

Concord Poetry at the Library Series



Photo by Madeleine Bruce

An afternoon with Henry Walters: Poet, translator, naturalist

Introduction by Poet John Hodgen

Sunday, November 19, 3:00pm – 4:45pm

Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street

A free event presented by The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library and offered as part of Concord's yearlong Thoreau Bicentennial.

Henry Walters is a New Hampshire poet and translator. His work has roots in a tradition of naturalists for whom writing is a cultivation of their own landscape: Theocritus and Virgil, Thoreau and Stevens, Henry Beston and Annie Dillard.

In a [short letter to Thoreau](#) hinting at his indebtedness, Walters writes: “A democrat of scale, magician of the minuscule, you make bonsai of our oldest oaks and pull whole forests out of an acorn cap. Gulliver, too big for his britches, and Alice, having shut up like a telescope, and Pinocchio, having forgotten what was true, and I, a fly cobwebbed in fine print—all of us pressed our respective noses like species of aster between the pages of your *Journal*, and when we pulled them out again, voilà, we fell straightway in love with the world’s proportions.”

Born in Chicago and raised along Michigan’s River Raisin, Walters studied Latin and Greek at Harvard University, beekeeping in Sicily, and falconry in Ireland. His first book of poems, *Field Guide A Tempo*, was a finalist for the 2016 Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

“In *Field Guide A Tempo* Henry Walters brings his original thought to bear on the natural world and on what, and who, he has come across in it, and in the worlds of art and history as well.” – Jean Valentine

“Unafraid of ecstasy, this poet has stolen Hermes' tortoise-lyre and on it he plays tunes at once ancient and violently new. Every line ignites.” --Rosanna Warren

Walters’ poems, essays, and translations have appeared or are forthcoming in a number of print publications, and he maintains a blog of observations and ruminations about plants, wildlife, weather, and other facets of nature for *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*. Since 2014, he has been the Secretary for Experimental Living at the Dublin School in Dublin, New Hampshire, a writer-in-residence position. He lives there in a small house he built himself.

Join us for an afternoon of poetry, light refreshments, and conversation with Henry Walters about his life and practices as a writer and naturalist.

For further information: www.concordlibrary.org