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Green Swamp

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SAPL POETRY CONTEST
FIRST PRIZE WINNING ENTRY

GREENSWAMP

Written by

JUDITH ANDERSON

GREEN SWAMP

Swallowtail kites ride currents over saw palmetto,
all that they do on the wing, never moving a feather,
swooping low, skimming water from streams, rising
to snatch prey from the treetops and the sky,

soaring over riverine marshes until they disappear.

Below, bay heads hide the old abandoned trestles
where logged out cypress giants were loaded on the rails,
leaving this phantom town for other vanished places,

yet the waters flow as if the forests stretch beyond recall.

Through oak scrub, wetland prairies, the Withlacoochee
wells up from rivers beneath, flows over land in sheets,
narrowing to its rhythm, filling cypress enclaves in its run,
the backwaters of swamp retreats at the very end.

Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve