

## LORI VERMAAS

### ***EDUCATION***

- 2000 Ph.D. University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. American Studies, with a concentration in nineteenth-century visual culture. Dissertation: "The National Trees: Celebrating the Sequoias—Their Trunks, Roots, Stumps, Bark—and Their Depiction as Big Trees in America, 1852-1944," John Raeburn and Joni Kinsey, co-chairs.
- 1992 M.A. University of Iowa, American Studies.
- 1989 B.A. University of Texas, Austin, TX. Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities Program.

### ***PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

#### ***Editorial***

- 2019 - Extensions Publishing Editor, University of Idaho Extension Publishing, Moscow, ID.
- 2001- Freelance Copyeditor/Proofreader, University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA, and other small presses.
- 2006-8 Assistant Editor/Journals Manager, Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX.
- 2003-6 Production Editor, Journal of Paleontology, University of Iowa, Department of Geoscience, Iowa City, IA.
- 2001 Editorial Assistant Intern, Iowa Heritage Illustrated, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.
- 1992 Rice University Publishing Program Certificate, Rice University, Houston, TX.
- 1990-1 Copyeditor, The Reference Press, Austin, TX.

#### ***Historic Preservation***

- 2009-11 Staff Consulting Professional II (Project Historian), HDR, Engineering Consultants (Conservation/Planning Department), Vienna, VA.
- 2001-2 Project Historian, Tallgrass Historians, Iowa City, IA.

#### ***Museum/Curatorial***

- 2010 Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Volunteer (Outreach and Exhibits), National Park Service, Brownsville, TX.
- 1989 National Air and Space Museum Intern, Smithsonian Institution (NASM), Washington, DC.

**Teaching**

- 2011 Creative Writing Teacher, Charlottesville Writing Center, Charlottesville, VA.  
 1990-00 Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant, American Studies and Rhetoric Departments, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

**Writing**

- 2012-16 Freelance Journalist, *Valley Business Report*, Harlingen, TX.  
 2014-15 Historian/Writer, *Cornerstone: Building the Rio Grande Valley* (Harlingen, TX: Topp Direct Marketing, 2015).  
 2012-13 Freelance Journalist, *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More*, Sarah Book Publishing, Litewill Holdings, Harlingen, TX.  
 2008-10 Freelance Journalist, *Valley Morning-Star*, Freedom Communications, Inc., Harlingen, TX.  
 2009 Grant Writer, Educational Research Institute, Harlingen, TX.

**SCHOLARLY INTERESTS**

- American late nineteenth/early twentieth century cultural history  
 American visual culture, 1850-1950  
 American environmental history  
 American and European plant hunters, seventeenth through nineteenth centuries  
 Natural history and its illustration in America (birds, trees, other plants)

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- 1995-6 Graduate Student Representative, American Studies Admissions Committee, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.  
 1994-5 Graduate Student Representative, American Studies Steering Committee, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

**PAPERS AND LECTURES**

- 2015 Book launch presentation for *Cornerstone: Building the Rio Grande Valley*. Harlingen, TX: RGV-AGC Publications, 2015. Valley Nature Center, Weslaco, TX.  
 ca. 2010 Book presentation for *Sequoia: The Heralded Tree in American Art and Culture*, Harlingen Public Library, Harlingen, TX.  
 2010 Invited commentator on a symposium panel, "Film and Photography in the 1930s," University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.  
 2001 "From Worship and Amazement to Degradation: Big-Tree Imagery from the Civil-War era to the Early Twentieth Century," lecture presented to the Iowa City branch of the Sierra Club, Iowa City, IA.  
 2001 "From Worship and Amazement to Degradation: Big-Tree Imagery from the Civil-War era to the Early Twentieth Century," lecture presented to employees at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

- 1993 “The Big Tree: Albert Bierstadt’s Iconographic Approach, ca. 1876,” paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Mid-America American Studies Association, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

## ***SCHOLARSHIP: PUBLICATIONS***

### ***Books***

*Cornerstone: Building the Rio Grande Valley*. Harlingen, TX: RGV-AGC Publications, 2015. A coffee-table-book history of the commercial built environment in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas; includes many illustrations.

*Sequoia: The Heralded Tree in American Art and Culture*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2003. A scholarly study of the sequoias’ visual culture from the 1850s to the 1950s; includes illustrations.

### ***Book/Film Reviews***

“Review of *Big River*,” Dir. Curt Ellis, 2009, Mosaic Films, ISBN (DVD): 1-59458-930-5, 27 min. (Distributed by bullfrogfilms), *Green Theory & Praxis: The Journal of Ecopedagogy*, forthcoming.

“Review of *Taking Flight: A History of Birds and People in the Heart of America*” (Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2018), *The Annals of Iowa*, Fall 2018 77(4): 416-17.

“Review of Finis Dunaway, *Seeing Green: The Use and Abuse of American Environmental Images*” (University of Chicago Press, 2015), invited book reviewer for H-Environment Roundtable Reviews, an open-access online roundtable panel hosted by *Environmental History*, Vol. 6, No. 6 (2016) [<https://networks.h-net.org/dunaway-seeing-green-roundtable-review-vol-6-no-6-2016>].

“Review of Rachel McLean Sailor, *Meaningful Places: Landscape Photographers in the Nineteenth-Century American West*” (University of New Mexico Press, 2014), *Environmental History*, April 2015 20(2): 335-37.

“Review of Dan Flores, *Visions of the Big Sky: Painting and Photographing the Northern Rocky Mountain West*” (University of Oklahoma Press, 2010), *Environmental History*, April 2011 16(2): 337-38.

“Review of John Hausdoerffer, *Catlin’s Lament: Indians, Manifest Destiny, and the Ethics of Nature*” (University Press of Kansas, 2009), *Environmental History* January 2010 15(1): 154-56.

“Review of John Opie, *Virtual America: Sleepwalking Through Paradise*” (University of Nebraska Press, 2008), *Environmental History* January 2010 15(1): 157-58.

“Review of Nalini M. Nadkarni, *Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees*” (University of California Press, 2008), *Environmental History* October 2009 14(4): 761-62.

“Review of Stacey O’Brien, *Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Story of an Owl and His Girl*” (Free Press, 2008), *Literary Bird Journal*, Summer 2009 1(2): 119-22.

“Review of Philip J. Pauly, *Fruits and Plains: The Horticultural Transformation of America*” (Harvard University Press, 2007), *The Annals of Iowa* Winter 2009 68(1): 77-79.

“Review of Susan Freinkel, *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree*” (University of California Press, 2007), *Environmental History* October 2008 13(4): 770-71.

“Review of William Bryant Logan, *Oak—The Frame of Civilization*” (W. W. Norton, 2006), *Environmental History* July 2007, 12(3): 687-88.

“Review of Joan Maloof, *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*” (Georgia UP, 2005), *Environmental History* April 2006, 11(2): 370-71.

“Review of John Vaillant, *The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed*” (W. W. Norton, 2005), *Environmental History* January 2006, 11(1): 175-76.

“Review of Thomas J. Campanella, *Republic of Shade: New England and the American Elm*,” H-Environment, H-Net Reviews, April 2005.

Book Notice, *Iowa—Portrait of the Land*, *The Annals of Iowa* 61 (Fall 2002): 429-30.

### **Magazine Articles**

“Making the Perfect Cigar In Iowa and America,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*, Fall & Winter 2011: 120-27.

“Symbolic Trees and Practical Tree Care: The Iowa Arbor Day Manual,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Winter 2004: 182-91.

“One in a Million,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Spring 2002: inside backcover (late-nineteenth-century fraternal societies and their convention badges).

“One In a Million,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Fall 2001: inside backcover (turn-of-the-century school cards in Iowa and the iconography of the one-room country schoolhouse).

“Finding Your School’s Past,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Fall 2001: 138-39 (suggestions on how to begin researching schoolroom histories).

“One In a Million,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Summer 2001: inside backcover (butter boxes and the creamery’s presence in Iowa in the early twentieth century).

“The Rocket That Ignited Union Park” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*, Summer 2001: 50-55 (the 1960s fascination with space technology and its expression in playground equipment, like the rocket slide in a Des Moines park).

“One In a Million,” *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* Spring 2001: inside backcover (a 1950s fastpitch softball program from Sioux City and African Americans’ participation in the sport).

### ***Historic Preservation Reports***

Provided research and writing support to “History of Earthworks” section and visual material research in Suzanne Stone, “Final Fort Brown Earthworks: Baseline Report,” Englewood, CO: HDR Environmental, Operations, and Construction, 2012.

Provided research and writing support to the “Written Historical and Descriptive Data” section in Historic American Buildings Survey, James L. Landrum House, San Benito vicinity, Cameron County, Texas, HABS #TX-3548.

Provided research and writing support to the “Written Historical and Descriptive Data” section in Historic American Engineering Record, Los Ebanos Ferry, Los Ebanos vicinity, Hidalgo County, Texas, HAER #TX-119.

Provided research and writing support to “Historic Context” section in Kathryn Plimpton and Chad Blackwell, “Historic Context for the US International Boundary and Water Commission Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project,” Englewood, CO: HDR Environmental, Operations, and Construction, 2012.

Provided research and writing support to “History of Brulay and Nye Plantations” section in Jeanne Barnes and Melissa Wiedenfeld, “Brulay Plantation Historical Study,” Englewood, CO: HDR Environmental, Operations, and Construction, 2012.

Provided research and writing support to “Roma, Texas, National Historic Landmark District Signage Program,” Englewood, CO: HDR Environmental, Operations, and Construction, 2012.

With Leah D. Rogers, National Register of Historic Places, Bedford Commercial Historic District, Bedford, Taylor County, Iowa, #02001032 (2002).

With Leah D. Rogers, National Register of Historic Places, McGregor Commercial Historic District, McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa, #02001033 (2002).

**Other**

Encyclopedia Entries: Three thematic entries for both *Call of the Wild* (Freedom, Nature, Identity) and *White Fang* (Oppression, Nature, Identity), in Jennifer McClinton-Temple, ed. *Encyclopedia of Themes in Literature*. New York, NY: Facts on File, Inc., 2010.

Encyclopedia Entry: Bibliographical entry on Catron Grieves, Cherokee poet, in Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie, ed. *Encyclopedia of Native American Literature*. New York, NY: Facts on File, Inc., 2007. 153-54.

**PUBLISHED REVIEWS OF SCHOLARSHIP**

By Laurence A. Marschall, *Natural History Magazine*, May 2004 113(4): 62.

By Douglas W. Dodd, *Journal of the West*, Fall 2005 44(4): 89.

By John Herron, *Environmental History*, July 2006 11(3): 610-11.

By Michael P. Cohen, *Journal of American History*, September 2006 93(2): 605-6.

By Ray B. Browne, *Journal of American Culture*, March 2006 29(1): 93.

**CITATIONS OF MY WORK**

Page 47 and 257 and footnotes 33 (Chap. 1); 13 (2); 12, 15, 18 (4); 23 (8); and 31 (10) in William C. Tweed, *King Sequoia: The Tree That Inspired a Nation, Created Our National Park System, and Changed the Way We Think about Nature* (Berkeley and Rocklin, CA: Heyday/Sierra College Press, 2016).

“Further Reading” section (p. 450) and footnotes 26 and 31, p. 471 in Jared Farmer, *Trees in Paradise: A California History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2013): referencing use of my book as a worthy source of the sequoia’s cultural history; of discussion and analysis of Carleton Watkins’s and Edward Vischer’s photography and lithography of the sequoias; and of discussion and analysis of Albert Bierstadt’s sequoia portraits.

Cited in 1 of the 23 Bibliographical sections, titled “Environmental Philosophy and Landscape Perception,” p. 377 in Carolyn Merchant’s *American Environmental History: An Introduction* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007).

Footnote 72, p. 576 in Richard J. Orsi, *Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Development of the American West, 1850-1930* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005): “regarding the Southern Pacific’s long-term use of sequoia trees to promote tourism to California.”

**NON-ACADEMIC WRITING**

“Eating Green is Good For You,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 5-7.

“Casa Los Ebanos Hosts Weddings,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 10-11.

- “Business Person of the Year,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 12-13.
- “PlaGar: Out-of-Sight Engineering,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 14-15.
- “Mentoring Via SCORE,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 18.
- “RL Abatement Tackles Asbestos,” *Valley Business Report* June 2016: 22.
- “Premium Ice Cream Wins Fans,” *Valley Business Report* March 2016: 12-13.
- “Pressed on Time,” *Valley Business Report* December 2015: 14-15.
- “In the MOOD,” *Valley Business Report* November 2015: 18-19.
- “Providing Better Diets for Pets,” *Valley Business Report* October 2015: 12-13.
- “Women in Charge of the Garage,” *Valley Business Report* September 2015: 12-13.
- “Eat—and Drink—Your Greens,” *Valley Business Report* September 2015: 22-23.
- “Dinner in the Diner,” *Valley Business Report* July 2015: 18-19.
- “More than Pumping Iron,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 5-7.
- “Incubation Time,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 10-11.
- “Nicho’s Niche: Fruits and Vegetables,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 14-15.
- “One Man’s Junk is Another’s Treasure,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 18-19.
- “SBA Director Increases Outreach Programs,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 20-21.
- “App Developer Connects,” *Valley Business Report* May 2015: 26.
- “Honi-Do’s Sweeten the Home Front,” *Valley Business Report* March 2015: 16-17.
- “Sweet Sisters: Sweeter Bake,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* August 2013: 22-24.
- “Going Mobile: Dr. Cynthia Garcia,” *Valley Business Report* August 2013: 18.
- “Gloria Kuipers—A Passion for Free-Motion Quilting,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* June 2013: 22-23.
- “European-Style Bakery Takes Off,” *Valley Business Report* June 2013: 10-11.

- “Jesse Castellon—Street Food Chef,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* May 2013: 26-28.
- “IMAS Celebrates the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Night at the Brew-seum,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* May 2013: 49.
- “The Texas Chefs’ Association—Introducing Culinary Variety to the Valley,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* April 2013: 18-19.
- “Selling Bay Boats,” *Valley Business Report* March 2013: 22-23.
- “Michael DeVeney: Lord of the Rings,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* February 2013: 12-13.
- “Jorge Jaber Winery: Wine to Eat With,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* February 2013: 28-29.
- “Using Solar Heat Pays Off,” *Valley Business Report* February 2013: 20.
- “Fantasy Destination,” *Valley Business Report* January 2013: 10-11.
- “Donna Kirby—Creatographer of Dreams,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* December 2012: 29-31.
- “Yoga Stretches,” *Valley Business Report* November 2012: 14.
- “The Garza Family Understands Consolation,” *Valley Business Report* September 2012: 26-27.
- “Chairish Designs by Diane Dickey,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* August 2012: 22-23.
- “Dr. Erin McCormick: A Blending of Art and Accuracy,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* July 2012: 26-29.
- “Guy Mattei—Figural Art that Invites You to Touch,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* June 2012: 32-35.
- “YoungLives: Empowerment to Handle Life’s Challenges,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* May 2012: 14-16.
- “Raising a Glass for the Garden of Hope,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* May 2012: 19-20.
- “Painting What She Wants,” *RGV+ Beyond Arts & More* April 2012: 24-26.



**Numerous sports news events and features for *Valley Morning-Star*** (Harlingen, TX), 2008–2010. A selected list follows:

“Slice of Life: Destiny’s Team,” *Valley Morning-Star* (Harlingen, TX), 2 August 2010: A2: 2-4.

“Slice of Life: Best of the Best: Local Competitors Shine at 2010 Junior Olympics,” *Valley Morning-Star* (Harlingen, TX), 12 July 2010: A2: 2-5.

“Slice of Life: Helping Hands for Hurting Paws,” *Valley Morning-Star* (Harlingen, TX), 14 February 2009: A2: 2-5.

### **Poetry**

“Pantoum for the Blessed,” *Boundless 2011: The Anthology of the Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival*. McAllen, TX: El Zarape Press, 2011: 45.

“The Conversation I Always Have,” *The Iowa Review* 26 (1996): 196.