Walk the Farm: Biodiversity at Stanford

On Saturday April 25, thirty one researchers, faculty, students and invited guests walked twenty one miles across Stanford-owned land to explore issues of biodiversity and habitat protection. David Kennedy, Richard White and Jon Christensen led this third annual walk as they have since Christensen and Kennedy developed the idea. The Center’s benefactors Bill and Jean Lane met the group for a lunch break (continued on page 2)

Lincoln and the West Conference

A two-day public discussion of Lincoln's legacy in the American West in honour of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. A crowd of nearly 600 people attended the keynote speaker Author James M. McPherson presented: “Lincoln, Slavery and the West.”

A standing room only crowd of 200 gathered in the Schwab Executive Center on campus as Bill Lane, the event sponsor, began with his observations: “Lincoln in California.” The program featured author and University of Colorado (continued on page 2) Professor...
**Bill Lane Center for the American West Special Events**

**Walk the Farm (continued)** at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and welcomed the group at the Stanford Horse Barn for a celebratory dinner. The group examined several species (some of them officially endangered) that inhabit Stanford lands, how the University works to accommodate them, and how these local matters are illustrative of region-wide issues concerning sustainable habitat.

Charles Carter and Larry Horton of the Office of Planning and Development offered excellent planning and support and they also walked with us for the entire route. The Walk began at Lake Lagunita with a talk by President Emeritus Donald Kennedy. Campus Biologist Alan Launer, Archivist Maggie Kimball, Jon Christensen and many others offered insights, research plans and anecdotes along the way. Walk the Farm offers a unique opportunity for members of our community to share experiences and goals literally “in the field” generating new opportunities for collaboration. Visit [http://woods.stanford.edu/ideas/waterwest.html](http://woods.stanford.edu/ideas/waterwest.html) for periodic updates on these events.

**Lincoln and the West (continued)** Patty Limerick. She offered a lively and often humorous lecture entitled: “Meanwhile Back in the West: What Lincoln wanted from the West, and What He Got.”

Huntington-USC History Professor William Deverell moderated a panel entitled “Lincoln’s War and Lincoln’s West: Ante, Bellum, and Post.” Author Glenna Matthews, and Michael Vouri, Chief of Interpretation and Historian for San Juan Island National Historical Park participated in a discussion that included an performance of Mr. Vouri’s historic reenactment. The day concluded with Historian; Elliott West, University of Arkansas: “Lincoln’s War, the West and the Remaking of America.”

For a complete summary of the day and links to the lectures on iTunes please visit: [http://west.stanford.edu/Lincoln%20and%20the%20West/indexPermLinW.html](http://west.stanford.edu/Lincoln%20and%20the%20West/indexPermLinW.html)

**An Uncommon Dialogue on Water in the West**

Water regimes in the American West, largely the products of 19th-century legal doctrines and 20th-century engineering, are rapidly becoming obsolete.

The Bill Lane Center and the Woods Institute collaborated to host two sessions of An Uncommon Dialogue on Water in the West. These meetings fostered collaborations between university researchers and water management, water users, and water policy decision makers leading to a policy-relevant, multidisciplinary research program appropriate for the next century of development. Visit [http://woods.stanford.edu/ideas/waterwest.html](http://woods.stanford.edu/ideas/waterwest.html) for periodic updates on these events.

**Donald Worster Visits Stanford Campus**

2008 Risser Prize Forum: “Climate Change Hits Home”
December 3, 2008, the Bill Lane Center for the American West and the James L. Knight Fellows Program awarded the third annual Risser Prize for Environmental Journalism to environmental journalist Anton Caputo of the San Antonio Express-News for his series on climate change in Texas. The event included a discussion panel featuring Will Travis, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Biologist Terry Root, senior fellow at Stanford’s Woods Institute for the Environment. James Risser presented Caputo with the prize. To read a complete article about the event visit: http://west.stanford.edu/news/climate_change_heralds_wildfires.html

2008-09 Research Colloquia: “How the West Was Spun”
Visiting Post-Doc Gregory Simon and Visiting Assistant Professor Peter Alagona organized a very dynamic series of talks this year.

“Beyond ‘Leave no Trace’: The Perils and Promise of an Outdoor Recreation Ethic”
Gregory Simon, Postdoctoral Fellow, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University

“Closing the Barn Door after the Horses Have Fled: ‘Planning’in the New West”
Professor Paul Robbins, Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Arizona

“Wildfires in the West Forum”
Featuring: Stephen J. Pyne, Regents’ Professor, Department of History, Arizona State University
Anthony L. Westerling, Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering, UC Merced and Sierra Nevada Research Station
Scott Stephens, Associate Professor of Fire Sciences, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
Bettina Boxall, Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Rearranging the Mojave: The Desert Tor agement in the American Southwest
Peter Alagona, Visiting Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor, UC Santa Barbara

Partial Truths and Half Lies: Pet Peeves in the Public Domain
Sally Fairfax, Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Policy, UC Berkeley

Elusive Sanctuaries: An Environmental History of California’s Migratory Bird Refuges
Bob Wilson, Visiting Scholar, Bill Lane Center, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University Assistant Professor, Syracuse University

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