

# ICEHO Bulletin 7



International Consortium of  
Environmental History  
Organizations

January 2016

*The International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations is a 'network of networks' for environmental history in universities, museums, publishers and other institutions. We sponsor International Congresses every 5 years (next one in 2019). Between Congresses, we work actively to promote environmental history in all its forms: as scholarship and research, informing public policy and education, and in promoting collaboration between environmental historians around the world. Our website is regularly updated – we are keen to publicise your conferences and events:*

<http://www.iceho.org/>

## From the President

A very happy new year to you and to your organization! Environmental history is gathering pace in 2016.

We have already begun planning for our **General Assembly** in Seattle, USA, hosted by the American Society of Environmental History. Thanks to Lisa Mighetto and the ASEH conference committee, we have a meeting room within the regular ASEH conference on **Friday 1 April 2016**. *Please come if you can, or send a delegate to represent your organization at the meeting. Please see website for by-laws of the Consortium and the voting and other formal procedures for the occasion.*

## ICEHO

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY Friday 1 April 2016**

**6.15 - 7.30pm**

**Cascade 2 Room (mezzanine)**

**Westin Hotel Seattle**

1900 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101 United States

Attention: incoming board

*there will be a short board meeting after the General Assembly 7.30-8.00, same place*

The main business of the Assembly is the election of up to 12 board members for the next 3 year term (2016-2019). Current Board members, apart from the current president (Libby Robin who will become *ex officio* Past President), may all stand for re-election. The terms of office of the Secretary and the Treasurer end in 2017. The ICEHO constitution is arranged so that the leadership group has staggered terms.

The **Nominating Committee**, chaired by **Cindy Ott**, has already begun work. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Cindy: [cott3@slu.edu](mailto:cott3@slu.edu) before the end of January. The nomination should consist of a statement of willingness to serve, a biography, CV, details of the organisation you/they represent (this must be a current ICEHO member) and a brief manifesto of how you/they see themselves making a contribution to ICEHO going forward.

The names of the candidates for election will be on the website during February and please watch the website for the agenda of the General Assembly. We are most grateful to Cindy and her Committee, **Matthew Evenden, Bo Poulsen** and **Richard Tucker**, whose work will make the formalities of the meeting much simpler, and allow us more time for discussion of future ICEHO initiatives.

The **Site Selection Committee**, chaired by Graeme Wynn (Canada), supported by Stefania Gallini (Colombia), Lisa Mighetto (USA) and Bo Poulsen (Denmark), has also been working hard and will be announcing the destination of the 2019 World Congress by the middle of the year.

I want to pay tribute to **Dolly Jørgensen** for her sterling work as foundation Secretary of ICEHO. Dolly has decided to step down as Secretary after the meeting in Seattle, because of the pressure of her new job at the University of Luleå (and continuing pressure as current President of ESEH). We are all very grateful for her cheerful efficiency and wise council, and wish her well. The ICEHO board will make an appointment to cover the Secretaryship in 2016-2017.

New members continue to join ICEHO, and we include reports of their activities in this bulletin. If you hear of other environmental history organizations who haven't yet joined, please encourage them to do so. This way we diversify membership and can sponsor and mentor historians from new places to be part of our activities. We encourage societies with national or thematic focus – like the **Environment and War Network** featured below - to join our international team, along with university departments, museums, publishers and other institutions that undertake 'environmental history' or 'environmental humanities' like the new **African Network for the Environmental Humanities** (see below). If your organization would like international recognition for its work, you can write directly to me – or contact any of the Board members (listed at the end of the bulletin). We welcome news from new and regular members. Deadline for contributions to the next bulletin is **31 March 2016** (or at the General Assembly the next day).

*Libby Robin FAHA (President)*  
*Australian National University, Canberra*

### New Members



Gulf War (image courtesy Richard Tucker)

## Environment and War Network

<http://www.environmentandwar.com/>

A growing network of research is now analyzing war's environmental consequences. War and military operations have shaped societies and environments through history: both pre-state violence and warfare between major civilizations and population centers. It is important to place the escalation of scale and intensity in the industrial era in longer historical and comparative perspective, including beyond Europe. Most of our work so far has been on the twentieth century (for details, see our website: Environmental Legacies of War <http://www.environmentandwar.com/>),

particularly the two world wars and the Cold War era, including wartime and peacetime military operations. In the major wars, both front lines and behind the lines, extending to far-flung regions of natural resources, industrial processes and transportation nets that transformed post-conflict environments and consumption patterns. One emerging emphasis is on the complex roles of civilians as participants and victims, most dramatically, mass refugee movements in war zones. Distortions of their relation to the land and urban space are often the key to changes in managed ecosystems.



Battle of Kursk 1943

The immediate aftermath of mass conflict has to be taken into account as well: the period of social and economic dislocation, recovery, reconstruction, and natural regeneration. Without this we blur the crucial distinction between immediate impacts and long-term changes. This has been dramatically true in the aftermath of both world wars. But those wars did not end everywhere when armistices between major powers were signed. After both 1918 and 1945 mass conflict continued in many places. We have begun considering the so-called "interwar" years between 1919 and 1937, when demobilization was followed by remilitarization, as well as local wars in several places. And we're turning attention now to regional wars, civil wars, insurgencies and counter-insurgency campaigns, especially after 1945 but also in earlier times.



Korean War  
(1950-1953)  
(image Richard Tucker)

A fundamental thread of this is analysis of the energy basis of military operations through history, especially the era of fossil fuels. This is beginning

to contribute to our understanding of the role of the military in climate change, including for recent years the military's efforts to mitigate carbon emissions, the "greening" of the military. We are learning to collaborate with military historians and geographers, who have specialized in the environmental causes and settings of military operations / planning, in contrast to our primary emphasis on environmental impacts.



Second Chechnyan War 1999 (image Richard Tucker)

**We welcome new members of our network. Anyone can join, by sending your name, institution, email address, and a note of your primary focus of work, to Richard Tucker [rptucker@umich.edu](mailto:rptucker@umich.edu). This is a way to publicize your work to others in and field who share your interests, and to support other research and teaching efforts around the world.**

**Richard Tucker (Convenor)**  
[rptucker@umich.edu](mailto:rptucker@umich.edu)



**African Network of Environmental Humanities (ANEH)**

**[www.aneh-africa.org](http://www.aneh-africa.org)**

The African Network of Environmental Humanities (ANEH) is a new multidisciplinary scholarly association, which aims at promoting environmental humanities scholarship in Africa. ANEH is composed of researchers in the humanities, and others, who share a common passion to explore and understand through the prism of the humanities the nexus between human societies and the environment. The Network, currently funded by the Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society (RCC), emerged to fill a lack of environmental humanities scholarship in and about Africa on the global stage. ANEH aims to narrow the

gap by building and sustaining a community of researchers dedicated to studying African societies and their environments.

ANEH made its public debut recently at the **first international conference of the African Studies Association for Africa (ASAA), held 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria**. Reflecting the need for an African Studies Association domiciled in Africa, ASAA's conference theme was '**African Studies in the Twenty-First Century: Past, Present, and Future**'. The event, which was well attended by delegates from across Africa, had as its first Keynote Speaker former Nigerian president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

**Through the generous support of the RCC, The ANEH hosted a panel at the conference entitled *Discovering Environmental Humanities: Recovering the African in the Environment and the Environment in the African***. Paper presenters included Professor **Ibrahim Bashir** (Functionalist Historian and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos), Professor **Noah Attah** (Department of History, Joseph Ayo Babalola University), Dr **Marklene Chinatu Ugbogu** (Department of History, Joseph Ayo Babalola University), Dr **Omokafe Alaba Ugbogu** (Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria) and Ms **Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood** (PhD student, Kings College, London), and Mr **Ernest Prince Habib** (Nigerian Defence Academy). The Panel was moderated by Carson Fellow, Dr **John Agbonifo**. The audience included students of the University of Ibadan, and participants from across Africa.

Bashir presented a broad historical analysis of the origins of various environmental problems in Nigeria and the Lake Chad area and their interaction with human societies. Okafor-Yarwood explored the interrelation between environmental security and toxic waste dumping in the Gulf of Guinea. Habib's paper focused on the environmental impact of the flagship of Nigeria's industrialization ambition, the Ajaokuta steel project. Marklene Ugbogu examined the dynamics of forestry management in Nigeria. On his part, Attah looked at the land grab phenomenon and how it impacts societies and environment. Omokafe Ugbogu paper was concerned with the environmental consequences of deforestation. Perhaps, given the breadth and depth of the discussions participants expressed keen interest in membership of ANEH, enthusiastically helping themselves to the journals and other published

materials donated to us by the RCC. Prior to the panel, ANEH leaders interacted with and introduced the network to leaders and laureates of the African Humanities Programme, and both groups agreed to explore opportunities for future collaboration. During its post-event meeting, ANEH executive committee met to consider the way forward for the network. Members identified certain governmental institutions and individuals that ANEH should contact and initiate research collaboration with. Also, it was decided that a Round-table expert meeting shall be convened in collaboration with a Nigerian university in March 2016. The meeting will engage with the desiccation of the Lake Chad, flooding, and desertification. Towards popularizing environmental humanities, ANEH will hold an inaugural international conference in mid-2016. For ANEH, galvanizing environmental humanities in Africa assumes double importance against the backdrop of climate change and efforts to develop adaptation mechanisms. To that end, all hands must be on deck, and ANEH needs support from all Africa and beyond in order to achieve its goals.

*John Agbonifo*  
*UNIOSUN (Osun State University)*  
*President, ANEH*

#### **News from KAJAK (Estonian Society of Environmental History)**

In September 2015 a special issue on environmental history was published in the Estonian popular science magazine *Horisont*. The special issue was put together and partly financed by the Estonian Centre for Environmental History (KAJAK). Anthropocene in its different meanings is the cover story of the magazine. The issue opens by interviews with renowned environmental historians from Asia, Australia, India, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Northern America where each respondent introduces the central questions and challenges of environmental history in their respective corner of the world. Other articles cover climate history, environmental diseases, gardening history, waste management and waterways, linking the main keywords in environmental history with the particular Estonian examples and problems. The issue concludes with an overview of the most important centers, journals, books series and museums engaged in the development of environmental history. Thanks to the positive feedback, the widespread magazine will add columns on environmental history also in its further numbers. *Horisont* is the major Estonian magazine on popular science and it celebrates its 50th anniversary of publishing next year.



Links in Estonian

<http://www.tlu.ee/et/ajaloo-instituut/KAJAK/Uudised>

<http://www.loodusajakiri.ee/horisont-tervitab-sugist-keskkonnaajalooaga/>

[http://www.loodusajakiri.ee/tutvustused/horisont5\\_2015.pdf](http://www.loodusajakiri.ee/tutvustused/horisont5_2015.pdf)

*Ulrike Plath (Director KAJAK)*

Upcoming conference:



**CFP: 8th SOLCHA Symposium, Puebla Mexico August 3-5, 2016**

from [Stefania Gallini](#)

Dear all

I am pleased to share the call for proposals to the **\*8th Symposium of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History - SOLCHA\***, to be held in Puebla, México, on August 3 to 5, 2016. The event is convened by SOLCHA in partnership with the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, the Facultad de Estudios Superiores Acatlán, UNAM, and the Master and Ph.D. programmes in History at the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. Prof. Rosalva Loreto chairs the Local Organizing Committee. You can find the full call at

<http://solcha.uniandes.edu.co/index/images/Convocatorio8SimposioSolcha.pdf>

Plenary sessions, panels, individual papers and posters can be submitted to

the email of the Organizing Committee:

[\\*solcha2016@gmail.com](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com)

[<solcha2016@gmail.com>](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com)\*

Deadlines depend on the proposal: \*December 1, 2015:\* Proposals for plenary sessions and panels. For approved plenary sessions, a second call will be open up to Feb. 15 to receive paper proposals.

\*February 15, 2016\*: Proposals for individual papers and posters.

Further details can be found in the call or answered by the LOC team at [\\*solcha2016@gmail.com](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com) <[solcha2016@gmail.com](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com)>\* Although the currently published call is in Spanish only, please do submit your proposals in English too. SOLCHA is a welcoming diverse community.

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Estimados/as todos/as,  
me complace compartir la convocatoria al **\*VIII Simposio de la Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental - SOLCHA\***, que tendrá lugar en Puebla, México, del 3 al 5 de agosto de 2016. Este evento es convocado por SOLCHA en colaboración con la Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, la Facultad de Estudios Superiores Acatlán, UNAM, y la Maestría y Doctorado en Historia en la Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. La Prof.a Rosalva Loreto preside el Comité Organizador Local.  
La convocatoria está publicada en este enlace: <http://solcha.uniandes.edu.co/index/images/Convocatorio8SimposioSolcha.pdf>

Propuestas para sesiones plenarias, paneles, ponencias individuales y posters pueden ser enviadas al correo [\\*solcha2016@gmail.com](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com) <[solcha2016@gmail.com](mailto:solcha2016@gmail.com)>\* La fecha límite para someter las propuestas depende de la tipología de las mismas: \*Diciembre 1, 2015\*:

Propuestas para sesiones plenarias y paneles. Para las sesiones plenarias que quedaran aprobadas, se abrirá una segunda convocatoria hasta el 15 de Febrero de 2016 para someter propuestas de contribución a las sesiones.

\*February 15, 2016\*: Propuestas de ponencias individuales y posters.

#### Conference Reports from members



### Unsettling Stories and Unstable Subjects

SAHS biennial conference

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, 1-3 July 2015

The Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), a member of ICEHO, held its 25<sup>th</sup> biennial conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa, 1-3 July 2015 on the theme: *Unsettling Stories and Unstable Subjects*. The SAHS continues to thrive and sustain its regional character as scholars (young and old) not only from South Africa but also from Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe descended on the breathtaking landscapes of Stellenbosch. In attendance were also SAHS members and non-members from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. All in all, about 250 papers on a range of topics that reflected current trends in historical research were presented. Although the SAHS is not just an *environmental* history organization, over the years it has dedicated space for environmental history at all its

biennial conferences. This recent conference included two panels focused on the intersections between power and nature and specifically examined the 'nature of power and 'the power of nature', crossings between environmental history, science and politics and 'commodifying the environment'.

*Water* was another strong theme of the conference. Four panels followed this theme *'Thirsting for the truth: water histories and watering history'* over the three days of the conference, including 'water and settler colonialism in Zimbabwe', 'supplying water to Lesotho's colonial districts', and the 'politics of trans-boundary water governance in Southern Africa'. The conversations in these panels left attendees in no doubt that water shapes and, at times, disrupts the flows of history.

A significant highlight was the SAHS Vice-President's **Post-graduate Student Best Essay Prize**. This prize was initiated as part of stimulating the intellectual and professional growth of our graduate students whose presence at these conferences has increased steadily over the years supported by the SAHS' policy of reduced conference fees for students. Winner in 2015 was an environmental history paper by **Philip Roth**, a student at both Boston University and the University of KwaZulu Natal, entitled, 'Sweetness and Fever? Sugar Plantation, *Aedes aegypti* and Dengue Fever in Natal, South Africa, 1926-27'. This paper is under consideration for publication in the SAHS's eminent flagship journal, the *South African Historical Journal*.

Finally, at the end of the conference it was time for a change of leadership. Environmental historian, **Professor Sandra Swart** of Stellenbosch University who was at the helm of the SAHS for the past two years as its President passed the baton to another environmental historian, **Professor Mucha Museswa** of the University of the Witwatersrand who will lead the society in activities and plans that will culminate in the 26<sup>th</sup> biennial conference at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in mid-2017.

*Readers of the ICEHO newsletter may want to note that the immediate past President of ICEHO, Professor Jane Carruthers, is also a past President of the Southern African Historical Society.*



Professor  
Mucha  
Museswa  
(SAHS  
President)  
University of the  
Witwatersrand

(Pictured here  
with outgoing  
SAHS President  
Sandra Swart  
(right))

## Planted Forests

9<sup>th</sup> National Conference, Mt Gambier Oct. 2015

The Australian Forest History Society (AFHS) held its 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference in October at Mount Gambier in South Australia. Previous conferences have been held since 1988 in Canberra, the other states and in New Zealand, but this was the first in South Australia. The theme of 'Planted Forests' was particularly appropriate because, starting in the 1880s South Australia was the first state to establish extensive plantations. Now they, with others in neighbouring Victoria, make up the 'Green Triangle' region supporting an integrated forest products industry. Moreover, more wood is now being produced from Australian plantations, than from the indigenous forests.



'King Tree', red gum, *Eucalyptus rostrata*, Wirrabara Forest Reserve, South Australia, with **Frederick Melville**, c. 1915.

It was a timely theme because Australian forest history had previously paid most attention to the indigenous eucalypt and tropical forests with their rich biodiversity.

Seventeen papers covered aspects of Australian and New Zealand plantation history, some aspects of the indigenous forests. A paper on the Scottish origins of planted forests was especially relevant as the state's first Conservator, John Ednie Brown, was part of the famous family of Scots foresters.

Pictorial history featured in the conference and in the associated opening of the Mount Gambier City Library's exhibition of the digitised version of their forestry collection. John Dargavel presented the library with a collection of 38 glass lantern slides that had been used in training students at the Australian Forestry School, started in 1926. He had found boxes of them during the refurbishment of the Forestry building at the Australian National University that had taken over the education of foresters in 1965. The one illustrated (left) is believed to be the only surviving image of Frederick Melville (1863–1928), the first Australian-born forester to be trained through the cadet system in Australia.



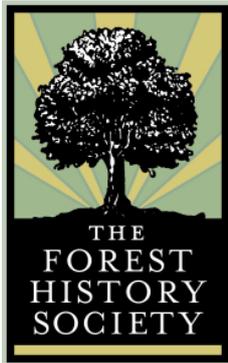
AFHS conference field tour to Mimosa Farm

Field excursions are an integral element of any forest history conference. An in-conference field trip visit to Mimosa Tree Farm, hosted by its enthusiastic and dedicated owner Peter Feast, was followed a visit to the South Australia's first Forest Reserve, established in 1877 at Leg of Mutton Lake. A post-conference tour included the site of a salvage spot mill in the forest that has grown into a modern sawmill, the delightful, locally-managed Nangwarry Forestry and Logging Museum, the World Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves, a native forest reserve where the advantages and controversies of thinning to allow native trees to grow, spread and form tree-hollows for arboreal species.

No forest tour through a famous wine region can be conducted without visiting a vineyard and Hollicks winery was properly enjoyed at lunchtime.

**John Dargavel and Sue Feary**  
Past president and President AFHS

Special report



## Library Changes at the Forest History Society



Image: Don't mess with Cheryl Oakes! (courtesy FHS)

After 25 years of responding to countless queries and helping untold numbers of researchers, FHS Librarian Cheryl Oakes has done the unthinkable and retired. She leaves behind a legacy that will be hard to duplicate, and her impact on the field of forest history is immeasurable, save for counting the scores of books on the FHS library shelves in which authors gave a hearty "thank you" to Cheryl for her help either remotely or while conducting research in the FHS archives.



At her retirement party, Cheryl received two items: a photo scrapbook that included letters of praise and congratulations from many of the scholars she has aided, and the honorific of FHS Fellow. This award is bestowed on persons who have provided many years of outstanding leadership and service to the Society or many years of outstanding sustained contributions to the research, writing, or

teaching of forest, conservation, or environmental history. Cheryl has done both with the highest degree of professionalism at all times, helping make the Forest History Society the respected institution it is today.

Cheryl leaves the library and archives in good hands. Eben Lehman succeeds her as Director of Library and Archives. He has served as FHS Archivist since 2007. In that capacity, he works with the digitization and cataloguing of the Society's photograph collection, provides photo reference assistance, manages the FHS research databases, and produces EAD finding aids for archival collections. He also coedits and coauthors the blog "Peeling Back the Bark," and coordinates social media communications and outreach. In addition to his current duties, he will now be responsible for the oversight, management, and long-range planning of both the library and archives.



Jason Howard (pictured here), is the newest member of the FHS staff. Jason will serve as FHS Librarian, and is responsible for managing the library and providing reference assistance for users. Previously Jason served as Head of Reference and Instructional Services at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Jason holds a Master of Library Science degree from North Carolina Central University and a bachelor's degree in history from Saint Augustine's University. He brings a passion for reference services as well as the use of new technologies in libraries. **Please direct any questions or inquiries to Jason at [jason.howard@foresthistory.org](mailto:jason.howard@foresthistory.org) or call him directly at 919-660-0543.** He looks forward to answering your reference queries and meeting FHS members.

*Steven Anderson, Ph.D, CF, CAE  
President & CEO FOREST HISTORY*

Research in our latest environmental history journals:



International Review of Environmental History

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction James Beattie	1
Ecologists, Environmentalists, Experts, and the Invasion of the 'Second Greatest Threat' Matthew K. Chew	7
Environmental Disturbance Triggering Infestations of Gorse, Rabbits, and Thistles in Southern New Zealand: 1850 to 1980 Peter Holland and Guil Figgins	41
Environmental Non-Government Organisations in China since the 1970s Sheng Fei 费晟	81
'Hungry dragons': Expanding the Horizons of Chinese Environmental History—Cantonese gold-miners in colonial New Zealand, 1860s–1920s James Beattie	103
(Re)Interpreting exotic plantation forestry in 1920s New Zealand Michael Roche	147
Thomas Potts and the Forest Question: Conservation and Development in New Zealand in the 1860s Paul Star	173

(online free: <http://press.anu.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/whole.pdf>)

Environment and History

Vol 21. No 4 Nov 2015



Courtney A. Rayes, James Beattie and Ian C. Duggan 'Boring through History'  
Jana Sprenger 'An Ocean of Locusts'  
Arnab Dey 'Bugs in the Garden'  
Wesley Mwatwara and Sandra Swart 'It's no use advising us!'  
Michael Zeheter 'Order in the Lake'

Plus BOOK REVIEWS



Volume 8 Number 2 2015  
Special Issue: 'Gone with the Wind. Dust Storms and the Globalisation of Anti-Wind Erosion Measures in the Twentieth Century', edited by Susanne Stein and Klaus Gestwa

Introduction: Special Issue 'Gone with the Wind. Dust Storms and the Globalisation of Anti-Wind Erosion Measures in the Twentieth Century'  
Susanne Stein and Klaus Gestwa

Research Papers

The Soviet Dust Bowl and the Canadian Erosion Experience in the New Lands of Kazakhstan, 1950s-1960s  
Marc Elie  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

Lessons from the US: Australia's Response to Wind Erosion (1935-1945)  
Sabine Sauter  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

Coping with the 'World's Biggest Dust Bowl'. Towards a History of China's Forest Shelterbelts, 1950s-Present  
Susanne Stein  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

The Meaning of Moving Sand. Towards a Dust Bowl Mythology  
Frank Uekötter  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

Fear of the 'Steppes': Soil Protection and Landscape Planning in Germany 1930-1960 between Politics and Science  
Axel Zutz  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

Other Research Articles

Climigration: How to Plan Climate Migration by Learning from History?  
Tarja Ketola  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

The Princely Hunt and Kshatriyahood  
Niladri Ranjan Ray  
[Abstract and Full text](#)

If you have contributions for the next bulletin, please send them to me  
[libby.robins@anu.edu.au](mailto:libby.robins@anu.edu.au)

Or talk to any of our Board members about it:  
Alan MacEachern [amaceach@uwo.ca](mailto:amaceach@uwo.ca)  
James Beattie [jbeattie@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:jbeattie@waikato.ac.nz)  
John McNeill [mcneillj@georgetown.edu](mailto:mcneillj@georgetown.edu)  
José Padua [jpadua@terra.com.br](mailto:jpadua@terra.com.br)  
Lise Sedrez [lsedrez@gmail.com](mailto:lsedrez@gmail.com)  
Mauro Agnoletti [mauro.agnoletti@unifi.it](mailto:mauro.agnoletti@unifi.it)  
Ranjan Chakrabarti [ranjan.jadavpur@gmail.com](mailto:ranjan.jadavpur@gmail.com)  
Shen Hou [houshen@ruc.edu.cn](mailto:houshen@ruc.edu.cn)

Environmental History

Articles

3 From Factory Town to Metropolitan Junkyard: Postindustrial Transitions on the Urban Periphery  
by Andrew Hatley

30 Revolutions in the Grass: Energy and Food Systems in Continental North America, 1763-1848  
by Natale Zappia

54 Fascist Modernist Landscapes: Wheat, Dams, Forests, and the Making of the Portuguese New State  
by Tiago Saraiva

76 Cruising for Pinelands: Knowledge Work in the Wisconsin Lumber Industry, 1870-1900  
by Craig William Kimcar

100 The Ravages of Teredo: The Rise and Fall of Shipworm in US History, 1860-1940  
by Derek Lee Nelson

Gallery

125 Gallery Editor's Note  
by Finis Dunaway

126 The Bulldozer in the Watershed: Conservation, Water, and Technological Optimism in the Post-World War II United States  
by Joshua M. Nygren



Volume 21  
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Do you want to join ICEHO?  
From as little as \$US100/year.  
Information online:  
<http://www.iceho.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ICEHO-Membership-Application.pdf>  
Or contact Valerie Bass  
[Valerie.Bass@foresthistory.org](mailto:Valerie.Bass@foresthistory.org)