

## REBECCA LAWTON

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**SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

A Grand Canyon river guide in her early years, Becca Lawton went on to work as a fluvial (stream) geologist and science journalist focused on water and environment. Her new book, *Boatwoman: A River Memoir* (Bison/U Nebraska, 2027), looks at life as an early woman white-water guide in the West. She has published ten books and many articles in *The Sun*, *Undark*, *Audubon*, and other journals, earning literary honors that include a Fulbright Visiting Research Chair, Ellen Meloy Desert Writer Award, WILLA, and Nautilus Book Award. She's served on the boards of Friends of the River, Northwest Scientific Association, and artist residency programs, and is a fellow of the International League of Conservation Writers.

**EDUCATION**

B.S., Earth Sciences. University of California, Santa Cruz. 1976. Honors in thesis on *Dinosauria* bone transport in Mesozoic ephemeral streams, Dinosaur National Monument, Utah-Colorado. M.F.A., Creative Writing and Literature. Mills College, Oakland, CA. 1993. Thesis later published as two award-winning books, *Reading Water* (2002) and *Junction, Utah* (2013).

**SELECTED AWARDS**

- Winner, Desert Writer Award. Ellen Meloy Fund. *Junction, Utah*. Bluff, UT. 2006.
- Winner, WILLA Award (*Junction, Utah*). Women Writing the West. Golden, CO. 2014.
- Fulbright Visiting Research Chair. University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. 2014-15.
- Winner, Waterston Desert Writing Prize (*The Oasis this Time*). Bend, OR. 2015.
- Fulbright Canada RBC Eco Leadership Program Award. Victoria, BC, and Ottawa, ON. 2017.
- Winner, Nautilus Book Award, Silver, Ecology & Environment. *The Oasis This Time*. 2020.

**SELECTED NOMINATIONS**

- Pushcart Nominee in Poetry. "On Hearing about Ted," *the Acorn*. El Dorado, CA. 1995.
- Pushcart Nominee in Nonfiction. "Faith in the Dry Season." *Tiny Lights*. Petaluma, CA. 2001.
- Pushcart Nominee in Fiction. "The Road to Bonanza," *Midway Journal*. June 2011.
- Nominee, *Best American Science and Nature Writing*. "Midnight at the Oasis," *Aeon*. 2016.
- Finalist, Foreword INDIE Ecology & Environment Award. *The Oasis This Time*. 2019.
- Finalist, Oregon Book Award, Sarah Winnemucca Award. *The Oasis This Time*. 2020.
- Finalist, New Women's Voices, Finishing Line Press. *Swimming Grand Canyon*. 2021.
- Shortlisted, International Rubery Books Award, *What I Never Told You: Stories*. 2023.
- Finalist, Indie Author Network Book of the Year Award, *What I Never Told You: Stories*. 2023.

**SELECTED RESIDENCIES**

- Hedgebrook Retreat for Women Writers. Langley, WA. 2009, 2013.
- The Island Institute. Sitka, AK. September 2011.

- U.C. Irvine Steele-Burnand Research Center, Borrego Springs, CA. 2015, 2017, 2026.

### **BOOKS (chronologically within genres)**

#### **Fiction**

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

#### **Poetry (Chapbook)**

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

#### **Nonfiction**

- *Discover Nature in the Rocks*, with Diana Lawton, Susan Panttaja, and Irene Guidici Ehret. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. 1997.
- *Reading Water: Lessons from the River*. Sterling, VA: Capital Books. 2002.
- *On Foot in Sonoma*, with Arthur Dawson. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi Press. 2004.
- *Write Free: Attracting the Creative Life*, with Jordan Rosenfeld. Glen Ellen, CA: Kulupi. 2007.
- *Sacrament: Homage to a River*, with Geoff Fricker. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books. 2014.
- *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West*. Salt Lake: Torrey House. 2019.
- *Boatwoman: A River Memoir*. Lincoln: Bison Books/U of Nebraska Press. Publication 2027.

### **SELECTED ARTICLES AND STORIES (chronologically within genres)**

#### **Short Fiction**

- “Tuolumne River Days,” [\*Everything Change, Volume II: An Anthology of Climate Fiction\*](#). Editor Kim Stanley Robinson. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University. January 2019.
- “Evacuees,” *Chautauqua*. Wilmington, NC: Chautauqua Institution. 2019.

#### **Poetry**

- “Tradeoffs,” Southwest Regional Print Exchange, Arizona State University, Tempe. 2021.
- “Arbor Day,” [\*Canary: A Literary Magazine of the Environmental Crisis\*](#). March 2022.
- “The Night the County Supervisors Met to Sell the Mountain,” *Deep Wild Journal*. 2023.
- “A Good Education,” [\*Canary: A Literary Magazine of the Environmental Crisis\*](#). Fall 2025.

#### **Essays and Articles**

- “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.
- “It’s Never Too Late to Save a River,” <https://writersontherange.org/>. *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Las Vegas Sun*, *Yahoo! News*, *Adventure Journal*, eighteen other outlets. November 14, 2022.
- “The End Is Nigh: Grief and the Big-Dam Era,” [\*Headwaters\*](#) Magazine. March 14, 2023.
- “Blush and Rouge in Grand Canyon: Interview with Melissa L. Sevigny,” [Terrain.org](https://terrain.org). 2023.
- “Letter to America: When We Were Invisible,” <https://www.terrain.org>. November 2024.
- “Three Views of the River: Reading Water, Old Gods, and Life After Dead Pool: A Conversation with Rose McMackin and Zak Podmore,” [terrain.org](https://terrain.org). Due out September 2025.
- “Considerable Luck,” [\*The Sun\*](#). November 2025.