

**REBECCA LAWTON**[becca@beccalawton.com](mailto:becca@beccalawton.com) • [beccalawton.com](http://beccalawton.com)**SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

Author, fluvial geologist, and former Colorado River guide Rebecca Lawton writes about water and the environment. The author of ten books on wild and human nature, she has published poems, essays, and stories in *Aeon*, *Brevity*, *Hakai*, *Hunger Mountain*, *More*, *Orion*, *The San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*, *Shenandoah*, *Sierra*, *THEMA*, and many other journals.

**EDUCATION**

M.F.A., Creative Writing and Literature. Mills College, Oakland, CA. May 1993.

B.S., Earth Sciences. U.C., Santa Cruz. Honors in thesis on Mesozoic streams. December 1976.

**SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Shortlisted, International Rubery Books Award, *What I Never Told You: Stories*. 2023.
- Finalist, New Women's Voices, Finishing Line Press. *Swimming Grand Canyon*. 2021.
- Resident, The Arctic Circle Artist and Science Expeditionary Program. 2018. (Sail in 2024.)
- Winner, Nautilus Book Award, Silver, Ecology & Environment. *The Oasis This Time*. 2020.
- Finalist, Oregon Book Award, Creative Nonfiction. *The Oasis This Time*. 2020.
- Finalist, Foreword INDIE Ecology & Environment Award. *The Oasis This Time*. 2019.
- Finalist, Everything Change Cli-Fi Contest, Arizona State University Imagination and Climate Futures Initiative. Tempe, AZ. "Tuolumne River Days." Judge Kim Stanley Robinson. 2018.
- Fulbright Canada RBC Eco Leadership Program Award. Victoria, BC, and Ottawa, ON. 2017.
- Fellow, International League of Conservation Writers. Golden, CO. 2017 to present.
- Resident, U.C. Irvine Steele-Burnand Research Center, Borrego Springs, CA. 2017, 2015.
- Resident, Playa Fellowship Program for Creative Individuals, Summer Lake, OR. 2017, 2015.
- Nominee, Best American Science and Nature Writing ("Midnight at the Oasis"). 2016.
- Waterston Desert Writing Prize (*The Oasis this Time*). Bend, OR. 2015.
- Fulbright Visiting Research Chair. University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. 2014-15.
- WILLA Award (*Junction, Utah*). Women Writing the West. Golden, CO. 2014.
- Resident, Hedgebrook Retreat for Women Writers. Langley, WA. 2013, 2009.
- Resident, The Island Institute. Sitka, AK. September 2011.
- Poetry Award, 21st Annual Mendocino Coast Writer's Conference. Fort Bragg, CA. 2009.
- Finalist, David Nathan Meyerson Fiction Prize. Southwest Review. Southern Methodist University. Dallas, TX. "The Road to Bonanza." Judge Alice Hoffman. 2009.
- First Place, Poetry Competition, Redwood Writers Branch of California Writers Club. Santa Rosa, CA. For "Journal." Judged by former Sonoma County Poet Laureate Terry Ehret and incumbent Poet Laureate Mike Tuggle. 2009.
- Finalist, Fiction Prize. For "The Wish." Chautauqua Institution. Judge David Crouse. 2009.

- Desert Writer Award. Ellen Meloy Fund. *Junction, Utah*. Bluff, UT. 2006.
- Finalist, Nature Book of Year Award. *ForeWord*. Traverse City, MI. *Reading Water*. 2003.
- Personal Essay Award. Tiny Lights Publications. Petaluma, CA. For “Scalping the Games.” Judged by Susan Bono. 2001.
- You Are Here Sonoma County Writing Award. Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Sebastopol, CA. For “Questions for the Creek.” Judge Elizabeth Carothers Herron. 2000.
- Poetry Award. *Utah Wilderness Association*. Salt Lake City, UT. “Ghost of a River.” May 1993.
- William Warner Henry Writing Award. Oakland, CA. “On the Whiteness of the Whale.” Judges Mills College English Department Faculty. April 1993.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (chronologically within genres)

### Book-Length Fiction

- *What I Never Told You: Stories*. Agua Caliente, CA: Wavegirl Books. 2022.
- *Steelies and Other Endangered Species*. Sarasota, FL: Little Curlew Press. 2014.
- *Junction, Utah*. Encinitas, CA: van Haitsma Literary. 2013.

### Book-Length Poetry

- *Swimming Grand Canyon and Other Poems*. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press. 2021.

### Book-Length Nonfiction

- *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West*. Salt Lake City, UT: Torrey House Press. 2019.
- *Sacrament: Homage to a River*, with Geoff Fricker. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books. 2014.
- *Write Free: Attracting the Creative Life*, with Jordan Rosenfeld. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi. 2007.
- *On Foot in Sonoma*, with Arthur Dawson. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi Press. 2004.
- *Reading Water: Lessons from the River*. Sterling, VA: Capital Books. 2002.
- *Discover Nature in the Rocks*, with Diana Lawton, Susan Panttaja, and Irene Guidici Ehret. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. 1997.

### Short Fiction

- “Evacuees,” *Chautauqua*. Wilmington, NC: Chautauqua Institution. 2019.
- “Tuolumne River Days,” online journal [Everything Change, Volume II: An Anthology of Climate Fiction](#). Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University. January 2019.
- “An Exposition of the Development of the Earth,” online journal *Slippage*. February 2014.
- “Steelies.” *Connotations*. Sitka, Alaska: The Island Institute. 2011.
- “The Road to Bonanza,” online *Midway Journal*. June 2011. (Nominated for 2011 Pushcart)
- “The Wish,” online journal *Perigree: Publication for the Arts*. Vol. 7, Issue 3. April 2010.
- “Sipapu,” *Milk & Ink: A Mosaic of Motherhood* Anthology. Denver, CO: Outskirts. 2010.
- “Only Water,” performed by Page on Stage, Santa Rosa, CA: Glaser Center & KRCB. 2006.
- “The Middle of a River in Flood,” *Standing Wave*. Prescott, AZ: Elliot Treichel. 1997.
- “Sandstone,” *THEMA*. Metairie, LA: THEMA Literary Society. 1995.

- “Change of Heart,” *the Acorn*. El Dorado, CA: El Dorado Writers’ Guild. 1995.
- “What I Never Told You,” *Walking the Twilight*. Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Publishing. 1994.

### Poetry

- “The Night the County Supervisors Met to Sell the Mountain,” *Deep Wild Journal*. 2023.
- “Arbor Day,” [Canary: A Literary Magazine of the Environmental Crisis](#). March 2022.
- “Tradeoffs,” print collaboration with Daniel Mayers, Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ: SW Regional Print Exchange, College Book Art Association, Distinctive Collections. 2021.
- “Swimming Grand Canyon” and “The Great Unconformity,” *Going Down Grand: Poems from the Grand Canyon*. Editors Peter Anderson and Rick Kempa. Fruita, CO: Lithic Press. 2015.
- “Tiny Dancer,” *Sonoma Valley Sun*. Sonoma, CA. August 23, 2012.
- “Boatwomen,” *Still Crazy, A Literary Magazine*. Worthington, OH. 2011.
- “Bastion,” *Adirondack Explorer*. Saranac Lake, NY: Getting the Word Out, Inc. 2011.
- “The Bed,” *Milk & Ink: A Mosaic of Motherhood* Anthology. Denver, CO: Outskirts. 2010.
- “Passage,” “Where I Grew Up,” “Burying the Barn Owl,” *Todd Pt. Review*. Mendocino, CA: 2010.
- “Journal,” *Sonoma Valley Sun*. Vol. VI, Issue 27. Sonoma, CA: Three House. October 9, 2009.
- “What’s So Feminine about a Mandolin?” *Shenandoah*. Lexington, VA: WA and Lee. 2006.
- “Seen Near Loma,” *Standing Wave*. Prescott, AZ: Elliot Treichel. 1997.
- “Night Noise,” *Community Poetry Anthology*. Sonoma, CA: Readers Books. 1996.
- “On Hearing about Ted,” *the Acorn*. El Dorado, CA: El Dorado Writers’ Guild. 1995. (Nominated for 1995 Pushcart)
- “Cougars and Mr. Redford,” *Poets Collection II*. Sonoma, CA: Hilltop Publishing. 1995.
- “Ghost of a River,” *Review*. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Wilderness Association. 1993.

### Essays and Articles

- “Blush and Rouge in the Grand Canyon: An Interview with Melissa L. Sevigny,” [Terrain.org](#). May 17, 2023.
- “The End Is Nigh: Grief and the Big-Dam Era,” [Headwaters](#) Magazine. March 14, 2023.
- “It’s Never Too Late to Save a River,” <https://writersontherange.org/>. November 14, 2022.
- “A Water-Stressed Valley Needs to Curb Development,” <https://writersontherange.org/>, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Las Vegas Sun*, *Aspen Daily News*, seventeen other outlets. May 23, 2022.
- “A Community of River Guides Copes with Loss,” [https://writersontherange.org](https://writersontherange.org/), *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Las Vegas Sun*, *Yahoo! News*, *Adventure Journal*, eighteen other outlets. Nov 8, 2021.
- “Disappointment Was What I Needed: An Interview with Kathryn Wilder, Author of *Desert Chrome*,” *Terrain.org*. In press, forthcoming September-October 2021.
- “Coming or Going,” *That Thing with Feathers: Hope and Literature in a Time of Pandemic*. <https://www.torreyhouse.org/single-post/2020/04/29/That-Thing-with-Feathers-Hope-and-Literature-in-a-Time-of-Pandemic>. Salt Lake City, UT: Torrey House. 2020.
- “Beautiful Shards,” *High Desert Journal*. November 1, 2019.
- “A Small Affair,” *Contra Viento*. <https://contravientojournal.org/a-small-affair/>. July 2019.

- “Mountain Time: Geology,” chapter in *Where the World Begins: Sonoma Mountain Stories and Images*. Glen Ellen, CA: Sonoma Mountain Preservation. 2019.
- “‘Beautiful, Special, Caring Community’ Aids Fire-Damaged Nature Preserves” and “Fire Victims Humbled, Awed by Generosity,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. January 25, 2018.
- “Birding the Burn: Returning to a Landscape Transformed by Fire,” *Audubon*. <https://www.audubon.org/news/birding-burn>. 2018.
- “[Playing Our Parts](#)”; “[Crisis and Opportunity](#)”; “[Loss and Renewal](#)”; and “[Through the Flames](#),” *Pepperwood Field Notes*. Pepperwood Preserve, Santa Rosa, CA. 2017.
- “Nurse Turns Fairgrounds into Medical Clinic during Sonoma County Fires,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. November 20, 2017.
- “The Healing Power of Nature,” *Aeon*. <https://aeon.co/essays/why-forests-and-rivers-are-the-most-potent-health-tonic-around>. Melbourne: Aeon Media Ltd. September 6, 2017.
- “Helping Wildlife Survive in the Heat,” “Gazing at Summer Skies,” “Health Benefits of Forest Bathing,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. June and July, 2017.
- “Starring Sea Monsters,” *Hakai Magazine*. Victoria, B.C. June 9, 2017.
- “What *Casablanca* Taught Me about Resilience,” “How to Develop a Spiritual Connection to Water,” <http://thewisdomdaily.com/how-to-develop-a-spiritual-connection-to-water/>. *The Wisdom Daily*. 2017.
- “Giving In,” *Hunger Mountain: VCFA Journal for Arts*. <http://hungermtn.org/giving-in/>. 2017.
- “Actor, Author Jane Alexander Turns Her Attention to Wild Things, Wild Places,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. October 20, 2016.
- “Why Trails Matter,” *Ridge Lines*. San Francisco: Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. 2016.
- “The Big Dam Era Is Not Over,” *Undark*. Cambridge: Knight Science Journalism, MIT. 2016.
- “Breaking the Rules Outdoors,” *Aeon*. Melbourne: Aeon Media Ltd. July 25, 2016.
- “Sleuthing for Sonoma Valley’s Oldest Streams,” “Chasing Waterfalls,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. February and March, 2016.
- “Skunk Highway,” “Zugunruhe and Migration,” “Of Christmas Holly, Grizzly Bears, and Sudden Oak Death,” *Press Democrat*. Santa Rosa, CA. September, November, December, 2015.
- “Midnight at the Oasis: The High Environmental Cost of our Oasis Fix,” *Aeon*. 2015.
- “Consistently Lovely: The Exceptional Field Journals of Martin H. Moynihan,” “Getting the Drift,” *Hakai Magazine*. Victoria, BC, Canada: Tula Foundation. Summer and Fall 2015.
- “Drought and the Ostrich Syndrome,” *Aeon*. Melbourne: Aeon Media Ltd. April 14, 2015.
- “The Place where Records Are Kept,” *Newsletter*. Victoria, CA: Friends of BC Archives. 2015.
- “Pug Boat,” *Women in Nature: An Anthology*. Reading, PA: Louise Grace Publishing. 2014.
- “As the Eel Curves: The Life and Writings of Zara Raab,” *The Redwood Coast Review*. 2014.
- “The Other,” *The East Bay Monthly*. <https://themonthly.com/feature131202/>. Oakland, CA: Telegraph Media. December 2013.
- “Green River Valley, Utah,” *Orion*. Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society. 2013.
- “Here’s Looking at You, Writer,” *Brevity*. <https://brevity.wordpress.com/2013/05/28/heres-looking-at-you-writer/>. May 28, 2013

- “Neck-Deep in the Colorado,” *Zocalo Public Square*. Tempe, AZ: AZ State University. 2013.
- “Death Throes,” *Mission at Tenth*. San Francisco, CA: CA Institute of Integral Studies. 2012.
- “Eating Stone, Review of *Eating Stone: Imagination and the Loss of the Wild*, by Ellen Meloy,” Original Book Reviews. Salt Lake City, UT: Torrey House Press. April 2011.
- “Take the ‘C’ Train,” *Art, Literature, and Place: An Eco-poetics Reader*. Toronto: Canadian Journal of Environmental Education. Volume 13 (2). 2008.
- Media Lounge Reviews of *The Earth Knows My Name*, a book by Patricia Klindienst, and *The Fragile Edge*, a book by Julia Whitty, *Sierra*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club. 2007.
- “Felling the Trees,” *San Francisco Chronicle*. San Francisco, CA: Hearst Corporation. 2006.
- “The Art of Starting Over,” *More*. NY: Meredith Publishing. July/August 2006.
- “The Tongue,” *The Best Women’s Travel Writing, 2006: True Stories from Around the World*. Lucy McCauley, editor. Palo Alto, CA: Travelers’ Tales. 2006.
- “Possession,” *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*. San Francisco: Hearst Corporation. 2006.
- “American Art,” “Moon River,” and “A Reluctant Geologist Writes about Rocks,” *Word by Word*. Rohnert Park, CA: KRCB Radio 91.1 fm. 2005.
- “The Company of Rocks,” *Orion*. Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society. 2005.
- “In the Oasis,” *Tiny Lights*. Petaluma, CA: Tiny Lights Publications. 2005.
- “Book Case,” “War Zone,” “Wingin’ It.” *Northern California Bohemian*. 2000 and 2001.
- “On the Colorado River,” *365 Travel*. San Francisco: Travelers’ Tales. 2001.
- “Faith in the Dry Season.” *Tiny Lights*. Petaluma, CA: Tiny Lights Publications. 2001. (Nominated for 2001 Pushcart)
- “Headwaters,” *The Gift of Rivers: Life on the Water*. SF, CA: Travelers’ Tales. 2000.
- “Imbrication,” *Word Tastings*. Summerland, CA: Santa Barbara Review Publications. 1998.
- “Down to Earth,” “Dynamic Duo,” “Growing with Expert Systems,” “Heavy Metals,” “Out of the Woods,” additional articles, *Penn State Agriculture*. University Park, PA. 1988.
- “Fear and Loathing on the Upper Yampa,” *Wasatch Sports Guide*. Salt Lake City, UT. 1984.
- “Early History of the Tuolumne River Canyon,” *Interpretive Guide to the American, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Rivers*. Berkeley, CA: Pacific Rivers Outfitters Association. 1975.

### **Selected Refereed Technical Papers and Posters**

- “Story as a Way In: Response to Change in Climate and Water,” in *Living on the Edge of Change: Exploring the Dimensions of Restoring Fire Resilient Landscapes, Culture, and Economies on the Cascade Range’s Eastside: Proceedings of the 87th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association*. Bend, OR: Central Oregon Community College. 2016.
- “Measuring Sediment in Sonoma Mountain’s Streams,” Poster at Copeland Creek Watershed Symposium. With Laurel Collins and Arthur Dawson. Cotati, CA: Sonoma State U. 2013.
- “Addressing the Sediment Problem in Sonoma Creek Watershed.” Poster at Napa Watershed Symposium. With Deanne DiPietro, Laurel Collins, and Arthur Dawson. Napa, CA. 2011.
- “A Look at Watershed Health: Developing the Sonoma Creek Scorecard,” in *Proceedings 28th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference and the 44th Annual American Fisheries Society Cal-*

- Neva Conference, Fisheries Restoration and Science in a Changing Climate*. With Deanne DiPietro, Mark Newhouser, and Alex Young, Sonoma Ecology Center. Santa Cruz, CA. 2009.
- “Estimating Sediment Production for the Sonoma Creek TMDL,” Poster at State of the Estuary Conference. With Laurel Collins and Arthur Dawson. Oakland, CA. 2007.
  - “Measuring Sediment in Jack London’s Streams, Sonoma Creek Watershed, Sonoma County,” Poster at State of the Estuary Conference. With Kristine Camacho. Oakland, CA: 2005.
  - “Monitoring Suspended Sediment Concentration and Turbidity, Sonoma Ck Watershed, Sonoma County,” Poster at State of the Estuary Conference. With Jenny Tribo. Oakland, CA: 2003.
  - “Volunteer Monitoring of Suspended Sediment Concentration and Turbidity, Sonoma Creek Watershed, Sonoma County, CA,” in *Advances in Science and Restoration in the Bay, Delta, and Watershed*. Sacramento, CA: CALFED Science Conference. January 14-16, 2003.
  - “Taphonomy of the Dinosaur Quarry, Dinosaur National Monument,” *Contributions to Geology*. Volume 15. Laramie, WY: University of Wyoming. 1977.

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Presenter, “Open Mic with Rebecca Lawton,” Rich Ehison’s [\*The Open Mic: Writers in Their Own Words\*](#). July 29, 2021.
- Presenter, “Writing about Climate Change,” Washington-Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon. March 3, 2020.
- Reader, *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West*. Numerous bookstores, book fairs, and writing conferences in CA, OR, ID, UT, CO, NM, and AZ. October 2019.
- Board member, Board of Directors, NW Scientific Association. Spokane, WA. 2019 to 2021.
- Presenter, “A Desert Conversation,” High Desert Museum. Bend, OR. July 2018.
- Presenter, “Women Writing Science,” The Sitting Room. Penngrave, CA. October 7, 2017.
- Speaker, “Your Brain on Climate Change: Story as a Way In,” Victoria Natural History Society, Victoria, B.C., and Search for Meaning Bookfest, Seattle, WA. February 14 and 25, 2017.
- Presenter, “In Conversation with Jane Alexander on Wild Things, Wild Places,” Copperfield’s Books. Petaluma, CA. October 20, 2016.
- Presenter, “Equal Voice for the Earth: Women Writers and the Environment,” Hedgebrook Retreat Benefit at Pepperwood Preserve. Santa Rosa, CA. July 21, 2016.
- Speaker, “Convergence of Arts, Humanities, and Ecology in Inspiring Northwest Landscapes,” Northwest Scientific Association Annual Meeting. Bend, OR. March 24, 2016.
- Presenter, “From Raw to Cooked: Water, Climate, and Creative Writing in the American West,” Women Writing the West Conference. Bend, OR. October 11, 2015.
- Presenter, Visiting Author, “You Don’t Miss Your Water: Creative Writing and Megadrought in the North American West,” Fulbright Lecture at U of Alberta and Royal BC Museum. 2014.
- Presenter, Visiting Author, “Sacramento,” California State University. Chico, CA. April 2014.
- Presenter, “Lessons from the River,” Texas Grain & Feed Assoc. 116th Annual Meeting. 2014.
- External Advisor, STEM Program, Sonoma State University. Rohnert Park, CA. 2011 to 2016.
- Instructor, Point Reyes Field Institute. Point Reyes National Seashore, CA. 2013 to 2018.
- Presenter, North Coast Redwoods Writer’s Conference, College of Redwoods. 2012 to 2013.

- Presenter, Writer’s Workshops, Mendocino Community College. Ukiah, CA. 2009 and 2012.
- Presenter, Deep Storytelling Workshops, Coast Writers Conference. Mendocino, CA. 2007.
- Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Laguna de Santa Rosa. Santa Rosa, CA. 2007.
- Presenter, Writing with Nature Workshop, Writer’s Forum. Petaluma, CA. 2006.
- Literary Judge, Bay Area Middle School Poetry Out Loud Contest. Berkeley, CA. 2006.
- Presenter, Writer’s Sampler Series, Center for the Arts. Sebastopol, CA. 2005 and 2009.
- Literary Judge, Sense of Place Poetry Contest, Kulupi Press. Glen Ellen, CA. 2005-2008.
- Author and Presenter, Sonoma County Book Fair. Santa Rosa, CA. 2003, 2006, and 2008.
- Visiting Author, Science & Environment Series, Rocky Mountain College. Billings, MT. 2003.
- Facilitator, Writer’s Retreat, Wellspring Renewal Center. Philo, CA. 2002 to 2006.
- Member, Earth Stewards Committee, Sonoma Congregational Church. 2002 to 2003.
- Literary Judge, “On Water” Contest, Center for the Arts. Sebastopol, CA. 1999.
- Literary Judge, Sonoma Valley Middle School Writing Faire. Sonoma, CA. 1998 to 2012.
- Poet-Teacher, California Poets in the Schools. Sonoma, CA. 1996 to 2002.
- Presenter, Women in Grand Canyon, Friends of the River Conf. San Francisco, CA. 1995.
- Instructor, Poetry and Spirituality Workshops, Sonoma Congregational Church. 1994 to 1997.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Writer, Consultant**, 2015-2018; 2020-present, R LAWTON CONSULTING, Sonoma, CA
- **Executive Director**, 2018-2020, PLAYA RESIDENCY PROGRAM, Summer Lake, OR
- **Visiting Research Chair**, 2014-2015, FULBRIGHT CANADA, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- **Project Geologist, Director of Research, Director of Programs, Consultant**, 2000-2014, SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER, Sonoma, CA
- **Technical Editor and Writer, Project Geologist**, Geological Consulting, 1989-1999, RESNA and HARDING LAWSON ASSOCIATES, Fremont and Novato, CA
- **Science Writer and Editor**, Science Outreach, 1986-1988, PENN STATE, State College, PA
- **Park Ranger and Technician**, Research and Recreation, 1984-1986, U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Grand Canyon, AZ, and Dinosaur, UT
- **Wilderness Leader** (Seasonal), Guiding and Interpretation, 1973-1983, AMERICAN RIVER TOURING ASSOCIATION, Oakland, CA
- **Staff Geologist** (Seasonal), Geological Research, 1979-1983, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY and R&M CONSULTANTS, CA and UT