



## Recycled Words: Poetry Contest Seeking Submissions

“Ecopoetry is not a description of dwelling with the earth, not a disengaged thinking about it, but an experiencing of it” (Jonathan Bate, *The Song of the Earth*).

### Category #1: Ages 19 to adult

First Prize: 200.00  
Second Prize: 100.00  
Third Prize: 75.00

### Category #2 Ages 15 years to 18 years

First Prize: 100.0000  
Second Prize: 75.00  
Third Prize: 50.00

### Category #3: Ages 8 to 14 years

First Prize: 75.00  
Second Prize: 50.00  
Third Prize: 25.00

**\*Winning poems will be announced on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will be published the following day in the *Sumter Item* newspaper.**

*Sumter's Accessibility 2007: Sustainability, the Green Art Poetry and Film Festival* will feature the use of poetry and film to address and interpret issues of reuse, recycling, and the environment. And as part of this event, the South Carolina Poetry Initiative will co-sponsor an ecopoetry contest titled *Recycled Words*. Participants in this contest are being asked to explore themes associated with major environmental concerns. You may choose to address issues relating to the world's abuse of nature, the need for recycling, the extinction of a particular animal, or issues relating to global warming. In addition to writing two poems centering on any topic of environmental concern, participants are being asked to create a nature-based "Found" poem. This is a form of poetry that uses recycled words, phrases, or themes from poetry or essays written by other poets. The

poems created are original poems, yet somewhere in the poem there is a theme, cluster of words, or word combination that has been borrowed, recycled, and then placed in a new and original poem.

**The Green Art Poetry and Film Festival** is a unique festival that will feature the screening of selected and winning video entries as well as readings of the winning poetry submissions. There will be a festival awards evening and special reception for event participants held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Information about the festival and the multitude of events that will be taking place during the week of October 8 through October 13, 2007 will be forthcoming.

**Guidelines:**

1. All submissions must include a three poem collection of original work.
2. Submitted poems should not exceed thirty lines.
3. All poems must be nature-based poems.
4. Two poems can be of the author's choice following any form: free verse, sonnet, haiku, etc.
5. One of the three submitted poems must be inspired by a poet who has written an ecopoem or essay. That is to say, a piece by a poet that engages in some way with an issue or issues that interrogates, explores, celebrates, or interacts with some aspect of nature or environmental concern.
6. The poet's "found" nature-based poem will have, in-part, used words, word combinations, phrases, or a theme represented in his or her selected poet's nature-based poem.
7. On a separate piece of paper, you must cite the author, title of the piece, theme, word, or words used in your found poem.
8. Each group of submitted poems must include a cover sheet that lists the author's name, address, phone number, email address, and the title of each poem being submitted.
9. Your name should not appear on the page with your submitted poem(s).
10. Submissions will be accepted from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>.
11. Announcement of the winners will take place at The Green Art Festival which is going to be held in Sumter Opera House and City Centre, Sumter, South Carolina.

**Submission fees:**

- \$5.00 'readers fee' for **each three-poem collection** submitted. Participants can submit multiple 3-poem collections.
- Submission fees will be used to fund the contest and future contests.

**Submissions should be sent to:**

Booth Chilcutt  
Cultural Director for the City of Sumter  
209 North Purdy Street

Sumter, SC 29150

**\*Checks should be made payable to: Sumter County Cultural Commission**

**Poets for Possible Reference:**

- William Wordsworth
- Henry David Thoreau
- Joy Harjo
- Jonathan Bate
- John Clare
- Raymond Williams
- E. P. Thompson,
- Donna Landry
- William Christmas
- Henry Dumas
- Mary Oliver
- Langston Hughes
- Maya Angelo
- Juan Felipe Herrera
- Jane Hirshfield
- Diane Di Prima
- Nikki Giovanni
- Jane Hirshfield
- Abena Songbird
- Niyi Osundare
- Derrick Walcott
- Louise Gluck
- Wendell Berry

**Judge for the Contest:**

**Ray McManus** - received his MFA in poetry from the University of South Carolina in 2001, and his Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric in 2006, at the University of South Carolina. Ray is the author of Driving Through the Country Before You Are Born which won the South Carolina Book Prize in 2006 for poetry sponsored the South Carolina Poetry Initiative and published by USC Press in April 2007. His poetry has appeared in Nimrod, Crazyhorse, Jabberwock, Natural Bridge, Los Angeles Review, Cold Mountain Review, and other journals and anthologies throughout the United States and Canada. Ray is the winner of the Academy of American Poets award at USC (1997), the James Dickey award in poetry (2000) at USC, and the Academy of South Carolina Author's fellowship for his poetry (2002). He teaches poetry writing, composition, and literature at the University of South Carolina, where he has received numerous awards for his teaching. He has served as Writer in Residence for the Palmetto Center for the Arts at Richland Northeast High School from 2003-2006, and has been the Director of Creative Writing at Tri-DAC since 2002. Since 2000, Ray has taught poetry writing to South Carolinians of all ages through a program he co-founded called Split P Soup. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Lindsay, and his children Sean and Morgan. (bio forth coming)

**Charlene Monahan Spearen** received her MFA degree in Creative Writing in May 2003 from the University of South Carolina, and she is close to completing her doctoral degree in Composition and Rhetoric. She is Poet in Residence for the Columbia Museum of Art and has been awarded other residencies throughout the state of South Carolina. She is the Program Coordinator for the University of South Carolina's Arts Institute and the Assistant Director of the South Carolina's Poetry Initiative. Charlene also teaches at the University of South Carolina. She has facilitated creative writing workshops throughout the state of South Carolina, teaching with passion the art of writing poetry to both adults and children. She is a strong advocate for creative writing as means for dealing with the female's sense of self, especially with regard to issues of trauma and conflict. Her work includes a chapbook of poems *Without Possessions* (Stepping Stone Press, 2006), selected poems in *Southern Poetry Anthology: South Carolina Contributors* (Texas Review Press, 2007), *Yemmessee*, *Writers at Carolina*, *Aspects*, and *Promise Magazine*, as well as other awards and nominations.

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What is Accessibility?

**Accessibility- art that defines the community**

Sumter's annual Accessibility project is based on the concept of utilizing contemporary art forms to explore and help define community while simultaneously developing new audiences for the arts by providing opportunities for the public to gain insightful experiences with the arts through meaningful interactions with artists and their art forms. Accessibility will focus on both the concept and process of site and event-specific art forms that are specific and responsive to the culture, history and environment that connects and identifies a community. The basis for Accessibility is "making connections" through the fusion of art, culture, history and environment and encouraging participation in the arts through inclusive programming that utilizes process driven, insightful, creative projects that use 'the arts' to help define the commonality of the community.

**Accessibility2007: Sustainability**

*Green Art - The Art of Reuse, Recycling, Repurposing and the Environment*

October 1 through November 2, 2007

The 2007 Accessibility project will be a community-based initiative using 'the arts' to inspire both the Sumter community and the participating artists to address sustainability and other timely environmental issues. Accessibility2007 will incorporate a holistic and multifaceted approach using a variety of creative art-projects to inform the community about theories and philosophies of reuse, consumerism and recycling in order to generate a public awareness of environmental problems and to encourage people to start talking about sustainability and the conservation of natural resources. The project should help foster a new perspective about art by providing opportunities to see and experience how art can be used as a framework for interpreting the connection between man and his environment.

The month-long event will also include weekly films, lectures, demonstrations and discussions involving the community, artists, students, environmentalist and scientist in an ongoing dialogue about our responsibility to protect the environment, hopefully, engendering an ethos of sustainability in the Sumter community.