

## For Immediate Release

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Department of Communications

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***The Consolations of Extinction* Article Wins  
John Burroughs Award for an Outstanding Published Nature Essay**

***The Consolations of Extinction*  
Orion, 2007**

The John Burroughs Association has made its selection of an outstanding periodical natural history essay. Selection is based on the work's content and excellent literary value.

John Burroughs (1837 - 1921) was a distinguished naturalist and superb essayist whose twenty-three volumes of essays is an important part of American literature.

In recognition of Burroughs' contribution, the John Burroughs Association presents an AWARD OF RECOGNITION to the author of the selected essay. Appearing in the 2007 May/June issue of *Orion*, ***The Consolations of Extinction*** by Christopher Cokinos has won the 2007 John Burroughs Award for an Outstanding Published Nature Essay. This award recognizes an outstanding periodical essay of the type that John Burroughs himself wrote and made famous. This selected essay stresses the author's own connection with nature involving either original natural history research or one's own life experience.

Cokinos has given us personal involvement in an integration of scientific positions in a humanistic essay with meditations on what the past and present world gives us. The essay relies on good "research" and is not just a documentary. He relates how we in today's world can live productive lives fully cognizant of our own mortality—as individuals and as a species. Cokinos' comments as to how he lives his life are refreshingly insightful, thought provoking, and potentially helpful to readers. His work is literary and poetic in the genre of the nature essay writing that John Burroughs perfected.

-more-

John Burroughs—

Cokinos is Assistant Professor of English and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environment and Society at Utah State University, where he also edits *Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature & Science Writing*. His poems, essays and reviews have appeared or are forthcoming in *Science, Birder's World, Poetry, Iowa Review, Shenandoah, Orion, Turnrow* and *Ecotone*. The recipient of both a Whiting Award and the Glasgow Prize for an Emerging Writer, Cokinos is the author of *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds* (Warner, 2001).

The John Burroughs Recognition Award for An Outstanding Published Nature Essay has been given annually since 1993. Past Burroughs recipients include John Daniels, Kenneth Brower, John Mitchell, Michael Pollan, Gary Noel Ross, Gerrat Vermeij, Carl Safina, Freeman House, Edward Kanze, and David Gessner.

The John Burroughs Association, a membership organization that encourages writing in the Burroughs tradition and maintains sites associated with the great naturalist's life and writings, gives the award. This literary award will be presented at the reservations-only luncheon to be held on Monday, April 7, at the American Museum of Natural History. For reservations and more information and/or a complete list of award winners, write the John Burroughs Association, 15 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024, contact Lisa Breslof at 212-769-5169, or go to the John Burroughs web site at <http://research.amnh.org/burroughs>.

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