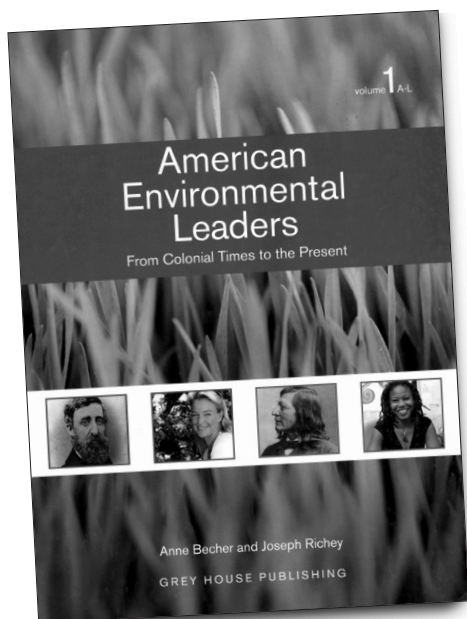


REVIEWS



American Environmental Leaders: From Colonial Times to the Present

Anne Becher & Joseph Richey
Millerton, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2008
900 pp. (2 Volumes), \$195.00, hardcover
(Ebook available)
ISBN 13: 978-1-59237-119-8

Two hundred years of environmental champions are featured in the two-volume set *American Environmental Leaders: From Colonial Times to the Present*. Anne Becher and Joseph Richey, among many others, gathered the names of approximately 400 environmental leaders — from the well-known, to the unsung heroes of the environmental movement. Originally published in 2000, this Second Edition expands the original lists of leaders, and includes a Timeline of the environmental movement, as well as a collection of key documents — documents considered to be historical milestones from the past two hundred years. The editors consider *American Environmental Leaders* to be a biographical dictionary that introduces the reader to the various environmental leaders, and acts as a guide to finding out more about the various individuals.

The subject areas for the various environmental leaders range from wilderness, natural resources, entrepreneurs, grassroots activists, environmental justice advocates, scientists, and philanthropists, to name a few. And according to the Timeline, the first biography is of John Bartram (and his son William), a botanist who published a book about flora and fauna of the Pennsylvania, Oswego, and Lake Ontario regions (1791).

What I found most helpful was the Timeline. The timeline begins in 1626 with Plymouth Colony regulating the cutting and selling of timber, and ends in 2008, with one of the key points being the lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Center for Biological Diversity, and Greenpeace to force protection of the polar bear. The timeline provides for a greater understanding of how the environmental movement in America has developed. While many know that most of the growth of the movement

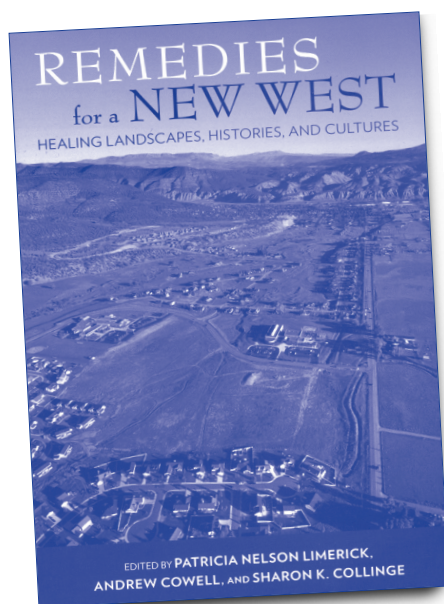
has occurred over the last 40 years, many don't realize that it took events occurring over the past 200 years to lead to these historic changes.

As someone who is constantly learning, I find this two-volume set of *American Environmental Leaders* a fascinating read and strongly recommend it for academic (high school and university) and public libraries. In these pages you can find information about some of the country's brightest minds and bravest champions.

In the interest of full disclosure, when I requested a copy of *American Environmental Leaders*, I did not know that I would find someone I knew — SRIC's very own Chris Shuey. But I felt that this set of books merited reviewing for the sheer breadth of information about the real people integral to America's environmental movement, information that has not been available in such a comprehensive form.

— ANNETTE AGUAYO

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Remedies for a New West: Healing Landscapes, Histories, and Cultures

Patricia Nelson Limerick, Andrew Cowell, and Sharon K. Collinge, Eds.
Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2009
336 pp., \$35.00, paper
ISBN: 978-0-8165-2599-7

There are many myths and legends about the American West. One of the most prolific stories is about how the West is a healing place — thousands of patients were urged by doctors to go west for the arid climate, air, and abundant sunshine. Many communities in New Mexico had tuberculosis clinics to help these folks driven here in search for a "cure." But now the West is the patient, and we must look for a cure.

In 2002, the University of Colorado's Center of the American West began searching for a theme for a year-long lecture series. The result was "Healing the West," a series of lectures by various

academics showcasing examples of issues affecting the West, and the efforts being expended to "find a cure." The culmination of this lecture series is the book *Remedies for a New West*.

Edited by Patricia Nelson Limerick, Andrew Cowell, and Sharon Collinge, *Remedies for a New West* is divided into three parts: saving, recovering, and lessons learned. In "Saving What's Out There," various academics look at tribal sovereignty, indigenous languages, and open space (i.e. "sprawl"). "Recovering What's Lost" looks at the restoration of land due to development or resource extraction, the history (and traditions) of Mexicans and American Indians in the American West, and the "rewilding" of the West — from reintroduction of wolves to establishing migration corridors. In the final section, "Lessons from Conflict," topics range from the Endangered Species Act's effect on the Klamath Basin (water, fish, farms, tribes, and government), land stewardship in Colorado, and to the West's nuclear history, specifically the transformation of Rocky Flats nuclear weapons complex into a nuclear waste contaminated wildlife refuge.

The view of the editors is that the various ideas in *Remedies for a New West* can, and should, be applied on a national and international scale. While there is a move to divide environmental concerns into three categories — preservation (the strict setting aside of nature from human intervention), conservation (balancing the various uses of nature), and restoration (bringing damaged areas back to health) — it is evident from the various chapters of this book that each "solution" cannot be exclusive from the other. Ultimately, it is from conversations that culminated in this book that we begin the work needed to "Heal the West."

— ANNETTE AGUAYO

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The University of Arizona Press
355 S. Euclid Avenue, Suite 103
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The Nature Way

Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 2009
118 pp., \$18.95, paper
ISBN: 978-0-87417-788-6

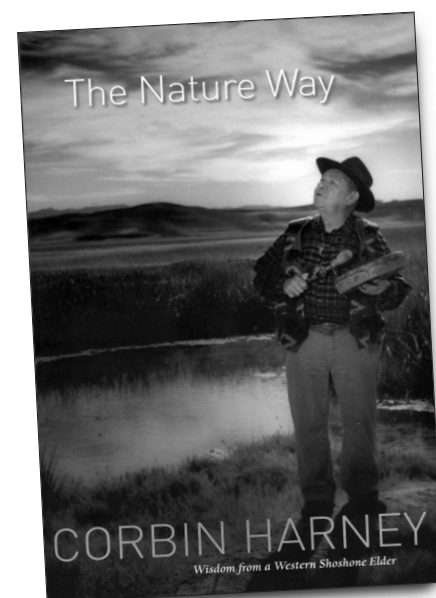
Corbin Harney was an elder and spiritual leader from Newe Sogobia (The Peoples land). The Newe, or Western Shoshone, are an indigenous people whose homeland spans five states: Nevada, Utah, Idaho, California and Montana. He became internationally known during the protests in the 1980s at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site (which is located on Western Shoshone territory per the 1863 treaty with the U.S. government). Through his efforts, he became a leader in the international peace movement.

The Nature Way is Harney's second book. It focuses on his early life and

presents some of the history and culture of the Newe people. It is divided into four sections: My Own Story, Temme Nanewenee Sogobia (Our Ancestors' Land), Newe Wisdom, and Surviving the Modern World. In "My Own Story," Harney discusses his family, his experience with boarding schools, and how he became a leader in the land rights and environmental movement. "Our Ancestors' Land" discusses the history of his people, while "Newe Wisdom" focuses on how to live through prayer and in conjunction with nature. Lastly, "Surviving the Modern World" focuses on how the modern world is harming the natural world, and how radiation and other toxics are poisoning the land, water, and air.

Harney spends much of the book discussing the concept of living a more natural life. Healing with prayer is an important part of Newe spiritual life. Harney also discusses many Newe ideas such as the importance of water, plant life, rocks, and the wind. He also speaks about their medicinal plants and their uses. Harney further talks about treaty rights, and the failure of the U.S. government to respect these rights. The taking of land for the Nevada Test Site caused damage to the land, and the expansion of nuclear power would cause more sickness.

Corbin Harney began telling his story to Alex Purbrick in late summer 2000. Purbrick finished recording in the spring 2001, and began the lengthy transcription and editing process. Purbrick has provided lengthy footnotes to update some of the details that he and Harney first recorded. Yet he made sure to keep Corbin's voice clear throughout the book. In 2006, Harney was diagnosed with cancer. He died on July 10, 2007. Before his passing, he told his friends to remember that "we



are one people. We cannot separate ourselves now. There are many good things to be done for our people and for the world. It is important to let things be good. And it is important to teach the younger generation so that things are not lost." As such, this book is a fitting memorial to a remarkable man.

— ANNETTE AGUAYO

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