

Dear Reader,

As *Flyway* begins its 16th year, we reflect on the meaning “environment” takes on for different people. Traditionally, environmental writing refers to writing about nature, often as an advocate of the natural world. With this in mind, it’s easy to view the manmade world as less important and thus deny it a place within the environmental literature canon. However, environmental writing now includes urban and other manmade environments as legitimate components of modern human experience. This issue of *Flyway* explores both human and nonhuman environments, because we shape the environment that shapes us.

This idea, that we are shaped by what we shape, highlights the importance of individual human experience within both human and nonhuman environments. In “On Marrying a Ranger,” this year’s *Notes from the Field* contest winner explores her love of and integration with the nonhuman world compared to her husband, for “whom camping will never come naturally.”

Sometimes we don’t expect to fall in love with a place, or if we don’t fall in love, to have it become an integral part of us. Whether it is a first visit to Zimbabwe (“Arriving in Harare”), visiting the constantly changing shore of Lake Michigan (“Point of Reference,” “A Brief Natural History”), or discovering a sense of place—or the loss of it—in a more urban setting: a roller rink (“What She Had to Say”), Mumbai (“Diwali Star”), from within a Houston airport (“Television Snow”), the discovery of how place shapes us becomes a story of how we, by the nature of being human, shape our environments and the experiences we carry with us.

The stories, essays, and poems in this issue of *Flyway* focus on the idea of trying to find, or to (re)create, a sense of place in a world that is constantly being reshaped. It is my hope that if you haven’t found your place in the world, or if your place has been reshaped, that you’ll continue working to find a spot to belong.

Sincerely,

Liz Clift

Managing Editor