

Notes from the Palm Forest

The Merwin Conservancy
SPRING 2016

A sanctuary for exploring the intersection of language, nature, and imagination as inspired by W. S. Merwin

Dear Friends of The Merwin Conservancy,

We are happy to report that the Merwin Palm Forest is thriving and filled with new learning thanks to a series of student field trips taking place amongst the palms of Pe'ahi. Children and their teachers are learning first-hand lessons about deep ecology, land stewardship, soil restoration, gardening, and the power of planting trees.

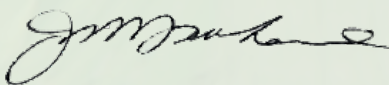
Through these visits and the growing partnerships with their teachers and schools, we are giving these young students the opportunity to see themselves as integral parts of their natural world, and then to write about it. In the process, they are learning to express themselves and their feelings from their experiences amongst the palms through poetry and illustrations, inspired by the knowledge that they are walking in the footsteps of W.S. Merwin.

The poems and art these students have created during their time walking, observing and thinking within the garden are extraordinary. These creative responses to the Merwin Palm Forest embody a critical part of the mission of the Conservancy, namely to inspire a new generation to understand first hand the importance of the connections between language, art and place.

We have included a poem and a drawing created by two Maui 5th graders while sitting under a canopy of palm leaves on page three of this newsletter. We encourage you to visit our website, where more student poems and art are available.

We deeply appreciate your generous support of these activities so that we may continue to share the treasures of the Merwin Palm Forest with future generations.

With gratitude,



Jason Denhart
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Matt Schwartz
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Just being here, with the garden, the 'palm forest,' all around us, day after day, I think has taught me a great deal... I hope guests will include students..."

– W. S. MERWIN, *The House and Garden: The Emergence of a Dream*

STAFF

Jason Denhart,
Executive Director
Sara Tekula,
Communications and
Outreach Director
Olin Erickson, Palm
Collection Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W.S. Merwin,
Founder, Emeritus
Paula Merwin,
Emeritus
Matthew Schwartz,
President
Sarah Cavanaugh,
Vice President
Robert Becker,
Secretary
Jan Elliott, Treasurer
Dale Bonar
Susan Conway Kean
Mary Lock
Peter Shaindlin
Naomi Shihab Nye

ADVISORS

Dr. John Dransfield
Alice McDermott CFP
Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier
Michael Wiegiers

SHARING THE STORY

*Merwin Documentary to
Air Nationwide on PBS in April*



Lisa Kirstine

Thanks to our friends at the Hotels & Resorts of Halekulani, the W.S. Merwin documentary has been underwritten for widespread national broadcast on PBS in honor of National Poetry Month and Earth Day.

Over a dozen major PBS member stations have confirmed their programming of the film – which will be identified in TV listings as **W.S. Merwin: To Plant a Tree** and will be airing in the days surrounding Earth Day (April 22nd).

The Merwin Conservancy is proud to see this beautiful film shared by PBS affiliates around the country, and we congratulate filmmaker Stefan Schafer and Cicala Filmworks for this achievement.

The following airdates/times are confirmed:

Sun. 4/17 at 4pm	KSPS 7, Spokane
Wed. 4/20 at 10pm	WNET 13, New York City
Wed. 4/20 at 10pm	NJTV, New Jersey
Thurs. 4/21 at 9pm	KLVX, Las Vegas
Sat. 4/23 at 6pm	KQED 9, Northern Calif.
Sun. 4/24 at 8pm	KUED 7, Utah
Sat. 4/30 at 8pm	KCTS 9, Seattle



PBS Check your local PBS listings for the date and time near you, or visit www.merwinconservancy.org for a complete and up-to-date list.



The Green Room

Fostering a reverence for language, imagination and the environment

Special thanks to our sponsors at FIM Group and our venue partner Maui Arts & Cultural Center for making this event series possible.

Bryan Berkowitz



No. 6 with Barry Lopez

Award-winning nature writer, environmentalist and humanitarian, Barry Lopez joined us for an inspiring October evening in The Green Room. The *Arctic Dreams* writer shared readings from his books and stories, focusing on the relationship between human culture and the natural world. In tribute to W.S. Merwin, he offered a reading of “Unchopping a Tree”, which Merwin had read by request for a young Lopez while he was in school. A truly touching evening.

Bryan Berkowitz



No. 7 with Susan Casey

Three-time N.Y. Times best-selling author Susan Casey captivated a nearly sold-out Green Room audience in December, sharing jaw-dropping stories from the adventures she embarked on in the process of doing research for her three ocean-inspired books, *The Wave*, *The Devil's Teeth*, and *Voices in the Ocean*. At a lively reception, our guests enjoyed conversation while Susan signed books and chatted with fans of her work.

Bryan Berkowitz



No. 8 with *Hawaii: Language Matters*

A deeply reverent February evening celebrating the mana of a living Hawaiian language, this sold out event featured chant and hula from Keali'i Reichel and members of his halau, mele by Nā Keiki Pūnana Leo O Maui, a W.S. Merwin poem read by poet Bob Holman, a screening of the documentary *Language Matters with Bob Holman*, and a panel discussion moderated by the filmmaker David Grubin including Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, Kepā Maly, Keali'i Reichel, and Kaimana Brummel, Kītope Raymond and Leilei Ishikawa.

Curt Richter



No. 9 with Jane Hirshfield

Kicking off April's National Poetry Month, the most recent Green Room event featured Jane Hirshfield—one of our nation's most celebrated poets, essayists, and translators. Jane read from her vast collection of poetry and inspired the audience, who strongly felt her “insightful and eloquent” gifts for poetry and awareness.

NEW WORK



What is a Garden?

BY W.S. MERWIN and LARRY CAMERON

Recently released by University of South Carolina Press, this hardcover collection of essays and poems by W.S. Merwin paired with luminous palm forest photographs by Larry Cameron, attest to the astonishing transformation made on the Merwin property over the years. This book powerfully tells the story of the Merwin Palm Forest, and captures the beauty of the biodiversity and life that has been put back into the land.

What Is a Garden?

POEMS AND ESSAYS BY
W. S. Merwin
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
Larry Cameron

**WE INVITE
YOU TO JOIN US**

Support W.S. Merwin's living legacy.

When W.S. Merwin was asked about his and his wife Paula's gift of their land, their home and their garden and palm forest to the non-profit Merwin Conservancy, he said,

"We decided to leave this property to everyone's children and grandchildren, not just our own."

Please join us in honoring the Merwins' gift with a tax-deductible contribution to The Merwin Conservancy. With your generous donation, W.S. Merwin's reverence for nature and spirit of creativity embodied in this special place may forever be shared by future generations. Thank you for your support.

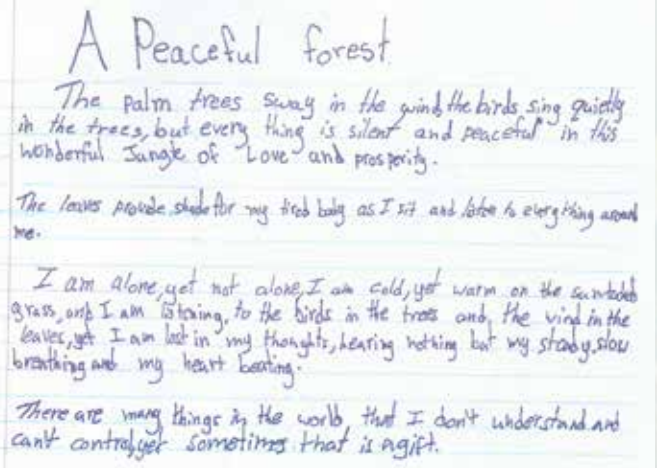
**FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

CREATIVE SEEDS SPROUTING...

When we take young people to visit the Merwin Palm Forest, their eyes grow wide with excitement and possibility. When they take time for reflection and writing in their notebooks after learning about the garden and its history, their imaginations take over.



Artwork by Cyrus Laury-Schaefer



"A Peaceful Forest" by Tess Morettie-Hill

WE'RE GROWING

Just as the palms and plants of the Merwin Forest are growing and thriving, so is The Merwin Conservancy. The organization's staff has expanded – with the addition of longtime Conservancy supporter Sara Tekula as Director of Communications and Outreach and Palm Collection Manager Olin Erickson. Sara has lived on Maui since 2004 working in education and marketing, and is a champion of environmental causes who loves to plant trees. Olin – a professional landscaper and arborist – has been the Merwins' personal gardener for 13 years, and has stepped into a new role in helping manage the botanical collection.

Our board of directors also welcomes four wonderful new members, poet and teacher Naomi Shihab Nye, Halekulani COO and supporter of the arts Peter Shaindlin, former software engineer and developer and current Hawai'i Island Palm Society President Mary Lock, and Maui artist and conservationist Susan Conway Kean. The full group gathered together in December on Maui for a productive weekend retreat, laying the groundwork for the future of the organization.



**Merwin Conservancy board and staff
in the Palm Forest in December**

Our Supporters*

*As of March 1, 2016

Thank you for your support, philanthropic investment and your partnership. You are preserving the living legacy of W. S. Merwin and conserving the world-renowned Merwin Palm Collection forever. Mahalo nui.

With deep appreciation, sincerely,
The Merwin Conservancy Board of Directors, Advisors & Staff

MERWIN LEGACY CIRCLE (Planned Giving/ Estate Gifts/Bequests)

Anonymous (1)
Paula & William Merwin
Ruth Moser

POET'S CORNER (\$50,000 and above)

Anonymous (1)
Cotsen Family Foundation
Elizondo/Campbell Family Foundation
Charles Engelhard Foundation
Halekulani Corporation
Paula and William Merwin

FOUNDING CIRCLE (\$10,000 and above)

Anonymous (4)
Margaret and Robert Ayres
Robert Becker
Helen Bing
Jan Elliott
FIM Group
Daniel F. and Debbie Gerber

Peter Hagedorn and Miriam Trahan
Liz and Doug Kinney
William Kistler Charitable Fund
Mary and Michael Lock
Julia Mitchell and Douglas Orr
Stanley Moss
Susan O'Connor

Joan Packer
The Russell Family Foundation
Shield-Ayres Foundation
Patricia O. Smith
Diana and Steven Strandberg
Barbara and Cyrus B. Sweet, III

FRIENDS OF THE CONSERVANCY (\$1,000 – \$9,999)

Gwen Arkin
Richard Aronson and Daniel Potaracke
Cynthia Bassett
The Bendon Family Foundation
Joan Selix Berman
Mary Elizabeth Bunzel
Commonweal
Don Carlos and Suzanne Dunaway
John Elder
C. Pardee Erdman
Tim Garcia
Shep Gordon
Sam and Peggy Grossman Family Foundation
Halekulani Hotel
Hawaii Conservation Alliance
James and Honey Bun Haynes
Ann Jones
Edmund Keeley
Garrison Keillor
Thomas Lane
Frank and Dale Loy
Robin Magowan

James M. Pickrel
Joseph C. Roberts
Gordon Russell
Carolyn M. and Jack Schaefer-Gray
Carolyn Lee Smith
Thomas Smith Foundation
Matthew Schwartz and Karen Levesque
Tom and Michelle Sewell
Peter Shaindlin
Stream Real Estate, LLC
Earl and Sandi Stoner
Paul and Amy Sutherland
Taketa Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
Carol Tarlow
Eugene Thaw
Reva and Bill Tooley
Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim
Wells Fargo Private Bank
Carol and Gaylord Wilcox
Terry Tempest Williams and Brooke Williams

If there are any errors or omissions on our list, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at 808-579-8876.

CONTRIBUTORS (Up to \$1,000)

Anonymous (6)
Amy Andaluz
Cindy and Jerry Andersen
Janet Anderson
Greg and Praxedes Austreng
Nicole Apolonia
Mary Baker
Mary Margaret Baker
Sally and Edward Baldwin
Chris Banks
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Tad Bartimus and Dean Wariner
Suellen Barton
Kathy and Tim Bauer
Marilyn and Glenn Bauer
Judith and Thomas Beckmen
Bette Belanger
Margo Berdeshevsky
Mitch Berman
Joan Betwee and Margaret Betwee
Rena and Michael Bever
Carole S. Birch
Philip Boatright
Shawn Boeckman
Marge and Dale Bonar
Victoria Borjesson
Karen Bouris and Rob Hilbun
Susan Bradford
Nicholas Bragg
Tim Brian
Kimberley Brickley Cyr
Valerie and Jonathan Bromberg
Deborah Brown
Richard C. and Dixie Brown
Brown Bag Farms
Judy Bruder
Kathy Button
Suzanne Case

Jennie and Chris Campbell
Laura Civitello
Betsy and Michael Claffey
Boonsuay and Ted Clement
William Chillingworth and Susanna Moore
Thomas Conger
Scott Conklin
Susan Conway Kean
Sam and Mary Cooke
Martha Crewe
Mary Cudahy
Janet Davis
Suellen deNaie
Fara and Jason Denhart
Julia and Joseph Denhart
Carolyn Dille
Eleanor Dudley
Susan Dyer
Sunya Echnernach
Elizabeth and Olin Erickson
Lyn Erickson
Robert Faggen
Molli Fleming
Carolyn Florek
Adaline Frelinghuysen
Pamela Frierson
Michele Galimba
Deborah Garcia
Kathie and David Gerber
Robert E. Gibbens
Elizabeth Gilbert and Shaun Donovan
Nancy Gibson-Nash
Leslie Gise
Leslie Granat
Chad Goodfellow
Ellen Gozion
Joyce and Marty Griffin
Joan and David Grubin
Matthew Gurewitsch


Debra Gwartney and Barry Lopez
Andrea and James Harris
Harvard Club of Maui
Hawaii Island Palm Society
Peter Hay
Barbara Heintz
Camille and Kabir Helminski
Wendell Holloway
Lance Holter
Jenny Holzer
Marsha Howard
Rick Howard and Jan Steinbreuck Howard
Harlan Hughes
Nancy Hutto
Barry and May Hyman
Carla and Billy Jalbert
Lisa Kaeser
Peter R. Kafka
Kay Kandi
Kauai Nursery and Landscaping, Inc.
Kaunoa Senior Services, Civic Adventures
Richard Kelley
Barbara Kuljis
David Longacre
Deborah and David Lycette
Jo Malone
Judith and Paul Mancini
Charlotte Mandel
Donna Mann
Suchin and Jeff Marcus
Marnie Masuda
MauiScapes, LLC
Mauna Ala Hiking Club
Gwen Mazoujian
J. D. McClatchy
Judy McCorkle and Tom Reed
Lee Ann Macdonald
Dorothy McCoy


Maria Matthiessen and the late Peter Matthiessen
Gwen Mazoujian
Donna McCullough
Jeannette McKinley
Jana McMahon
Kandi McLeod
Michael Merritt
Michael Moore
Amy Muramatsu
Vijaya Nagarajan and Lee Swenson
William Nakamura
Naomi Shihab Nye
Jennifer Oberg and Craig Mullins
Rosanne Ogles
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Grady
Dan Omer
Frances Ort
Carol Owen
Jean and Rick Palamar
Marion Patterson
Linda Leigh Paul
Francesco Pellizzi
James Pickrel and Carolyn Woolley
Pat Pickrel, in honor of James Pickrel and Carolyn Woolley
Kathleen and Fred Pflieger
Karen and Jim Quinn
Dorothy and Jarold Ramsey
Gerald Ramsey
Barbara Ras
Richard Rasmussen
Mark Ratay
Mary Anne Mayer Redmond
Michael Redmond
Margo Rewzano
Deborah Rice
Janet Marie Roberts
Neil Rolde
Henry and Jo Ann Rosemont


Tanya Roussel
Jan Schumb
Natalie Shaindlin
Mark Sheehan
Georgia Shreve
Kenith Simmons
Richard Skidmore
Sarah Sloane
Kathleen M. Spalding
Barbara Stehouwer
James Sullivan
Barry Sultanoff
Ryan Taylor
Mary Ann Taylor-Hall and James Hall
Sara Tekula, Joe Imhoff and Henry Koa Imhoff
Gail and Donald Terada
The Nature Conservancy of Maui
Stosh Thompson
Philip and Sugar Timpane
Kathryn B. Tracy
Lance and Sheila Tucker
Linda Van Alstine
Lelena Laurie Vann
Alex and Frances Vardamis
Thomas Villalon
Elyse Adele Vitello
Janis von Thaden
Patrick and Beth Walsh
Sandra Watts
Garrett Webb
Jonathan Weinert
Rob Weltman
Mark White
Frederick B. Wichman
Nancy Wilkinson
Carol Wilson
Edwin and Emily Wilson
Lisa Wood
Christine and Beecher Wooding
Anna Wynn

*CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB:

FOLLOW US ON

 **FACEBOOK:** /TheMerwinConservancy

 **TWITTER:** @wsmerwinlegacy

 **INSTAGRAM:** @wsmerwinlegacy

AND VISIT

www.merwinconservancy.org
to enjoy news, weekly poems and palm facts!

OUR MISSION

The Merwin Conservancy's mission is to preserve the living legacy of W. S. Merwin, his home and palm forest, for future retreat and study for botanists and writers, for environmental advocacy and community education.