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The Fierce Green Fire

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### The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 9 Issue 18

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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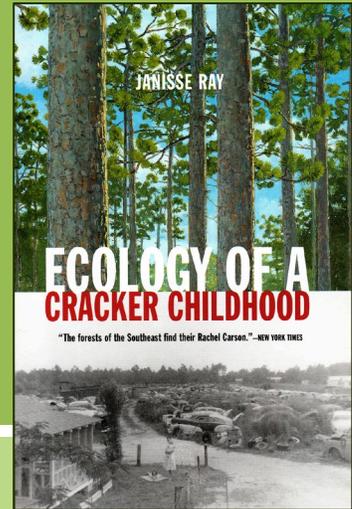
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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*The Tyson Family Lecture on the Preservation and Restoration of Southern Ecosystems celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Janisse Ray's "Ecology of a Cracker Childhood" on Thursday with an afternoon panel discussion and evening lecture.*



Volume 9, Issue 18

## *Overstory and Understory: Janisse Ray's "Ecology...", revisited*



*Our guests for the Tyson Family Lecture enjoyed some time at Glendale. L to R: Tara Powell, USC professor and poet, Dorinda Dallmeyer, retired UGA professor, Janisse Ray, author, Jim Peterson, poet, Professor John Lane, and Stephen Corey, author.*

From Environmental Studies 101 to the ENVS senior seminar, our students and faculty spent time (re)reading Janisse Ray's landmark book *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* in anticipation of her visit as the 7<sup>th</sup> speaker in the annual Tyson Family Lecture Series on Preservation and Restoration of Southern Ecosystems. Published 20 years ago, the book weaves together stories of Ray's childhood with visions and dreams of restoring longleaf pine forest – now decimated in relation to its former extent of 97 million acres across the south.

The ecosystem itself captures the imagination of anyone who enters: the tall pines with their long needles and the songs that Ray loves and articulates so well; the wiregrass understory with the highest biodiversity of any North American ecosystem; and the home of red-cockaded woodpeckers, flatwoods salamanders, and the gopher tortoises that co-exist with hundreds of other species in their long burrows.

Yesterday's events embodied the 3-legged stool that defines Wofford's Environmental Studies department. The afternoon panel took each in turn. Dorinda Dallmeyer beautifully constructed a synopsis of advances in scientific understanding of the ecosystem even as she wove in images from Ray's work. Peter Brewitt relayed the journey from pristine longleaf forest, through its use in literally constructing the south, and into the policy that aims to restore it through public-private partnerships. Tara Powell masterfully contextualized *Ecology* in the south's literary traditions and trajectories.

When Janisse Ray took the stage, she spoke her heart's deep conviction of the magic of the land and the power of hope, through story and poem. Her own story, up to and through the birth of the book, and her continual conjuring of courage to find, define, defend and develop her voice and her power as a writer, is an inspiration to action and a testament to love. Our gratitude to the Tyson family, to our panel, and to Janisse Ray is beyond words.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

*\*These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

- March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
*Leonard Auditorium*
- Speaker Jessica Mills AKA 'Dixie'**\*: Experienced hiker of the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail will speak on her journeys.
- March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
*Olin 101*
- GC Waldrep – Wofford Writers Series**\*: Poet, historian, [Bucknell Professor of English](#), Acting Director of the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts, and Editor of West Branch, will visit Wofford for a public reading. He will also be visiting classes and staying at the TLAR house in Glendale and reflecting on the landscape while he is there.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
7:00pm  
*Rosalind S Richardson Center for the Arts*
- Gallery Talk by Dawn Williams Boyd**\*: Join us for a talk by the artists on her exhibition *Scraps from My Mother's Table*. Reception to follow.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Application Deadline*
- Summer 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates**: The University of Iowa will host a [National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates](#) (NSF-REU) in Geography and Spatial Sciences. A 10-week summer program (May20-July26) will explore human-environment interactions. Participants will receive a stipend and housing in UI residence halls.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Application Deadline*
- The Goat Island Boat Club Merit Scholarship Program**: The one-year scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2000. Eligible student must be from South Carolina enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the state of South Carolina studying marine biology, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, or other related field focused on environmental protection of the Santee Cooper lakes and river systems. Stop by Wofford Office of Financial Aid to pick up an application.
- Ongoing**
- Shoals Marine Laboratory – Climate Change and the Gulf of Maine**: [One-week summer course](#) (June24-July1) is hands-on field research examining alterations to marine environment due to global climatic changes. Financial aid is available.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *Wake Forest University – Sustainability Graduate Programs*

Wake Forest University offers several options to students looking at sustainability-focused degrees. Two dual-degree programs include a JD/MA in Sustainability and a MDIV/MA in Sustainability.

Candidates for the JD/MA program must apply to both the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law. Students can combine their interests in legal scholarship with sustainability practices. And candidates to the MDIV/MA in Sustainability program must apply to both the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Divinity. This program teaches student to be

religious leaders who can lead communities to respond to critical ecological and environmental issues.

Their MA in Sustainability is a one-year program with on-campus courses relating to social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, management, and law. Off-site facility visits give students an opportunity to work with professionals beyond campus.

[Sustainability Graduate Programs at Wake Forest University](#)