

**Richie Swanson** came of age living outside in nature, bicycling and backpacking throughout North America. He lives simply on the upper Mississippi river, hauling water and heating with wood.

Sunstone Press released his novel *First Territory*, May 2013. Four new short stories set on the upper Mississippi were also released in 2013. *The One above the Bottoms* and *River Sun Warblers* were Pushcart Prize nominations.

Richie won the Year 2000 National Peace Writing Award for an unpublished novel that contributes to peacemaking, granted by Peace Hope. *Removal*, his collection of short stories, was a finalist in the 2012 Spokane Prize for Short Fiction. His stories have appeared in *HEArt Online: Human Equity through Art*, *American Athenaeum*, *Prick of The Spindle*, *Wilde Literary Journal*, *SNRreview*, *Raven Chronicles*, *Alligator Juniper*, *Weber: the Contemporary West*, *Ginosko: between literary vision and spiritual realities*, *Thirty First Bird Review*, *Gloria Mundi Press*, [www.Transnational-Perspectives.org](http://www.Transnational-Perspectives.org), *Poydras Review*, *Mobius: the journal for social change* and other journals.



Richie with swamp white oak seedling at Aghaming Park and Preserve.

He conducted Breeding Bird Censuses approved by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and printed by the Association of Field Ornithologists. He delivers a power point presentation, *Beautifully Abundant Birds I Desire*, chronicling a breeding season of threatened species on the upper Mississippi. This year he hopes to celebrate his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of documenting nests of state-threatened red-shouldered hawks.

He has monitored bird populations for wildlife agencies and written for *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Western Birder*, *High Country News*, *Oregon Coast Magazine* and other outdoor publications. He chronicled five months in the field in *River Bird Blog: Birding the Upper Mississippi* in 2007, Thayer Birding and National Geographic Online Store, associates. (Now at the Bird Studies tab of this website.)

Richie has worked as an environmental consultant and as an activist for Mississippi River Revival in Winona, conducting interpretive events and advocating for threatened species, habitat protection and a cleaner river.

He has many people to thank, but especially Barbi who sees glitter in every river riffle, ocean surf, desert-trickle and mountain stream.

#### Contact

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