



*Friends of
Lorine Niedecker*

*Issue #22
Summer 2015*

I was the solitary plover



Study Group Coordinator Margaret Schroeder, Woodland Pattern Program Director Chuck Stebelton and visiting poet Nate Klug arrive at Lorine's and get some landing assistance from Lorine's friend Paul Smyth. Photo by Nancy Rafal.

I was the solitary plover

a pencil

for a wing-bone

From the secret notes

I must tilt

upon the pressure

execute and adjust

In us sea-air rhythm

"We live by the urgent

wave of the verse"



Paddle to Lorine's Place

On Saturday, June 20 the members of the Friends of Lorine Niedecker board and the Solitary Plovers discussion group paddled down the Rock River in a flotilla of canoes. The group started at the boat landing behind the Municipal Building and arrived at the former Niedecker property in about 90 minutes.

It was a warm and cloudy day with a stiff breeze from the west that forced the group to paddle strongly even though they traveled downstream. The group was treated to views of blue herons, a green heron, black terns,

swallows and other birds. Turtles basked on logs.

Once the group arrived at their destination they took time to eat lunch and then launched into a discussion of several Niedecker poems. Karl Gartung led the discussion.

Mark Your Calendar!

2015 Lorine Niedecker WI
Poetry Festival will be
October 16 and 17.
Details inside.

NEWS

Monograph Project Launched

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker and Woodland Pattern Book Center announce the publication of the first two monographs in the *What Region?* series. The publication kickoff was held at Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee on May 12, Niedecker's birthdate. The series will feature new articles about Niedecker, exploring her poetics, with occasional republication of scholarship no longer readily obtainable.

The first monograph is entitled *Lorine Niedecker's Century, 1903-2003* and is a new work written by Jenny Penberthy. Penberthy is Niedecker's preeminent scholar and editor of her *Collected Works*. The second volume, *Increase Lapham & Lorine Niedecker*, is co-authored by Paul G. Hayes & Martha Bergland. This volume shows how subtle Niedecker was at incorporating her reading into a short poem. Hayes and Bergland have discovered the underlying sources of the poems "Asa Gray" and "Poet Percival" in correspondence of Increase Lapham and in his scholarly papers. The authors show how rich Niedecker's apparently simple poems are.

The monographs cost \$10 each and shipping/handling/tax is \$5 for one or both. Send checks to:

Woodland Pattern Book Center
720 E. Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Or log on to: woodlandpattern.org to purchase online.

2015 FOLN Donors

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker would like to thank the following individuals for their donations during our 2015 fundraising campaign. It's not too late to send your donation today!

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Jeff Wagner
Anne Waldman
Mary Wehner
Susan Wenger

for a wing-bone

POETRY

Wings of a village landscape
limestone chippings coat
bide in well-trodden pathways
short turf
 downed by Eyebright

As an instance I am barred

 rivulet

 from the heart

Adam Flint



Cityscape

In spaces beside concrete piers
Queen Ann's Lace and Chicory paint
a blue and white background for tall
Yellow Mullein towering over Sourgrass.

Purslane grows from sidewalk cracks
in jagged patterns. Hairy Crabgrass
grumps in the stony soil alongside
Velvetgrass, Ryegrass and Poa.

Imagine instead a field of Buffalo Grass
growing in a hot, dry summer and then,
two Quarter Horses, a Chestnut and a Sorrel.
Imagine you see them pause, hear them neigh.

Imagine their hot breath at cold dawn.

Mary Rowin

Dropseed

I.
moon
 waxes and wanes
soaks light:
 now new, now full

pond wants rain
 bulrush and mud

fireflies
 and cranes
need cover

II.
midsummer twilight
 lily pads sparkle
toads chirrup

clouds chase thunder moon
 fireflies snap

Indian grass blossoms

 coneflowers
 give way

III.
cosmos bends
 over bright marigolds

morning glories slow their climb
 petals droop and fall

autumn whispers
 send your seeds to soil

Mary Rowin

From the secret notes

Spring Walk

How was your walk, he asks.

I see a turtle as big as my head
with squat alligator-skin legs,
Canada geese rising like sentries
goslings behind,
blue heron still as a tree in the pond.

Fine, I answer.

Did you stop to rest?

Scent of peony floods my nostrils and colors
reds, magenta, pinks and white
pour over and into my senses.

Yes, I smelled the flowers.

Mary Rowin



The Canisters

Squat and soft white, made of kiln-baked clay, the three of them
sit on my counter like a graduated set of translucent fresh-water
pearls. The smallest stuffed with tea bags, flour and sugar
in the other two, I use them every day, open their snug
fitting lids, take what I need, close them up again.

She sold them to me at a yard sale, seven dollars for the set,
long before she got sick. *I always loved them*, she said,
as she took the bills from my hand, *but I broke*
the fourth, then changed my kitchen décor.

Once a week I wipe them clean, remove the splash and
splatter of life, imagine her doing the same. I like
to think that somewhere she completes the set –

holding in her pearl white self a residue of days.

Jean Preston



I must tilt

Released from a pocket

milkweed fluff floats in still air
drifting above my desk downward
to settle against the unyielding
its plume flattened writing nothing
but a soft breeze stirs from
windows opened and the
seed lifts carrying creation's
weight in its milky web

Kathleen Serley



All things threat. I have it from
the trees. Zeus
endendros, out of thunder.
And wind.

Steven Manuel



poems from *come to earth*

orchid petal
blown room to room
no one's home

*

compass needles
turning together
damsel flies

John Martone

Wind and Grit

With the wind at your back
you will move quickly
and have the illusion
of great progress
but it will be hard
to keep your balance
or stop

If you turn around
and stand still
you will have to dig in
or get knocked over
so shut your eyes
and expect some grit
in your face

Elizabeth Harmatys Park



It's nothing

The Pleiades
after the storm
appear despite crowds
of loud headlights,
cars hissing over
concrete, spitting

and nothing,
just everyone's, everything's
dead tonight, except
a post-rain kneeache

and nothing,
just we have no horses
here
to hear them galloping.

Chris Wells

upon the pressure

ck

snippet
of a cricket's
click-it

Directions For the Literate

M

Go north. Then
head southeast.
Travel northeast
then drive south.

N

Travel north then
drive southeast.
Head north again.

Phillip T. Egelston



Aftermath

Purple columbines
shed petals
lose grit

Snowball viburnum
lays down weapons
abandons fort

Heavy-headed roses
dangle
broken-necked

Invading June rainstorm
takes no prisoners
sets up camp

Georgia Ressimeyer

Litany of Hours

an extra place
at the table
I wait for you

slivers of porch light
shimmer on the pane
I wait for you

red sunrise
bleeding in the sea
I wait for you

beach comber
a pile of small rocks
I wait for you

treading water
stones in my pockets
I wait for you

flare of nostrils
pulling in the sea
I wait for you

Marilyn Fleming



Haiku

on the map
my feet covered
by the river

stars far enough
the blue chicory won't blossom like this
next year

day's end
sky
the mountains never reach

Gary Hotham

execute and adjust

Lulu Lake

Two sandhill cranes
walk a sabulous shore
on spindly legs
like marionettes

A Chat

Lorine said to Louis
and Louis echoed Lorine,
despite it all, dear Paul,
we have much to be thankful for,
so much history,
so many good things.

Peter Whalen



Seed/ Time

How fabulously –
imaginatively –
my flowers grew,
unstoppable, through-
out the long, hard winter

from small sprouts,
so that now, in spring,
there's no heart
left to seed/
time for others who'll never

match what was, after
all, my imagination's
perfect winter garden, in-
comparable, that none other
will do any better.

11/28/63

The muskrat's under her ice roof
as we skate over, darting back

& back to retrace the serpentine alleyways
she races to escape our shadows over-

head, her zigging & zagging beneath the glass-
top ice, but we lose her as she makes her way
away,

that proud lady going abroad in the late forenoon
to view just what the state of thickness might be

across Salvation Army Lake, its ice rimmed
with her kingdom's pines leaving a surface

unruffled, a smooth-cheeked sheet
so unlike the nearby wind-rippled lakes,

her roof as clear as God's one golden eye.

Terry Savoie



CONTRIBUTORS

Phillip Egelston's volume of short lyric poems, *RESTE PLACIDE*, appeared in early 2015. He was a 2015 finalist in the Narrative Poetry Contest of Naugatuck River Review where his poem was published. His poetry has appeared in *Rattle* (audio), *Folio*, *Kentucky Review* (video), *Paris/Atlantic*, *The Solitary Plover*, and other magazines.

In us sea-air rhythm

Marilyn Fleming was born and raised on a farm in Wisconsin. Her poetry has been published in various literary journals, and anthologies, including *Goose River Anthology*, *Modern Haiku*, *Red Cedar Review*, *Cattails* and *Frogpond*. She has a special interest in oriental forms of poetry and won her first prize in the Hildegard Janzen Oriental Forms Award in 1988. www.marilynflemingpoet.wordpress.com.

Adam Flint lives in Berlin. Recent poems have appeared in *Stand* magazine and a chapbook, *Glade Parts*, from Bitterzoet Press.

Gary Hotham grew up in northern Maine and currently lives in Maryland. He took up the art of English language haiku as a teenager and has had many published in literary magazines and journals since then. He has also had a number of chapbooks published since his first: *Without the Mountains* in 1976. And some larger collections of his haiku have appeared in print: *Breath Marks: Haiku to Read in the Dark* (1999); *Spilled Milk: Haiku Destinies* (2010); and *Nothing More Happens in the 20th Century* (2011).

Steven Manuel is editor of *from a Compos't*, a poet and lives in Asheville, NC.

John Martone's work can be found (among other places) at his scribd page -- <https://www.scribd.com/john-martone-2968>

Elizabeth Harmatys Park is a Wisconsin native, a sociologist, and a peace and prison volunteer. Her poetry has been published in journals and in the Wisconsin Poetry calendar. She is a past recipient of the Jade Ring First Prize in poetry awarded by the Wisconsin Writers Association.

Jean Preston holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the Stonecoast Writing Program. She authored *All the Queen's Horses* and *Sixteen Mothers*, and her poems have been published in *Pleiades*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *Solitary Plover*, and *The Journal of the Association of Research on Mothering*. Jean directs the Writing Center at Carthage College, and lives in Kenosha with her husband, Tom, and her Scottish Terrier, Maggie.

Terry Savoie was raised in Milwaukee and went to school in East Troy, Wisconsin. He has lived in Iowa for the past fifty years, attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop and taught high school in Davenport, IA. Now retired, he lives outside Iowa City, IA. More than three hundred of his poems have been published in literary journals, anthologies and small press publications in the past three decades.

Kathleen Serley, Wausau, is a retired college communications instructor. A lifelong resident of Wisconsin, she enjoys hiking, gardening and exploring this beautiful state where she finds inspiration for her poems.

Chris Wells is an artist, teacher, and IT professional living in Ohio. His poetry and prose have appeared in *DIAGRAM*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He produces music, books, and ephemera in limited or unique editions under the name Faint Press. More information about his work may be found on Tumblr at faintpress.tumblr.com.

When **Peter Whalen** was a graduate student at UW-Milwaukee, the poet James Liddy turned him on to the work of Lorine Niedecker. Her words have influenced him ever since.



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"We live by the urgent"

SCHEDULE

Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival

October 16 and 17, 2015

(Most events will happen at the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson, WI)

Registration is required for the lunch. Pricing and options will be available at lorineniedecker.org/festival.cfm

Friday

- 8:00 – 6:00 Dwight Foster Library is open Library
Lorine Niedecker Study Room open for reading, writing and quiet reflection
Gallery Exhibit - Niedecker Along the River
- 9:30 – 4:30 Hoard Historical Museum is open Museum
Exhibits include the Lorine Niedecker Room and Native American and regional history.

Festival Info, Maps and written information for self-guided touring of LN relevant sites including her cabin on Blackhawk Island and gravesite will be available at the Museum and Library.

- 5:00 Café Carpe opens for dinner Café Carpe
- 6:30 Open mic - Come read your poems or your favorite poems - Ron Czerwien, Moderator
- 7:30 After Party at Café Carpe coordinated by Dot Kent, group poetry and word games, Tentative - group reading of LN Radio Play adaptation of W. Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*

Saturday

- 7:30 – 10:00 Poetry at the Farmer's Market Parking lot across from Library
Festive fun at the local Farmer's Market. (It's a good one!)
Poetry Path—Vicky Daniels, facilitator
Paul Wiegel Poetry Booth
- 8:30 John Lehman reads at the Farmer's Market
- 8:00 Poetry Cafe and Poetry Store open Library
Registration, freebies, exchanges, free Wi-Fi, light refreshment
- 9:00 Festival Welcome and Introductory Remarks - Ann Engelman
"Lorine and Daisy" - Margot Peters
- 10:00 Solitary Plovers presentation, Nancy Rafal, facilitator
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 "The Writing is Everything: A Life of Poetry and Art"- David Wilk
- 11:30 "What Region? Niedecker monograph series" - Tom Montag
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:00 Wisconsin Poetry Festival Open Mic —Marilyn Taylor, Moderator
(Sign up in the Poetry Café)
- 2:30 Poetry Roundtables
Small groups will encourage discussion with poets about how they create poems.
Fabu, Nick Dempske, Cathryn Cofell, Lisa Vihus
- 3:45 Break
- 4:00 Closing presentation – WI Poet Laureate Kimberly Blaeser
- 5:15 Photo at Poetry Wall and dinner option at Paddy Coughlin's Irish Pub

ABOUT US

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker is a non-profit corporation. There are no staff, just devoted volunteers. Our goals include preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker, as well as offering educational materials, access to archives, a semiannual newsletter and events as time and resources are available. We are supported through donations and grants.

Donations are always welcome and are fully tax-deductible.

The Solitary Plover is issued twice yearly, in winter and in summer. Sign up for the email version on our website.

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