The City in Nature: Writing the Urban Landscape

A Workshop in Urban Nature Writing with Carol LaChapelle
writer, teacher, and author of
Finding Your Voice, Telling Your Stories

Presented at the Wild Things 2015 Conference
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Resources for Discussion:


Here’s a link to a description of the book’s contents, which includes “a taxonomy of its forms,” i.e. the range of the genre: http://milkweed.org/shop/product/148/

2. Following is a description of the taxonomy, courtesy of Professor David Barnhill, University of Wisconsin/Oshkosh, in a 2010 posting:

Lyons proposes three main dimensions of nature writing
> natural history information
> personal responses to nature
> philosophical interpretation of nature

He expands this to a “spectrum” of types in which the three elements appear in different emphasis.

2. Natural history essays: Rachel Carson’s The Sea Around Us (1950).


4. Essays on experiences in nature, with three sub-types:
   > Solitude and back-country living: Henry David Thoreau’s Walden (1854).
   > Travel and adventure: William Bartram’s Travels (1791).
   > Farm life: Wendell Berry’s A Continuous Harmony (1972).

5. Man’s role in nature: Joseph Wood Krutch’s The Great Chain of Life (1956).

3. Some writing markets for urban nature essays: online & print, targeted & general. (NOTE: Essays published in the targeted markets also serve as models for writers new to the genre.)

http://ecotonejournal.com/

City Creatures blog/Center Humans & Nature: http://www.humansandnature.org/blog/

Audubon & Sierra Club magazines

E: The Environmental Magazine

Orion: Nature/Culture/Place

HuffPost/Green

The Nature of Cities: http://www.thenatureofcities.com/

Best American Science & Nature Writing (an annual anthology)

Terrain.org/A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments: http://terrain.org/

Tikkun magazine/Environment: http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/about

OpEd/Commentary pieces in general interest magazines and newspapers

Various literary magazines & writing contests: http://www.newpages.com/magazines/literary-magazines

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