

**Gualala Arts Creative Writing  
Poetry Contest 2008 Awards Ceremony**  
Wednesday June 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Gualala Arts Center

The annual competition offers first-place winners in each category, Adult (18 and up) and Youth (13-17), a cash award and publication in *The Redwood Coast Review*, the highly respected literary supplement co-published quarterly by the *Independent Coast Observer* and Coast Community Library. Second and third place poets in each division take home cash awards also.

In 2004 the late Marc Lappé of Gualala took first prize in the Adult division for his poem "Two Rock." Lappé, well known locally and nationally as an environmental scientist and ethicist, was unknown as a poet until he won this contest.

As it happened, the award was one of his final honors, as he was ill at the time with cancer and weeks later prematurely lost his life. Lappé's son Matt, a teacher at Point Arena High, accepted the award for his ailing father and read the winning poem at the ceremony.

Lindsey Smith, the Youth winner in 2004 for her controversial poem "Intoxication (Drunk Eyes)," went on to be appointed California High School Poet Laureate and to earn a creative writing fellowship at Stanford.

*Redwood Coast Review* editor Stephen Kessler, who also serves on the panel of writer-judges, encourages anyone with poems in their drawer to bring them into the light of day: "Poetry is communication," says Kessler, "and the printed page remains its most intimate medium."

He adds: "A live reading, which is part of the prize for all three winners in each division, is also a vital way to let one's work connect with others. Anyone who hasn't

published yet and wants to break through to a lot of new readers should take their best shot at this chance to reach them."

Gualala Rotary and The Sea Ranch Foundation have teamed up with Gualala Arts as co-sponsors of this event, which culminates in the Awards Ceremony and reading at Gualala Arts on June 4.

**FIRST PRIZE** -- \$250  
and publication in *The Redwood Coast Review*

**SECOND PRIZE** -- \$150

**THIRD PRIZE** -- \$100

Winners will be invited to read their poems at the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Gualala Arts Center. For more information call Gualala Arts, (707) 884-1138.

**Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts**

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