

# THE STORY IS THE THING.

Gulf of Mexico, August, 2010  
Photo: Bridget Besaw

## The Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism

Bill McKibben, Director

**T**HE MIDDLEBURY FELLOWSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM each year takes 10 journalists near the start of their careers and helps them work through an ambitious reporting project in print, Web-based, or radio journalism, from the beginning through publication or broadcast. Fellows meet together twice during the year, once in the fall on the Middlebury College campus in Vermont, and once in the spring at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in California.

At these meetings professional journalists help participants plan their reporting and shape their stories. Fellows each receive \$10,000 to help with reporting and living expenses during the fellowship year. We interpret the environment broadly—reporting projects dealing with economics, culture, global issues, and the like should center in some way on the human relationship with the physical world.

Applicants should visit [www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/fec/fellowships](http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/fec/fellowships), or write Emily Peterson at [fiej@middlebury.edu](mailto:fiej@middlebury.edu). Proposals should be received no later than May 16, 2011 and be sent to Christopher Shaw, Axinn 309, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753.

### Staff Biographies



**BILL MCKIBBEN**, director of the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism, is the author of 10 books

on subjects related to the environment, including *The End of Nature*, the first book for a general audience about global warming, which is now available in more than 20 languages. A former staff writer at the *New Yorker*, his work appears in *Harper's*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *National Geographic*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Orion*, *Outside*, and a wide range of other national and international publications. McKibben

edited the anthology *American Earth*, published by Library of America in 2008, and is currently working through 350.org to press for a global agreement on climate change.



**CHRISTOPHER SHAW**, associate director of the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism, is the

author of *Sacred Monkey River*, about the Usumacinta River and watershed in Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala. He edited *Adirondack Life* magazine in the eighties. His work has appeared in the anthology *The Nature of Nature*, as well as the *New England Review*, *Outside*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and other publications, and he has received New York Foundation for the Arts and Bread Loaf fellowships. Shaw teaches writing at Middlebury.

## Reporters in Residence



**Fall 2011** ■ JANISSE RAY is author of three books of literary nonfiction and a new collection of nature poetry. She is on the faculty of Chatham University's low-residency MFA program and is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. She holds an MFA

from the University of Montana, and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine.

*Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, a memoir about growing up on a junkyard in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, was published by Milkweed Editions in 1999. Anne Raver of *The New York Times* said of Janisse Ray, "The forests of the South find their Rachel Carson."

Ray's second book, *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home*, about rural community, was published by Milkweed Editions in early 2003. The third, *Pinhook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land*, the story of a 750,000-acre wildland corridor between south Georgia and north Florida, was published by Chelsea Green in 2005. Her first book of poetry, *A House of Branches*, is just out (2010). Ray is also editor of *In One Place* and *Moody Forest*, and co-editor of *UnspOILED* and *Between Two Rivers*. She is anthologized widely.

Ray has won a Southeastern Booksellers Award 1999, an American Book Award 2000, the Southern Environmental Law Center 2000 Award for Outstanding Writing, and a Southern Book Critics Circle Award 2000. *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was chosen as the Book All Georgians Should Read.



**Spring 2011** ■ DAVID ABRAM, PH.D., is a cultural ecologist and philosopher who lectures and teaches widely around the world. He is author of *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-than-Human World*, for which he received the Lannan Literary Award for Nonfiction,

and of *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology* (forthcoming from Pantheon in 2010). His essays on the cultural causes and consequences of environmental disarray have appeared in numerous magazines and journals, as well as in many anthologies in a host of disciplines. He has been the recipient of numerous honors, including fellowships from the Rockefeller and Watson Foundations. He is creative director of the Alliance for Wild Ethics (AWE), and lives with his wife and two young children in northern New Mexico.



**Fall 2010** ■ JENNIFER SAHN is editor of *Orion*, a bimonthly magazine about nature, culture, and place. Articles she has edited have won the John Burroughs Essay Award, the Pushcart Prize, and have been reprinted in *Best American Science and Nature Writing* and *Best Creative Nonfiction*. She has been on *Orion's* editorial staff for the past seventeen years and has been on the faculty of the Wildbranch Writing Workshop at Sterling College for the past five years. Her writing has been published in a variety of print venues and she has served as editor for several book projects. She lives in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, with her husband, son, and geriatric dog.



**Spring 2010** ■ KEITH SCHNEIDER spent 10 years as a national correspondent with the *New York Times*, where he continues as a special writer. From 1985 to 1995 he reported from Washington and from around the country on new developments in agriculture,

environment, natural resources, energy, and transportation. For most of that period he was based in the *Times* Washington bureau, where he received a George Polk Award for national reporting. Earlier he won a Polk Award for reporting on the consequences of an environmental laboratory scandal involving farm chemicals. He reported from the international climate negotiations in Barcelona and Copenhagen for *Grist Magazine* and *Yale Environment 360* and now is senior editor and producer of Circle of Blue, a non-profit news organization that covers the global fresh water crisis. He also directs media and communications at the U.S. Climate Action Network, a Washington-based coalition focused on achieving a new global climate agreement.

**Fall 2009** ■ TED CONOVER's *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing* won the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Conover is also the author of *Whiteout*, *Coyotes: A Journey Across Borders With America's Illegal Migrants*, and *Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes*. He contributes to the *New York Times Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Nation*, and many other publications. Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, he is distinguished writer in residence at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University. His next book, about roads—their power to affect the places they traverse and the people on them—will be published in 2009 by Knopf.

**Spring 2009** ■ REBECCA SOLNIT is an activist, historian, and writer who lives in San Francisco. Her work deals in particular with landscape, cityscapes, cultural geographies, the environment, place, time, speed, memory, photography, metaphor, counternarratives, and the uses of story. She is currently working on her 13th book. The 12 in print include 2007's *Storming the Gates of Paradise*; *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*; *Hope in the Dark*; *Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities*; *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*; *As Eve Said to the Serpent: On Landscape, Gender and Art*; and *River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West* (for which she received a Guggenheim, the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism, and the Lannan Literary Award). A contributing editor to *Harper's* and columnist for *Orion*, she frequently writes for the political site Tomdispatch.com. She has worked on antinuclear, antiwar, environmental, indigenous land rights, and human rights campaigns and movements over the years.

**Fall 2008** ■ ALAN WEISMAN is a former Bread Loaf fellow and author of the currently best-selling *The World Without Us*. He is an award-winning journalist whose reports have appeared in *Harper's*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Discover*, and on NPR, among others. A former contributing editor to the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, he is a senior radio producer for Homelands Productions and teaches international journalism at the University of Arizona. His essay "Earth Without People" (*Discover*, February 2005), on which *The World Without Us* expands, was selected for Best American Science Writing 2000–2007.

**Spring 2008** ■ WILLIAM FINNEGAN is a widely traveled journalist and a widely published writer. He first came to notice in the 1980s when—on a surfing trip around the world—he fetched up in South Africa and spent a year as a teacher at a colored school. His account of that work, *Crossing the Line*, was an instant classic. He has gone on to write other books about Africa, many reports from trouble spots around the world for the *New Yorker*, and his widely acclaimed and harrowing book about the lives of contemporary American youth from the wrong side of the tracks, *Cold New World*. He also surfs and has become an acclaimed literary chronicler of the sport.

**Fall 2007** ■ ROSS GELBSPAN, a reporter and editor for 31 years and a Pulitzer Prize winner, joined fellows and staff of the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism for the program's first residency week. Author of the books *The*

*Heat Is On* and *Boiling Point* and articles in *Harper's* and the *Washington Post*, Gelbspan has been in the forefront of reporting on the escalating effects of global warming. During his career, he has worked at the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, the *Washington Post*, the *Village Voice* and, for 13 years, at the *Boston Globe*.