

NiCHE Summer School 2007
Environmental History of the Prairie Grasslands
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Agenda

Friday, May 25, 2007

- check-in at Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2:00-7:00
- dinner on your own
- evening reception, Diefenbaker Canada Centre, 7:00-10:00
Exhibit: “West Side Stories: The Métis of Northwestern Saskatchewan”

Saturday, May 26, 2007: Environmental history of natives in the grassland (to c.1880)

- transport to Wanuskewin, leaving Seminary 7:00
- breakfast and welcome, 7:30-8:30
Geoff Cunfer, University of Saskatchewan
Alan MacEachern, Network in Canadian History and Environment
- breakout roundtable discussions based on shared advanced reading, 8:30-10:30
 1. Did Paleo-Indians cause the Pleistocene extinctions?
 2. To what extent did natives “manage” grasslands with fire?
 3. What caused the collapse of bison populations on the northern plains?
- break, 10:30-11:00
- archaeological tour of Wanuskewin excavations, 11:00-12:30
-guide: Ernest Walker, Professor of Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan
- lunch, 12:30-1:30
- keynote address: Ted Binnema, “A Pictorial Tour of Two Hundred Year Old Blackfoot and Gros Ventre Maps,” 1:30-2:45
- field trip: St. Denis National Wildlife Area, “Agricultural impacts on grassland biodiversity,” 3:00-7:00
 - guide: Dan Pennock, Professor of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan
 - guide: Marley Waiser, Research Scientist, Environment Canada
- group dinner, Spadina Freehouse, downtown Saskatoon, 7:00

Sunday, May 27, 2008: Environmental history of newcomers in the grassland (since c.1880)

-transport to Wanuskewin, leaving Seminary 8:00

-breakfast, 8:30-9:30

-breakout roundtable discussions based on shared advanced reading, 9:30-11:30

1. How has agricultural land use altered natural systems on the northern plains?
2. How have farmers manipulated material and energy flows in agricultural systems?
3. How has farming affected biodiversity in prairie habitats?

-lunch and walking trails at Wanuskewin, 11:30-1:30

-Historical Geographic Information Systems (HGIS) workshop, 1:30-4:30

Demonstration by Geoff Cunfer's HGIS team: "Historical GIS and Great Plains Environmental History"

Bison, agriculture, agroecology, the Dust Bowl, and more ...

What is GIS? How have historians used GIS? How might it fit into your research?

-closing, 4:30-5:00

-return to Seminary

-dinner on your own

-evening reception at Boffins Club in conjunction with the Canadian Historical Association, 7:30-10:00