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From the Editor:

Our December issue explores the Delta’s environmental history beginning with the next article in *Arkansas Review’s* “What is the Mississippi River Delta?” series. Mikko Saikku, professor of Modern History, docent of North American Studies at the University of Helsinki, and author of *This Delta, This Land: An Environmental History of the Yazoo-Mississippi Floodplain* (2005), answers the question from the perspective of an environmental historian. Environmental history is the study of the interplay between human activity and the natural world over the course of time.

Our other articles expand on themes introduced in the lead article. Don C. Bragg, a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station, traces the history of antebellum baldcypress logging industry in Arkansas; Janelle Schwartz and Joelle Underwood, professors at Loyola University, describe their experience teaching a Foundations of Environmental Studies course as it coincided with the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. All three articles underscore the remarkable diversity and fragility of our Delta environments while simultaneously providing the historical contexts needed to understand the relationship between human societies and nature.

Creative works set in the Delta often thematize connections between the land and the people of the region, and this issue’s short stories are no exception. Robert Busby’s “Mistletoe” and Elizabeth Sanders’ “Feux de Joie” both explore family dynamics that are influenced by ties to the land. Poetry by Christopher Shipman, Michael A. Moreno, Errol Miller, and Janelle Schwartz directly or indirectly contribute to the theme also. As usual, we conclude our issue with an entry in our Delta Sources and Resources as well as book reviews on Delta-related creative and scholarly works.

--Janelle Collins