

Region, History, Environment:
Constance Fenimore Woolson and Her Contemporaries Write the Natural World

Eighth Biennial Conference of the Constance Fenimore Woolson Society
April 16-19 West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

Thursday, April 16

- 5:30 Registration in Hotel Clarion Morgan lobby
6:00 Opening Reception, Montmartre Bar (in hotel)
7:00 Dinner, Montmartre (hotel restaurant)
 (not included in registration fee)
8:00 “Collecting Woolson’s Letters: An Update,” Sharon Dean

All panel presentations will take place in Room 130 of Colson Hall on the WVU campus.

Friday, April 17

8:30-10:00 “The Wilderness of Women

- Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans, “Woolson, Botany, and the Rise of Realism”
Georgia Kreiger, Allegany College of Maryland, “From Castle Nowhere to the ‘Broad Monotonous Country of Commonplace’: Woolson’s Personification of Nature in ‘Castle Nowhere’”
Cheryl Torsney, West Virginia University, “Woolson’s Cogito: “I Row; Therefore I Am”

Chair:

10:30-12:00 “Woolson’s Particular Places”

- Elizabethada Wright, Rivier College, ““A voice seemed to rise from the still ranks below’: Rhetorical Ventriloquism of Space in the Work of Constance Woolson”
Jacqueline A. Justice, BGSU Firelands, “Paradise Lost in the Mackinac Island Novels of Constance Fenimore Woolson and Iola Fuller”
Caroline Gebhard, Tuskegee University, “Mountain Air: Constance Fenimore Woolson’s Ecological Vision of Health in *Horace Chase*”

Chair:

Lunch—on your own

2:00-3:30 “Woolson in the Mountains”

Sharon Dean, Independent Scholar, “‘Passing Through ‘Barnaby Pass’”

Bruce Stewart, Appalachian State University, “‘These Big-Boned, Semi-Barbarian People’: Local Color Writing, Moonshining, and the Creation of the Myth of Violent Appalachia, 1870-1890”

Kevin O’Donnell, East Tennessee State University, “A Literary Land Grab: Constance Fenimore Woolson and the Gilded-Age Industrialization of Appalachia”

Chair:

4:00-5:30 “Woolson in Literary Context”

Timothy Sweet, West Virginia University, “Weeds: Susan Fenimore Cooper on the Puzzle of Invasive Species”

Geraldine Murphy, City College, CUNY, “Publishing Scoundrels: Henry James, Vernon Lee, and ‘The Lady Tal’”

Kerry Sutherland, Kent State University, “Discreet Doctoring: Almira Todd as the Rural Abortionist in Sarah Orne Jewett’s *The Country of the Pointed Firs*”

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

6:30 Dinner, Glasshouse Grill
(included in registration fee)

8:00 Keynote Address: Professor David Miller, Allegheny College
“Empathy, Embodiedness and Entanglement: Woolson’s Southern and International Themes”

Saturday, April 18

8:30-10:00 “Literary Ecology”

Patti Swartz, Kent State University East Liverpool, “Ecology, Wilderness, and Isolation in Selected Work by Constance Fenimore Woolson”

Matt Carter, Auburn University, “Charles Dickens’s Natural (and Not-so-Natural) Children and the Fiction of Constance Fenimore Woolson”

Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa, “Anne as Western-Border Mongrelosity”

Chair:

10:30-12:00 “Reading the Natural World”

Sharon Kennedy-Nolle, Iona College, “A River Runs To It: Woolson’s Poetic Ties to a Greater Hemispheric America”

John Pearson, Stetson University, “Constance Fenimore Woolson’s Eco-(Tourist) Fiction”

Chair:

12:00-1:00 Business Meeting

Lunch—on your own

2:00 Optional Wildflower Walk in Core Arboretum

7:30 Dinner, Café Bacchus
(included in registration fee)