. We know this works to some degree because over half of you are reading this newsletter electronically. John is continuing his fine work on the website and we hope to have not only the EECP application forms available online, but also streaming video of all the seminars. We expect to have something on

the website soon. Even though we are committed to doing more and more work electronically, I have asked John to redo the brochure and EECP Handbook this summer in time for fall semester. Although the Handbook does become outdated fairly quickly, it has been an excellent recruiting tool for us. Once this has been done, the Program can then become more forward looking. I'll be addressing that issue in my next message to you in *EECPerspectives*.

Peter Hartel

All the News that Fits on 1/2 a Page

Let's get one thing straight right off the bat. I'm the kind of person who wakes up to find out that he's just bought three old Radio Shack TRS-80 Color Computers on eBay the night before. Walking to my office, I stumble over an old 286 I must've taken apart at some point during the weekend. Not that I'm particularly adept at these sorts of things (as a point of reference, consider the time I tried to change the spark plugs on my old Nissan, only to forget to label the ignition wires and have the heap towed to my mechanic) but this long-winded recollection simply helps illustrate my excitement every time I get a chance to work on the EECP website. First it was getting this newsletter online. Now it's the growing availability of EECP seminars on the website. I'm a geek like that. In honor of this semester's Philosopher's Walk, our first inductee to the online seminar series is Frank Golley. Visit <http://www.uga.edu/eeep/seminars> to view Dr. Golley's lecture. Be prepared to stretch your legs during the download. As has been stated before, this is all part of the redesign of the website, which is happening bit by bit (no pun intended). Let me know what you think of this new addition to the site. We are also considering offering some of the seminars in mp3 (audio-only) format, if people are interested.



For those Luddites in our audience, let me remind you that we

have a modest library of seminar videos and ecological literature here at the Founders House office. Call or email me and I'll set aside any resources you would like to borrow.

Faculty members have another reason to contact the office. This semester's EECP Faculty Meeting will include your opportunity to bring new faculty members into the fold. Think about your recommendations, and remember that we will need a copy of each nominee's resume (and that's resume, not their dictionary-sized CV). We will send you more information about the meeting and nominating new members in the near future.

Speaking of new members, let us offer a warm welcome to some of the newest students in the EECP: Tim Bono, Anna Hauser, Elizabeth Long, Heather Matsumoto, Mandi McElroy, and Stephanie Powell. Welcome to the program!

Also new to the EECP are three electives, which were accepted at last month's faculty meeting. Two courses are taught by Paul Sutter, HIST 3160 - American Environmental History and HIST 7750 - Graduate level Colloquium in Environmental History. The third is Kevin DeLuca's SPCM 3320 - Environmental Communication. Interested students can contact me with any questions about these courses.

In fact, contact me about anything you might have on your mind, because I've run out of room here in the newsletter. Thanks!

Puritanism, Trancendentalism, and *The Scarlet Letter*: American Romantics

Jeanne Ferran, Certificate awarded Dec. 2002



The writers of the American Romantic era displayed a number of values about nature. While some writers, such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, inherited their Puritan values, others such as Whitman, Emerson, and Thoreau began to value nature as a sanctuary, a new temple of worship that suited them better than the confines of organized religion and culture. For centuries since the founding of America, the concept of nature was that of a frightening place, an untamable

wilderness, and it was man's duty to conquer it. Nature was a hostile environment, a physical representation of the evils of the world, and it must receive mankind's touch to "tame it." However, these new thinkers, the Transcendentalists, showed to the world that nature was a place of beauty and peace, a place where wilderness must be preserved for the benefits of mankind and of the greater system. Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter* demonstrates these thoughts in the Puritan Reverend Dimmsdale and the non-Christian Pearl, his illegitimate daughter. Through these characters, the contrasting views prove that mankind's battle is not just with nature, but also with himself and his role in nature.

Reader: Betty Jean Craige

Toward an Ecosophy: Historic Preservation and Deep Ecological Norms

Laura Straehla, Certificate awarded Dec. 2002



I believe that, using deep ecological norms, historic preservation can be used as a vehicle to develop a personal environmental ethic, an ecosophy. Naturally, not all deep ecology writings support this thesis, nor do all works done in the name of historic preservation promote an ecosophy. I believe, however, that a movement that connects humans to their habitat – historic preservation – is one that can assist in a quest for connection to the larger environment – an ecosophy. As the founder of the deep ecology movement, Arne Naess believes everyone must come to an ecosophy in their own way. This paper explores one way to increase this possibility through deep ecology's two intuitive norms: biocentric equality and self-realization, via the vehicle of historic preservation. It may seem unclear how historic preservation can lead to an ecosophy. How can an environmental ethic that has as its norms biocentric equality and self-realization be related to bricks and mortar? How can an ethic that proscribes increasing wilderness and living closer to nature be gained through preservation of the human habitat? A closer study of deep ecology and historic preservation shows the parallels that exist between the two.

Readers: Frank Golley and Pratt Cassity

Looking Back at the Southern Nature Writer's Conference

We are presenting this article, written by Dorinda Dallmeyer, in memory of Professor James Kilgo, who passed away in December.

"Writers come from regions — the South Carolina piedmont, the Alabama highlands, the Florida panhandle, the Louisiana low country — but within those regions, we have gaps to fill. We need many writers honoring specific places, their own country. We need to know who we are. We need to expand our nature writing community, encourage writers to address environmental concerns in their work, and become better writers ourselves."

Georgia author Janisse Ray

In an effort to meet the challenge of protecting the natural environment of the Southeast, a group of nature writers has met twice at Georgia's Ossabaw Island to discuss how they can better use their art to conserve Southern landscapes. Working with writers from this group, EECP, in collaboration with WUGA-FM and the University of Georgia Sea Grant College Program, staged a three-day series of events April 25-28, 2002 to use that assembled talent to stimulate more and better writing about nature in the South.

"Earth, Air, Fire and Water"

The evening of Thursday, April 25, featured "Earth, Air, Fire and Water," presented to a capacity audience at the University Chapel and broadcast live on the Georgia Public Radio Network. Readings from old and new works were presented by the following authors: Jan DeBlieu, Jim Kilgo, Janisse Ray, Chris Camuto, Bill Belleville, and Franklin Burroughs. This 90-minute program has been re-broadcast twice by the Georgia Public Radio network.

Special Guest Reading

On Friday evening April 26, Rick Bass did a solo reading. Jim Kilgo

joined Bass onstage to ask questions about the writing process and writing as activism. WUGA taped this program for later broadcast.

The Writers Workshop

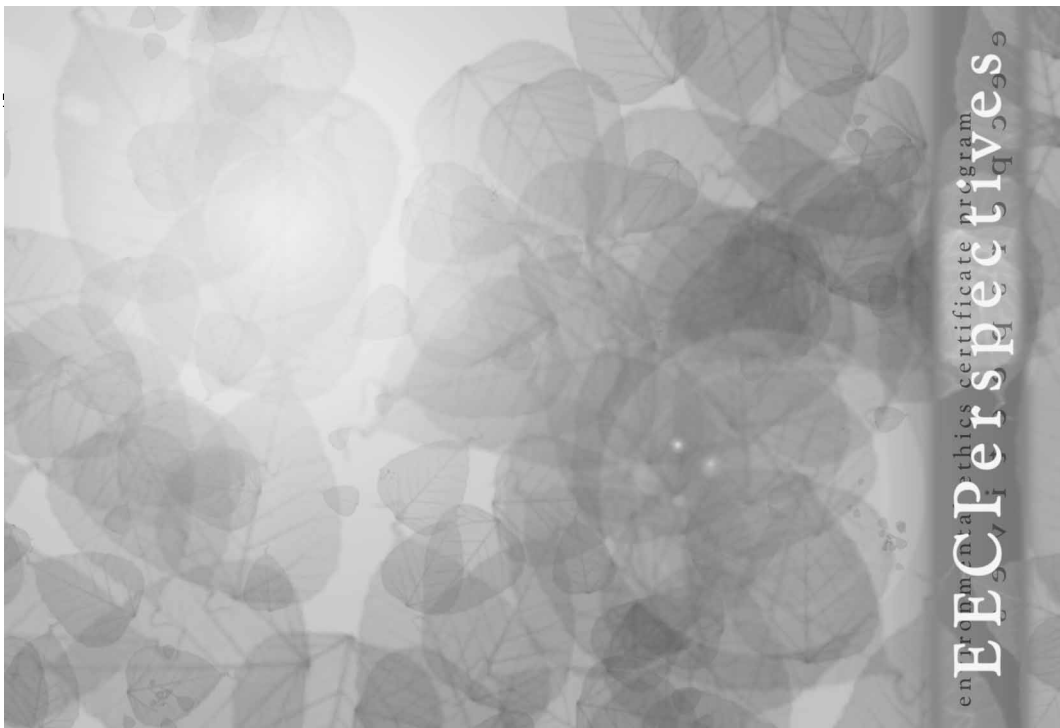
Southern Nature events continued with a day-long writer's workshop at the State Botanical Garden for 46 aspiring nature writers drawn from seven Southeastern states. Some of our readers served as workshop faculty along with writers Susan Cerulean, Bill Hammond, Julie Hauserman, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Thomas Rain Crowe, and Roger Pinckney. The workshop covered the genres of poetry, memoir, journal writing, and nonfiction.

Southern Nature: The Radio Series

We also want to ensure that these events have a longer term impact and reach a broader audience. Over the course of their stay in Athens, Franklin Burroughs, Jan DeBlieu, and Rick Bass were interviewed at the WUGA studios. Using these interviews plus additional interviews to be taped this fall with Chris Camuto and Janisse Ray, WUGA will produce five half-hour programs on nature writing to be offered for broadcast by public radio stations nationwide. The programs will combine interviews with readings by the authors. Listen for the series as part of Earth Day events in 2003.

"Southern Nature" called the members of the public to engage with the senses through the spoken word, the written word, and with music and thereby expand our capacity to protect the Southern landscapes that are part of who we are as a people. Our goal is to provide the impetus for more and better writing to meet the goal of conserving our natural environment for generations yet to come.

Southern Nature was underwritten by grants from the Lyndhurst Foundation, REM Athens LLC, and the UGA Center for Humanities and Arts



EECP 2002-2003 Executive Committee

Peter Hartel (Chair), Crop & Soil Sciences
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Merryl Alber, Marine Sciences
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