

Writing the Land: Currents
Edited by Lis McLoughlin, PhD

Published by NatureCulture LLC
www.nature-culture.net
www.writingtheland.org

ISBN: 978-1-7375740-5-7
First Edition

Cover Artwork: *Corvid I* by Martin Bridge
www.thebridgebrothers.com

Cover and Interior book design: Lis McLoughlin

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NatureCulture LLC
Northfield, MA

WRITING THE LAND: CURRENTS
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WILD RIVERS LAND TRUST



Oregon

Keeping our wild & working lands forever abundant

Our Vision: We envision a future where clean water, abundant salmon runs, sustainable working lands, and prospering rural communities forever define Oregon's southern coast.

Our Mission: To keep the irreplaceable lands and waters of the southern Oregon coast forever wild and abundant.

-Keystone Nature Preserve: Poet Vicki Graham

Wild Rivers Land Trust

Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT) believes our enduring habitats, economic prosperity, and rural coastal culture are interconnected. Our service area includes 2.3 million acres that stretch 135 miles along the southern Oregon coast. From Tenmile Lakes to the Winchuck River, we conserve and steward places people and wildlife depend on for clean air, fresh water, and healthy surroundings. And by partnering with willing landowners, we help working farms, forests, and ranches preserve their legacy for future generations.

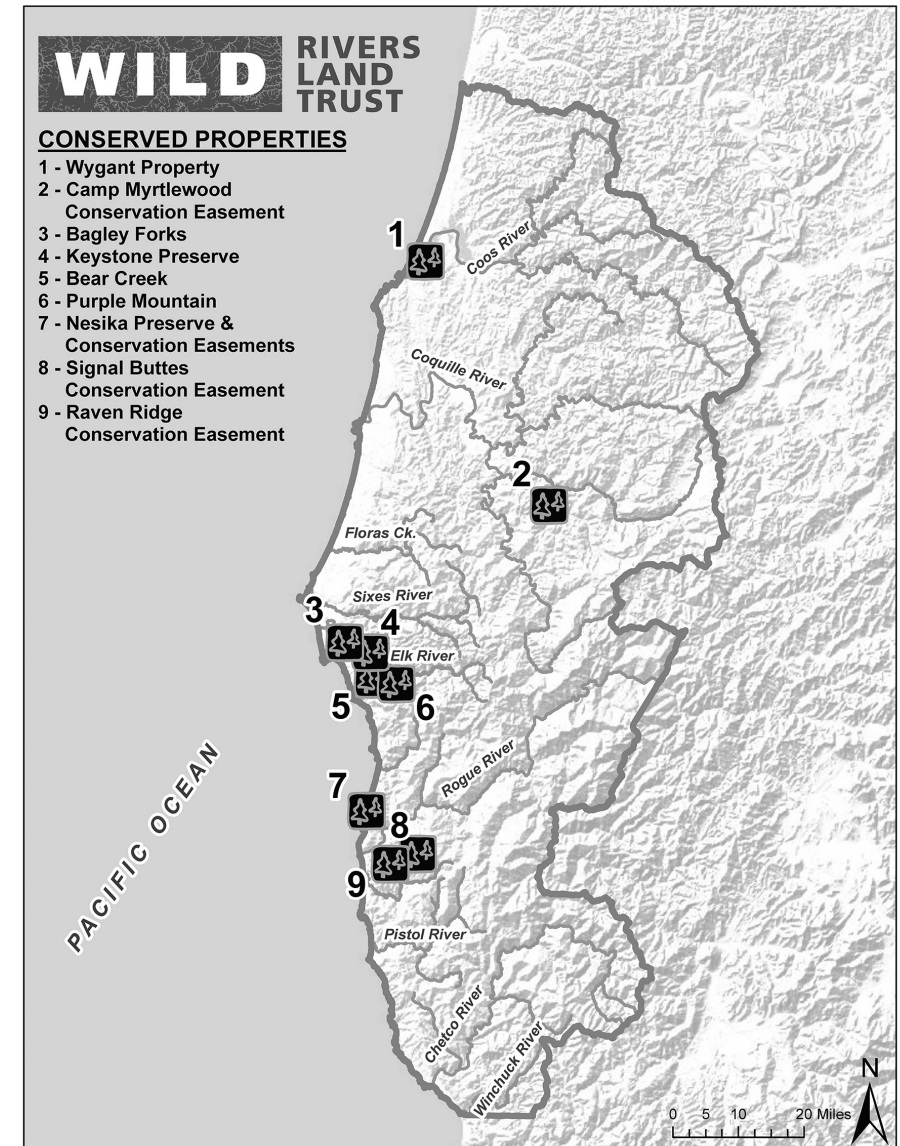
Founded in 2000, WRLT has protected thousands of acres of wild lands and waters and provides safe habitat for all species of plants and animals. Our future, that of the planet and the land trust, will depend on the passion instilled for a healthy, sustainable Earth by caring communities, individuals, corporations and agencies.

We invite everyone to read more at wildriverslandtrust.org and we thank you for your support.

By protecting these wild places, we are ensuring a future that will provide habitat for many imperiled species, such as coho salmon, spotted owls, marbled murrelets and many others. We manage our preserves for ecological function—prioritizing restoration and protection of these critical areas. Protecting these natural spaces also provides substantial benefits to our local communities—clean air and water, open green space, carbon storage, as well places to recreate, hunt, and forage. We are committed to the fact that some places are best left wild, forever.

Our conservation work directly benefits:

- Wild salmon, animals, and birds that rely on natural habitat to live their lives, find their food and rear their young
- Plants and animals that need clean, cold water
- Local residents who live, work, and play on the South Coast
- Farmers and ranchers who want to preserve their legacies forever
- People who fish, hunt, hike, swim, paddle, and connect with nature
- Those who care about preserving our world-class wild salmon runs
- Everyone on the southern Oregon coast who relies on clean air, fresh water and wild lands.



Nesika Beach Preserve

This stunning preserve situated on the coastal bluffs of the Pacific Ocean was transferred to Wild Rivers Land Trust from the Nature Conservancy in 2020. The 100 acre preserve contains Sitka Spruce, Grand Fir forests and rare plants providing a full range of conservation ecosystems that links mountainous summits to Pacific seastacks. Nesika is a prime example of cooperative landowners caring for the lands where they live while having the support and guidance of our staff.



Photo (above): Nesika Ocean View
 Photo (opposite): Camp Myrtlewood Footbridge

Camp Myrtlewood

The Camp's outdoor forest environment is a prime hiking spot and shining example of a Working Lands Conservation Easement. Camp Myrtlewood is enjoyed by more than 2000 visitors each year serving as a children's camp and adult retreat on 160 acres of forests, streams and meadows. The connecting thread between healthy forests and healthy people is shared by all who experience this glorious location. Camp Myrtlewood showcases the ability of hardworking land stewards who provide people from all walks of life an opportunity to get outdoors and interact with nature.



Let Beauty

by Stacy Boe Miller

The lone pair of bluebirds
got an early start this year.

I sing a small triumph
for four fledglings in the nest.

My voice crawls a ladder
of wind to the dark-haired boy

running through the yarrow. I saw him
yesterday, drawing teasel—a weed

crowding what belongs.
His teacher smiling

over his shoulder. Let's let beauty
live a little longer.



Photo: A summer day at the Palouse Nature Center

Natural history

Mounds View lies near the eastern edge of Wisconsin's driftless, or unglaciated, region. Its bedrock geology was formed 450-470 million years ago during the middle Ordovician period of the Paleozoic era. The Galena, Decorah and Platteville Formations remaining as dolomitic ridges rising 1150 feet above sea level surround the site, providing breathtaking panoramic views. The gently rolling hilltops of dolomite slope down to shallow valleys with the side slopes covered in St. Peter's sandstone. The excavations of recently constructed badger dens can be observed in the easily excavated sandy soils. The St. Peter Sandstone is underlain by dolomitic rocks of the Prairie du Chien Group, which are not observable at Mounds View.

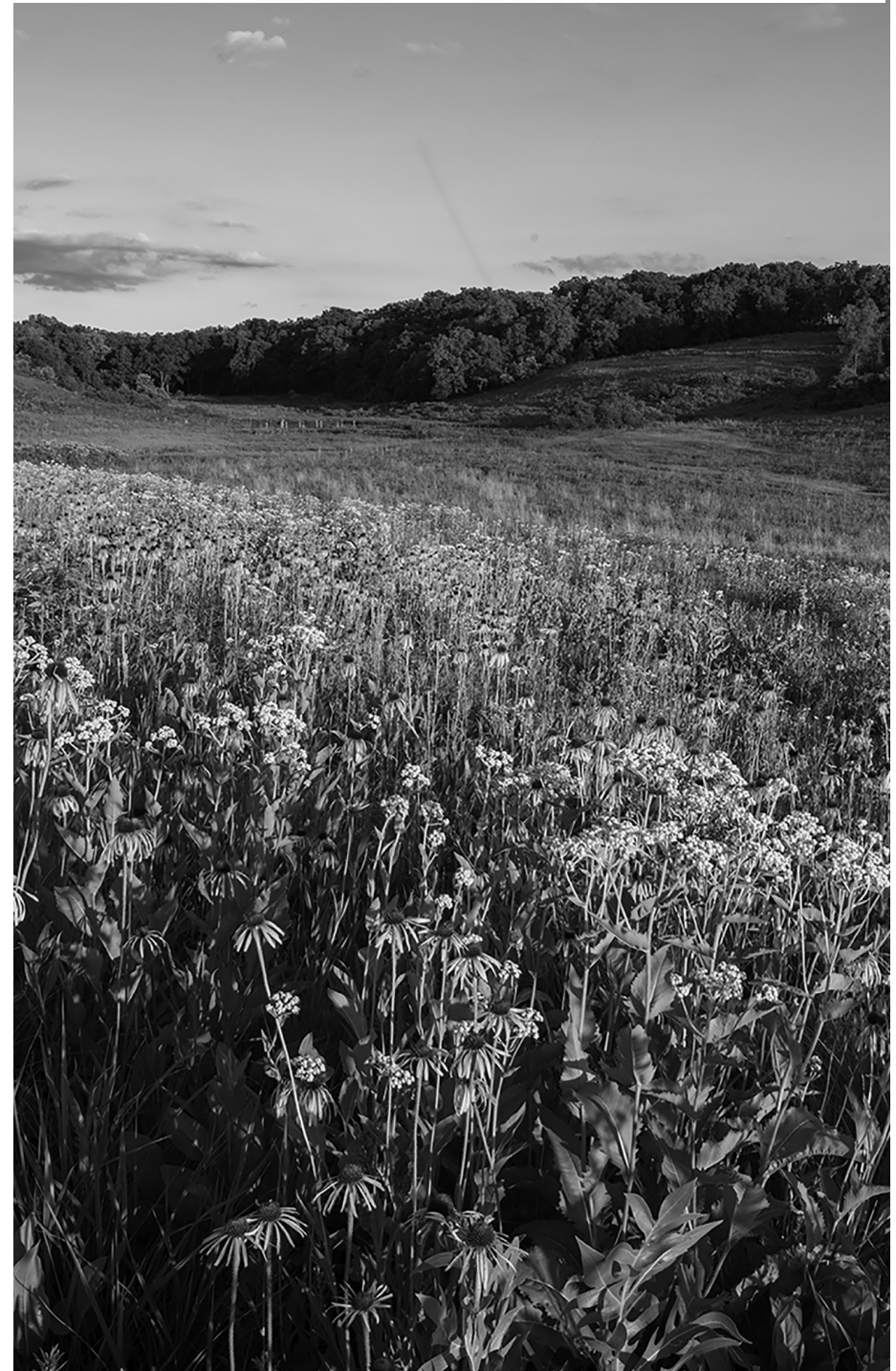
The Galena and Platteville Ordovician formations contain more fossils than any other geologic strata in Wisconsin. While stromatolites and oolites are lacking, the environment at the time was very hospitable to a broad range of bottom-dwelling, shell-forming animals such as brachiopods, bryozoans, corals, clams, and crinoids.

Management

Limited restoration work was begun in 2000, but most has been started since 2007, after permanent protection began to occur. In addition to planting prairie vegetation, land has been cleared of dense trees and brush that had invaded the site over the previous 60 years. Some restoration of the cold-water streams and wetlands has been started.

The restoration and management work has been done by volunteers and interns, and aided by contractors paid for with grants from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, WI Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation Society, Paul E. Stry Foundation, Alliant Energy Foundation, and private donations.

Ongoing management efforts include clearing trees and shrubs, weed control, use of prescribed fire, and planting of prairie seeds. There is still much to do, and it will take many decades to even begin to approach what the original ecosystems were like.



Blue Point Preserve

Blue Point Preserve includes 800 feet of frontage along Scarborough Marsh, the largest contiguous salt marsh in Maine. Prior to European settlement, the Sokokis people of the Abenaki Tribe might have foraged for shellfish in the type of sheltered tidal wetland that can be seen from the marsh viewpoint. Looking out from that same location as early as the 1600s, you might have seen people cutting channels in the wetland to control the tides and harvest salt marsh hay. More recently, there was a gravel pit created on the northern part of the property. Neighborhood children used to ice skate on the frozen bottom of the gravel pit where the cattails now thrive.



Photo: Marsh by Abby Wilson

Imagine Blue Point, Approaching
by Claire Millikin

Driving past Jaguar, Land Rover, Mercedes Benz dealerships,
hospice, donut shop, faded motel,
I imagine what blue might appear
on Blue Point. Pearl azure, vitreous aquamarine,
incantatory nearing green, violet's elegiac slip. The turn

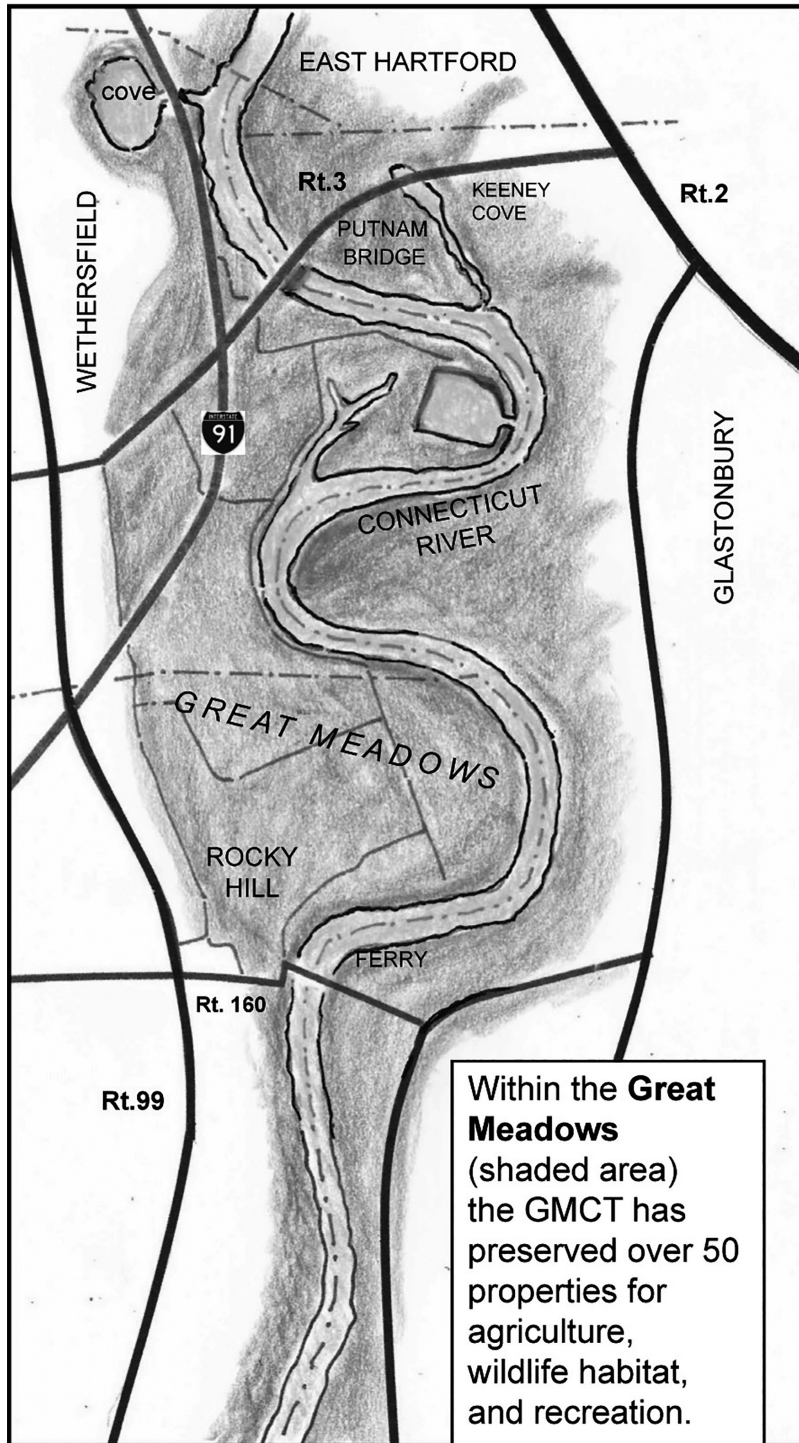
down the point marked by shuttered dairy bar and changing air,
salt in the offing. The difference of marsh and swamp
I think is light's available arc. At last reach
salt marsh blue as washed plates,
paler than rain,

slipped grain by grain in salt
and long ungolden grasses. It's not yet spring.
Initiate to water, blue keeps arriving, estuary,
almost a kind of estrus, this curved sequential opening.
They say the Almouchiquois fished here,

and for thousands of years this blue was theirs
by breath, eyes, touch. This itch of land
that now accepts my passing human steps.
My point on Blue Point is to say what is blue.
What is this blue?

A mirror, a thirst, a charm against the evil eye,
the talisman Efthemia gave me before the birth.
Beyond luxury car dealerships, hospice, donut shop, motel, dairy bar,
the point of it all: nothing
but land sinking, this listening.

An aspen shoot lean as a yearling deer
breathes between land and water. What is this worship?
Psaltic-blue, a taste like psalm in the mouth,
iridium, not cobalt, blue point's
rising waters, bearing salt.



The Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. has the following goals:

- To engage in the preservation of the Great Meadows and environs through responsible stewardship and management of the land the Trust owns and easements it holds.
- To engage in and promote the scientific study relating to the natural, cultural, and ecological values of the Great Meadows including its history, landscape, flora, fauna, recreational and flood control significance and to educate the public on these matters.
- To acquire, by gift, purchase, or otherwise, real or personal property of all kinds and interests, and to properly use such property and any net earnings exclusively for educational, scientific, charitable, agricultural, and conservation purposes of the Trust.
- To promote conservation efforts consistent with the mission of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust in partnership with landowners, state and town governments and other organizations



Map (opposite): The Great Meadows by Phil Lohman
Aerial Photo (above): The Great Meadows Looking North by Jack Jensen

History: 1968 - 2023

The Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc. was formed in 1968 in the pre-Earth Day period when there was no effective floodplain regulation. The Great Meadows had been seriously impacted by sand and gravel excavation, a former landfill, and highway construction. Fears of development were realized in the form of a race track proposal that would have diked a large area of the meadows in Wethersfield. Thanks to the Trust's first land acquisition of a small parcel at the entrance to the proposed race track, the threat to the meadows was defeated. For over 54 years the Trust has advocated for preserving the "oasis of green" in the Hartford metro area, acquiring 50 relatively small parcels "preserved in perpetuity" in fee ownership or easement, located throughout the Wethersfield, Glastonbury, and Rocky Hill meadows. Though they total only 200 acres of the 4500 acre flood plain, their strategic locations afford the Trust a powerful voice for the future.



Photo (opposite): Robins House 1936 by Edward Willard
 Photo (above): Welcome to the Wood Parcel Trail



Photo: Green Heron by Jim Woodworth

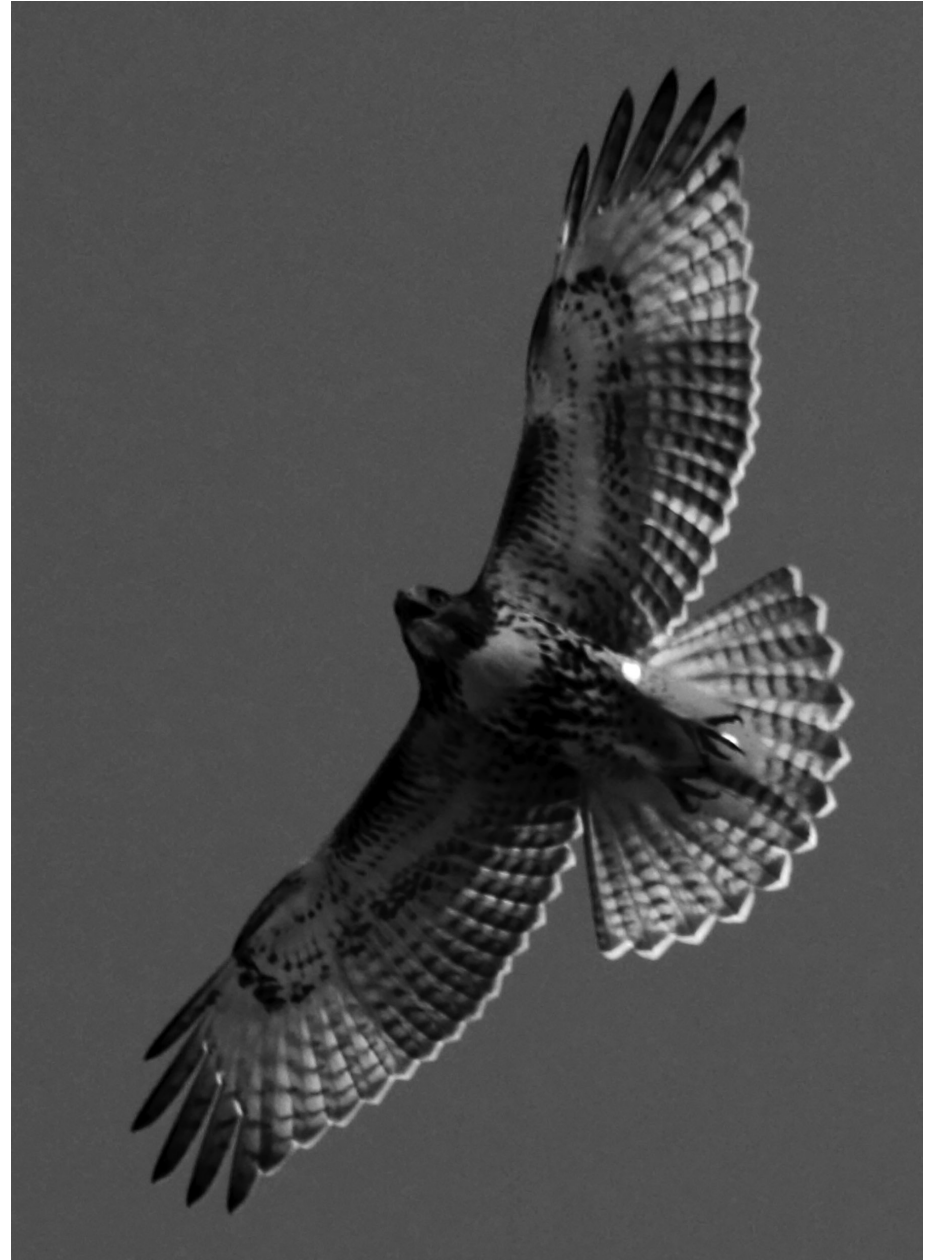


Photo: Redtail Hawk Circles Over The Wood Parcel