

Call for Chapter Proposals:

A major publishing company has expressed interest to me in a collection of ecocritical essays on the subject of *The Dark Side of Nature*.

In *The Ecological Thought*, eco-philosopher Timothy Morton has argued for the inclusion of “dark ecology” in our thinking about nature. Dark ecology, he argues, puts hesitation, uncertainty, irony, and thoughtfulness back into ecological thinking.” The ecological thought, he says, should include “negativity and irony, ugliness and horror.” Even Thoreau on Mt. Katahdin questioned the pathetic fallacy when he encountered a “force not bound to be kind to man.” More recently park ranger Jordan Fisher Smith has questioned the palliative effect of nature when his experience teaches him that “When regular people leave the city limits, their behavior doesn’t change much, and habitual criminals are seldom rehabilitated by pretty scenery.”

Keeping in mind a vision of dark ecology as it relates to American literature and culture, if you are interested in submitting an essay on any of the general topics below or a related topic, please send a 250 word proposal and cv by March 1 to Richard J. Schneider at richard.schneider@wartburg.edu. I have previously edited Thoreau’s *Sense of Place* and the *MLA Approaches to Teaching Thoreau’s Walden and Other Works*.

Colonial views of nature as a “howling wilderness”

Exploration narratives

The dark side of American Romanticism (Hawthorne, Melville, Poe)

American Naturalist writers (Crane, Garland, Harte)

Anti-pastoral poetry

Ethnic minorities and nature (Native American views of nature, for instance)

Park Ranger literature (Abbey, Snyder, J. F. Smith)

Environmental detective literature (Nevada Barr, Carl Hiassen, Dana Stabenow)

Environmental disaster literature and film

Survival literature and film (i.e. Jon Krakauer)

Environmental science fiction literature and film

EcoGothic/EcoHorror literature and film

Nature in Modernist Fiction

Nature in Contemporary Fiction

The Dark Side of Ecofeminism

Environmental Justice

Scientific perspectives (E. O. Wilson, Loren Eiseley)

Views of a darker nature from other disciplines such as sociology or history