

Anniversary On the Island

The long waves glide in through the afternoon
while we watch from the island
from the cool shadow under the trees where the long ridge
a fold in the skirt of the mountain
runs down to the end of the headland

day after day we wake to the island
the light rises through the drops on the leaves
and we remember like birds where we are
night after night we touch the dark island
that once we set out for

and lie still at last with the island in our arms
hearing the leaves and the breathing shore
there are no years any more
only the one mountain
and on all sides the sea that brought us

— W.S. Merwin, from his book *The Rain in the Trees*

Photo of Pilale Bay and Pe'āhi Gulch by Forest and Kim Starr



News From Our
Board President



National Geographic
Geo-Inquiry Workshop for
Teachers in the Merwin
Palm Forest



Author and Climate
Change Activist Bill
McKibben is Next Green
Room Speaker



Merwin Creative Teaching
Fellows Announced

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* In Memoriam

OUR MISSION

*The Merwin Conservancy's mission is to
inspire innovation in the arts and sciences
by advancing the ideas of W.S. Merwin –
his life, work, house and palm forest – as
fearless and graceful examples of the power
of imagination and renewal.*



The Green Room

An Environmental and Literary Salon Series

Fostering a reverence for nature,
language and imagination



Natalie Brown

No. 17 with Billy Collins

In early December 2017, on both O'ahu and Maui, Merwin Conservancy guests were treated to two evenings of Billy Collins' poetry, wit, and imaginative storytelling. Collins, who has been called "America's favorite poet" by the *Wall Street Journal* and who served as U.S. Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, was generous with his time. In addition to his poetry, shared his deep respect for W.S. Merwin during his presentation.



Bryan Berkowitz

No. 18 with Tracy K. Smith

The first Green Room of 2018 was truly exceptional, as our current U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith joined us for two sold out public readings in Hawai'i. On O'ahu, we also celebrated the inaugural event of our partnership with Honolulu Museum of Art, who have welcomed the Green Room series into their beautiful venue, the Doris Duke Theatre. Smith read extensively from her forthcoming book, *Wade in the Water* and shared about her approach to writing poetry.

Coming Up

No. 19 with Bill McKibben

April 17 (O'ahu) & April 18 (Maui)



Nancie Battaglia

The Merwin Conservancy welcomes best-selling author and acclaimed climate change activist Bill McKibben for a special pairing of "Earth Week" appearances in Hawai'i. Limited tickets still available.

No. 20 with Naomi Shihab Nye & Cathy Song



Chehalis Hegner



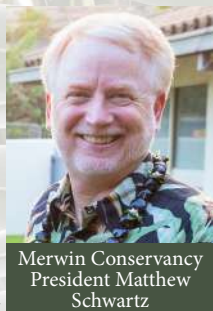
June 22 (Maui) & June 26 (Oahu)

Two poets, two readings, one conversation. The Merwin Conservancy presents award-winning poets Naomi Shihab Nye and Cathy Song for an evening immersed in poetry and imagination.

For more information about our upcoming Green Room events, please visit merwinconservancy.org/the-green-room

Special thanks to our event sponsor FIM Group and venue partner Maui Arts & Cultural Center for making the Maui event series possible. Deep gratitude to our O'ahu venues Liljestrand Foundation and Honolulu Museum of Art for their partnership, and to the Halekulani hotel and The Pacarro Group at Morgan Stanley for their supporting sponsorship on O'ahu.

NAVIGATING A SMOOTH TRANSITION



Bryan Berkowitz

Dear Merwin Conservancy Supporter:

My name is Matthew Carlos Schwartz and I am writing to you in my role as President of The Merwin

Conservancy Board as well as William and Paula's son to communicate some bitter-sweet news: our Executive Director, Jason Denhart, has left us to begin his preparations to return to the mainland to serve as Vice-President of Development at the Bravo! Vail classical music festival starting next month.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to thank Jason for his passionate and tireless service to the Conservancy. On a more personal level, I would also like to thank Jason on behalf of the Merwin family for his dedication

to helping my parents realize their vision for the Conservancy as well as the support he gave us as we struggled through my mother's long illness and death last March from cancer.

The good news is that Jason is leaving us in a place of strength and optimism with the wonderful growth of our Green Room speaker series (not only on Maui but also now on Oahu), our Open Garden Days program that offers private visits to the Merwin Palm Forest, and the expansion and evolution of our partnerships with teachers to enable children in schools throughout Hawaii to experience the story of the Conservancy.

While we are sad to say goodbye to Jason, we welcome the opportunity to find a new Executive Director to lead the organization forward and to help shape and implement our mission. To ensure that we find the best possible candidate, the board has engaged an

experienced search consultant.

In the meantime, I am happy to announce that the Conservancy's Director of Communications and Outreach, Sara Tekula, has agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director. Please join me in thanking Sara for agreeing to serve in this new role overseeing the Conservancy's activities during this transition, allowing us the time to search for and carefully select our new Executive Director.

My mother taught me that change is not something to fear but to embrace for the new possibilities and ideas it brings. She would say to me at times like this, "Isn't life exciting?" Life is exciting and I am confident that with your continued support, the Conservancy will emerge from this leadership transition stronger than ever.

Mahalo nui,

Matt

WELCOMING THE 2018-19 MERWIN CREATIVE TEACHING FELLOWS

In partnership with The Creative Core and on behalf of the education programs committee at The Merwin Conservancy, we're pleased to announce the official selections for our 2018-19 Merwin Creative Teaching Fellowship, a yearlong pilot program that brings W.S. Merwin's values for attention and imagination into classrooms throughout the Hawaiian islands, offers teachers time for reflection and renewal in W.S. Merwin's palm forest, and promotes greater social-emotional learning in students and our greater community. After receiving over 40 applications from teachers throughout the Hawaiian islands, the committee has selected 15 promising Fellows that we believe will benefit from this experience and will best represent the Conservancy's values during the course of the fellowship and beyond. The Fellows are a diverse group, including a language arts teacher at a public school, an elementary school math teacher, a first-time teacher at a rural, place-based Hawaiian charter school, and an arts and humanities teacher at a science and technology-focused school. They'll be coming together on Maui from June 20-24 for an immersive institute led by Marnie Masuda-Cleveland of The Creative Core and award-winning poet and author Naomi Shihab Nye. We hope you will join us in enthusiastically welcoming the Fellows to the Conservancy. To learn more about them, please visit merwinconservancy.org



Diane Abraham,
Molokai Middle
School – MOLOKAI



Jen Fordyce, Hawaii
Technology Academy
– MAUI



Jeffrey Friedman,
Montessori School of
Maui – MAUI



Ryan Granger,
Kealahou Elementary
– HAWAII



Tiffany Edwards Hunt,
Na Wai Ola Public
Charter School –
HAWAII



Zoe Ingerson, SEEQS
– OAHU



Kari Leong, Queen
Ka'ahumanu
Elementary – OAHU



Prana Joy Mandoe,
Kamehameha Schools
Hawaii – HAWAII



Matthew Martin, Kihei
Charter Middle School
– MAUI



Erin Medeiros, Kauai
High School – KAUAI



Camille Romero,
Kamehameha Schools
Maui – MAUI



Teresa Rosario, Maui
High School – MAUI



Kelsey Sadler,
Haleakala Waldorf
High School – MAUI



Leaf Van Alstine, King
Kekaulike High School
– MAUI



Wendy Wells, Waiakaa
Elementary – HAWAII

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS IN THE MERWIN PALM FOREST



Morgan Jones

On Saturday, April 21st, 2018, the Hawaii Geographic Alliance (HGA), in collaboration with National Geographic, The Merwin Conservancy, and the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) will offer a one-day, non-PD credit workshop on Maui that will provide secondary (grades 6-12) Social Studies and Science/STEM teachers with creative tools for bringing geo-inquiry – analyzing space, place, and the interconnections between both the human and natural world - into their classrooms.

This workshop will feature a prominent photographer from National Geographic, a National Geographic Geo-Inquiry expert, and senior staff of the Merwin Conservancy. Presenters from HGA and HIDOE will also be featured.

Focus will be on learning the geo-inquiry process through hands-on experiences that incorporate photography and a visit to W.S. Merwin's renowned palm forest. Connections to Social Studies, Science and STEM curriculum will be made as participants experience geo-inquiry for themselves.

Full details are provided on the HIDOE PDE3 website.



Your Donation Inspires Innovation and Cultivates Imagination

Make a Gift

Please make a gift to support the mission and programs of The Merwin Conservancy, as we strive to inspire innovation in the arts and sciences by advancing the ideas of W.S. Merwin – his life, work, house and palm forest. Your gift will ensure William and Paula Merwin's values for stillness, wonder, and imagination are continuously shared and cultivated in the world through The Merwin Conservancy's programs for the local and global community. Visit merwinconservancy.org to learn more about the programs your gift will make possible. Please join us today!



Photograph by Sarah Cavanaugh

Leave a Legacy

Through The Merwin Legacy Circle, please consider leaving a planned gift to enhance and sustain your legacy with The Merwin Conservancy. Your gift will preserve W.S. Merwin's poet's home and hand-planted palm forest and will provide the foundation to launch a residency program at Merwin House for creative visionaries and thought leaders. If you would like to learn more about how to leave a legacy gift, please contact Sara Tekula at 808-871-5270 or stekula@merwinconservancy.org.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY IMPACT



"The Merwin Conservancy is a testament to the power of imagination, attention, and compassionate stewardship. What could be more important for our community?"

— MARNIE MASUDA-CLEVELAND, THE CREATIVE CORE

With Gratitude

Thank you to our generous donors for their philanthropic investment and their partnership in ensuring that the legacy of William and Paula Merwin, their palm forest and hand-built home will endure for future generations.

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

Anonymous (2)	Ruth Merwin Moser
Paula and William Merwin	J. Kevin Tighe and Rebecca Fletcher

Please let us know your plans! If you have left The Merwin Conservancy in your will or estate plan, we would like to thank you and welcome you to The Merwin Legacy Circle.

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weekly poems, and images
from the palm forest.