

Friday & Saturday  
March 6-7, 2009

Marriott University Park Hotel  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Courtesy of University of Utah Marriott Library Special Collections

# Wallace Stegner: His Life and Legacy

*"Wallace Stegner was perhaps his region's greatest teacher: its greatest storyteller, historian, critic, conservator and loyal citizen." –Wendell Berry*

PRINCIPAL FUNDING  
R. Harold Burton Foundation  
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Wallace Stegner Center  
for Land, Resources and the Environment  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW





Photo by Lawrence Boye

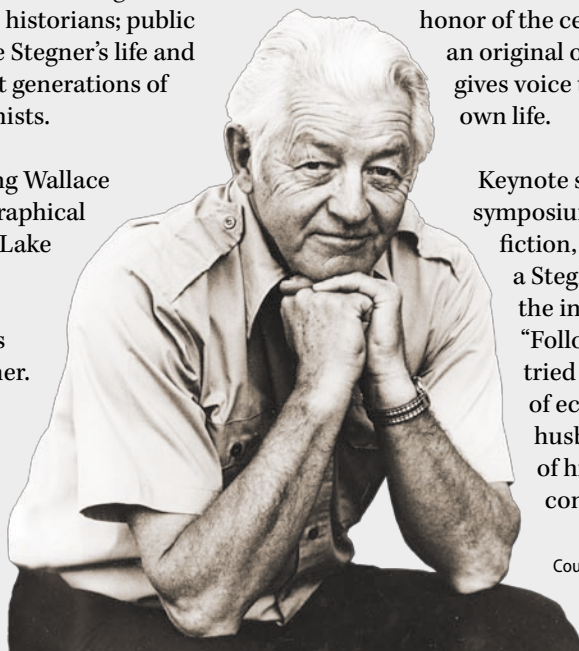
**W**allace Stegner—historian, novelist, essayist, conservationist, and educator—is widely known as the “Dean of Western Writers.” His literary legacy carries on in his major novels and nonfiction works which are as relevant today as when they were written, and in the lives and writings of Stanford University Stegner Fellows, who have built a fine literary tradition of their own. To celebrate the centennial of Stegner’s birth on February 18, 1909, the Wallace Stegner Center’s 14th Annual Symposium, “Wallace Stegner: His Life and Legacy,” will bring together a select group of former Stegner fellows, writers, and poets; conservationists; historians; public officials; and others who will explore Stegner’s life and his ongoing influence on subsequent generations of writers, historians, and conservationists.

The symposium opens by reviewing Wallace Stegner the man, including the biographical details of his life, his affinity for Salt Lake City, which he claimed as his hometown, and his life as revealed in his personal correspondence, which has been collected by his son Page Stegner. We then consider Stegner as historian and conservationist, reflecting on his vision of the historical West and his environmental ethos. We examine how his literature has

informed our understanding of our shared legacy as Americans and Westerners, and our ongoing struggle over how best to preserve our wild lands and honor our frontier heritage.

The symposium then shifts to considering Wallace Stegner the writer, including his influence on subsequent generations of writers, the art and craft of his writing, the nuts and bolts of how Stegner approached the business of writing as shared by his former agent, and the relevance of Stegner’s work to students of literature. We will also feature an original song written in honor of the centennial of Stegner’s birth and premier an original one-act play, “Where I Come From,” which gives voice to Wallace Stegner’s perspective on his own life.

Keynote speaker Wendell Berry will conclude the symposium. The author of more than 40 books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, Wendell Berry was a Stegner Fellow from 1958-1959. In addressing the influence of Stegner on his work, Berry says, “Following the example of Mr. Stegner, I have tried to help conserve wilderness, the health of economic landscapes, and the cultures of husbandry.” Wendell Berry will give a reading of his work in honor of Wallace Stegner and in commemoration of the centennial of his birth.



Courtesy of University of Utah Marriott Library Special Collections  
Photo by: Margaretta K. Mitchell





# REGISTRATION FORM

Admission to the symposium requires registration and payment, which is due at the time of registration. You can register online at [www.law.utah.edu/stegner](http://www.law.utah.edu/stegner), mail in your registration form, or call 801-585-3440. Advance registration is highly recommended as the symposium may sell out in advance. Please check boxes that apply. Make checks payable to the Wallace Stegner Center.

## REGISTRATION FEES

- \$175** if received by February 15
- \$210** if received on February 16 or later
  
- \$140** Seniors and University and College Faculty & Staff if received by February 15
- \$175** Seniors and University and College Faculty & Staff if received on February 16 or later
  
- \$95** Students if received by February 15
- \$130** Students if received on February 16 or later

### CLE Credit (Utah State Bar)

- \$15** for 12 CLE credits  
Credit may be available in other states; participants from out-of-state must make their own CLE arrangements.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

- I prefer a vegetarian lunch.
- Please do not include my name/address in a published list of participants.

To register, go online to [www.law.utah.edu/stegner](http://www.law.utah.edu/stegner), call 801-585-3440, or complete this form and mail with check to: Stegner Center Symposium, 332 S. 1400 E., Rm 101, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0730.

## PLEASE PRINT

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

The University Park Marriott Hotel is holding a block of rooms for symposium participants at \$139 per night, double or single occupancy. Reservations must be made by February 12, 2009 to receive the block rate. Call the hotel at 1-800-228-9290 and identify yourself as an attendee at the Stegner Center 14th Annual Symposium.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<b>phone</b>	<b>801-585-3440</b>	<b>fax</b>	<b>801-581-6897</b>
<b>e-mail</b>	<b>stegner@law.utah.edu</b>	<b>web</b>	<b>www.law.utah.edu/stegner</b>

### The Life and Times of Wallace Stegner

**PHILIP FRADKIN** shared a Pulitzer Prize as a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, was the newspaper's first environmental writer, and the first western editor of Audubon magazine. After serving as an assistant secretary in the California Resources Agency responsible for coastal, energy, and public information matters, he began writing books. He is the author of 11 books on Alaska and the American West, including *A River No More: The Colorado River and the West* and, most recently, *Wallace Stegner and the American West*.

### Wallace Stegner: A Life in Letters

**PAGE STEGNER** was professor of American literature and director of the creative writing program at the University of California, Santa Cruz, retiring in 1995 to write full time. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is the author of numerous books, including novels, literary criticism, and essays on the American West. His most recent publications are *The Selected Letters of Wallace Stegner* and *Adios Amigos: Tales of Sustenance and Purification in the American West*.

### "Home Is What You Can Take Away with You": Wallace Stegner's Salt Lake City

**ROBERT STEENSMA** is professor emeritus of English at the University of Utah. He has published five books, the most recent being *Wallace Stegner's Salt Lake City*, and several hundred articles, reviews, and professional papers. In 1990 he was honored by English majors at the University of Utah as the department's "Outstanding Professor for Teaching." He is also a retired Navy captain who served on a variety of warships and with NATO.

### Traveling Ahead: How Wallace Stegner's Most Quotable Words Guide Us through Time and Space

**PATRICIA NELSON LIMERICK** is the faculty director and chair of the board for the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, where she is also a professor of history. She has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between academics and the general public and to demonstrating the benefits of applying historical perspective to contemporary dilemmas and conflicts. She has received numerous awards, including the MacArthur Fellowship and the Hazel Barnes Prize, Colorado University's highest award for teaching and research.

### "A Gentile in the New Jerusalem": Wallace Stegner Among the Mormons

**WILL BAGLEY** is an independent historian. He has written and edited more than a dozen books, including *Always a Cowboy: Judge Wilson McCarthy and the Rescue of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad* and *Blood of the Prophets: Brigham Young and the Massacre at Mountain Meadows*, which won numerous awards including the Western History Association's Caughey Book Prize for the year's most distinguished book on the history of the American West. He is in residence at the Tanner Humanities Center for the 2008-09 academic year as a Wallace Stegner Fellow where his research is exploring Stegner's relationship with Western historian and author Bernard DeVoto.



*"Time makes slow changes in our images of ourselves, but at their best, the qualities our writers and mythmakers have perpetuated are worth our imitation."*

—WALLACE STEGNER





*“Should public lands be viewed as a commodity, primarily important for extractive economic use, or should they be endowed with a larger purpose, to be maintained as a great public commons, to be accessible, enjoyed, and used primarily for their natural and spiritual values?”* —BRUCE BABBITT

## The Fourth West

**CHARLES WILKINSON** is the Moses Lasky Professor of Law and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Colorado. He is the author of 13 books and numerous articles on natural resources in the American West and Indian law and policy. He has received numerous awards for his teaching, conservation work, and collaborations with tribes, including the National Conservation Award from the National Wildlife Society. He has been appointed to numerous committees for federal agencies and continues to serve as negotiator and mediator for tribes.

## Wallace Stegner and Western Lands

Students from the University of Utah Honors College think tank class on “Wallace Stegner and Western Lands” will make a presentation on their yearlong project on public land management and potential boundary adjustments in the vicinity of Canyonlands National Park in Southern Utah.

## A Person, and a Place, to Reckon with

**RICHARD WHITE** is the Margaret Byrne Professor of American History at Stanford University. He has been a MacArthur Fellow and currently holds an Andrew Mellon Distinguished Professorship. He has been president of the Organization of American Historians and the Western Historical Association and has written widely on Western topics including Indian peoples, the environment, and films. He is completing a book about transcontinental railroads in the North American West. It is a history of failure and how failure has helped create modernity.

## KEYNOTE

## Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: Blueprint for a New Interior Secretary

**BRUCE BABBITT** served as secretary of the interior from 1993 to 2001, leading the country in landmark efforts including creation of a forest plan for the Pacific Northwest, restoration of the Florida Everglades, passage of the California Desert Protection Act, and legislation for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Babbitt served as governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987 and as attorney general from 1975 to 1978. As governor, Babbitt brought environmental and resource management to the forefront in Arizona. In his book *Cities in the Wilderness* (2005), Babbitt lays out a new vision of land use in America.

### Stegner's Legacy: The Cult of Action

**TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS** is a writer, naturalist, and advocate for freedom of speech. She is the author of numerous books including *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*, *Beauty in a Broken World*, and *Finding*. She is the recipient of a Lannan Literary Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship in creative nonfiction and has received numerous awards including the Robert Marshall Award from The Wilderness Society. She is currently the Annie Clark Tanner Scholar in environmental humanities at the University of Utah.

### Narrative Art & Architecture: Wallace Stegner's House of Fiction

**LYNN STEGNER** has written four novels, *Undertow* and *Fata Morgana*, both nominated for the National Book Award, *Pipers at the Gates of Dawn* (awarded the Faulkner Society's Gold Medal for Best Novella of 1997), and *Because a Fire Was in My Head* (awarded a Faulkner Award for Best Novel, a 2007 Literary Ventures Selection and New York Times Editors' Choice). She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Western States Arts Council, and a research scholarship from the Fulbright Program. She currently teaches fiction writing for Stanford University's Continuing Studies Program.

### A Thing That Lasts (Original Song)

**THE VAPOR TRAILS** is a 21st century string band, playing acoustic music with a contemporary attitude. They combine traditional instruments with streamlined arrangements and draw on a variety of influences. "A Thing That Lasts" was inspired by the writings of Wallace Stegner, particularly his novel *Recapitulation*, set in Salt Lake City. Band members include Debora Threedy, Dianna Cannon, J.S. "Shawn" Foster, Don Gomes, and Barry Scholl.

### Developing an Interest in Quirky Little Things: Stegner in the College Classroom

**MELODY GRAULICH** is professor of English and American Studies at Utah State University and the editor of the scholarly journal *Western American Literature* which has published many essays on Wallace Stegner's work. She is the author of numerous books including the co-authored *Trading Gazes: Euro-American Women Photographers and Native North Americans*. She has published numerous essays on Western literature and culture, including several on Stegner's work and regularly teaches Stegner in her classes. She is currently working on an edition of the letters of California pioneer Mary Hallock Foote.



*“Where is our comfort but in the free, uninvolved, finally mysterious beauty and grace of this world that we did not make, that has no price? Where is our sanity but there? Where is our pleasure but in working and resting kindly in the presence of this world?”*

—WENDELL BERRY

## “Reply All:” Twenty-First Century Utah Responds to Wallace Stegner

**STEPHEN TRIMBLE** is a writer and photographer who has published more than 22 books including most recently *Bargaining for Eden: The Fight for the Last Open Spaces in America*. He has received numerous awards, including the Sierra Club’s Ansel Adams Award, the National Cowboy Museum’s Western Heritage “Wrangler” Award, and a Doctor of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Colorado College. He is in residence at the Tanner Humanities Center for the 2008-09 academic year as a Wallace Stegner Fellow, where he plans to lead a statewide conversation about Stegner’s work.

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## Stegner and the Business of Writing

**CARL BRANDT** was born in 1935 and spent his early years working for newspapers in Colorado Springs; Greenville, Mississippi; and Vienna. He was working for LOOK, when, in 1957, circumstances led to his joining Brandt & Brandt. He has always had an awareness of the West and Western writers and feels fortunate in representing such authors as Philip Fradkin, Charles Wilkinson, and Terry Tempest Williams. Wallace Stegner signed on with Brandt & Brandt literary agency in 1937 and told a biographer, “I’ve been through all three Brandts and exhausted every one of them.”

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## Where I Come From (Original Play)

**DEBORA THREEDY** is a professor of law, playwright, and actor. She has taught at the S.J. Quinney College of Law since 1986 and has performed with a number of local theatre companies. Her original one-woman show, *Desert Wife*, based on the memoirs of Hilda Faunce Wetherill, toured the state under the auspices of the Utah Humanities Council. In 2008, Plan-B Theatre premiered her full-length play, *The End of the Horizon*, which retold the story of Everett Ruess, a young artist who disappeared in the canyons of Escalante, Utah in 1934.

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## The Cultivated Wild of Wallace Stegner

**JOHN DANIEL** is the author of eight books of memoir, personal essays, and poetry. He has won numerous awards for his writing, including a creative writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, a James Thurber Writer-in-Residence at Ohio State University, and a Research and Writing Fellow at Oregon State University’s Center for the Humanities, among other positions.

## KEYNOTE

## A Reading in Honor of Wallace Stegner

**WENDELL BERRY** is the author of 12 works of fiction, 15 books of poetry, and 15 works of nonfiction. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters award for writing, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Jean Stein Award, and a Lannan Foundation Award for Nonfiction. He lives and works with his wife, Tanya Amyx Berry, on their farm in Port Royal, Kentucky.

# AGENDA

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 8:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 8:50 **The Life and Times of Wallace Stegner**  
Philip L. Fradkin
- 9:30 **Wallace Stegner: A Life in Letters**  
Page Stegner
- 10:10 *Break*
- 10:40 **“Home Is What You Can Take Away with You”: Wallace Stegner’s Salt Lake City**  
Robert C. Steensma
- 11:20 **Traveling Ahead: How Wallace Stegner’s Most Quotable Words Guide Us through Time and Space**  
Patricia Nelson Limerick
- 12:10 *Lunch*
- 12:50 **“A Gentile in the New Jerusalem”: Wallace Stegner Among the Mormons**  
Will Bagley
- 1:20 **The Fourth West**  
Charles Wilkinson
- 2:10 **Wallace Stegner and Western Lands**  
University of Utah Honors Think Tank Class Presentation
- 2:40 *Break*
- 3:10 **A Person, and a Place, to Reckon with**  
Richard White
- 4:00- **Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: Blueprint for a New**  
5:00 **Interior Secretary**  
Bruce Babbitt (*Keynote*)

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:10 **Stegner’s Legacy: The Cult of Action**  
Terry Tempest Williams
- 10:00 **Narrative Art & Architecture: Wallace Stegner’s House of Fiction**  
Lynn Stegner
- 10:40 *Break*
- 11:10 **A Thing That Lasts**  
Performance of original song in honor of Wallace Stegner written and performed by the Vapor Trails
- 11:30 **Developing an Interest in Quirky Little Things: Stegner in the College Classroom**  
Melody Graulich
- 12:10 *Lunch*
- 12:50 **“Reply All:” Twenty-First Century Utah Responds to Wallace Stegner**  
Stephen Trimble
- 1:20 **Stegner and the Business of Writing**  
Carl Brandt
- 2:00 **Where I Come From**  
Performance of original one-act play written by Debora Threedy
- 2:50 *Break*
- 3:20 **The Cultivated Wild of Wallace Stegner**  
John Daniel
- 4:00- **A Reading in Honor of Wallace Stegner**  
5:00 Wendell Berry (*Keynote*)


### REGISTRATION

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### LOCATION

Marriott University Park Hotel  
480 Wakara Way  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
Call 1-800-228-9290 for hotel reservations (see registration form)

### PRINCIPAL FUNDING

R. Harold Burton Foundation  
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### SPONSORS

S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy in Utah  
Natural Resources Law Forum



The Wallace Stegner Center appreciates our partners who have joined us this year to host a variety of programs in honor of the 2009 centennial of Wallace Stegner’s birth. Their contributions in planning this year’s symposium were invaluable. We have been joined on campus by the University of Utah Marriott Library, College of Humanities, Press, and KUED TV. Our community partners include Chevron, the Salt Lake City Mayor’s Office, The City Library, the Nature Conservancy of Utah, the Utah Humanities Council, and the Utah State Historical Society.



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