

Ryan Observatory

Muddy Run Park
172 Bethesda Church Rd W
Holtwood, PA 17532
www.ryanobservatory.com



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Deena O'Brien

Phone: (484) 680-2225

Ryan Observatory at Muddy Run Names

Scott Edward Anderson First Poet Laureate

Award-winning poet to develop initiatives emphasizing the Arts in Observatory's STEAM programs

Holtwood, PA—September 6, 2022: Today, Ryan Observatory at Muddy Run named award-winning writer Scott Edward Anderson its first Poet Laureate. Anderson, the author of four books of poetry and two books of nonfiction, is known for his keen observations of the natural world and an often science-based focus in his poetry. As poet laureate, he will develop initiatives to enhance Ryan Observatory's STEAM activities through interactive programming that expands and enhances the ways our community experiences poetry.

"At Ryan Observatory, we want to celebrate poetry and its abilities to create connection, promote curious exploration and reflection, and share the stories we all have within us," said Al Ryan, director, Ryan Observatory. "We are thrilled to deepen our reach into the community through the introduction of our literary arts program offering led by our esteemed partner, Scott Edward Anderson."

Adding the "A" to STEAM Education

Ryan Observatory has long emphasized the importance of adding the Arts to Science, Technology, and Engineering education as part of its public outreach programs that seek to augment STEAM curricula in the schools and in community activities. Anderson will help enhance what Ryan Observatory is already doing with STEAM by aligning scientific and poetic thinking to increase our understanding of the world around and above us.

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“I have long believed that science and the arts are complimentary,” Anderson said. “Much of my poetry was informed by my 15 years in biodiversity conservation. Working alongside biologists, climate scientists, and ecologists, I learned firsthand about individual species, their habitats, and our human impact on ecosystems and the environment, which helped me gain greater precision in my writing. My work with Ryan Observatory will build on that experience.”

A Dialogue for Better Understanding

Anderson intends to develop a dialogue between poets and scientists and to incorporate poetry into Ryan Observatory’s programs through readings, interactive displays, and events for all ages that foster a better understanding of science and astronomy through creative thinking and writing.

“Anderson is an acclaimed writer who uses words to tell stories, bring communities together, and raise the bar for new approaches to art, science, and critical thinking,” said Ryan. “We want Ryan Observatory to be known as a haven for dynamic dreamers to feel inspired and ignite trends — and I know Scott Edward Anderson will use his talents to show our community the immense power of poetry.”

Connecting a Multitude of Disciplines

Ryan Observatory is expanding its offerings to create an interdisciplinary incubation center where scientists, artists, designers, musicians, and photographers - to name just a few - can actively learn, use, and create. The interdisciplinary nature of Ryan Observatory will be particularly effective in producing creativity and free thinking while connecting art and science through a tangible and hybrid approach.

The new poetry program will be introduced to the public at the next Ryan Observatory Open House on September 10, 2022.

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Scott Edward Anderson is an award-winning poet, memoirist, essayist, and translator. He is the author of *Wine-Dark Sea: New & Selected Poems & Translations*, *Azorean Suite/Suite Açoriana*, the Nautilus Award winning *Dwelling: an eco-poem*, and two books of non-fiction, including *Falling Up: A Memoir of Second Chances* and *Walks in Nature's Empire*.

He has been a Concordia Fellow at Millay Arts and received the Letras Levadas/PEN Açores Award, the *Nebraska Review* Award, and the Larry Aldrich Emerging Poets Award.

Ryan Observatory at Muddy Run is a community inspired and community driven facility to provide further scientific exploration of the astronomical and natural world. Ryan Observatory is owned by Constellation Energy and operated by local and Rittenhouse Astronomical Society volunteers.

