**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Poems From The Wilderness – by Jack Mayer***

***Winner, Proverse Prize 2019***

Middlebury, Vermont – Nov. 19, 2020

**POEMS FROM THE WILDERNESS**, the new poetry collection by Jack Mayer, an award-winning Vermont author, has been selected as the Winner of the Proverse Prize 2019, an international literary competition. [www.proversepublishing.com](http://www.proversepublishing.com/)

These poems were composed while solo-hiking Vermont's Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. They are inspired by the beauty, mystery, and inspiration he experiences walking alone in wilderness – the “wilderness effect.” Though deeply personal, Jack hopes they will resonate with those pieces of wilderness we all carry within us and offer respite in these challenging pandemic times.

*“We live in a time when the Earth is threatened, when urban humans have lost their essential connections with the natural world, when plague stalks us. This collection is an effort to encourage wider appreciation of Earth’s boundless wonders, feel the mysteries and questions, and advocate for responsible stewardship of our home planet.”* – Jack Mayer

**Virtual Zoom reading and discussion** –Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at 7 pm sponsored by Middlebury’s Vermont Book Shop, a fundraiser for the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT), stewards of the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) <https://www.maltvt.org>. Connect through Vermont Book shop at: <https://www.vermontbookshop.com> John Vincent (Revolutionary Press) has produced a limited-run letterpress print of one of Jack’s poems, available at the Vermont Book Shop. Bookstore and press - proceeds donated to Outright Vermont/Camp Outright.

 **REVIEWS:** “This moving collection of poems immerses the reader in the natural world and expounds on the solace and solitude that comes from hiking countless miles on trails through wilderness, mountains, and forests. Mayer contemplates the intersection of metaphysics, physics, and spirit as he observes nature on his many hikes . . .. stunning imagery . . . Fans of poet Mary Oliver will find a similar voice extolling nature in the author’s poetry.”
 —**RECOMMENDED by the US Review of Books**, review by Michelle Jacobs

“. . . bright, sensuous, deeply reflective poems . . . I read these poems with increasing pleasure, and plan to return to them again and again. Mayer is a fine, fresh voice in American poetry.”

—**Jay Parini**, author of New and Collected Poems, 1975-2015, The Last Station, Benjamin’s Crossing, Robert Frost: A Life, and much more.

Additional reviews available at: [www.jackmayer.net/poems-from-the-wilderness](http://www.jackmayer.net/poems-from-the-wilderness)

**BIO**: Jack Mayer has won 26 national awards for his books: *Life in a Jar, the Irena Sendler Project* and *Before the Court of Heaven*. He is a speaker for the Vermont Humanities Council and a practicing pediatrician in Middlebury, VT. He would be delighted to speak more about his work and read selected poems via Zoom.

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A digital press kit including: high-resolution images of the book cover and author, the author’s bio, and reviews is available at: [www.jackmayer.net/press/](http://www.jackmayer.net/press/)

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