

The John Burroughs Association, Inc.

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Department of Communications

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THE JOHN BURROUGHS RIVERBY AWARD FOR 2012

The John Burroughs Association announces the results of its twenty-third annual **Riverby Award** competition for excellent natural history books for young readers. The five books on the 2012 list contain rewarding observations that come to naturalists, authors and illustrators after patient hours of personal observation.

Books to be conferred the **Riverby Award** include:

A Leaf Can Be, Laura Purdie Salas, author, and Violeta Dabija, illustrator, Lerner Publishing Group/Millbrook Press, (2012).

Moonbird, Phillip Hoose, author, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/FSG, (2012).

Rachael Carson and Her Book That Changed the World, Laurie Lawlor, author, and Laura Beingessner, Illustrator, Holiday House, (2012).

Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed The Seas, Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, authors, Molly Bang, illustrator, Scholastic Inc./The Blue Sky Press, (2012).

Wild Horse Scientists, Kay Frydenborg, author, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, (2012).

The books will be formally recognized on Monday, April 1, 2013 during the annual literary awards ceremony of the John Burroughs Association at a reservations-only public luncheon at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

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The John Burroughs **Riverby Award** was established in 1988 and is named for the home of John Burroughs (1837-1921), the Hudson River Valley naturalist and essayist. A pioneer of nature study, Burroughs was one of America's most widely read authors at the turn of the 20th century. A hundred years ago, his nature essays for children were published in special school editions and inspired the study of nature in classrooms all over America. In recognizing his efforts to awaken interest in young naturalists, the Association has selected books that present perceptive and artistic accounts of direct experiences in the world of nature. As one juror describes it "as a result, the John Burroughs **Riverby** award-winning books demonstrate a respect for nature, accuracy of information, and quality of prose and illustrations that make them stand out from other books."

The John Burroughs Association, a membership organization of conservation and environmental literary professionals and stewards dedicated to preserving the environment, gives the award that encourages writing in the tradition of John Burroughs. It also maintains "Slabsides," in West Park, NY where he wrote many of his most famous nature essays published in the elite journals of his day, and the 200-acre Sanctuary that surrounds the site. The Association publishes the newsletter *Wake-Robin*.

For more information about the John Burroughs Association, along with a complete listing of excellent natural history books for young readers, visit our website at www.research.amnh.org/burroughs. For luncheon reservations, please contact Lisa Breslof at 212-769-5169.