



Nature and Environmental Writers –
College and University Educators
927 Fifteenth Street, NW, Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
(845) 398-4247



Photograph by Norman Driscoll, 1951
Courtesy of the Rachel Carson History Project

*The First Annual
Writers' Conference and Workshop
in honor of Rachel Carson*

**The Spruce Point Inn
Boothbay Harbor, Maine
June 12 – 15, 2001**



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Wednesday

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001

- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Registration The Spruce Point Inn - Library
6:00 Lobster Bake – deck of The Spruce Point Inn
Guest of Honor – Kate Barnes, Poet Laureate of Maine (1996-1999)
7:30 Gioia Timpanelli, featured speaker – The Linekin Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001

Morning sessions:

- 7:30 Breakfast The Spruce Point Inn – Linekin Room
8:00 Bruce Hiscock – featured speaker
9:15 – noon Break-out Sessions
Session A
Sustainability Workshop – Susan Santone, leader
Session B
Poetry – Bernie Quetchenbach, leader
- George Handley, “Returning,” and other poems
- Gary Lawless, “For Those Who Would Compromise the Forest,” and other poems
- Mary Mercier, “The Silence of Morning,” and other poems
Session C
Non-fiction, essay – Kent Ryden, leader
- Joshua Brown, “As I Work on My Computer, A Few Words of Gratitude for Wendell Berry”
- Patricia A. Daniel, “Commuters”
- Lily Fessenden, “Subversion & the Suburban Lawn”
- Sydney Landon Plum, “Two Geese and a Duck on a Pond in Winter”
- Susan Schmidt, “Litmus”
Session D
Non-fiction, research – Owen Grumbling, leader
- Christoph Irmscher, “Inventing John James Audubon,” from The Poetics of Natural History
- James McKusick, “Rachel Carson and Literary Tradition”
- Debra Robbins, “The Landscape of Creativity: Nature, Art and the Writings of May Sarton and Henry Beston”
- Lisa Sideris, “The Ecological Body: Scientific Realism and Moral Humility in Rachel Carson’s Writings”
- Erika Waters, “Subtle and Submarine : Derek Walcott and the Sea”
11:30 – 12:30 Box lunch – pick up in Spruce Point Inn library



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday and Thursday

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001

Afternoon sessions:

- 12:15 – 12:45 box lunch session with poets William Meredith and Richard Harteis
1:30 – (grounds of Spruce Point Inn)– Nature illustration – Bruce Hiscock
1:30 – Tide Pool Exploration – Michael Dunnington, marine biologist, Bigelow Laboratory
for Ocean Sciences (sponsor)
1:30 – Nature Hike with guide, Wolf Schumann, in Oven’s Mouth Preserve (part of Rachel
Carson Greenway) - Boothbay Region Land Trust (sponsor)
4:00 – Spruce Point Inn (Linekin Room) - Milkweed Editions Book Launch for Peri Phillips
McQuay’s new book, A Wing in the Door: Life with a Red-tailed Hawk

Evening session:

- 6:30 Keynote Dinner - The Newagen Inn, Southport Island
Linda Lear, Keynote Speaker

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001

Morning sessions:

- 7:30 Breakfast The Spruce Point Inn – Linekin Room
8:00 Tom Horton– featured speaker
9:15 – noon Break-out Sessions
Session A
Environmental Autobiography Workshop – Steven J. Holmes
Session B
Poetry and Lyric Prose – Gary Lawless, leader
- Dorian Brooks, “Rachel Carson,” and other poems
- Kurt Caswell, “*Chado: the Way of Tea*”
- Hal Ober, “Nature and Me”
Session C
Non-fiction, essay – Marnie Sullivan, leader
- Walter Christie, “The View from Fisherman’s Island”
- Cheryl Daigle, “Untitled (River Essay)”
- Nancy Hunt, “Pilgrimage of the Lemmings”
- Lucy Laffitte, “Laden with Lichens”

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday and Friday

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001

Morning sessions: (continued)

Session D

- Fiction – Donna Mendelson, leader
- Ralph Allen, excerpts from “Lessons of the Bay”
 - Margaret Huber, “The Storyteller in Nature”
 - Martin Murie, excerpt from Burt’s Way

11:30 – 12:30 Box lunch – pick up in Spruce Point Inn library

Afternoon sessions:

1:30 – Photography workshop – The Chewonki Foundation (sponsor), Wiscasset
Will Richard, leader

1:30 – Nature Hike in Porter’s Preserve, part of the Rachel Carson Greenway,
with Wolf Schumann –Boothbay Region Land Trust (sponsor)

2:00 – Spruce Point Inn (Linekin Room) The Green Mantle (TM) Program sponsored by
The Rachel Carson Council, featuring Michael Talbot

Evening session:

Dinner on your own

8:00 Nature Photography – Slide Presentation, Spruce Point Inn – Linekin Room
Will Richard – Nature Photographer and Registered Maine Guide
(dessert and beverages will be available)

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2001

Morning sessions:

7:30 Breakfast The Spruce Point Inn – Linekin Room

8:00 Barbara Ras– featured speaker

9:15 – noon Break-out Sessions

Session A

Publishers’ Round Table

- Barbara Ras – University of Georgia Press

- Joshua Brown – Wild Earth Journal

- Hal Ober – Houghton Mifflin

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2001

Morning sessions: (continued)

Session B

Poetry – Mitch LesCarbeau, leader

- Rema Boscov, “After the Grapes,” and other poems
- Howard Horowitz, “Endangered Species,” and other poems
- Howard Nelson, “Earth My Likeness,” a selection of poems

Session C

Non-fiction, essay – Sydney Landon Plum, leader

- Margaret Martin, “The Natural Science of Life: An Appreciation”
- Amy Metnick, “Grandmother: Rooting for the Muse”
- L.A. Norman, “A Line of Trees”

Session D

Non-fiction, research – Diana Post, leader

- Lindsey Berkson, Hormone Deception (excerpts)
- Carol Burdick, “untitled”
- John Moring, “Human Threats to the Intertidal Zone”
- Tina Richardson, “Corresponding Realities: The Letters of Rachel Carson and George Crile, Jr.”

Nature and Environmental Writers – College and University Educators

NEW-CUE, Inc. is a non-profit, environmental education organization founded primarily to assist writers and educators who are dedicated to enhancing public awareness of environmental issues.

Nature and Environmental Writers -
College and University Educators (NEW-CUE)
<http://www.new-cue.org>



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Bruce Hiscock is the author/illustrator of a number of children's books, most notably the non-fiction series The Big Rock, The Big Tree, The Big Storm, and The Big Rivers – all of which received the Outstanding Science Trade Book award by the Children's Book Council. Two of his books have been included on the John Burrough's Children's Book Award List. Hiscock was also the poster artist for the 1997 New York State Summer Reading Program, "Go Wild! Read . . ." Hiscock devotes himself full-time to offering programs for schools, libraries and conferences, encouraging children and adults to write, draw, and investigate the natural world around them.

Tom Horton is a former environmental correspondent for The Baltimore Sun and senior writer for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for environmental literature for his book, Bay Country. His book, An Island Out of Time, is a portrait of the inhabitants of Smith Island in mid-Chesapeake Bay and home to 500 watermen and their families. Horton is a columnist for The Baltimore Sun and a freelance writer.

Linda Lear, (Keynote Speaker) biographer and historian, is Research Professor of Environmental History at George Washington University. She is the author of the acclaimed biography, Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature, (Holt, 1997, 1998), numerous articles on Carson and the politics of pesticides, and is the editor of the anthology, Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson (Beacon, 1998). Lear was historical consultant for the PBS/American Experience film Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. She has written the introduction to the new edition of The Sense of Wonder, the preface to the Penguin edition of Carson's The Edge of the Sea, and the afterward for their edition of Silent Spring. Lear's biography of Carson was awarded the prize for the best book on women in science by the history of Science Society in 1999, and has been optioned by Turner Television.

Barbara Ras is the recipient of the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets for her collection of poems, Bite Every Sorrow. In 1999, she received the Kate Tufts Discovery Award (1999), was nominated for the Southeastern Booksellers Association annual award in poetry, and was named Georgia Poet of the Year. Ras's poems have appeared in Boulevard, American Scholar, Orion, The Massachusetts Review, and other magazines. Ras has worked as an editor at many distinguished publishers, including North Point Press, Sierra Club Books, and the University of California Press, and for The University of Georgia Press where she is Assistant Director and Executive Editor.

Will Richard is an award winning nature photographer with a life-long interest in the forests, mountains and waters of northern New England and Canada. He strives for "clear seeing" through the highly selective compositional techniques of macrophotography. Dr. Richard is an instructor at the University of New England, and he is the author of Northeast's Changing Forests, and co-author of Tourism and Maine's Future: Toward Environmental, Economic and Community Sustainability. His photographs have appeared in Northern Woodlands, Appalachian Trailway News, Atlantic Coastal Kayaker, and the International Journal of Wilderness.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Gioia Timpanelli is considered by many to be the master of America's professional storytellers. The great granddaughter of a traditional Sicilian storyteller, Timpanelli was a founder of a revival in storytelling. She has told stories all over the country at conferences and workshops with Joseph Campbell, James Hillman, Robert Bly and Gary Snyder. Her PBS television series, Stories From My House, won two Emmy awards; and she received the Women's Book Award for her work with the oral tradition. She is the recipient of the 1999 American Book Award for her first book of fiction, Sometimes the Soul.

GUESTS OF HONOR

Kate Barnes is the author of Crossing the Field and Where the Deer Were, and her poems have been published in various poetry journals. Ms. Barnes was appointed the first Poet Laureate of Maine in 1996, and as Poet Laureate, she wrote the poem, "Echoes From the Land," about the state. Ms. Barnes is the daughter of Elizabeth Coatsworth and Henry Beston, author of The Outermost House.

Richard Harteis enjoys an international reputation as a gifted scholar and poet. In 1998 and 1999, he represented the United States at the 21st Annual French/English Poetry Festival in Paris, and at the 38th International Poetry Festival in Struga, Macedonia. In 2000, he was invited by the United States State Department to give lectures in contemporary American poetry and to read from his work in cities across India. Mr. Harteis's work can be found in Provence, Sapphire Dawn, Time Bomb, and The White Island as well as in a variety of national and international publications.

William Meredith won the Pulitzer Prize and the Los Angeles Times Book award in 1988. In addition, he has won three of Poetry's annual prizes and a grant from the Loines Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mr. Meredith is a Chancellor Emeritus of the Academy of American Poets, and from 1978 through 1980, he served as the Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress. His work is widely published, and in 1997, his collection of new and selected poems, Effort at Speech, won the National Book Award for Poetry. Mr. Meredith has taught at Princeton, the University of Hawaii, Middlebury College, Breadloaf, and Carnegie-Mellon University, but he has been primarily associated with Connecticut College since 1955.



WORKSHOP and SESSION LEADERS

Owen Grumbling is Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of New England, where he teaches nature literature and environmental policy. He co-authored/edited a major critical anthology, The Literature of Nature: The British and American Traditions, and contributed the chapter on “Literature” to the Island Press anthology, Greening the Curriculum: A Handbook for Environmental Education in the Liberal Arts. For nearly 20 years, Dr. Grumbling has served as chief conservation officer of Wells, Maine, and he has served on the Board of Directors of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the leading environmental advocacy group in the state, for more than a dozen years.

Steven J. Holmes is the author of The Young John Muir: An Environmental Biography for which he was awarded the Modern Language Association’s Prize for Independent Scholars for 2000. A John Muir scholar in the emerging field of environmental life writing, Dr. Holmes is the recipient of a number of honors and awards, including a Research Fellowship from the Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine and the Helen Choate Bell Prize from Harvard University. He is also the creator and moderator of an e-mail scholarly discussion list on environmental life writing.

Gary Lawless lives near the conference site, caretaking Chimney Farm, where Rachel Carson visited its owners, Henry Beston and Elizabeth Coatsworth. He is co-owner of Gulf of Maine Bookstore in Brunswick (Maine), and recently taught four semesters of creative writing and environmental literature at Bates College. Over the last year, he has given poetry readings in Italy, Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania. His latest collection of poems, Caribouddhism, was recently published in Italian, as Caribudismo, in Naples, Italy.

Mitchell LesCarbeau is a Professor of English at Green Mountain College where he was named College Teacher of the Year, 2001. His poems have been published in over 30 journals, and he is the recipient of the Grolier Prize and the Discovery/the Nation Award. Dr. LesCarbeau’s poems will appear in forthcoming issues of Carolina Quarterly, Poet Lore, The Amherst Review and The Baltimore Review.

Peri Phillips McQuay has written for Country Journal, Bird-Watcher’s Digest, and Brick. Her book, A Wing in the Door: Life with a Red-tailed Hawk tells of her extraordinary experiences with a two-year-old red-tailed hawk that was brought to her rural home in Westport, Ontario to be released back into the wild. The book is an inspiring, true story of adventure and growth, recording the difficulties and triumphs surrounding the survival of a human-imprinted hawk learning to live in freedom.



WORKSHOP and SESSION LEADERS

Donna Mendelson has taught English language and literature at the State University of New York at Binghamton for 11 years in such courses as Women and the Environment, Self and Place, Literary Rivers, and Writing Environments. Her scholarly and creative writing has been published in Petroglyph, Rendezvous, Northern Lights, The Concord Saunterer, Interdisciplinary Literary Studies, and ETC: A Review of General Semantics.

Sydney Landon Plum writes about the natural world and women's lives, and she has lived in the woods of New England for 22 years. She was the editor of Coming Through the Swamp: The Nature Writings of Gene Stratton Porter, and is at work on a series of essays about birds and women in imperfect environments. She is currently an adjunct with the English Department at the University of Connecticut.

Diana Post is the Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Council, headquartered in Silver Spring, MD. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Council has worked to clarify the dangers associated with the use of pesticides and to provide answers to the public about alternative pest control options. Executive Director since 1992, Dr. Post has led the Council in the compilation of data on the health and environmental effects of pesticides.

Bernard W. Quetchenbach is an assistant professor of English at Florida Southern College. His book, Back from the Far Field: American Nature Poetry in the Late Twentieth Century, was published by the University Press of Virginia. His poetry and articles have appeared in many journals.

Kent Ryden is an associate professor of American and New England studies at the University of Southern Maine. He holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University, and received the American Studies Association's Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize in 1991. He is the author of Mapping the Invisible Landscape: Folklore, Writing, and the Sense of Place (1993) and Landscape with Figures: Nature and Culture in New England, to be published this fall by the University of Iowa Press.

Susan Santone has developed innovative programming and curricula for sustainable development, economics, and diversity issues. Ms. Santone has contributed to a guidebook funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, and she is an invited participant at the "Rio + 10" Planning Conference (June 2001) in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2002. In her workshop, The Shape of Change, she will use allegory to explore ways in which ecosystems are linked to social and economic systems.

Marnie Sullivan began her career in science, minoring in chemistry, but then she moved on to pursue graduate work in literature. Rachel Carson is the subject of her dissertation work at Bowling Green State University. Ms. Sullivan is an activist promoting environmental, feminist and social issues, and she is the Deputy Director of the Midwest Energy Research Center, a research and education organization in Ohio.

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**“I pledge myself to preserve and protect
America’s fertile soils, her mighty forests
and rivers, her wildlife and minerals, for
on these her greatness was established
and her strength depends.” - Rachel L.
Carson**

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