

WATERSHED ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007 • NOON TO 4PM • FREE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CIVIC CENTER PARK • BERKELEY



Photos by David T. Pang, Tea Party

For news on the State of the Planet, join Robert Hass, former U.S. Poet Laureate, with musicians, artists, and environmentalists this Saturday, August 18, noon to 4 p.m. at the 12th annual WATERSHED Environmental Poetry Festival in Civic Center Park, located one block west of downtown Berkeley BART, next to the Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

A free day of poetry, music, and interactive events, the festival features award-winning poet Robert Hass reading "State of the Planet" from his forthcoming collection of poems, *Time and Materials*. Also on stage will be famed Beat poet Michael McClure with saxophonist George Brooks, Montana Poet Laureate Sandra Alcosser, critically acclaimed author/cultural historian Rebecca Solnit, *Poetry Flash* editor/poet Richard Silberg, poet/naturalist Maya Khosla, student and youth poets from River of Words and California Poets in the Schools, and Voices of the Watershed readings with poets Chris Olander, Indigo Moor, Guarionex Delgado, Chad Sweeney, Grace Grafton, Jennifer K. Sweeney, and Margot Pepper. The Toad Pink band, with G.P. Skratz, Hal Hughes, and Jean Robertson, will play country blues music throughout the afternoon. To participate in the We Are Nature open reading, sign up at the information booth by noon. Environmental updates will be provided by Kirstin Miller of Ecocity Builders and Kirk Lumpkin from the Ecology Center.

For those looking for an early start, the pre-festival Strawberry Creek Walk begins at 10 a.m. just inside the U.C. Berkeley campus at Oxford and Center Streets. You are invited to join our featured readers and environmentalists for a short hike along Strawberry Creek from the U.C. Campus through downtown Berkeley, tracing the route of the creek as it tunnels beneath the heart of the city to the site of the festival. At several points throughout the walk, poets will read from their work and restoration advocates will discuss efforts to "daylight" the creek. At the WATERSHED Festival site, the creek, which runs directly beneath the park, will be "miked" to play gently behind the readers.

In addition to the main stage readings and performances, the Festival encourages involvement with the environment and literature via River Village, an area for interactive arts, all-ages nature activities, and literary and environmental exhibits.

Each year, the WATERSHED Festival explores the connection between the current spectrum of the American literary imagination and our landscape, natural history, and sense of environmental urgency, as expressed through the work of our featured writers and performers. Past festival highlights have included Gary Snyder, Joy Harjo, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Diane di Prima, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, John Trudell, Brenda Hillman, Al Young, Linda Hogan, Juan Felipe Herrera, Lewis MacAdams, Kay Ryan, Ernest Callenbach, Jerome Rothenberg, Maxine Hong Kingston, Pattiann Rogers, Jane Hirshfield, Homero Aridjis, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and many others.

Please join us in celebrating writers, nature & community!

For further details: www.poetryflash.org



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