

# New Paths in the Environmental History of North America and the Ohio Valley

*This Conference is made possible in part by the Thomas Walker Bullitt Perpetual Trust*



Smoke in downtown Louisville from 4th Street looking north, November 28, 1943. From the Al Blunk Collection, The Filson Historical Society.

# The Filson Historical Society and the College of Arts & Sciences, University of Louisville present

## New Paths in the Environmental History of North America and the Ohio Valley

October 8-10, 2015 • Oxmoor Farm and the University Club

The College of Arts & Sciences at The University of Louisville and The Filson Institute for the Advanced Study of the Ohio Valley and the Upper South announces a three-day academic conference to explore the environmental history of North America. The conference explores the history of interactions between humans and the physical environment of the continent, with a particular focus on issues most relevant to the environmental history of the Ohio Valley from the sixteenth through the twenty-first centuries. The conference seeks to understand the changing nature of the landscape, the built environment, and the political and cultural debates over how to protect and exploit the physical environment.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 • Oxmoor Farm



5:30-6:30 pm - Reception  
6:30 pm - Keynote Speech  
**Uwe Lübken** (*Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany*)  
“How Natural are Natural Disasters? A

History of Flooding on the Ohio River”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 • The University Club at The University of Louisville

8:30 am - Introductory Remarks



9:00-10:30 am - Session 1: Coal  
**Megan Chew** (*Ohio State University*), “Revisiting the Power Plant Concentration in the Lower Ohio Valley”  
**Lisa J. Powell** (*University of British Columbia/University of the Fraser Valley, Canada*), “Moving Coal Across Cornfields: The Coal Conveyer Belt Lines of Union County, Kentucky”

• **Stacy N. Roberts** (*University of California, Davis*), “Climate Change, Water, and Society: Coal Mining’s Impact on Western Kentucky Communities”

**Commentator: Chad Montrie** (*University of Massachusetts, Lowell*)

10:45 am-12:15 - Session 2: Parks



• **Jessica M. DeWitt** (*University of Saskatchewan, Canada*), “‘Unsurpassed Natural Setting for a Great City’: An Urban Renaissance, Point State Park, the Ohio River Valley, and the National State Park Movement”

• **Christopher Ryan Eklund** (*Auburn University*), “Louisville’s Parks, Public Private Partnerships, and the Legacies of Private Efforts to Conserve Land”

• **Alyssa D. Warrick** (*Mississippi State University*), “Underground Wilderness? Mammoth Cave National Park and the Wilderness Act of 1964”

**Commentator: Erin Stewart Mauldin** (*Samford University*)

12:15-1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00-2:30 pm - Session 3: Cities

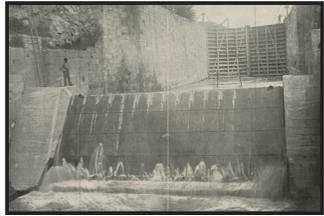
• **Matthew Smith** (*Miami University, Hamilton*), “A Cinque of Pestilence’: Cincinnati, Cholera, and Public Health Reform”



- **Robert Gioielli (University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash)**, “Rethinking Porkopolis: Cincinnati, Pigs, and the Ecology of Slavery”
- **Angela Shope Stiefbold (University of Cincinnati)**, “Ohio Farmers and Land Use Regulation, 1938-1963”

**Commentator: Gregory Wilson (University of Akron)**

2:45-4:15 pm - Session 4: Technology



- **Kristen Fleming (University of Cincinnati)**, “Designing, Creating, and Regulating the Ohio River Valley”
- **Brandon Luedtke (University of Kansas)**, “Drilling Down, Pumping Up: A History of Center-Pivot Irrigation and Hydraulic Fracturing in Kansas”

- **Andrew Patrick (University of Kentucky)**, “Cotton Bagging and Bale Rope: Technology of Hemp Culture in Early Statehood Kentucky, 1792-1830”

**Commentator: Uwe Lübken (Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany)**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 • The University Club



*Special Collections, Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University*

9:00-10:00 am - Keynote Speech  
**David Stradling (University of Cincinnati)**, “How the Cuyahoga River Fire Saved the World and other True-ish Stories”

10:15-11:45 am - Session 5: Race and the Environment

- **Susan Sleeper-Smith (Michigan State**

**University)**, “Harvesting the River Valley’s Bounty: Indian Women and the Creation of Agrarian Villages in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Ohio River Valley”

- **Drew A. Swanson (Wright State University)**, “The Fiery Barn: The Power of Ecological Terrorism during Reconstruction”

- **Kevin C. Armitage (Miami University of Ohio)**, “‘The Equality of Extinction’: James L. Farmer and Environmental Justice”

**Commentator: Mark Hersey (Mississippi State University)**

11:45 am - 12:30 pm - Lunch

12:30-2:00 pm - Session 6: Agriculture

- **Hanno Scheerer (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany)**,



“No Fear of Wilderness: Land Quality Assessment and the Ordering of Nature in Early Ohio”

- **William Kerrigan (Muskingum University)**, “Creating Ohio’s Fruitful Landscape, 1800-1860”
- **Aaron Thomas (Mississippi State University)**, “Growing Christmas: Origins of Western North Carolina’s Fraser Fir Industry”

**Commentator: John Henris (University of Arkansas, Monticello)**

#### Photo Captions

**Keynote 1:** 1937 Flood, River Rd., Louisville, Ky. View east along River Rd. Photo taken from Clark Bridge. From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [FLO-149] **Session 1:** Strip mining by the Crabtree Mining Company, c. 1921, Hopkins County, Ky. From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [MIN-20] **Session 2:** Cherokee Park, Louisville, Ky. (Jefferson County, Ky.) Entrance to Cherokee Park. From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [PKL-27] **Session 3:** Cincinnati from the Kentucky Shoreline, Lithograph, ca. 1840 From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [PR880.0030] **Session 4:** Halftone photo c. 1890s of Louisville and Portland Canal, Gate Up, Portland, Louisville, Ky. From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [DAM-29] **Keynote 2:** Firefighters attempt to extinguish the flames of the 1952 Cuyahoga River fire. Special Collections, Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University. **Session 6:** Two African American men breaking hemp. Label reads, “Hemp Breaking Ky 16.” From The Filson Historical Society’s Collection. [012PC27A.008]