

ANNOUNCING THE 2017 TROPICAL WINGS POETRY CONTEST

Background

When you see a Baltimore Oriole, do you think “tropical bird?” The truth is the Baltimore Oriole spends more time in the tropics than it does nesting here in the St. Croix River Watershed. In an effort to help people become more aware of the double life this bird and some 50 other species have, Tropical Wings is sponsoring the 4th annual poetry contest for anyone living within the St. Croix River Watershed. Wisconsin and Minnesota share approximately 50 different migratory birds with Costa Rica and other countries of Central and South America. Tropical Wings is a nonprofit organization formed to support the partnership between National Parks in Costa Rica and the upper midwest.

Poetry

Poetry is an art form that is an expression of our human emotions about the world around us. Poetry can enlighten, entertain, or inspire us. The poetry for this celebration should reflect on themes related to migratory birds and their remarkable journey, the connections between birds and people, the role birds play in the community of life, the nature of flight or about the beauty and value of these migratory birds. This is a great opportunity to have students involved with a community wide event while learning new poetry strategies and building awareness and knowledge of migration and the birds we share.

To Participate:

Submit up to 3 poems of any form and any length via e-mail to subject heading Tropical Wings Poetry Contest to muellejp@hudson.k12.wi.us, or send by regular mail, to John Mueller, River Crest School, 535 County Rd F, Hudson, WI 54016 **by April 24th, 2017.** **(Teachers in the Hudson School District: send printed or handwritten copies via interschool mail to John Mueller, River Crest School.)**

Each author should provide cover a sheet with name, address, phone, and email (if available) and age category: There are 3 categories. 1. **Adult** 18 and older. 2. **Young adult** ages 12-17, and **youth** ages 8-11. ***Entries must be received on or before Monday, April 24. There will be 3 poems selected from each category to represent each group.*** Entries will be selected by Hudson High School AP Language Arts students. Participating poets will retain all rights to their works, granting permission for noncommercial use of the submitted poetry by Tropical Wings, limited to educational efforts promoting the value of migratory birds and their habitat. Submissions will not be returned so make sure you retain a copy.

Selected Poems:

- Author of selected poems will have the **opportunity to be featured in a public reading on Friday, May 12, at the Phipps Center for the Arts. in Hudson, WI** and will be published on stcroix360.com
- Selected entries will also be awarded prizes.

Questions: John Mueller, Grade 5, River Crest School, muellejp@hudson.k12.wi.us

Links to two great websites for learning about birds:

[Audubon Birds](http://Audubon.org/bird-guide) (Audubon.org/bird-guide) [All About Birds](http://AllAboutBirds.org) (allaboutbirds.org)