

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marine Scientist and Author Andrew Blitman Bridges Ecology, Visual Art, and Autism Advocacy in 'Wild Writers' Anthology

By AP News Features Editorial Staff | Published October 2026

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — When marine conservation scientist and author Andrew Blitman set out to write about animals, he chose not to limit his reach to academic journals. Instead, he chose to let the creatures speak directly to readers through first-person poetry and custom visual artwork.

Blitman, the author of 15 published books—eight of which are permanently cataloged in the Library of Congress—is currently featuring his landmark compilation project, *Wild Writers: 5th Anniversary Edition*. The comprehensive anthology unifies his earlier multi-volume series into a single work designed to foster environmental empathy for wildlife, endangered species, prehistoric creatures, and domestic pets.

FROM MARINE CONSERVATION TO ANIMAL POETRY

Blitman’s literary direction stems directly from his background in science and public education. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 2012, he completed a Master of Professional Science degree in Marine Conservation Science and Policy at the University's Rosenstiel School in 2014.

While working as an exhibit explainer and certified animal handler at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale in 2016, Blitman began writing poems inspired by the living specimens under his care. One of his earliest subjects was the horseshoe crab—a ancient marine arthropod that became a trademark entry in his debut volume.

"The whole idea was to give creatures that either we don't really understand, haven't heard of, or even pets that we know... what makes them special, what gives them a distinct identity, and why we should pay attention to them and why they matter."

— Andrew Blitman, Author & Marine Scientist

The expanded 5th Anniversary edition incorporates poems written from the perspective of rare and vulnerable species, such as the critically endangered Ganges river shark and the gharial, alongside ancient flora like the baobab tree, extinct prehistoric fauna, and common household pets.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS: WILD WRITERS PROJECT

- **15 Published Books:** 8 cataloged in the U.S. Library of Congress archives.
- **Interdisciplinary Synergy:** Merges formal marine science policy with fine art and poetry.
- **Multi-Medium Visuals:** Includes marker art, scratchboard, mixed media, and photography.
- **Inclusivity Focus:** Written to engage readers of all ages in natural history and literacy.

INTEGRATING FINE ART AND MIXED-MEDIA ILLUSTRATION

In addition to his literary work, Blitman is an accomplished visual artist who has produced more than 500 original paintings. Each entry in *Wild Writers* features a corresponding illustration produced specifically to mirror the personality and tone of the individual poem.

His artistic approach spans a diverse range of visual media, including marker pens, highlighters, scratchboards, acrylic paintings, and digital adjustments. For specific subjects, Blitman incorporates tactile multimedia elements—such as parchment textures, glass beads, and metallic accents—to evoke the physical environment or structural dignity of his subjects.

"It mostly involves the personality of the creature I'm trying to evoke or enhance. It really just depends on what the creature wants to say and how to bring it out in a way that the reader wants to continue looking at it."

NEURODIVERSITY ADVOCACY & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Beyond his creative work, Blitman has spent over a decade advocating for individuals on the autism spectrum. In 2011, he became the first person with autism appointed to the Constituency Board at the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD), serving through 2017.

Since 2018, he has served on the Advisory Board for the Els Center of Excellence in Jupiter, Florida, where he also leads the visual arts curriculum for their annual summer youth camp program. In recognition of his leadership, community advocacy, and artistic contributions, the Els Foundation presented Blitman with the 2023 Autism Spectrum Award.

Blitman notes that while living with autism posed personal and social challenges during his early life, creative output provided a productive pathway for expression, communication, and emotional resilience.

"Receiving that award helped me come to peace with my autism. It made me feel more confident that I have it... it's a part of me, but it doesn't have to define me."

FOSTERING PUBLIC LITERACY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Blitman hopes *Wild Writers* will serve as an accessible educational tool for readers of all ages to explore science, natural history, and creative writing. "Finding a fun, creative way to approach science and nature is the primary goal of the book," Blitman stated. "It's a love letter to all those things that inspired me when I was little."

His broader literary portfolio encompasses traditional poetic formats—including sonnets, ballads, pantoums, and matrix poetry—as well as spoken-word audio recordings and science essays.

ABOUT & MEDIA ACCESS POINTS

Official Website: andrewblitman.com

Art Portfolio: findoutamerica.com

Social Media: @AndrewBlitmanArt (Instagram)

Audio Archives: SoundCloud & AllPoetry