GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of Louis Pojman. Louis Pojman’s work in ethics and philosophy of religion, especially his numerous and widely-used anthologies, have been enormously influential in contemporary instruction in philosophy. His reader, Environmental Ethics, is in its fourth edition from Wadsworth. A memorial service was held on December 30th at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan. Following is a brief statement from his wife, Gertrude “Trudy” Pojman.

Louis Pojman died on October 15, 2005. He contracted hepatitis-C from a blood transfusion in 1987; the chronic virus may lead to cirrhosis and in some to liver cancer, as happened to Louis. He retired in May 2003 from his position as professor of philosophy at U. S. Military Academy at West Point and spent the last academic year as a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge University, UK. A photo, bio, and links to his books and vita are on a web site set up by a nephew at www.louispojman.com. Global environmental ethics was one of his concerns; he devoted his final research to writing quite idealistically to link terrorism and human rights in setting forth a case for World Government. He lived to know that this work will be published next year.

The ISEE Listerv. ISEE-L is a discussion list for the International Society for Environmental Ethics. Its creation was authorized by the ISEE Board of Directors in December 2000. It is intended to be a forum for announcements and discussion related to teaching and research in environmental ethics. To join or leave the list, or to alter your subscription options go to: http://listserv.tamu.edu/archives/isee-l.html. If you have questions or you have trouble unsubscribing, contact the list manager, Gary Varner: gary@philosophy.tamu.edu.

Newsletter Offering and Encouraging Electronic Format. The ISEE newsletter is now offered in an electronic version as well as the paper version. ISEE members are encouraged to “go electronic.” Switching to electronic mailing will save ISEE several thousand dollars per year and get you information two to four weeks faster. We hope
that the majority of members will receive the newsletter via email eventually. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter may do so, but you only get one or the other! To make the switch, email ISEE treasurer Lisa Newton at lhnewton@mail.fairfield.edu, with “go electronic” in the subject heading. Thanks!

**ISEE Session at APA Central.** As usual, ISEE will sponsor two sessions at the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April 27-30, 2006. This year’s meeting is in Chicago. Please see the APA website for meeting details: http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/. Volunteers to chair the first session are still being sought. Please contact Paul B. Thompson: thomp649@msu.edu.

Joint Session of International Society for Environmental Ethics and Society for Philosophy and Technology, Thursday, April 27, 2006, 5:15-7:15pm
Paper: “Making the Connection Between Women’s Empowerment, Well-Being and Land Rights: Examining Bina Agarwals’ A Field of Ones Own”
Steven Weiss, Augusta State University

Commentator: Judith Andre, Michigan State University

Paper: “Newcomers Need Not Apply: A Racialized Reading of Wendell Berry,” Lisa Heldke, Gustavus Adolphus College

Commentator: Lee McBride, Georgia Institute of Technology

Joint Session of International Society for Environmental Ethics and Society for Philosophy and Technology, Thursday, April 27, 2006, 7:30-10:30pm

Session Title: Author Meets Critics: Bryan Norton's Sustainability
Chair: Paul B. Thompson, Michigan State University
Critics: Larry Hickman, Center for Dewey Studies, Southern Illinois University
Kelly Parker, Grand Valley State University
Jennifer Welchman, University of Alberta

Respondent: Bryan Norton, Georgia Institute of Technology

**New Journal: Nature and Culture.** Nature and Culture is a forum for the international community of scholars and practitioners to present, discuss, and evaluate critical issues and themes related to the historical and contemporary relationships that societies, civilizations, empires, regions, nation-states have with Nature. The journal contains a serious interpolation of theory, methodology, criticism, and concrete observation forming the basis of this discussion.
The mission of the journal is to move beyond specialized disciplinary enclaves and mind-sets toward broader syntheses that encompass time, space and structures in understanding the Nature-Culture relationship. The Journal will furthermore provide an outlet for the identification of knowledge gaps in our understanding of this relationship.

The Editors and Editorial Board will consider new topics and authors should not be restricted by those listed below. Current themes include: Cultural Reactions and Conceptions of Nature; Degradation and Restoration of Environment; Ecological Time; and Ecological Futures.

For further information, visit http://www.berghahnbooks.com/journals/nc/.

**Survey on Higher Ed and Sustainability.** Jennifer Everett is researching an “emerging consensus that higher education needs to be vastly more interdisciplinary, integrated, ethically aware, and civically engaged than it is at present” concerning issues of sustainability. To this end, she poses the following questions to the ISEE membership:

1. How many environmental philosophers incorporate civic engagement projects on sustainability – either on campus or in the community – into our environmental philosophy courses? How are they structured? How do they enhance or detract from the core philosophical (or other academic) aims of the course?

2. What role, if any, should this society play (qua academic professional organization) in advancing sustainability in higher education? Should the ISEE (and IAEP?) join the U.S. Partnership for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development? Should the APA? Should the American Council of Learned Societies?

3. What would a shift toward greater interdisciplinarity mean for the discipline of philosophy as a whole (i.e., courses taught, publications, meetings and conferences, disciplinary norms, tenure decisions, other …) Is the field receptive to such a shift? How could it be brought about?

4. What would a college education have to look like in order to prepare students to create a sustainable society? Is interdisciplinarity really that important, for example?

She invites your replies to:

Jen Everett, Assistant Professor
Carleton College
jeverett@carleton.edu
(on leave Winter 2006)
**Call for Book Reviewers.** In his capacity as review editor for two journals Roger Gottlieb seeks willing and able parties to write book reviews of varying lengths. Interested people should contact him and let him know of their interest, availability and areas of expertise.

Roger S. Gottlieb  
Professor of Philosophy  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Worcester, MA 01609  
508-831-5439; hm: 617-522-1005  
gottlieb@wpi.edu. www.wpi.edu/~gottlieb  
Review Editor, Social Theory and Practice  

**New Environmental Ethics Institute.** The Center for Ethics at The University of Montana is offering an Environmental Ethics Institute, July 10-28, 2006. The Institute will provide a diverse array of educational opportunities in environmental ethics. Missoula is an appealing college mountain-town in close proximity to many wilderness areas and National Parks. Participants can register for any portion of the Institute that fits their schedule and interests, can earn graduate or undergraduate credit, or take the courses at a reduced rate with a no credit option. Schedule of events:

- **Course #1,** July 10-13 (1 credit), Environmental Justice in Montana’s Indian Country, with Robin Saha, Environmental Studies, UM-Missoula
- **Course #2,** June 5-July 7 online* & July 17-21 on campus (3 credits), Foundations of Environmental Thought, with Andrew Light, Department of Philosophy and Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington
- **Course #3,** June 5-July 7 online* & July 24-28 (3 credits), How We Experience Nature: Environmental Aesthetics with Case Studies from the U.S. and Japan, with Yuriko Saito, Professor of Philosophy, Rhode Island School of Design
  - Workshop/Field Trip #1, Ethical Issues in Ecological Restoration, with Dan Spencer, Environmental Studies/Liberal Studies/Philosophy, UM-Missoula
  - Workshop/Field Trip #2, Wilderness Management: Tensions and Paradoxes, with Deborah Slicer, Philosophy, UM-Missoula
- Symposium, July 21, Religion and Rolston’s Environmental Philosophy, with Holmes Rolston, Ned Hettinger, Christopher Preston, Albert Borgmann
  - Evening lectures by visiting environmental experts throughout the 3-week Institute

For more information, contact Dane Scott, Director, The Center for Ethics, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, 406-243-6632, email us at ethics@mso.umt.edu, or visit our Web site at www.umt.edu/ethics.

**Field Station in Environmental Philosophy.** The Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas has launched a new field station for
interdisciplinary work in environmental science, philosophy, and policy. Co-sponsored by the Omora Foundation (http://www.ormora.org), the field station is located in Cape Horn, Chile, at 55° S, at the southern tip of South America. While still in its early stages, we are planning a variety of activities and opportunities for both the UNT community and researchers worldwide, including Cape Horn research internships for UNT graduate students, a joint Chilean-US international research workshop in January 2007, and library, residential and classroom facilities.

We invite researchers and graduate students at other institutions to contact us for possible research at the field station, and for opportunities for partnerships. For more information, see http://www.phil.unt.edu/chile, or contact:

Robert Frodeman  
Dept of Philosophy and Religion Studies  
University of North Texas  
225 EESAT, Box 310920  
Denton, TX 76203  
940 565 2134  
FAX  940 565 4448  
http://www.phil.unt.edu  
http://humanitiespolicy.unt.edu

Robert Frodeman may also be contacted with any questions concerning UNT’s new PhD in Philosophy. Since 1992, UNT has offered a highly successful Master's degree in Philosophy with a Concentration in Environmental Ethics. The new Ph.D. program builds on the Master's program and offers prospective students the opportunity to study environmental philosophy and ethics at the doctoral level with some of the leading scholars in the field.

New Master of Arts in Philosophy. This new MA program, offered jointly by Washington State University and the University of Idaho, leads to a general M.A. degree but students can also opt for a concentration in Environmental Philosophy or in Ethics. The program offers courses in major traditional areas such as ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of religion, and the history of philosophy, as well as in more recently developed areas such as environmental philosophy, feminist philosophy, and applied ethics. Program website: http://uidaho.wsu.edu/ma-philosophy/.

Questions about the program can be directed to Michael Nelson, in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Idaho, mnelson@uidaho.edu or to the departmental graduate director Michael O'Rourke at morourke@uidaho.edu.
CANCELLED: Third Annual International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Ethics. Due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, this conference scheduled to be held in February at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA, has been cancelled.

CONFERENCE AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

Third Annual Joint Meeting on Environmental Philosophy. Call for papers, commentators, and session chairs for this third annual joint meeting, sponsored by the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, the International Society for Environmental Ethics, and the University of North Texas.

The third annual meeting intended to bring together the environmental philosophy community will occur from May 30 to June 2, 2006, at the Highlands Center on the border of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. The Highlands Center is recently constructed retreat center at 8500 feet elevation, with rooms, meeting space, and a cafeteria. Longs Peak (elev. 14,000) hovers above the conference center and is within close hiking distance. Rooms are available from $85 singles to $120 for four. We have reserved fifteen rooms, each of which will comfortably house two to four guests. See http://www.highlandscamp.org/retreat_center.htm for further information. Camping facilities and other housing options are available nearby. We hope to attract a broad cross-section of the environmental philosophy community, including graduate students. In addition to contributed papers, the program will include papers by leading figures in the field.

The provisional format, designed to maximize discussion, is as follows:

- Plenary presentations on the evenings of May 30 and May 31.
- Papers available beforehand on-line.
- 20 minutes sessions—10 each for author and commentator, 40 for discussion.
- Sessions from 9am-1pm, with afternoons free.

Papers or detailed abstracts are due by February 15, with acceptances announced by March 15. Papers must be ready for distribution on the web by May 1. Send papers, detailed abstracts, or expressions of your willingness to comment or chair to:

Robert Frodeman
Dept of Philosophy and Religion Studies
University of North Texas
225 EESAT, Box 310920
Denton, TX 76203
philosophy@unt.edu

Dale Jamieson
HMSS, Steinhardt School of Education
New York University
246 Greene Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10003
dwj3@nyu.edu
**ISEE Sessions.** Proposals are invited for individual papers or group sessions for the APA Pacific, Central and Eastern Division meetings. For the Pacific, contact ISEE treasurer Lisa Newton at lhnewton@mail.fairfield.edu. For the Central, contact ISEE secretary Paul Thompson, thomp649@pilot.msu.edu. For the Eastern, contact ISEE vice-president Clare Palmer, cpalmer@artsci.wustl.edu. Snail mail addresses and telephone numbers at the end of the newsletter. The deadline for proposals is September 1 for the Pacific and Central, March 1 for the Eastern.

**Ethics and the Environment.** Ethics and the Environment provides an interdisciplinary forum for theoretical and practical articles, discussions, and book reviews in the broad area encompassed by environmental philosophy. Possible topics include conceptual approaches in ecological philosophy, such as ecological feminism and deep ecology, as they apply to issues such as cloning, genetically modified organism, new reproductive technology, war and militarism, environmental education and management, ecological economics, and ecosystem health. We encourage submissions offering new and imaginative conceptions of what counts as an “environmental issue.”

Manuscripts may be submitted at any time. Please send three copies, two without identification, to:

Victoria Davion, Editor  
Ethics & The Environment  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-1627

Inquiries to Mona Freer, Managing Editor, Ethics & the Environment  
mfreer@uga.edu  
Tel: (706)542-2362  
Fax: (706)542-2839

**Conference on Emotional Geographies.** A final call for papers for the Second International & Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies, to be held May 25-27, 2006 at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. Following the success of the first conference on Emotional Geographies (Lancaster UK, September 2002), we are pleased to announce that Queen’s University will be hosting a second international, interdisciplinary event in May 2006. In this second announcement and call for papers, we encourage contributions from authors and artists exploring the co-constitutive relations between emotions, people and places in all senses, but are particularly keen to receive abstracts in broad areas including [among others] theorizing emotion, identity, equity and emotion, politicizing emotion, nature and emotion, and emotion and the arts. Conference details: http://www.geog.queensu.ca/emotionalgeog/.
Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words, highlighting four key words, to conference organizers Joyce Davidson (joyce.davidson@queensu.ca) and Laura Cameron (cameron@post.queensu.ca) ASAP. We encourage electronic submissions.

**Making Ethics Visible.** The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Midwest Environmental Ethics Conference: “Making Ethics Visible,” will be held May 6, 2006 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The conference is sponsored by the Univ. of St. Thomas Department of Philosophy, the Univ. of Minnesota Program on Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Ethics, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education. Featured speakers include J. Baird Callicott, Professor of Philosophy, University of North Texas; Andrew Light, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Washington; and Peter Bell, Chair, Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities.

The organizing committee invites proposals from academic philosophers, natural resource professionals, environmental education practitioners, and interested community members for papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and other presentations that address the role of environmental ethics in community decision-making. The committee specifically invites proposals that address the conference theme—“Making Ethics Visible”—by answering the following question: “How can your academic discipline, professional expertise, or personal insight contribute to making ethical practices, principles, and/or assumptions visible in community decision-making about the environment?” Proposals that address the environment of the Midwest and/or environmental education are especially encouraged. However, presenters may also wish to address related questions concerning how theoretical issues in environmental ethics relate to actual communities, their issues, and their decision-making processes; methods of ethical conflict resolution; the role of environmental educators in community decision-making; etc.

Send one-page proposals by January 6, 2006 to:

Heidi Giebel  
Department of Philosophy, #JRC 241  
University of St. Thomas  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
Email: hmgiebel@stthomas.edu  
Phone: 651-962-5367

Please include the title of your proposed presentation, your institutional affiliation (if any), and your contact information. Requests for audio-visual equipment must accompany the proposal. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Registration materials will be made available on or around February 15, 2006. We will also have a

**Society for Conservation Biology.** ISEE members with work that concerns the conservation of biological diversity are invited to consider submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation at the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) 20th annual meeting, “Conservation Without Borders, in San Jose, CA June 24-28, 2006. The deadline for abstracts is January 14. More information on the formats for proposals is on the meeting web site: http://www.conbio.org/2006/Abstractcall.cfm.

SCB’s Social Science Working Group actively seeks to network with social scientists, ethicists, philosophers, and other folks not in the natural science realm whose work concerns biodiversity and its conservation. For those of you interested in attending and participating in a meeting of the SCB, you are invited in the hopes of widening the network of scholars and professionals who are doing applied work within the realm of biodiversity conservation. SCB is an 8,000-member international professional organization. The Social Science Working Group of SCB has more than 600 members (and counting), and has been given a prominent role within the society to promote the integration of the social sciences and humanities into the society's goals and workings. Those interested in learning more about SCB or its Social Science Working Group, even if participating in the meeting is not something you are inclined to do, please contact:

Rich Wallace  
Vice President and Program Committee Chair  
Social Science Working Group  
Society for Conservation Biology  
Director, Env'l Studies Program  
Ursinus College  
P.O. Box 1000  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
(610) 409-3730  
(610) 409-3660 fax  
rwallace@ursinus.edu

**Writers’ Conference/Workshop in Honor of Rachel Carson.** The Fourth NEW-CUE Writers’ Conference and Workshop in honor of Rachel Carson will be held June 13-16, 2006, at The Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, ME. The 2006 Conference/Workshop will feature the work of Henry David Thoreau, and the theme will be wilderness/wildness.

Nature and Environmental Writers–College and University Educators (NEW-CUE), a non-profit, environmental education organization, invites submissions for possible presentation at the Conference/Workshop. New and established writers, instructors, scholars and practitioners are encouraged to send examples from their work: essays, poems, fiction, children’s literature, visual media including narrative film and
documentaries as well as journalism and scholarly research. We welcome submissions that represent a 15-minute reading or screening followed by ample time for discussion.

The Conference/Workshop will be held at The Spruce Point Inn, one of the finest waterfront resort inns on the East Coast. It will be an interdisciplinary event, blending scholarly inquiry, relaxation and exploration. The Keynote Speaker will be Lawrence Buell. Featured speakers will include Jane Brox, Franklin Burroughs, Jeffrey Cramer, Ted Levin and Jennifer Sahn. In addition, the program schedule will include workshops, presentations as well as guided activities such as hikes, tide pool explorations and trips to the Burnt Island Lighthouse and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

Daily concurrent sessions will include readings of accepted submissions. We hope that you will submit if your work will add to a discussion of these, or related, topics:

- new and creative responses to Thoreau’s work
- urban and suburban wildernesses
- distinguished tradition of American nature writing before Thoreau
- challenges facing poet-naturalists
- first-hand experience as a source of knowledge of and commitment to nature
- legacy of Rachel Carson under attack
- ecocriticism and the media
- wild spaces in urban places
- nature within children’s literature
- finding and preserving a personal Walden on a degraded planet

Submissions will need to include a cover page with the author’s full name, institutional or organizational affiliation (if applicable), and contact information including mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address. Submissions should be typed and no longer than three pages, with the author’s name included on each page. Submissions of visual materials can include samples or descriptions. Presenters will need to register for the Conference/Workshop. Please send by surface mail, fax or e-mail before January 19, 2006 to:

Barbara Ward Klein, President
NEW-CUE
c/o St. Thomas Aquinas College
Sparkill, NY 10976
Phone: 845-398-4247 Fax: 845-398-4224 e-mail info@new-cue.org
Please note that enrollment at this event is limited to 100 participants and that early registration is recommended. Registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis. Participants whose work will be accepted for presentation at the 2006 Conference/Workshop will need to register for the event. Please see our web site http://www.new-cue.org for registration information and a further description of The Spruce Point Inn and the Boothbay Harbor area.

**Philosophy Graduate Student Conference: Re-cognizing Nature.** The 9th Annual University of Kentucky Philosophy Graduate Student Conference will be held March 4, 2006. The theme this year is “Re-cognizing Nature,” and Nancy Tuana of Penn State will give the keynote address, “Witnessing Katrina: Socially Responsible Science.”

The Philosophy Graduate Student Association of the University of Kentucky invites paper submissions from current graduate students. We are looking for papers from an historical, continental, and/or analytic perspective that philosophically address issues of the natural environment, in areas including but not limited to: Environmental Ethics, Epistemology, Political and Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Evolutionary Psychology, Cognitive Science, Philosophical Anthropology. We especially welcome contributions to these areas from a feminist perspective.

Submissions must be received no later than January 27, 2006. Submissions received later than this date will be accepted at the discretion of the conference coordinators.

All submissions must:
1. Be submitted for blind review (include cover letter with contact information),
2. Include a (max) 150 word abstract, and
3. Be edited for a 30 minute presentation (approx. 3000 words).

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS (WORD OR PDF) REQUIRED, to laeric2@uky.edu.

For more information or general inquiries, e-mail the conference coordinators, Joe Trullinger (jtrullin@uky.edu) or Larry Erickson (laeric2@uky.edu).

**The Politics of Health.** Contributions are invited for a special issue of *Theoria* aimed at exploring the politics and ethics of health and health care. The deadline for submission of papers is February 1 2006.

**Joint Meeting on Food and Agriculture.** The next joint meeting of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society will be held June 7-11 in Boston, MA. The conference theme is: “Place, Taste, and Sustenance: The Social Spaces of Food and Agriculture.” Papers on almost any topic in environmental philosophy are welcome, but philosophical reflections related to the conference theme are especially welcome. Abstracts and proposals for sessions
and panels are due by February 10, 2006; further details available at http://www.food-culture.org/conference.html. Questions about the conference may be directed to:

Beth Forrest
Programs in Gastronomy, Boston University,
808 Commonwealth Ave. Boston, MA 02215
Telephone: (617) 353-9853
Fax: (617) 353-4130

USDA Animal Bioethics Committee. The US Department of Agriculture's regional committee on Animal Bioethics (WERA 204) will hold its annual meeting at Michigan State University in East Lansing, on March 2, 3 and 4, 2006. Philosophers who are interested in learning how they can have an impact on contemporary practices in food animal production by participating in this activity are encouraged to contact Paul B. Thompson at thomp649@msu.edu

Thirteenth Annual Conference on the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Research Consortium (ARC) will hold its Thirteenth Annual Conference on the Adirondacks on May 24-25, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel in Lake Placid, New York. The ARC encourages research papers and topic sessions on all aspects of the Adirondack natural environment, history, politics, economy, and culture. This interdisciplinary, regional consortium is home to physical and social scientists, humanists, planners, environmentalists, government officials, and all interested in this important region.

Papers, posters, discussion panels, and workshops are encouraged that explore the natural, economic, cultural, historic, and philosophical features of the Adirondacks, Lake Champlain, and the North Country. Of particular interest are themes addressing the intersection of the humanities, social and natural sciences in research, and issues of public-private ownership and management of complex natural and social systems.

Graduate and undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to participate in the conference through both paper and poster presentations. Paper presentations should be designed as approximately 20 minute summaries and ten minute question and answer, with a general audience in mind. Technical language should be limited to the greatest extent possible and, when necessary, fully explained.

Abstracts should be sent to the address below no later than March 29, 2006. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Each proposal should include:
1. Title of the presentation.
2. Name and address of author(s), with presenting author specified.
3. The type of presentation proposed (paper, poster, panel, workshop, etc.).
4. A 250-word abstract of the presentation, for publication in the conference program.
5. Audio-visual equipment needs. Presenters are responsible for poster displays.
6. Participants will be encouraged to provide their presentation or paper on electronic media prior to the conference, to be added to the ARC website.

Authors are encouraged to submit their completed papers for consideration for publication in the Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies. Additional information is available at the ARC website: www.adkresearch.org

Send inquiries and proposals for presentations to:

Wayne Glass, President
Adirondack Research Consortium
c/o Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Tourism
P.O. Box 747
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Voice: 518-891-5523, ext. 16
Fax: 518-891-9820
www.CAST-online.com EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: wayne@cast-online.com

Ecological Restoration. Call for papers for “First, Do No Harm: Exploring the Theoretical and Practical Challenges Posed by Ecological Restoration,” June 22-24, 2006 at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. Keynote speaker: Eric Higgs, Professor and Director of the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada; Past President of the Society for Ecological Restoration; and author of the recent, groundbreaking work Nature by Design: People, Natural Process, and Ecological Restoration (MIT, 2003).

Recent catastrophes along the Gulf Coast have raised public awareness of the ways in which attempts to control nature—in this case, the Mississippi River and delta—have made us more vulnerable to natural disasters. Given the money that President Bush has promised for rebuilding, some have dared to envision ecological restoration on a grand scale. Others, taking stock of the energy and water shortages that our cities must eventually face, have advocated a much greater commitment to planting native species, conceived and built “green” buildings, even dreamt of “natural cities.” Yet as compelling as such dreams are, they raise a series of vexed theoretical problems.

If we aim to restore nature, how do we construe it: doesn’t this goal rely on an illegitimate distinction between humans and their world? To what extend is Hegel right that our conception of nature relies on changing cultural categories? Is it even possible for humans to hear “the call of the wild”? Doesn’t the aim of restoration reflect an unselfconscious hubris insofar as we remake nature in our own image? How do we
justify any concept of ecological health in a post-teleological philosophical context, or in light of recent questions about such fundamental ecological categories as “succession” towards a rich, stable, “mature” state or about the very concept of an “ecosystem”?  

The practical challenges are just as severe. How do we interpret a badly degraded area, given the difficulties of finding evidence for its prior state? How do we select reference conditions, and to what extent is it legitimate to use non-native species that may nevertheless help stabilize an ecosystem more quickly, cheaply, or in ways that serve other ends (e.g. in controlling storm water runoff)? How do we decide how, what, and in what order to embark on restoration projects? Does the focus on restoration fulfill a merely aesthetic need in preference to more pressing demands to redress environmental injustices within our cities? What degree of restoration counts as success? How do we acknowledge and integrate human needs, pressures, and perceptions to increase the likelihood that successes will be sustainable?  

We will meet at Loyola Marymount University, which sits just above the recently restored Ballona Wetlands—the only remaining coastal wetland in LA County. The goal of the conference: to gather a diverse group of scholars and practitioners to explore the theoretical and practical difficulties posed by ecological restoration, to refine their ideas in the light of others’ insights and experiences, and to present the fruit of their reflection to the scholarly community through an edited collection of papers from the conference. 

Please address inquiries and send papers prepared for blind review to:  

Do No Harm  
c/o W. S. K. (Scott) Cameron  
Dept. of Philosophy  
Loyola Marymount University  
One LMU Dr., Suite 3600  
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659  
scameron@lmu.edu  


6th International Whitehead Conference. A second call for papers for the 6th International Whitehead Conference: The Importance of Process - System and Adventure, to be held July 3-6, 2006, at Salzburg University. Abstracts are invited for presentations within the Ecological Ethics Section. Within the growing field of environmental ethics, many ethicists have been inspired by Whitehead's philosophy, and more generally by the philosophy of organism. This international conference provides an opportunity for an exchange of ideas between environmental ethicists who
apply process thought to their field of study, including those who are critical of the validity of such applications.

Submitters should follow these guidelines: Use the online registration for. Note that you must double-register—once for general registration and once for section registration. Abstracts should not exceed 350 words (actual content). Name, title, and institutional affiliation should be included. Details of address and e-mail should be provided. The date of submission should be mentioned. Any requests for technical equipment should accompany your abstract.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is April 15, 2006 and the outcome will be communicated shortly afterwards. For registration and further details, see: http://www.uni-salzburg.at/whiteheadconference/index2.html. For further details regarding the Ecological Ethics Section of the Conference, please contact the section heads, Barbara Muraca (Alex5@t-online.de) or Jan Deckers (jan.deckers@ncl.ac.uk).

OPPORTUNITIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, Auckland, New Zealand. Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Philosophy. The University will shortly be inviting applications from qualified individuals for appointment as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, commencing July 1, 2006 [one position] and January 1, 2007 [one position]. Area of specialization ethical theory and/or political philosophy, area of competence open. The successful candidates will be expected to engage in research and to teach at introductory undergraduate, advanced undergraduate and graduate levels, and to undertake supervision of Masters and Ph.D. research projects. The positions will be advertised early in 2006 on the Department’s webpage: http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/phi. From the APA webpage: http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/.

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY, Newport, VT. Assistant Professor in Philosophy. The Philosophy Department at Salve Regina University seeks a full-time faculty member with strengths in Biomedical Ethics and the twentieth century. Responsibilities will include teaching both departmental offerings and interdisciplinary courses in an integrative core curriculum, as well as participation in committees and academic advising. The position is tenure track starting at the level of Assistant Professor. Ph.D. in Philosophy in hand at time of appointment. The successful candidate must understand and be committed to the University Mission and its Catholic identity. The position is available starting fall 2006 semester. Application materials must be received by January 30, 2006. From the University of Salve Regina HR webpage: http://www.salve.edu/offices/hr/positions/descriptions/faculty_philos.cfm.
UPR-MAYAGÜEZ, Mayagüez, PR. Assistant Professor in Philosophy. The UPR at Mayagüez announces a tenure-track position in Philosophy, starting July 1 2006. AOS: Professional Ethics. AOC: Contemporary Philosophy and Environmental Ethics. Willingness to teach informal logic and introductory courses in Philosophy. Ph.D. in Philosophy prior to appointment. Spanish strongly recommended. Send letter of application detailing relevant teaching experience and scholarly activity, CV, transcript (copy acceptable, official transcript necessary by time of appointment), and three recent letters of recommendation to: Dr. Lissette Rolón, Chairperson, Department of Humanities, P.O. Box 9264, Mayagüez, PR 00681-9264. Postmarked January 20, 2006. The UPR is an Equal Opportunity employer. From the APA webpage: http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY, St. Paul, MN. Full-time tenure track faculty appointment in the Department of Philosophy [rank open], beginning fall 2006. Ph.D. in Philosophy, with an emphasis in ethics, competence in applied ethics (bioethics not needed), and a solid grounding in the history of philosophy. Strong teaching experience, including the ability to teach in interdisciplinary courses. Candidate must be committed to the liberal arts educational mission and evangelical Christian orientation of the university, and to excellence in undergraduate teaching, mentoring students, and scholarship. Candidate must demonstrate ability to contribute to Bethel’s anti-racism efforts and cross-cultural understanding. More information at the Bethel University HR webpage: http://www.bethel.edu/human-resources/employment-cas.html#job_19.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, TACOMA, Tacoma, WA. Philosophy—Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor. Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences at the University of Washington, Tacoma invites applications for a faculty position in Philosophy at the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor. Ph.D. in Philosophy required by the time of appointment. The successful candidate will offer courses in the history of philosophy, ethics, and social and political philosophy. We seek a broadly trained scholar capable of teaching introductory courses in a variety of areas and one whose expertise will contribute to such IAS majors as Global Studies, Politics and Values, Political Economy, Environmental Studies, Environmental Science, and Communication. Appointment effective September 16, 2006. Screening of credentials will begin December 1, 2005 and continue until the position is filled. For additional information, please contact Dr. Michael Kalton at mkalton@u.washington.edu or by telephone at (253)692-4457. More information on the position and how to apply at the University of Washington, Tacoma, HR webpage: http://www.washington.edu/admin/eoo/ads/aa1155-phil-ouf-Nov05.html.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO at DENVER and HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, Denver, CO. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW in PHILOSOPHY. There is an opening for a postdoctoral fellow with 2 years’ duration beginning Fall 2006. AOS: Ethical Theory/
Medical Ethics. Pending budgetary approval. Teaching load 2/1, with expectations of two public lectures per year, and coordination with Health Sciences Center on community/hospital activities. Review of applications will begin December 2, 2005 and continue until position is filled. More information at University of CO at Denver and Health Sciences Ctr site: http://www.ucdhsc.edu/admin/hr/jobs/faculty/674171.htm/.

HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA. Harvard Divinity School in collaboration with the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics. Harvard Divinity School announces two full-time post-doctoral research positions for 2006-2007 (potentially renewable for a second year) in theology and analytic philosophy of religion, respectively. Successful candidates will conduct interdisciplinary research and joint publications with Professors Sarah Coakley and Martin A. Nowak in their Templeton-funded project, ‘Evolution and Theology of Cooperation’. Candidates must have a completed doctorate, relevant qualifications in either theology or analytic philosophy (or both), and some science or mathematics background. Full-time residence during the academic year is required. Salary: in the range of $40,000 to $50,000, plus benefits. Harvard University is an equal opportunity, affirmative-action employer and encourages applications from and nominations of women and/or ethnic minority candidates. Letters of application or nomination, accompanied by a recent CV, three letters of recommendation, a writing sample and/or publications, should be sent to Professor Sarah Coakley, The Evolution and Theology Search Committee, c/o Monica Stuart, Harvard Divinity School, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138. Review of applications begins December 31, 2005. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit full dossiers by that date. Email: monica_stuart@harvard.edu.

From the APA webpage: http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Thanks to David Ehrensperger, Graduate Student at Colorado State University, for assembling this list of websites.

Center for Environmental Philosophy
http://www.cep.unt.edu/
Dedicated to providing access to Internet resources throughout the world which pertain to or focus on environmental ethics and environmental philosophy. The Center is located at the University of North Texas, with Gene Hargrove as its president. Links to the journal Environmental Ethics, graduate programs in environmental philosophy, etc.
Ethics Updates: Environmental Ethics
http://ethics.acusd.edu/Applied/Environment/
A subpage of Ethics Updates, http://ethics.sandiego.edu/index.asp, maintained by Lawrence Hinman, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Values Institute at the University of San Diego. Ethics Updates “is designed primarily to be used by ethics instructors and their students. It is intended to provide updates on current literature, both popular and professional, that relates to ethics.”

The Environmental Ethics link provides a “A Survey of Selected Internet Resources on Environmental Ethics.” Last updated in 2003. In addition to typical links to quality websites, bibliographies, organizations, articles, etc., there are also links to videos by prominent philosophers in the field of environmental ethics (J. Baird Callicott and Dale Jamieson, for example) and links to ethics videos in general. Also sound files pertaining to environmentally aimed programs from NPR's Talk of the Nation. There is a survey listing of fairly current books and articles in environmental ethics.

Environmental Ethics links by Ron Epstein
http://online.sfsu.edu/~rone/Environ/Enviroethics.htm
A gateway to massive annotated bibliographies, to other environmental ethics websites maintained Epstein (nanotechnology), and various articles, abstracts, and environmental gateways. Many articles from a Buddhist perspective. Last updated in 2004, and some of the resources have been moved creating broken links.

Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, Environmental Resources
http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/environment.php
Dedicated mainly to international affairs, so the environment and environmental ethics material is placed in that context. Topics such as water rights and climate change are well represented. Abstracts of some articles, obtaining full-text may require a fee.

The United Nations understands human development to be about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. United Nations work in this area. Insights into the nature of inequalities that affect the potentiality of human development schemes and also looks at other related processes such as the nature of international trade and violent conflict. The site also contains an animated file that offers a visualization of the trend of human development.

Case Western Reserve Univ, Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development
http://onlineethics.org/environment/
Emphasizes environmental information for scientists and engineers with a focus on sustainable development. Links to codes of ethics, cases and case studies, and
organizations and corporations interested in sustainable development. Website was under construction at the time of this review, and many of the links are broken.

**National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research.**
http://www.ncoremiami.org/
Located at the University of Miami, NCORE is primarily concerned with analysis and prediction of coral reef resilience. Digital maps and images that provide information about the state of coral cover around Puerto Rico, South Florida, and the Bahamas.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Program**
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/
Lists threatened and endangered species. General statistics, species lists by classification, such as clams, snails, and lichens. Links to recent publications. Management plans adopted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Information about invasive species which are also of concern to the agency. Online archive of the Endangered Species Bulletin, from 1995 on.

**Center for Biological Diversity**
http://www.sw-center.org/swcbd/
A 15-year old non-profit dedicated to protection of species from extinction. Claims to have “mastered [a] highly effective method of combining science, advocacy and environmental law” which has resulted in a “90 percent success rate in the courts.” Based in Tuscon, AZ and focused on western/southwestern species concerns.

**Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Environmental Ethics**
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-environmental/
One of the premier philosophical resources on the internet from Stanford University, and it is currently free of charge for all users. Well-written, scholarly articles, accessible to serious undergraduate students. The entries themselves are lengthy, and have extensive bibliographies as well as links to related Internet resources. The website is a work in progress with many entries forthcoming. Navigation is not always easy.

**EnviroLink, Environmental Ethics**
http://www.envirolink.org/index.html
An internet gateway with links to many environmental resources, a small web in itself. One can access the resources both by topic (e.g., Wildlife, Oceans, Sustainable Living, etc.) or category (e.g., Articles, E-Mail lists, etc.). Mostly nonacademic entries, often with links or addresses for more information. Users can search environmental resources by community by zip code.
Yahoo! Environmental Ethics
http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Environment_and_Nature/Ethics/
Nicely designed. Eclectic mix of links to sites on to various aspects of environmental ethics. Many allow navigation to sites on environmental philosophy; there are also links to book reviews, journals, and organizations. Links to other directories of interest (“Environmental Movements and Philosophies” and “Minimum Impact Practices”).

RECENT ARTICLES AND BOOKS

Thanks (again and again) to Greg Pritchard, Australia, for editorial help in formatting bibliographic entries.

--Adger, W. Neil, et al., “Social-Ecological Resilience to Coastal Disasters,” Science 309 (12 August):1036-1039. Almost as if prescient, Science devoted a theme issue in mid-August to “Dealing with Disasters.” Half a dozen articles similar to the above. Predictably, many of the sorts of preparations for response recommended here were missing when Katrina hit two weeks later. A frequent theme is social networking, distributed infrastructure that absorbs hits in one region by resilience in another. Another theme is that disasters will inevitably come, storms, fires, droughts are part f the natural order. These will have increasing impact with larger populations, concentrating nearer coastlines and with global warming. The best management strategy is not the command and control of nature, not rebuilding nature, but a social structure that can roll with the punches, absorbing fire, flood, earthquakes.


--Asner, Gregory P, et al., “Selective Logging in the Brazilian Amazon,” Science 310 (21 October 2005):480-482. Remote sensing by satellite detects lands cleared for agriculture but forests selectively logged have mostly been invisible to satellites. These authors developed a large-scale, high-resolution remote sensing analysis, to discover that “selective logging doubles previous estimates of the total amount of forest degraded by human activities, a result with potentially far-reaching implications for the ecology of the Amazon forest and the sustainability of the human enterprise in the region.” A considerable amount of this logging is on supposed forest reserves. Asner is in global ecology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Stanford, CA.

--Atkinson, Robert B., James E. Perry, and John Cairns, Jr., “Vegetation Communities of 20-year old Created Depressional Wetlands,” Wetlands Ecology and Management 13 (no. 4, 2005):469-478. Most species do not change, but there is some tendency for transition from annuals to perennial grasses. None of the wetlands tended to become shrub-scrub or forested wetlands. Atkinson is at VPI, Blacksburg, VA.


--Bagla, Pallava, “Indian Activists Release Disputed Report,” Science 309 (30 September 2005):2146. A report commissioned by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a 1,300 page report on biodiversity in India, but the government does not want the report released. The group plans to defy the order not to release it and to release it anyway. The report was prepared with funds from the Global Environment Facility and with the co-operation of the India office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNEP). The report concludes that “India's model of development is inherently unsustainable and destructive to biodiversity.” Government officials consider the report inaccurate in part and also an embarrassment.

bear in Vermont woods, winner of a dream hunt, all expenses paid including taxidermy, designed to interest children in hunting. (She took three days out of school.) She has already killed a deer at age seven, also a turkey. But they found no bear.


--Blumenthal, Dana, “Interrelated Causes of Plant Invasion,” Science 310 (14 October 2005):243-244. Invasive plant species flourish because they land on disturbed sites, similar to those they came from, but with more resources (such as fertilizer), they have a strategy of making many seeds rather than protecting themselves for long-lives; they are released from their natural enemies (left back where they came from), meanwhile the natives still have their natural enemies to compete with. These factors compound to make invasives especially disruptive to natural systems. Blumenthal is with the USDA Agricultural Research Service Rangeland Research Unit, Fort Collins, CO.


--Brookes, Graham, and Peter Barfoot, “GM Crops: The Global Economic and Environmental Impact--The First Nine Years 1996-2004,” AgBioForum 8 (nos. 2 & 3, 2005):187-196. GM crops have been regularly commercially planted for about a decade. This study finds great economic benefits, largely from reduced pesticide use, since GM crops are resistant to pests and require less pesticide. This also results in reduced use of fossil fuels, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, and more carbon sequestered in the soil (due to less need for plowing). The study also finds a much reduced environmental footprint, since the reduced pesticide use means less pesticide spilling off the fields into the rivers, less adverse effects on birds and other wildlife. GM crops tend to keep the nearby ecosystems healthier than was formerly the case with heavy pesticide use. The authors are with PG Economics Ltd., Dorchester, UK.


--Cairns, John, Jr., “Sustained Emergencies,” *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology* 12 (2005):221-226. Emergency situations require more resources than normal operations. If society does not address environmental problems effectively before they reach the emergency stage, life from then on will be in a sustained (indefinite) state of emergency. Sustainable use of the planet requires optimal use of resources, which can be facilitated by avoiding sustained emergency conditions. Some emergencies beyond human control will always occur, and adequate global resources must be allocated to cope with them. However, a huge number of emergencies are the result of failing to take precautionary preventative action in time. Cairns is in biology (emeritus) at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.


--Cardilio, Marcel et al., “Multiple Causes of High Extinction Risk in Large Mammal Species,” *Science* 309 (19 August 2005):1239-1241. Many large animal species run a high risk of extinction, commonly thought to relate to large body size, visibility, low rates of reproduction. But these authors find many more contributing factors, both environmental and intrinsic to the morphology and behavior of large animals, such as the need for larger ranges of habitat. The dangers of extinction for large animals are greater than previously recognized. Cardilio is in biology, Imperial College, London.


Carrier, Paul, “The Hidden Costs of Environmentally Responsible Health Care,” Perspectives in Biology and Medicine 48 (no. 3, 2005):4530463. Review essay of Pierce, Jessica and Andrew Jameton, The Ethics of Environmentally Responsible Health Care (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004). Pierce and Jameton worry about the environmental (and other) costs of high tech medicine and medical care and advocate the model of a “Green Health Center.” Carrick appreciates this, but worries that sick patients may be pressured to think more about preserving the health and welfare of the environment than preserving their own health. Perhaps only those therapies and treatment goals that tend to reduce negative impacts on the environment would be considered morally acceptable. Carrick thinks this is “a deadly gamble,” which might result in loss of patient autonomy, in ecological paternalism, and cheapen the respect for life, giving priority to the ecosystem over individual life. With a response by Pierce and Jameton. Carrick is in philosophy, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA.

Carter, Luther J., and Thomas H. Pigford, “Proof of Safety at Yucca Mountain,” Science 310 (21 October 2005):447-448. After court rulings, the EPA has proposed a two-tiered new standard that would stay within a 15-mrem/year for the first 10,000 years and a 350 mrem/year for up to one million years thereafter. These authors conclude: “In our view, the present repository design cannot meet these tests.” Carter is the author of Nuclear Imperatives and Public Trust: Dealing with Radioactive Waste. Pigford is in nuclear engineering, University of California, Berkeley.

Chimpanzee Sequencing and Analysis Consortium, “Initial Sequence of the Chimpanzee Genome and Comparison with the Human Genome,” Nature 437 1 Sept. 2005):69-87. The authors note the differences between chimpanzee genes and human genes, focusing on the protein generating genes. Differences are few on overall percentage scales, but considerable on local gene scales. Given the massive size of the sequenced data array, a few percent differences accumulate into millions of differences: thirty-five million single-nucleotide changes, five million insertion/deletion events, and various chromosomal rearrangements. They run analyses to see what genes in humans and chimps might have been differentially selected. They also frankly recognize that what makes us distinctively human is not yet understood. “Our close biological relatedness to chimpanzees not only allows unique insights into human biology, it also creates ethical obligations. ... We hope that elaborating how few differences separate our species will broaden recognition of our duty to these extraordinary primates that stand as our siblings in the family of life” (p. 83). The same issue of Nature contains a half dozen related articles, equally puzzled about what makes us human.


--Coleman, Jon T., *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. A historian chronicles three centuries of Europeans interacting with wolves, finding the European view massively a social construction, and also more revealing of a “vicious” dimension in humans than in wolves. Europeans arrived with a millennia long mythological wolf lore, “the big bad wolf,” and projected this mythology onto America wolves, which they exterminated as a menacing evil. But they did so with sadistic passion, with “wolf bullets” or meat hooks to ensure slow, tortuous deaths. When they captured wolves alive, they dragged them behind horses, set them on fire, or released them with their mouths and genitals wired shut. Death was not enough; the Europeans insisted on torture. Coleman interprets this as Europeans believing that to conquer a savage wilderness, one must act savagely. So they were licensed and required to act with enthusiastic cruelty. “People are vicious to the core ... Wolf killing confirms people’s knack for generating pain and suffering.” Meanwhile, of course, these vicious people have restored the wolf to parts of the landscape and repented of their past. Coleman is a University of Notre Dame historian.


--deWaal (de Waal), Frans B. M., “A Century of Getting to Know the Chimpanzee,” Nature 437 (1 Sept. 2005):56-59. “Humans do occupy a special place among the primates, but this place has increasingly to be defined against a backdrop of substantial similarity.” de Waal is in primate research, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University.


--Estabrook, Barry, “Some Sport,” Audubon 107 (no. 6, Sept./Oct. 2005):11-12. Internet hunting. Dale Hagberg, a quadriplegic in bed in Indiana, aimed a remote-controlled high-powered rifle at a fallow deer in Texas, and missed. Next day he shot and killed a mouflon sheep. The owner of Live Shot thought it a great success, but the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hurriedly enacted regulations to prohibit hunting wild game this way. Later the legislature also prohibited such hunting on game farms.


--Ferber, Dan, “Sperm Whales Bear Testimony to Worldwide Pollution,” Science 309 (19 August, 2005):1166. Results from the first global survey of toxic contaminants in marine mammals find DDT, PCB’s, and other toxics even in midocean areas thought to be pristine.

Fitzpatrick, William J., “Valuing Nature Non-Instrumentally,” *Journal of Value Inquiry* 38 (2004):315-332. In addition to valuing nature instrumentally, humans can also value nature because such valuing is constitutive of flourishing human life. “We ought to value at least some natural things and places non-instrumentally because they in fact have non-instrumental value, due to their irreplaceable, constitutive role in fully flourishing human life.” A “closely analogous” relationship is human friendship. We do not value friends instrumentally but because “friends are fundamental non-instrumental goods in human lives, due to their irreplaceable role in fully flourishing human life” (p. 329). This relationship is not pragmatic, nor does it need to posit intrinsic value in nature. Fitzpatrick is in philosophy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA.

Foot, Philippa, *Natural Goodness*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001. “‘Natural’ goodness, as I define it, which is attributable only to living things themselves and to their parts, characteristics, and operations, is intrinsic or ‘autonomous’ goodness in that it depends directly on the relation of an individual to the ‘life form’ of its species. On barren Mars there is no natural goodness” (p. 27). “The central feature of my own account is that it will set the evaluation of human action in the wider contexts not only of the evaluation of other features of human life but also of evaluative judgments of the characteristics and operations of other living things” (p. 25).

“I am therefore, quite seriously, likening the basis of moral evaluation to that of the evaluation of behavior in animals. I should stress, however, that it is important not to underestimate the degree to which human communication and reasoning change the scene. The goods that hang on human cooperation, and hang too on such things as respect for truth, art, and scholarship, are much more diverse and much harder to delineate than are animal goods. Animals are different also from us in that to do what they should do--what is needed and is within their capacity--they do not have to understand what is going on; whereas a human being can and should understand that, and why, there is a reason for, say, keeping a promise or behaving fairly” (p. 16). Foot is in philosophy, Oxford University.

Ford, Gary D., “Love of the Lowcountry,” *Southern Living* October 2005, pp. 128-133. The Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto basin (ACE) in lowcountry South Carolina between Beaufort and Charleston, and the work of the ACE Task Force, preserving and managing a blend of deep forests, spartina grasses, tidal rivers, and fields, old rice dikes, old homes and homesites, and rural countryside, resulting in a treasured mix of nature and culture. A much loved and lightly used landscape. The ACE
lovers/managers delight in pointing out that their landscape is not pristine but abundantly natural.


--Gagneux, Pascal, James J. Moore and Ajit Varki, “The Ethics of Research on Great Apes,” *Nature* 437 (1 Sept. 2005):27-29. Deals with captive great apes, and is often provisional and exploratory. But the authors do hold that there should be no effort to make germline genetic modifications in great apes (no transgenic apes), that research should benefit the apes as well as humans, that apes should be maintained in groups that respect existing social bonds, that there should be no euthanasia as a means of population control, and that humans should intervene for the control of aggressive behavior within or between ape groups. They do not think great apes now in captivity can, or should, be returned to the wild.

--Gans, Jason, Murray Wolinsky, and John Dunbar, “Computational Improvements Reveal Great Bacterial Diversity and High Metal Toxicity in Soil,” *Science* 309 (26 August 2005):1387-1390. The complexity of soil bacterial communities has so far eluded effective measurement. There are more than 1016 procaryotes in a ton of soil compared to a mere 1011 stars in our galaxy. These authors use a computer projection to infer that the complexity is staggering. They also find, alas, that toxic metal pollution reduces this diversity by 99.9%, especially eliminating the rare taxa. The authors are in the bioscience division, Los Alamos National Laboratory.


Quality and Sustainability of Life Issues. A subsection in print and on disk is “Protecting the Environment Due to its Inherent Moral Value.”


--Gramling, Carolyn, “Proposed Fisheries Bill Falls Short, Critics Say,” Science 309 (30 September 2005):2146-2147. Proposed legislation seeks to reauthorize the 1976 Magnusen-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, but critics say it falls far short of the overhaul of the U.S. oceans policy called for by two U.S. commissions. Critics say the bill looks good on the surface but actually masks its own inadequacies, so that what is in fact a setback “will be spun and sold as if this is an improvement.” For example the existing mandate requires overfished species to be off limits for ten years, but the new bill has only a two year relaxation period.


--Hansson, L. “Why ecology fails at application: Should we consider variability more than regularity?” Oikos 100 (3)(2003), 624-627. “There is a wide consensus even among ecologists that ecology as a science has not lived up to the expectations and that it is not able to either provide coercive basic theories nor good solutions to pressing environmental problems.”


--Hauser, Marc, “Our Chimpanzee Mind,” Nature 437 (1 Sept. 2005):60-63. Hauser argues that there is continuity between our human mind and the chimpanzee mind; he simultaneously concedes “we are virtually in the dark when it comes to understanding how genes build minds.” He also thinks that there is language in the human mind but not in the chimp mind.


--Heyd, Thomas,ed., Recognizing the Autonomy of Nature : Theory and Practice. Columbia University Press, 2005. How do the ways in which we think about and describe nature shape the use and protection of the environment? Do our seemingly well-intentioned efforts in environmental conservation reflect a respect for nature or our desire to control nature's wildness? The contributors to this collection address these and other questions as they explore the theoretical and practical implications of a crucial aspect of environmental philosophy and policy-the autonomy of nature. In focusing on the recognition and meaning of nature's autonomy and linking issues of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and policy, the essays provide a variety of new perspectives on human relationships to nature. Heyd teaches philosophy at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. [from amazon.com book page].

--Hill, Marquita K., Understanding Environmental Pollution, 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004. With particular attention to persistent and bioaccumulative pesticides and herbicides, also with emphasis on global pollution. Hill is a biologist (emeritus) at the University of Maine.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to reduce required emissions reports to every other year and to allow more facilities to submit less information. Every year at present, as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, EPA amasses a Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and makes it public. The proposed change is to do this every other year and also to provide smaller amounts of information particularly for facilities that handle or release smaller amounts of toxics. The change is advocated as a paperwork burden reduction. The two major chemical manufacturing trade groups are backing the change. DuPont meanwhile says they will continue to compile and release data annually, whatever the EPA requirement, because they are committed to transparency. TRI reports have been required since 1989 and during that period chemical producers have cut their releases 65%. One reason environmentalists are concerned is that it makes tracking trends more difficult. Trends typically require three or more sets of data, and this would double the time required to document a trend. Currently a facility can use a short form of reporting if they release less than 500 pounds a year of chemicals, with the exception of PBT substances (lead, mercury, dioxins, and polychlorinated biphenyls). EPA is proposing to raise that threshold to less than 5,000 pounds a year.

Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki has announced that Amboseli National Park, one of the nation's prime wildlife reserves, will be turned over to local Maasai control, removing it from the Kenyan Wildlife Service, which has run the park since 1974. Conservation groups, along with David Western, former Kenyan Wildlife Service director, say the move is political, to curry favor with the Maasai people, but that it will result in destruction of the park. Amboseli's elephants number about 1,400, and already the Maasai have moved 15,000 cattle to graze in the park. The Park has been the most remunerative in Kenya, bringing in $ 3.4 million from tourism last year. But recent tourists are already saying that they didn't come to Kenya to see cattle.


On Virtue Ethics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. With a section on “Evaluating Plants and Animals” (pp. 197-204). We evaluate plants and animals on how well they do what they are capable of doing in their forms of life, with more advanced capacities in animals than in plants, and more advanced capacities in some animals than others. “The truth of such evaluations of living things does not depend on any way on my wants, interests, or values, nor indeed on ‘ours’. They are, in the most straightforward sense of the term, ‘objective’; indeed, given that botany, zoology, ethology, etc., are sciences, they are scientific.” When we evaluate such organisms, it is a mistake “to think that they necessarily have something to do with approval or praise” (pp. 202-203). “The overall summing up evaluation—that this x is a good specimen of its kind—identifies it as an x that is as ordinarily well fitted or endowed as an x can be to do or live well, to thrive or flourish (in a characteristically x way). What living things do is live; quite generally, a good living thing lives well—unless prevented by something outside itself” (p. 205). Hursthouse is in philosophy at the Open University, UK.


Interpretation, Activity Participation, and Environmental Attitudes of Visitors to Penguin Island, Western Australia,” Society and Natural Resources 18 (no. 7, August 2005): 611-624.

When Cleaner Air is a Biblical Obligation,” New York Times, November 7, 2005. The National Association of Evangelicals, representing 45,000 churches serving 30 million people across the U.S., is circulating among its leaders a draft of a policy statement encouraging lawmakers to pass legislation creating mandatory controls for carbon emissions. A major obstacle to any measure addressing global warming is Sen James M. Inhofe, and OK Republican who is chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and an evangelical himself. He has called global warming “the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people.” He said the NAE had been “led down a liberal path” by environmentalists.

Vulnerability of Northern Prairie Wetlands to Climate Change,” Bioscience 55 (no. 10, October 2005): 863-872. The prairie pothole region (PPR) lies in the heart of North America and contains millions of glacially formed, depressional wetlands embedded in a matrix of natural grassland and agriculture. These wetlands provide valuable ecosystem services and produce 50 to 80 of the continent's ducks. The most productive habitat for breeding waterfowl would shift under a drier climate from the center of the PPR (Dakotas and southeastern
Saskatchewan) to the wetter eastern and northern fringes, areas currently less productive or where most wetlands have been drained. Unless these wetlands are protected and restored, there is little insurance for waterfowl against future warming.

--Kellert, Stephen, *Building for Life: Designing and Understanding the Human-Nature Connection*. Washington: Island Press, 2005. Sustainable and restorative design will minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment and also will enhance human health and well being by fostering positive contact between people and nature in the built environment. Interaction with nature is critically important to human well-being and development. But contemporary society has become confused about the role of the natural environment in human physical and mental lives and has tended to impoverish this connection especially in the urban built environment. The scale and character of the modern environment has compromised and diminished the relation between people and the natural world. This is more of a design failure than an intrinsic flaw of contemporary life. Kellert is in social ecology at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

--Kintisch, Eli, “Court Tightens Rules on Gene Tags,” *Science* 309 (16 Sept, 2005):1797-1799. In a new court ruling, researchers cannot patent DNA strands that bind genes whose function is unknown. The ruling involved Monsanto research on strings of corn DNA. It involved patents for gene-grabbing tools called expressed sequence tags (ESTs). The court thinks patentable innovations ought to be “useful,” and not just “tools along the way.” Generally, the ruling frees researchers to do more research without worries about patents, and argues that to be patentable an invention must have both a “significant and presently available [and] well defined” benefit.

--Kitcher, Philip, “Responsible Biology,” *BioScience* 54 (no. 4, 2004):331-336. Responsible biologists reflect on the ends of their research and they ought to work toward an ideal of well-ordered science understood in a global and democratic fashion. In particular this means more research on ecological issues, such as environmental degradation in tropical forests. Even more serious is shifting the proportions of medical research toward global health for poorer nations. At present only 10% of the world's scientific resources are spent on the diseases that afflict 90% of Earth's population. This is not well-ordered science. Kitcher is in philosophy, Columbia University.


--Kohler, J., et al., “New Amphibians and Global Conservation: A Boost in Species Discoveries in a Highly Endangered Vertebrate Group,” *Bioscience* 55 (no. 8, August 2005): 693-696. Amphibians are characterized both by a strongly increasing number of newly discovered species and by a high degree of decline. The observed increase in
species numbers, over 25 percent in 11 years, is largely due to the intensified 
exploration of tropical areas and the application of more efficient techniques such as 
bioacoustics and molecular genetics, rather than to the elevation of subspecies to 
species rank or the distinction of species that were formerly considered synonymous. 
In the mantellid frogs of Madagascar, the many species newly described between 1992 
and 2004 were as genetically divergent as those described in previous research 
periods, and most had not been collected previously, corroborating the lack of 
“taxonomic inflation” in this vertebrate class. Taxonomic exploration is still desperately 
needed to avoid misinterpretations in global conservation policy.

--Lazdinis, M. e. a., “Forest Sector Concerns in the Baltic States: Implications for an 
Expanded European Union,” Society and Natural Resources 18 (no. 9, October 2005): 
839-848.

of Forestry 103 (no. 5, July/August 2005): 259-263.

Perceptions of Landscapes and Forest Management,” Society and Natural Resources 

Environmental Consequences,” Bioscience 55 (no. 8, August 2005): 669-678. Within 
the next few years, many types of transgenic rice (Oryza sativa) will be ready for 
commercialization, including varieties with higher yields, greater tolerance of biotic and 
abiotic stresses, resistance to herbicides, improved nutritional quality, and novel 
pharmaceutical proteins. Although rice is primarily self pollinating, its transgenes are 
expected to disperse to nearby weedy and wild relatives through pollen mediated gene 
flow. Sexually compatible Oryza species often co occur with the crop, especially in 
tropical countries, but little is known about how quickly fitness enhancing transgenes 
will accumulate in these populations and whether this process will have any unwanted 
environmental consequences. For example, weedy rice could become much more 
difficult to manage if it acquires herbicide resistance, produces more seeds, or occurs 
in a wider range of habitats because of the spread of certain transgenes. Rice growing 
countries urgently need publicly available ecological assessments of the risks and 
benefits of transgenic rice before new varieties are released.

August 2005):1168-1171. The threat of global warming and high fossil fuel prices have 
inspired talk of a revival of nuclear power, but skeptics say it is a poor investment and 
and a worse security risk. Nuclear is pollution free with regard to carbon dioxide, but is
pollution laden with regard to disposal of nuclear wastes. Nor is it clear that it is any cheaper. Several related stories in the same issue.


--McConkey, Edwin H. and Ajit Varki, “Thoughts on the Future of Great Ape Research,” *Science* 309 (2 Sept. 2005):1499-1501. After the sequencing of both the human and the chimpanzee genomes, “can we now provide a DNA-based answer to the fascinating question, 'What makes us human?' Not at all! Comparison of the human and chimpanzee genomes has not yet offered any major insights into the genetic elements that underlie bipedal locomotion, a big brain, linguistic abilities, elaborated abstract thought, or any other unique aspect of the human phenome.” Some of that may be forthcoming; some may be long out of reach. McConkey is in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, University of Colorado, Boulder.


--Motavalli, Jim, “Coming: 95% Recyclable Cars,” *New York Times*, Sept. 19, 2005. [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/19/automobiles/19CARS.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/19/automobiles/19CARS.html). The European Union, in a mandate known as the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive, will require 85% of a car's materials, by weight, to be recovered and reused. In 2007, networks set up by carmakers in the European Union must be ready to accept all scrap vehicles, regardless of age, at no cost to the car's last owner. In 2015, the portion of each vehicle that should be recycled increases to 95%. The 2007 Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan already complies with the 2015 regulation. Honda Motors Europe is planning how to take back, over the next few years, over half a million vehicles. The U.S. has such recycling nowhere on its agenda, relying largely on voluntary compliance, market-based approaches, disliking “command and control” solutions, also claiming to have amply landfill space, unlike Europe.

--Nagy, Kelsi, *Values in Action: A Philosophic Analysis of Moral Motivation in Two Classics of Environmental Literature*. M.A. Thesis, Colorado State University, Fall 2005. Neither Kant's ethics nor utilitarianism gives a convincing account of how people are motivated to act as moral agents. Environmental literature is often a more successful way to motivate people to accept the environment as an object of moral concern. This thesis analyzes Thoreau's Walden and Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, using Harry G. Frankfurt's theory that a free action requires that a person engage in reflection, choose which value she wants, then is effectively motivated by
the freely chosen value. Thoreau and Leopold use literature to engage the reader into reflection on values, specifically those economic and scientific values that have an effect upon our actions toward the environment. Narrative discourse can lead people to reflect on values that effectively motivates action in a way that, while different than philosophic argumentation, may be an equally important discourse for moral motivation. The advisor was Holmes Rolston.

--Naskrecki, Piotr, The Smaller Majority: The Hidden World of the Animals that Dominate the Tropics. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. The “non-charismatic” megafauna of tropic ecosystems, though most of the species would fit in a matchbox. Many, though photographed here, are unidentified or undescribed. The author hopes that the volume will help the public appreciate the beauty and importance of small animals, a first step toward their conservation.


--Neilson, R. P., et al., “Forecasting Regional to Global Plant Migration in Response to Climate Change,” Bioscience 55 (no.9, September 2005): 749-760. The rate of future climate change is likely to exceed the migration rates of most plant species. The replacement of dominant species by locally rare species may require decades, and extinctions may occur when plant species cannot migrate fast enough to escape the consequences of climate change. Such lags may impair ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration and clean water production. Thus, to assess global change, simulation of plant migration and local vegetation change by dynamic global vegetation models is critical, yet fraught with challenges.


--Odell, J., Mather, M. E. and Muth, R. M., “A Biosocial Approach for Analyzing Environmental Conflicts: A Case Study of Horseshoe Crab Allocation,” Bioscience 55 (no. 9, September 2005): 735-748. Ambiguous legislation, insufficient science, jurisdictional disputes, and conflicting values of stakeholders have contributed to the increasing frequency of natural resource conflicts. The allocation of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay and Cape Cod Bay can serve as a model system for understanding resource conflicts, because relationships among biophysical and human systems in
this example typify many environmental controversies. Herein, we use an interaction web to build a conceptual framework for identifying potential conflicts. Specifically, we identify four subconflicts involving horseshoe crabs, human shellfishers, commercial fishers, the biomedical industry, birdwatchers, and environmental interest groups. Stakeholders hold different attitudes concerning the horseshoe crab and thus advocate competing policy preferences in the political process. An important step in understanding environmental conflicts is to clarify differences in social meanings, attitudes, and values. The integrated approach described here, by depicting and graphically displaying biosocial relationships, can provide a generalized approach for understanding a broad range of environmental conflicts.


--Peterson, C. H. and Bishop, M. J., “Assessing the Environmental Impacts of Beach Nourishment,” Bioscience 55 (no. 10, October 2005): 887-896. With sea levels rising under global warming, dredge and fill programs are increasingly employed to protect coastal development from shoreline erosion. Such beach “nourishment” can bury shallow reefs and degrade other beach habitats, depressing nesting in sea turtles and reducing the densities of invertebrate prey for shorebirds, surf fishes, and crabs. Despite decades of agency mandated monitoring at great expense, much uncertainty about the biological impacts of beach nourishment nonetheless exists. Monitoring results are rarely used to scale mitigation to compensate for injured resources. Reform of agency practices is urgently needed as the risk of cumulative impacts grows.


--Pierce, Jessica, Jameton, Andrew, The Ethics of Environmentally Responsible Health Care Oxford University Press, 2004. Pierce is in the Philosophy Department at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Jameton is in the Department of Preventive and Societal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.


--Pringle, R. M., “The Origins of the Nile Perch in Lake Victoria,” *Bioscience* 55 (no.9, September 2005): 780-788. The ways in which economic, social, and political forces lead to species introductions are an important, if overlooked, aspect of ecology and conservation. The nonnative Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*) in Lake Victoria, and the ecological changes associated with the species' establishment and expansion there, has elicited tremendous attention from biologists. Yet it has never been clear why, when, or by whom the fish was introduced. Here I outline the history of fishery research and management in East Africa and explore the circumstances that led to the introduction of the Nile perch. The evidence suggests that repeated secretive introductions were made in the mid 1950s by members of the Uganda Game and Fisheries Department as part of a bifurcated effort to improve sport fishing on the one hand and to bolster fisheries on the other. Fisheries scientists affiliated with the East African Fisheries Research Organization opposed the introduction, but were ineffective; I suggest that this failure stemmed partially from their inability to engage effectively with political processes.


--Revkin, Andrew C., “No Escape: Thaw Gains Momentum,” *New York Times*, October 25, 2005. All the computer modeling predicts sea-ice will largely disappear under
global warming by 2050, though some models predict this can be with erratic warming and cooling in some regions. Melting of the Greenland ice cap has become a major concern. Although the ice cap has grown a little thicker, due to recent increase in snowfall, the edges of the icecap are melting faster, with net loss. That ice cap contains as much water as is in the Gulf of Mexico, and melting would raise sea levels worldwide more than twenty feet.

---Revkin, Andrew C., “China Is Bright Spot in Dark Report on the World's Diminishing Forests,” New York Times, November 15, 2005. Widespread tree planting in China has slowed the rate at which the Earth's forested area is dwindling, but the clearing of tropical forests, much of it in areas never previously cut, continues to grow, according to a new United Nations Report. The study is published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and is online at: fao.org/forestry. China's new forest policy has resulted in a turnaround, from a loss of about 3,000 square miles of forest a year in the 1990's to a gain of about 4,000 square miles annually since 2000. See also Global Forest Watch: globalforestwatch.org.


---Robbins, Jim, “Hunting Habits of Wolves Change Ecological Balance in Yellowstone,” New York Times, October 18, 2005. Wolves have been back in the park for ten years, and this “apex predator” has caused “a trophic cascade.” Elk are fewer and more wary, and feed more in the open, less in willow thickets, or among the cottonwoods and aspens, which have bounced back. There are fewer coyotes, but this means more foxes, more mice. Also from the leftover wolf kills, there is more food for other carnivores and scavengers. Alas, however, a big fear is from people, or, more accurately, from people's dogs, from which the wolves catch parvovirus. That has been killing 60-70 percent of the wolf pups. See also Smith, Douglas W., and Gary Ferguson, Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone.


--Singer, Peter, “Rights and Wrongs,” interview by Erika Check, *Nature* 437 (1 Sept. 2005):21, in a section “What the Chimp Means to Me,” accompanying an issue announcing the sequencing of the chimpanzee genome. One of four who so reflect there. With half a dozen other related articles. Singer advocates (with the Great Ape Project) three “human” rights also to be granted to apes, the right to life, to liberty, and to protection from torture. (Singer, a utilitarian, seems to use “rights” language here more freely than elsewhere.) He also thinks that our human respect for life is not based on our genetic similarity with them. “I don't think that knowing which genes chimps share with us actually determines anything about their moral status in any meaningful way.” Gary Marcus, in another interview, insists that there be great respect for chimps, but not under the pretense that they have language. “Chimpanzees may be many things, but linguists they are not.”


--Stokstad, Eric, “What's Wrong With the Endangered Species Act?” Science 309 (30 September 2005):2150-2152. Mainly the claim that it has not worked very well, owing to growing backlog of candidate species and lack of effective designation of critical habitat, with much of the slow-down from lack of funding owing to congressional lack of support, owing in turn to pressures from developers.

--Stokstad, Erik, “House Revises Endangered Species Act,” Science 310 (7 October 2005):32. The U.S. House passed a revised Endangered Species Act, hustled through the House Resources Committee in just four days by Richard Pombo, longtime critic of the Act and chair of that committee. The bill passed the House 229-193. The revised Act eliminates critical habitat provisions, requires that FWS evaluate proposals in 180 days or else proposals get an automatic green light, and that if land is preserved unaltered for species protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must compensate owners, without providing any additional money to do so. The U.S. Senate is unlikely to work on a companion bill until spring 2006, and likely to make more moderate changes to the Act.

--Stokstad, Erik, “‘Genetic Rescue’ Helps Panthers but Puts Researchers on the Spot,” Science 309 (19 August 2005):1162. In 1995 researchers transplanted eight female panthers from Texas to south Florida in a last-ditch effort to reverse the troubling effects of inbreeding in the small population of surviving Florida cats. Stuart Pimm and a team of biologists have analyzed a decade of data (54 offspring from the eight females, mating with Florida males; 118 offspring from purebred Florida kittens) and conclude that the survival rate of the “hybrid” offspring is three times greater, especially for females. But some Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission researchers complain that the analysis is premature.

--Stokstad, Erik, “Louisiana's Wetlands Struggle for Survival,” Science 310 (25 November 2005):1264-1266. More than 600 square kilometers of wetlands in the area have disappeared in the last decade along. After hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a new appreciation of the role of wetlands in flood prevention, ecologists hope their large-scale plants will be implemented. The past 40 years wetlands decline have increased storm surges 2.4-3 meters, although it is not likely that wetland restoration would have been enough to reduce the Katrina storm surge enough to prevent
breaching the dikes. Another problem is that now such wetlands have to be artificially maintained, which is fragile and expensive.


--Tear, T. H. E. A., “How Much Is Enough? The Recurrent Problem of Setting Measurable Objectives in Conservation,” Bioscience 55 (no. 10, October 2005): 835-849. International agreements, environmental laws, resource management agencies, and environmental nongovernmental organizations all establish objectives that define what they hope to accomplish. Unfortunately, quantitative objectives in conservation are typically set without consistency and scientific rigor. As a result, conservationists are failing to provide credible answers to the question “How much is enough?” This is a serious problem because objectives profoundly shape where and how limited conservation resources are spent, and help to create a shared vision for the future.


--VanDyke (Van Dyke), Fred, “Between Heaven and Earth-Evangelical Engagement in Conservation.” Conservation Biology 19 (no. 6, 2005), 1693-1696.

--Wallington, Tabatha J. and Susan A. Moore, “Ecology, Values, and Objectivity: Advancing the Debate,” BioScience 55 (2005):873-878. The authors used a Delphi-based study of the role of values and their interpretations of ecological science in eight well-known ecologists. This involves several rounds of anonymous exchange of views looking at how empirical data is viewed differently depending on larger scientific and
social contexts. Wellington is in social science, University of Queensland, Moore in environmental science, Murdoch University, Australia.

--Warner, Melanie, “California Wants to Serve a Warning With Fries,” New York Times, Sept. 21, 2005. The California attorney general filed suit against McDonalds, Burger King, and Frito-Lay, saying that they should be forced to put labels on all fries and chips warning of danger to health. French fries are the most consumed food in restaurants, soaked with trans fats, loaded with sodium and full of simple carbs, the bad kind. They are also full of a chemical called acrylamide, known to cause cancer in rats and mice--but not known to cause cancer in humans at the levels in French Fries. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) opposes the labeling on grounds that its investigation of the issue is incomplete.


--Whitfield, John, “Biogeography: Is Everything Everywhere?” Science 310 (11 November 2005):960-961. Microbiologists have long thought that the same microbes are everywhere. “There is no biogeography for anything smaller than 1 millimeter” (Bland Finlay), partially because the microbes and spores are blown transcontinentally in the wind, partially because these can long lie dormant. But other microbiologists are now finding that some microbes are locally specific. One problem is that the species question is not well defined at the microbe level. Many assign microbes to different species only if their DNA is less than 97% identical, but the same criteria would put all primates from lemurs to humans in one species.

--Whitten, Andrew, “The Second Inheritance System of Chimpanzees and Humans,” Nature 437 (1 Sept. 2005):52-55. “When we focus our comparative lens on culture, the evidence is all around us that a gulf separates humans from all other animals. Nevertheless, recent studies of great apes suggest that they resemble us culturally to an extent unmatched by other species” (p. 52) Some prefer to use “traditions” for behavior that animals acquire by imitation, present in many vertebrate species, such as birds, maybe even in invertebrates. But chimp groups can have an array of multiple and specific traditions that can be called “culture.” “Ape culture may be particularly complex among non-human animals, yet it clearly falls short of human culture. An influential contemporary view is that the key difference lies in the human capacity for cumulative culture, whereby the achievements of successive generations have built on previous developments to create complex structure such as languages and technologies. Chimpanzees have accumulated many traditions, but each remains sufficiently simple that there is little scope for it to have developed significant
complexity compared to its original form.” (p. 53). Whitten is in psychology, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.


--Zimmer, Carl, “In Give and Take of Evolution: A Surprising Contribution from Islands,” New York Times, November 22, 2005. Islands have typically been thought to be dead ends in evolution, but studies now suggest they can at other times be sources from which continents are re-stocked. They are also places where rapid speciation occurs, often because of isolation and specialized environments. This makes islands more important to conserve as reservoirs of biodiversity.


NEWS AND ISSUES

Katrina and global warming. National Climate Data Center provides an overview of the global warming problem: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ca/climate/globalwarmingl.html. A starting place to learn about connections between hurricane intensity and global warming is: www.realclimate.org. An introductory essay is there, also a thread of discussion among meteorologists. An analysis by five climate scientists concludes: “The available scientific evidence indicates that it is likely that global warming will make—and possibly already is making—those hurricanes that form more destructive than they otherwise would have been.” There is also discussion of a more skeptical essay to be published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, agreeing that global warming will make hurricanes more severe but suggesting that the impact will be modest, adding only 1 to 10 miles per hour to a hurricane's wind speed. But one summary of 1,200 simulations published in the Journal of Climate last year showed that rising levels of greenhouse gases could triple the number of Category 5 hurricanes. There is empirical evidence that hurricanes have already become more
intense, but not more frequent. Kerry Emanuel, a hurricane expert at M.I.T., indicates that by one measure hurricanes have almost doubled in intensity over the last 30 years. This reflects natural cycles as well. But Emanuel concludes: “The large upswing in the last decade is unprecedented, and probably reflects the effect of global warming.” He adds: “My results suggest that future warming may lead to ... a substantial increase in hurricane-related losses in the 21st century.” “Increasing Destructiveness of Tropical Cyclones Over the Past 30 Years,” Nature, 4 August 2005. Webeter, P. J., et al., “Changes in Tropical Cyclone Number, Duration, and Intensity in a Warming Environment,” Science 309(16 September 2005):1844-1846. Time magazine cover story, October 3, 2005, is on this issue, “Are We Making Hurricanes Worse?"

**Duke Energy Pledges $2.5 Million for Climate Change Research.** North-Carolina based Duke Energy has pledged $2.5 million to Duke University to support the Climate Change Policy Partnership, a new industry-university collaboration that will develop policies to address the problems of global climate change. Researchers will assess the environmental and economic costs and benefits of federal policy options for addressing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. These policies include market-based cap-and-trade programs and a nationwide tax on the carbon content of fossil fuels. Researchers at the Center on Global Change will assess the potential for using carbon sequestration to store atmospheric carbon dioxide in forests, soils or underground reservoirs. The grant will fund more than 30 Duke Energy Research Fellowships for graduate students from Duke and other North Carolina universities to work with researchers on these projects. Contact: Tim Lucas, Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University. tdlucas@duke.edu.

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