



Marina Richie

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EDUCATION

1988 M.A. Journalism, University of Montana
1981 B.A. Biology, University of Oregon

WORK EXPERIENCE AND HIGHLIGHTS

2015-current: Fulltime writer and author

Award-winning Book Author. Speaker. Writer of literary essays, poetry, publications, blogs, science and conservation magazine and news articles, press releases, interpretive wayside exhibits, brochures, birding trails, handbooks, radio field notes, opinion, and advocacy for nonprofit conservation groups. Directed communications for campaigns. Presented webinars, live programs. Gave interviews for radio, podcasts, and newspapers. Taught nature writing workshops.

BOOKS

[Halcyon Journey: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher](#)---winner of the [2024 John Burroughs Medal](#), 2022 National Outdoor Book Award, 2022 Foreword Indies Award.

Bug Feats of Montana and Bird Feats of Montana.

New book: *Feathered Forest* with Chelsea Green Publishing—coming out Fall 2026.

Refugia of the Blue Mountains, by Marina Richie (writer) and Robin Coen (artist), 2024. For Greater Hells Canyon Council, available from author.

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

2011-2015

Sage Grouse Initiative Communications Director

Full-time consulting work leading all communications efforts for the Sage Grouse Initiative, a national partnership with a focus on 11 western states. Wrote and edited articles, reports, brochures and press releases. Created, wrote, and oversaw social media—website, Facebook, Twitter, E-News. Developed strategy & facilitated science writing, design & video. Traveled to field and interviewed ranchers & partners including land trusts—photography, articles, website content. Presented Webinars & PowerPoints on writing/media & the Initiative. Solicited press coverage and worked one-on-one with media for coverage of Sage Grouse Initiative.

1995- 1996

Co-owner of Avocet Communications

Media relations—directed Teaming with Wildlife media campaign for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; planned and wrote interpretive displays, gave trainings, participated in national watchable wildlife program development.

1993-1995

NatureWatch Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Missoula, Montana

Coordinated development of wildlife viewing areas and interpretive exhibits for 13 national forests in Montana, Idaho, North and South Dakota. Gave public presentations on watchable wildlife.

1993-1994

Co-leader of national watchable wildlife program of the USDA Forest Service, Missoula, Montana

Represented the Forest Service at national meetings; Developed national highlights report for the program; Helped create national watchable wildlife interpretive training model. Coordinated national awards program.

1992-93

Watchable Wildlife Coordinator, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with the Forest Service, Missoula, Montana

Served as liaison between Forest Service and the state wildlife agency. Traveled to national forests and communities to assist with nature trails, interpretive exhibits, new viewing areas and interpretive training.

1989-92

Watchable Wildlife Specialist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, Montana

Coordinated watchable wildlife programs across the state. Gave frequent public presentations. Wrote regularly for the state magazine, *Montana Outdoors* and weekly news columns for Montana newspapers.

1983-85

Reporter/Photographer, The Blue Mountain Eagle, weekly newspaper, John Day, Oregon

Wrote 10-15 news articles and features per week. Shot and developed black-and-white photos. Participated in newspaper layout.

BOOK AWARDS

2024 [John Burroughs Medal](#), *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*

2022 [Foreword Indies Award](#), *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*

2022 [National Outdoor Book Award](#), *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*

OTHER AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2023-2025 [Wild Blues Artist-in-Residence](#)

2019 [First place media award](#) for the Oregon Islands NWR wayside exhibits.

2019 First place award from MusePaper for poem, [Farewell to Summer](#)

2010 [Bug Feats](#) book selected to represent Montana at the National Book Festival on the Mall in Washington, DC.

2009 Silver award, "Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow, *Vision Magazine*, University of Montana, Case District VII, Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

2008 Mesa Refuge, Point Reyes, California, two-week writing fellowship.

2006 Bitterroot Birding and Nature Trail Brochure, First Place Media Award (NAI)

2006 *The Interpreter* magazine, first place, Outstanding Feature Story.

2005 *Legacy Magazine*, first place, Outstanding Feature Story

2002 Distinguished Achievement Award, Association of Educational Publishers for children's article, "Fire-loving Wildlife," *WOW magazine*.

1995 National Watchable Wildlife Achievement Award
USDA Forest Service

1994 National Watchable Wildlife Achievement Award
USDA Forest Service

1993 Regional Foresters Award, Watchable Wildlife

1991 Regional Foresters Award, Watchable Wildlife

1987 Kim Williams Scholarship

1987 Outdoor Writers Association of America
Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/BOARDS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2016- current Board of Directors, Greater Hells Canyon Council

1990-2019 National Association for Interpretation (NAI) member

2011-2015 Missoula County Lands Advisory Council member

2007-2016 Raptors of the Rockies Board Member

2004-2015 Earth Care Connection Missoula Coordinator

2010 Montana Conservation Voter Missoula Board Member

2005-2011 Sustainable Business Council member

2005-2006	Missoula Open Space Working Group member
2002-2008	Montana Birding and Nature Trail Committee member
2002-2003	Clark Fork School Board member
1999-2002	Watchable Wildlife, Inc., founding Board Member
1998-2002	Open Space Advisory Committee member

HIGHLIGHTS

- Juror, Wyoming Arts Council 2026 Memorial Writing Awards
- Judge, National Outdoor Book Awards 2024
- Wrote series of seven essays for Oregon Wild in 2024, “[Every Wild Place Has a Story](#)”
- January 2025, featured article in [National Wildlife](#) magazine.
- March- December, 2024—[Every Wild Place Has a Story](#) series for Oregon Wild’s 50th anniversary.
- Sept.-Oct. 2024, [National Outdoor Book](#) Awards judge for the natural history literature category.
- September, Keynote Speaker, “Wings Over Willapa” Bird Festival, Washington.
- Poetry published in *Lothlorien*, *Humans of the World*, *Musepaper* (1st place award), *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*, *Central Oregon Writers Guild 2023 and 2024 Literary Collections*. Participant in Ekphrastic Poetry group. Publish on blog. Studied in workshops with poets Kim Stafford (Fishtrap) Ellen Bass (online) and Aaron Abeyta (Fishtrap).
- April 2024 –Keynote speaker for three events—[John Burroughs Medal awards ceremony](#) in NYC, Harney County Bird Festival, and Greater Hells Canyon Council annual fundraiser in Portland.
- [Halcyon Journey in Search of the Belted Kingfisher](#)—published by Oregon State University Press in 2022. Awarded the 2024 John Burroughs Medal for distinguished nature writing, the 2022 National Outdoor Book Award in Journeys category; and Foreword Indies award, silver medal.
- [Book tour](#)—talks, keynote speech, presentations, radio and podcast interviews, signings, and associated teaching of nature writing workshops.
- Magazine articles published in *National Wildlife*, *Birding*, *Montana Naturalist*, *Birdwatching*, *A.T. Journeys*. Book excerpt published in *Panorama*.
- Feature article for *National Wildlife* magazine, to be published in January 2025.
- Teaching two-day writing workshop for [Sitka Center for Art and Ecology](#). (June 2024).
- Interpretive writing of wayside exhibits for National Park Service (Network to Freedom,)), Sonoma County Regional Parks, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Millicoma Marsh
- [Bi-monthly blogs](#) (from 2015 to current).
- Writing a [series of wilderness and wild rivers protection essays](#) for Oregon Wild.
- [Refugia of the Blue Mountains Artist-in-Residence](#).
- Toolkits, strategy, and blogs for National Wildlife Federation for the campaign to pass The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.
- Opinion pieces on protecting forests and climate change in *Bend Bulletin*, *Wallowa County Chieftain*, *La Grande Observer*.

Earlier

2022

- Science article in Columbia Insight: [The Secret Power of Old Growth](#)
- Kingfisher essay: [Placed: An Encyclopedia of Central Oregon](#)
- [Review](#) of Brock Evans' new book: Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied, The Autobiography of an Eco-Warrior
- Essay "Ode to the Kingfisher:" [THINK: A Journal of Poetry, Fiction, and Essays](#) (hard copy Summer/Fall 2020).
- Birdwatching magazine: "Releasing Hope into the World: a bird-banding station on the Appalachian Trail sits at the intersection of hiking, science and wonder:"
- [Post Road Magazine](#) published an excerpt from my book-length manuscript on the belted kingfisher. (March 2020).
- Poem published in Wild Tiny Seed Literary Journal.
- Essay about my father Dave Richie's legacy for [A.T. Journeys](#) — the "Parting Thought" piece for the Winter 2020 edition. PDF here: [Parting Thought ATJ Winter 2020](#)

2021

- Jan/Feb issue of Birdwatching Magazine: "New Tracking Tools Reveal Bird Migration Secrets"
- March blog for National Wildlife Federation: [Dr. Mamie Parker Leads the Way for Women in Conservation](#). See all NWF blogs [here](#).

2020

- Wrote for National Wildlife Federation climate team.
- Co-authored [Schoolyards Habitat Planning Guide](#) for National Wildlife Federation.
- Interpretive panels for Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

2019

- A.T. Journeys, the Official Magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Summer 2019.
- Cover story: ["Wild East Time Travel"](#)
- A.T. Journeys, the Official Magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Winter 2019
- ["Wild Skyway: The A.T. provides an essential home and thoroughfare for Birds."](#)
- [Tree Canopy Interpretive Panels](#) for Vermont Institute of Natural Science. – Opened to the public, October 2019
- ["Don't Let Wildfire Hysteria Drive Aggressive Logging of our Remaining Wild Forests."](#) Opinion piece with Brock Evans in the Salem Statesman.
- [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge Meets its Mark](#) – writer for 36-page report, released February 26th, 2019.
- [Blogs](#) for Recovering America's Wildlife Act (National Wildlife Federation).
- National Wildlife Federation: Wildlife toolkit for conservation leaders. Campaign material for Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

2016-2018

- **Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge Project Manager & Lead Writer-** [Awarded First Place](#) in the Wayside Exhibits 2019 Competition of the National Association for Interpretation. Led the planning and wrote 65 unique interpretive panels in a thematic series for 24 locations along the Oregon coast, featuring seabirds, marine mammals, and intertidal marine life. (Installed summer 2018).
- **[Overturning 150 Years of Science](#)**, UM Lichen Discovery Rocks the World, “Research View” for University of Montana (note—I wrote for this publication regularly for a decade).

2015

- **National Audubon, Bird-Friendly Communities Program:** Wrote multiple profile pieces of birds, native plants, and native plant gardeners for Web and publication, including a feature fact sheet for the Pope’s Encyclical, 2015. See, “[Why Native Plants are Better for Birds and People.](#)”