

Writing the Land: Windblown II

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with a Foreword by Joan Maloof

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Foreword

When we think of saving wild places we often cite the animal habitat they preserve, we think of the clean air and the clean water they provide. But there is another dimension of this preservation that is just as important – it is the way wild places stir the human soul. In page after page of this lovely collection we are reminded that this is so.

These writings mention, and honor, all the wild things to be found on the land: the trees, the wildflowers, the birds, the insects, and even the turtles. But in these lines one can also experience the humans, both the humans come and gone, and the humans of the future. And, finally, what it feels like to be a human now in the midst of these places where we have set aside greed for the good of all. The things that come with humans are honored here too: the paths and boardwalks, the rock walls, the domestic flocks, the vegetables springing from the ground. We welcome all these things, too, not instead of the wild, but alongside of it.

The energy of the land is palpable in these poems. Less evident, but not to be forgotten, is the energy created by the many people who have gathered together to save these lands, to create the land trusts, to fundraise, to friend raise, to steward these places. Many of these places required things to be done (like footbridges built) and others required things to be undone (like dams and roads deconstructed). These protected lands represent hope, and you can feel that in every line, but between the lines I hear something else: I hear thank you, thank you, thank you.

We need wild spaces. Even if our lives have arranged themselves so it has been years since we've had that experience of 'wild,' we crave it. We feel the pull. We long to visit "wild" land, we want to introduce our children to these places; because we know they bring out something special in our souls, something difficult to explain. But as difficult as it is to describe, here we have a collection of writers who have put words to their feelings for these wild places. And every one of these windblown places have been preserved by people who care for and respect the more-than-human world. They know what is at stake.

Some of us have family ranches or forests, and how wonderful that is! But others of us can barely ‘do’ shelter, never mind private wide-open spaces. Yet this experiencing of ‘space’ and ‘wild’ is part of being human. And, indeed, I believe the evocation of that feeling in as many people as possible is a key to us saving the planet. We need to be moved by this living blue globe, and not just moved through space. We need to love it, respect it, and some, with energy to spare, to try to heal it. Visits to wild places stir something in the soul that doesn’t just feel good in the moment, but it also feeds an energy that leads toward continued preservation, and hopefully more preserved places.

That is the goal of the Old-Growth Forest Network, an organization I founded ten years ago. We protect ancient forests so humans can be awed by them, and can then build their muscle of commitment toward protecting any ancient forests that remain, and even forests reaching toward great age.

Although my personal mission is protecting the forests, there are many other wild spaces that need our protection too, such as the prairies, marshes, deserts, and rivers visited in these poems. Across the country many, many, people have come together in a shared vision of preservation and formed Land Trusts. The open land they have preserved benefits us all – from the smallest insect to a human poet. This collection is a celebration of the still-wild – hopefully forever-wild – and what it stirs in our souls.

—Joan Maloof
Berlin, Maryland
July 2022

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HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST



HAWAI‘I LAND TRUST

Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i Land Trust (HILT) is a statewide land trust working to protect the lands that sustain Hawai‘i and to teach future generations to do the same. We protect lands that are integral to Hawai‘i’s wellbeing and character, upholding our kuleana to these lands and the communities they are in through thoughtful stewardship dedicated to deepening community connection to, and building reciprocal relationships with, ‘āina.

We strive to protect entire landscapes, establishing reciprocal relationships with the land as Hawai‘i’s ancestors did - safeguarding clean water, maintaining habitat connectivity for native species, and ensuring functional connectivity of cultural sites.

We welcome our community to mālama ‘āina, which grows into aloha ‘āina. HILT’s preserves are places of thriving Hawaiian culture where cultural practitioners are our treasured stewardship partners. We work closely and collaboratively with others in the ahupua‘a because a connected community is a resilient community.

We extend our humble mahalo to the poets who were inspired by our protected lands, and who in turn, inspire us.

-Maunawila Heiau Complex—Azuré Kauikeōlani Iversen-Keahi

-Waihe‘e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge—Brandy Nālani
McDougall

-Nu‘u Refuge—Māhealani Perez Wendt

-Kāhili Beach Preserve—ku‘ualoha ho‘omanawanui

Nā Pu'u One a Waihe'e

for Haumea and all the kupa āina, aloha āina, and kia i of Waihe'e

by Brandy Nālani McDougall

1.

You are still here—
the birthplace of salt
and wind, of rounded black
and red basalt pebbles, glittering
olivine, smoothed coral and bone.
The waves roll rock and reef,
tangled nets, tarp, plastic
bits cut and culled from
convenience, dulled
glass shards of
broken bottles.
Everything comes
to you freed from what
it once was, newly emerged—
to become the sand
in these dunes,
to live again.

2.

They say
before the drains
and grates that steal
the water of the valley,
lo'i kalo lehua lined the
stream banks, their leaves
and stalks trembling, young 'i'o
pounded for the throat-moistening
lehua poi. Your springs still gurgle up

through the wide archaeology
 of your iwikuamo'o to nurse
 'ūlei, hau, loulou, kauila
 kili'o'opu, naupaka,
 'uki'uki, pōhuehue,
 'uhaloa, hō'awa, kāwa'u,
 manono, kaluhā—all unfurl, weave
 their roots, cling to the sands of Mauna
 'Ūhi, even as the salt-wind bruises
 their leaves, encrusts them, even
 as the sun and salt desiccate
 and sting, even as we all
 may drift toward such
 flight—then your water
 upwells from below
 bringing such
 sweetness to
 the loko
 wai, the
 muliwai.

3.

Aloha Waihe'e
 i ka makani pa'akai,
 aloha nā makani e noho mau,
 aloha e 'Aha'aha, aloha e 'Akipohe,
 aloha e Kili'o'opu, aloha nō e O'opu.
 Nip and waft, carrying rain
 mist along the kahawai,
 above hīhīwai, 'ōpae, nāpili
 and nākea, blowing billows of sea
 spray along the lei of dunes,
 the hidden smoke of 'o'opu
 long past but also
 waiting.

Aloha Waihe'e i ka ua
ānuenuē, ke ao, ke ao akua,
ke aokū, ke ao loa, ke ao 'ōnohi,
aloha nō e 'Akipohe, aloha
nō e Kili'ō'opu. Circle
and fall gently, then
thunder, upwell
the kahawai
until full,
flowing
freely
again.

4.

Aloha nō
e Haumea ē,
nui ka mahalo
for all you birthed,
shaped and heaped from
reef, from mauna, from pali
from the ocean floor, all you eroded
carved from ice, wind, and rain,
from shell, coral, basalt and
bone to bring us
Mauna 'Ihi.

What is sand
but a return to life,
the brittle bones of before
breathing (birthing) again?
From you we know birth
to be just one of many
passages, that we
are born a flicker
of sun, emerge
a faint spark

or drop,
only the frailest
slivers from the branches
of Kalaukekahuli after it was
flung into the waves so
carelessly, that there
is pain and labor,
the stinging
salt of our sweat
and tears, our blood,
and it is how we learn
life is precious, remember
our histories, short and porous
as they are. Your pu'u one have a much
longer memory, have become a pewa binding
ocean to land, buffering storm surge,
offering kapa, makaloa of sand
and salt, cool springs from
underground tunnels that
hānai pools of loko wai,
ho'oipoipo with ocean
in the muliwai, where
underwater gardens
of limu, lacy black,
crunchy purple and red
fringed, and fat, juicy green
cling to the reef. Life begins again
as they hāpai warm nests, nurse new
hatchlings of ae'o, 'ua'u, and koloa, part
the grasses and sedge to reveal tender
caverns for piko and iwi. Your pu'u
are every beginning and every
return, waiwai of Waihe'e,
pu'u one hānau aloha.
E ola nō ho'i.
E ola nō.

GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY



**Great Peninsula
Conservancy**

Washington

Great Peninsula Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to protecting the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula region of West Puget Sound, Washington.

In the 1980s, as the population on the peninsula began to grow, visionary local leaders took action to preserve the natural beauty of this region and protect local lands and waters. For their protection efforts to be successful, they realized a strong organization was needed to take on regional challenges and to shoulder stewardship responsibilities far into the future. Great Peninsula Conservancy was formed in 2000 to take on those responsibilities.

Our mission is to conserve vibrant forests, streams, shorelines and community greenspaces to help wildlife and people thrive. We commit to caring for the lands we protect to ensure wildlife and people enjoy the many benefits of nature well into the future. And we enrich lives by offering opportunities for people to experience nature close up. To date we have preserved 11,000 acres of evergreen forests, salmon streams, marine shorelines and community parks.

-Curley Creek Tyner Preserve—Raúl Sánchez

-Misery Point Preserve—Ching-In Chen



Photo: Curley Creek Tyner Preserve by Thea Hanner

Hiking Down to the Creek
by Raúl Sánchez

The luscious canopy gives way to the diaphanous light,
filtered through branches of fir, cedar, and pine.

Cold shades engulf the old forest protecting the creek,
protecting the land, bald eagles, spotted owls, red tailed hawks.

The music of the rustling leaves, the harmony of the nursing trees
they all sing when the winds blow by shaking their leaves.

Cold diamonds fall on our faces to remind us we exist—
and live to protect and preserve the beauty

Curley Creek Tyner Preserve offers, beyond the moss
beyond the fungi, beyond the slugs when damp.

Curley Creek is a special place found along the shores
of Puget Sound, where life flows and grows with every jump

the salmon does upstream to their spawning grounds
shallow pools, hollowed grounds.

Nature will last as long as we do, and longer as we grow.
A body of water, a body it is, a body that needs us.



COLUMBIA LAND TRUST

Washington and Oregon

Columbia Land Trust conserves and cares for the vital lands, waters, and wildlife of the Columbia River region through sound science and strong relationships.

-Klickitat River Haul Road—Jim Cantú

Klickitat River Haul Road

About Columbia Land Trust

Columbia Land Trust was formed in 1990 and over the last three decades has conserved more than 55,000 acres in the Pacific Northwest. Guided by our 25-year Conservation Agenda, our service area follows the lower Columbia River for 50 miles, east to west from the Columbia Plateau, through the Willamette Valley, to the coastal estuaries and the Pacific Ocean. Operating in both Oregon and Washington, our conservation work is rooted in partnership building and we are proud to collaborate with the many diverse people and communities that know and love this region.

A River Reborn: The Klickitat River Haul Road

One of the longest undammed rivers in Washington state, the Klickitat River supports thriving forests, woodlands, and grasslands, and hundreds of wildlife species including salmon and steelhead. It offers important opportunities in forestry, ranching, and recreation, and is rich in history and culture of the Klickitat people.

In partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries, Columbia Land Trust worked for more than twenty years to remove eight miles of a two-lane paved logging road from along the west bank of the Klickitat River to restore salmon habitat and allow the river to reclaim its historic floodplain.

An engineering project of this scale and complexity was completed over many phases and required substantial collaboration and creativity across all the user groups that care about this landscape.

The haul road was originally constructed to transport timber to a mill in Klickitat, but in 1996 substantial portions of the road were destroyed by flooding, rendering it impassable. This presented a unique opportunity to remove the road and allow the river to once again flow freely and naturally carve out back water channels, side channels, gravel bars, pools, and other hydrological features that support different aspects of the fish lifecycle. Want to see more? Watch a film about the project at www.columbialandtrust.org/a-river-reborn-video



Photos: Klickitat (top) Before in 2009 and (bottom) After in 2010





Photo: Hayden Creek Ranch Gate

COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST



Colorado

**Conserving Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes
for the benefit of future generations**

Since 1995, The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has partnered with over 400 families to conserve more than 714,000 acres of Colorado ranch land.

CCALT works alongside Colorado landowners to keep rural heritage intact, foster healthy communities, support viable agriculture, preserve diverse wildlife habitats, and maintain the landscapes of the west.

On behalf of Coloradans who have dedicated themselves to conservation, we hope you enjoy these works inspired by the lands that we have worked together to conserve

-Kelly Ranch—Aaron A. Abeyta

-Alpine Cascades Ranch—Dan Beachy-Quick

-Bar 3 Ranch—Erica Reid

-Iva Mae Ranch—Matthew Cooperman and Aby Kaupang

The Brethren Rocks

Ice Age rift
the Brethren Rocks find a home
in Hamden

—by *Marita Gargiulo*



This imposing rock formation is known as a glacial erratic. It is situated on a small parcel, approximately 1/4 acre in size. The Brethren is composed of basalt and sits on New Haven Arkose. This large boulder was carried some distance during the Ice Age, and at some point split into more than one rock.



Photo (opposite): Brethren by Rob Irwin

Duke Farms as a Muse and Third Space

Visitors to Duke Farms are inspired by the natural beauty and wonder of this place. As a destination for naturalists and the environmentally curious, and muse to artists, Duke Farms strives to be a third space for people, a quiet retreat from the familiar and busy personal, commercial, and civic spaces of their lives, that invites them to explore, unplug, learn, and reconnect with the natural world and themselves.



History and Operations

Duke Farms was formerly one of Doris Duke's seasonal residences, which she inherited from her father, James Buchanan Duke, who endowed Duke University and founded Duke Power and the American Tobacco Company. In accordance with the directives in Doris Duke's will, Duke Farms first opened to the public in May 2012 with a mission to promote conservation of wildlife. It is managed by the Duke Farms Foundation, which runs as a center for environmental stewardship under the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation umbrella. To learn more about Duke Farms and experience all it has to offer, visit www.dukefarms.org.