

*Henry David Thoreau
Environmental Digest™*

2005 • VOLUME TWO



Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment™

*T*he Henry David Thoreau Foundation™ is the nation's first organization that provides major financial grants to outstanding undergraduates who look to specialize in environmental fields. As of June 2005, three classes of Henry David Thoreau Scholars™ have received their bachelor's degrees. We are also proud of our current four classes of undergraduates preparing to begin their higher education in the 2005-06 academic year, studying at colleges and universities throughout the United States, and participating in immersive programs around the world.

The mission of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation™ is “to encourage highly talented and academically successful young women and men to pursue undergraduate studies preparing them for leadership in advancing the quality of life for all individuals, protecting the environment, and ensuring equitable and sustainable use of all the world's natural resources.”

As a Foundation, we place great value on our Henry David Thoreau Scholars™—now numbering over 80 alumni, undergraduates and incoming freshmen. We are building life-long relationships, supportive connections that will continue throughout our Scholars' graduate study pursuits and careers. These outstanding young women and men have great potential to provide solutions to the environmental dilemmas that confront our global society. Individually and together, they are sure to make significant contributions to the health and well-being of our world and in the lives of those who inhabit it. Our Scholars and alumni continue to engage in work that connects what they have learned at home to what is happening on a global scale. Whether researching whale behavior in South America or the bushmeat crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, or investigating environmental policy in Texas or creating urban planning designs in New York City, our Scholars continue to lead by example and have unshakable, positive impact.

For these reasons, we have established the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment™, a group that our Henry David Thoreau Scholars™ join when they receive their bachelor's degrees. This group of graduates will be a driving force to encourage partnerships among our alumni, mentor undergraduate Henry David Thoreau Scholars™ and reach out to prospective Scholars in Massachusetts high schools. The most important goal of the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment™ is to increase networking among Scholar alumni. This growing ensemble of Henry David Thoreau Scholar™ graduates will become a valuable resource for building long-term professional and personal connections, and for consulting with environmental authorities, businesses and governments about pressing environmental concerns locally and internationally. We envision that the

Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment

Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment™ will become a powerful voice for environmental issues while it promotes research activity and scholarly collaboration, with approximately 10 Scholar graduates added annually.

This is the second issue of the *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest*,™ which serves as the alumni's official public voice. Published annually, it contains scholarly and professional contributions from our membership. This edition features a research abstract by Laura Gallant '03, a new journal description by Scott Ellis '03, and an article by Stacy Barron '03, as well as summary biographies and updated contact information for our current Henry David Thoreau Scholar™ alumni. In the not-too-distant future, the Henry David Thoreau Foundation™ will offer a \$5,000 annual award to the member of the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment™ who submits a piece that makes the strongest contribution to the environmental field. Scholarly papers describing these important endeavors will appear in the *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest*.™

Editorial Board

Jennifer P. Galvin, Publisher of the *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest*,™ Trustee, and Advisor to the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment.™

The *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest*™ is published annually by the Henry David Thoreau Foundation,™ 265 Medford Street, Somerville MA 02143 (www.thoreauscholar.org). Inquiries about articles, including ideas for publication, should be sent to jennifergalvin@hotmail.com.

News from Our Henry David Thoreau Scholar™ Alumni

Stacy H. Barron
(soon to be Stacy Minihane)
Bowdoin College, 2003

This is close to my second year working in the environmental consulting field as a wetland consultant. My main responsibilities include wetland delineation and permitting. I still really enjoy the job (especially the outdoor aspects, now that it is beginning to warm up) and am planning on staying in this field for a few more years before exploring what else is out there. On the personal side of things, I am getting married this June and will be honeymooning in Alaska.

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Protect Voluntary Conservation *by Stacy H. Barron*

Recently, the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) issued a report to Congress recommending that tax incentives associated with voluntary conservation restrictions and land donations be reduced/eliminated. Currently, the tax incentives associated with such voluntary conservation efforts encourage both homeowners and developers to consider setting aside land as open space.

The suggestion by the JCT was spurred by 1) recent abuses of the tax incentives (i.e. false appraisals of land in order to increase the tax deduction); 2) the idea that homeowners living on large undeveloped parcels are unlikely to develop their land; and 3) the likelihood of developers donating areas not suited for development (such as wetlands, which are already subject to stringent regulations).

It is vitally important to prevent abuse of the present system, but the JCT proposal does so by “punishing” anyone who would donate, instead of focusing on how to prohibit such abuses from happening. Furthermore, while homeowners may have originally purchased a property for its undeveloped character and are thus not likely to build upon it, there is no guarantee (without a conservation

Stacy H. Barron (cont.)

restriction or land donation) that future owners will do the same. Finally, although developers may create open space areas on portions of a property less suitable for building, the tax incentives available encourage them to consider a conservation restriction or land donation as opposed to maximizing the developed area by forcing construction on pieces of the property that are, in fact, ill-suited for development.

The JCT report is only a recommendation to Congress, not legislation; however, it is important to make our representatives aware of how important voluntary conservation of our natural resources is and the role that tax incentives play in encouraging this conservation. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the Land Trust Alliance website at <http://www.lta.org/publicpolicy/jct>.

*Lauren E. Bliss
Colby College, 2003*

During the fall of 2004, I continued teaching chemistry and physical science at a girl's school in Newton, Massachusetts, and applied to various graduate programs in coastal marine fisheries science. I was offered an excellent deal at the University of Maryland through their Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Fellowship. Visiting their campus in the remote town of Solomons, Maryland, I took a look at the research facilities, program, etc. The research on bioenergetics of white perch was quite interesting, but the program had no teaching component, which is my passion. I went through a tough few weeks trying to decide if I truly wanted to pursue the research track. My opinion is that many women go through these decisions, especially as it is difficult to balance the future goals of raising a family and getting tenure at the same time! Therefore, I declined the offer and decided to change my direction toward high school teaching, especially in the biological, chemical, and environmental sciences. I do not regret the decision when I think about how much joy teaching brings me and how many children I can reach with our message of environmental consciousness. I think the fact that I was offered the master's position at University of Maryland is testament to what the HDT Scholarship can do for an applicant.

Lauren E. Bliss (cont.)

My revised future plans are to take the necessary prerequisite education courses to apply for a Master's in Science Education program starting in fall 2006. I am looking at a variety of schools that offer courses that focus on teaching science, such as the University of Wisconsin—Madison, which has an excellent ecology and wildlife biology department where I could take courses. I hope to work on a thesis that revolves around long-term field research in the science classroom and ways that it strengthens a student's concept of the scientific method and their responsibility to protect the environment. It has been a whirlwind year, but I believe I am heading in an exciting and fitting direction. My email address is lauren_e_bliss@yahoo.com.

*Stacie L. Bush
Northeastern University,
2003*

I am currently employed at NovoBiotic Pharmaceuticals as a biologist and have also started the Biology Ph.D. program at Northeastern University. The focus of my work at both places is finding new antimicrobials from soil bacteria. We have developed innovative techniques to try to elicit new antibiotics from known producers. Working at NovoBiotic has allowed me to travel. Last August I attended a microbial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, which gave me many new ideas about my project. I hope to finish school within four years. After that, I want to continue working in antimicrobials, either in academia or industry. I have just moved to Acton with my adopted greyhound Cookie. Living near Wachusett and Nashoba Valley, I have taken up snowboarding, and for the first time in a long while, I didn't want the winter to end. My email address is xstacie13x@hotmail.com.

Scott D. Ellis
American University,
2003

I graduated from American University magna cum laude with a B.A. in International Relations and a concentration in Environmental and Energy Issues. Currently, I am working toward my J.D. at the University of Houston Law Center. During my first year of law school, I became one of four founding chief editors of the *Environmental and Energy Law and Policy Journal* (www.eelpj.com). During the upcoming academic year, I will provide leadership to the *Journal* as Editor in Chief. I also serve as President of the Energy and Environmental Law Society at the Law Center and Student Liaison to the Board of Directors of the Houston Bar Association's Environmental Section. Last summer I gained valuable environmental legal experience as an intern for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Houston Mayor's Office of Environmental Policy. Also, during the summer, I further sharpened my legal skills last semester as an intern to Federal District Judge David Hittner, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas. This coming summer I will clerk for two prominent Houston law firms and hope to be offered a permanent position. I am engaged to Nicole Tritter, and we have scheduled our wedding for the summer of 2006, after both of us have completed the Texas Bar Exam. My email address is s1d1e1@hotmail.com.

Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal
Published by University of Houston Law Center

Last fall, four law students at the University of Houston Law Center, including Scott Ellis, a former Henry David Thoreau Scholar,[™] founded the *Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal (EELPJ)*. *EELPJ* was established to be the premier interdisciplinary publication dealing with the intersection of environmental and energy law and policy issues. The *Journal's* unique structure, which pairs a traditional student editorial board with a faculty editorial board consisting of five nationally known energy and environmental law professors, ensures quality and diversity of expertise. The *Journal* will publish two issues each year. The first will be in a conventional law journal format and will include feature articles, case notes, and comments. The second issue will be based upon an annual symposium on

Scott D. Ellis (cont.)

a topic that will bring together a broad constituency of industry representatives, legal practitioners, academics, policymakers, and regulators. Both publications will include a “recent developments” section that provides brief updates on interesting cases, administrative actions, publications, and events.

Many key environmental issues are directly related to the extraction of natural resources associated with the production and utilization of energy. Cost-effective environmental and energy policy is dependent on a clear regulatory framework that addresses the complex and dynamic needs of an industry struggling to meet increased demand. Regulations that support energy markets must carefully weigh environmental impacts and other policy goals such as national security, consumer protection, and intergenerational equity. Environmental and energy law are closely linked, technically challenging, and complex, so practitioners, regulators, and academics benefit from practical scholarship at the intersection of environmental and energy law and policy.

Because environmental and energy technologies, regulations, and markets can change quickly, the *Journal* will offer a rolling online publication in addition to its twice annual print publication. This online resource will be especially useful to practitioners in keeping up with current issues. Students write digests of recent cases and regulatory actions that will be published on a timely basis. Additionally, contributors will have the option of updating their articles online as the law or surrounding circumstances change. Having an e-journal component increases readership. Because the articles will be a click away on a Google search, practitioners who do not subscribe to legal research services will still enjoy easy access to useful information that they cannot obtain from traditional law journals.

The *Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal* will publish its first edition in mid-summer. Be on the lookout in your local law library. If you have questions about the *Journal*, or would like to learn more, please contact Scott Ellis, Editor-in-Chief, at sdellis@central.uh.edu

*Laura T. Gallant
Cornell University, 2003*

I am currently working on my Master of Arts in the field of Biology at Baylor University. Recently I presented some of my research at the 108th annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science. My presentation, "Does Aquatic Invertebrate Family Richness Vary with Nutrient Level?" received a certificate of appreciation in recognition of graduate research. One slightly stressful week later, I also attended the 20th Annual Symposium of the United States Regional Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology. Here, in addition to attending workshops and greatly expanding my knowledge of the field of landscape ecology, I was pleased to present research on behalf of my advisor, Dr. Kevin Gutzwiller, I worked closely with Dr. Gutzwiller for several months developing the presentation entitled "Do Cowbird-Host Status and Boundary-Nester Status Mediate Bird-Boundary Relations in Deserts?" In addition to my research and school work, I am adjusting to life in Texas. I work as the teaching assistant for the Anatomy and Physiology Lab. I am also the secretary and Biology representative to the Graduate Student Association. In my spare time, I sing with the Baylor Concert Choir and travel back home to New England as often as I can to escape the Texas heat. I plan to graduate in May 2006.

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An abstract of my recent research is provided below.

The Texas Academy of Science

108th Annual Meeting,

March 3-5, 2005

University of Texas-Pan American

Edinburg, Texas

Graduate Research Presentation in Environmental Sciences

DOES AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE FAMILY
RICHNESS VARY WITH NUTRIENT LEVEL?

Laura T. Gallant (cont.)

Laura T. Gallant, Department of Biology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798 USA, and Kevin J. Gutzwiller, Department of Biology, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798, USA

Aquatic invertebrates can be used to assess water quality. They are an integral component of wetland ecosystems, yet little is known about their relationship to nutrient levels. In this study, I explored the relationship between aquatic macroinvertebrate family richness and nutrient levels in the artificially created Lake Waco Wetland Complex, Waco, Texas, USA. I hypothesized that aquatic macroinvertebrate family richness would decrease with decreasing nutrient levels. My data failed to support this hypothesis. However, in my regression analysis I found that macroinvertebrate family richness is positively correlated with water depth. $B_0=1.97489$ ($t=19.38$, $P<.0001$), $B_1=0.00388$ ($t=1.84$, $P=0.0737$) and $R^2=0.0797$. This relationship was unexpected and should be further studied. The lack of a relationship between nutrients and family richness may be associated with the generalist nature of many aquatic invertebrate families. Future studies should use species level richness and sample nutrients at each invertebrate sampling site to allow for a more fine-grained analysis.

Robin L. Gibson
University of
Massachusetts, 2002

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Plant and Soil Sciences, I established Crescent Moon Gardens. Crescent Moon Gardens is a greenhouse and landscaping business located in Gill, Massachusetts. As head grower, I raise a wide variety of annual and perennial flowers, organic vegetables and herbs, and a limited quantity of nursery stock. I apply the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) to my growing practices, including the use of cultural controls for diseases and the use of beneficial insects for pests. In the winter months, when the greenhouse is dormant, I enjoy snow mountaineering and big mountain snowboarding, including a yearly pilgrimage to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. I constantly seek out ways to support

Robin L. Gibson (cont.)

myself through snowboarding opportunities, but, alas, I am forced to keep a day job. From January until April I prepare income tax returns for individuals and small businesses through a local firm. As office manager for the Greenfield branch of Wallace Tax and Business Services, I have learned a great many skills that can be applied to my own business. I am looking forward to another season of growth for both my plants and myself.

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*Stephanie L. Kassoy
University of Virginia,
2004*

After graduating from the University of Virginia last May and saying my sad goodbyes, I dropped off my belongings back on the north shore of Boston and packed up my hiking pack. Armed with my pack, a train pass, a limited budget and a travel guide, I set off to explore Europe for three months more or less by myself. The people, the customs, the food, the drinks, the buildings, the countryside, the city, the sea, the mountains... I'm still not sure how to describe them all. I arrived back in Boston with just enough time to pack up once again and move down to Vero Beach, Florida, to start my first proper job. After two hours on the job, I was told to go home and help my roommate board up the windows on our house because we had to evacuate by noon the next day for the approaching hurricane. Welcome to Florida! Two direct hits later, I have been working with Kimley-Horn and Associates (www.kimley-horn.com) for seven months (really only 6½ due to hurricane evacuations and power losses) as a Civil Engineering Analyst in their Land Development Division.

Land development in Florida is a very interesting beast. Tons of development go on to keep us very busy at work. Most cities and counties have very strict codes to

Stephanie L. Kassoy
(cont.)

follow, and the water management authorities and environmental regulating agencies are very thorough in their permitting responsibilities, making site design and plan approval a bit tricky.

Outside work, I have been volunteering at the Environmental Learning Center, a local nature preserve that has a strong emphasis on hands-on education through programs for both children and adults. I have managed to squeeze in a few trips back home, to UVA, and even a free one to Ireland just last month. I am very grateful to the Henry David Thoreau Foundation for their generous tuition assistance and for giving me the chance to succeed in the “real” world.

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Paula Kulis
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, 2003

I will finish my Master’s of Science in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering in May from UT Austin. I’m staying on for my Ph.D., and I’m very excited about that. My research is in environmental fluid mechanics: I’m working on modeling waters in natural systems like bays and estuaries, where density variations are important. My focus is on gravity currents, or dense currents of water that flow along the bottom of a water body. The motivation behind this project stems from proposed desalination plants along the Texas Coast, which would produce a lot of highly saline waste needing disposal. We want to model Corpus Christi Bay to see if disposing of the brine in the bay would be environmentally hazardous. If the underflow does not mix with the rest of the water column in the bay, the bottom waters may become hypoxic. Because hypoxia is already a problem in Corpus Christi Bay in the summer months, this is of particular concern.

Paula Kulis (cont.)

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*Nicole M. Nichols
University of Massachusetts,
2005*

I will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Geology. My professional interests are multi-disciplinary, combining engineering and earth systems studies. I received the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Summer Student Fellowship for two summers and worked on Autonomous Underwater Vehicle design, as well as a project interpreting coral density banding through CT image analysis. My future interests are to continue in academic research in the field of applied math/science and environmental studies. Beginning this fall, I will be attending the University of East Anglia—Norwich, England, to begin a Ph.D. program in their School of Environmental Science. The project I will be working on involves studying eddies, tides, and currents of Shag Rocks Passage, Antarctica. From February to December 2004, I was traveling and studying abroad. While attending the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, for two semesters, I spent much time traveling the country, also visiting New Zealand and Fiji. I am anxious to continue traveling to other parts of the world and learn more about different people and cultures. My personal hobbies include sea kayaking, hiking/backpacking, and art.

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*Matthew F. Norton
Cornell University, 2003*

I am writing to let you know about the most recent development in my life, specifically being accepted into the veterinary degree program at The University of Glasgow in Scotland. In the beginning of September, I plan on making the trip across the Atlantic to begin the five-year program! I am excited to start this new chapter of my life and to experience a new culture while learning veterinary medicine. In the future, I see myself involved in the newer, less conventional fields of veterinary work, such as conservation medicine, rather than the standard agricultural and small animal work. My email address is jtnorton8@yahoo.com.

*Louisa A. Pitt
Williams College, 2004*

After graduating last June from Williams College, I spent the summer working at a family camp in Holderness, New Hampshire, as head of the Recreation Committee. Basically, I spent my time leading outdoor activities, including hiking, canoeing and ultimate frisbee, and, as always, trying to instill in others the love of nature that I feel so strongly. In September, I moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, where I began my job co-teaching second grade at Greenwich Country Day School. It has been SO much fun teaching, and while I am not planning on staying in Greenwich next year (thinking of moving back to Boston), this year at GCDS has been a wonderful experience that will hopefully be a solid foundation upon which I can build my teaching career. As spring approaches, I am looking forward to continuing to play frisbee and run in the nice, warm weather.

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*Jonah M. Stinson
Whitman College, 2004*

I am currently living in Seattle and working as a field technician for a midsize geotechnical and environmental consulting company. Although I enjoy the field work, I am currently exploring other career options including more environmental work for state and federal agencies. In my free time I've been skiing, rock climbing, hiking, and taking in the Seattle music scene. I am looking forward to a beautiful summer here, and then possibly doing a little more international travel before pursuing graduate school down the road. If anyone's out in the area, feel free to contact me!

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*Shannon H. Stone
New York University, 2004*

After graduating with honors from New York University with a degree in Metropolitan Studies, I spent the summer as a green building consultant at the Community Environmental Center in New York City. Currently I work at an antique gallery while maintaining my voluntary positions on the steering committee of the NYC Waste Prevention Coalition and as co-chair of the NYC Group of the Sierra Club's Solid Waste Committee. I hope to pursue a Master's degree in Urban Planning with a concentration in environmental planning.

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*Sarah J. Zerbonne
Colby College, 2003*

This year I have found myself in Seattle, Washington. I recently began a 10-month program with EarthCorps (a subsidiary of AmeriCorps). EarthCorps engages in local environmental restoration in parks, stream sites, preserves, etc., to protect natural areas, reduce human impact, and promote stewardship. It has been an exciting opportunity to learn about the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest, as well as gain experience in a variety of restoration techniques. My day-to-day tasks include planting native species, removing invasives, strengthening stream banks, trail building maintenance, etc. I am thoroughly enjoying the weather in the Pacific Northwest, as it has been an extremely mild and dry winter. It has been great getting to know a new city and making some new friends along the way. In regard to plans after my position at EarthCorps, I hope to get involved in efforts to promote alternative energy: for example, wind power in the region (a continuing interest of mine). It is possible, however, that I may stay on with EarthCorps as an intern for additional opportunities in the environmental restoration field. If anyone has any questions regarding this field or the Seattle area, please do not hesitate to email me.

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News from Scholar Alumni

*Other Henry David
Thoreau Scholar™
Graduates*

Benjamin S. Abadi
Stanford University, 2004

Caitlin E. Hicks
Middlebury College, 2004

Ashley M. Johnson
Wellesley College, 2005

Justin Kenney
University of Vermont, 2003

Sue J. Kim
Cornell University, 2004