

The John Burroughs Association, Inc.
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Department of Communications

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Animalcules and Other Little Subjects Article Wins
John Burroughs Award for an Outstanding Published Nature Essay

Animalcules and Other Little Subjects
Isotope 2008

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 2008 Fall/Winner issue of *Isotope*, *Animalcules and Other Little Subjects* by Mark A. Smith has won the 2008 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.

Smith has given us personal involvement and intimacy with the animalcules of life in a drop of pond water. He takes one through the delightfully slow and poetic process of collecting and examining microscopic life on earth during an afternoon of observing nature. He provides informative natural history on the microbes of a watery environment that is delightful and thought-provoking. The essay relies on good literature; vivid presentation; poetic content; personal viewpoint; and scientific accuracy. His work is literary and poetic in the genre of the nature essay writing that John Burroughs perfected. Smith is Instructor of English at Lock Haven University.

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John Burroughs—

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, David Gessner, and Christopher Cokinos.

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 6, at 12 Noon 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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