

31st Annual  
**Summer Fishtrap**  
*Gathering of Writers*

Early registration opens February 1, 2018

# Living Upstream



Original artwork by Silje Christoffersen

July 9-15, 2018 Wallowa Lake, Oregon  
fishtrap.org 541.426.3623



# 31st Annual Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers: Living Upstream

## July 9-15, 2018 Wallowa Lake, Oregon

**June 25-30**

Outpost Workshop

**July 9**

Weeklong Check-in

Writing Workshops

Welcome & Opening  
Night Program

**July 10-13**

Morning Workshops

Craft Talks

Open Mics

Evening Readings

**July 13-15**

Weekend Gathering  
Check-in

Keynote Address

Panel Discussions

Activities

Fishtrap Live

Closing Address

*This workshop far exceeded my expectations—the quality of instruction, the setting, the other activities such as readings. I am inspired beyond inspired.* —2017 Summer Fishtrap writer

Join us for a week-long writing experience like no other. You'll generate new work, take risks with your writing, and connect with a community of writers and instructors — surrounded by the stunning scenery of Wallowa County.

### Weeklong Workshops

**July 9-15, 2018**

Registration for the 2018 weeklong writers gathering is \$895 — \$825 if you register by April 1, 2018 (meals and lodging not included)

**Your registration to the weeklong Summer Fishtrap Gathering includes:**

- A five-day intensive workshop with the instructor of your choice.
- Admission to all afternoon craft talks, open mic readings, and special events.
- Admission to evening faculty and fellow readings.
- Admission to special Weekend Gathering events, including panel discussions, the Summer Fishtrap Keynote presentation, and Saturday night's Fishtrap Live.

### Youth Workshops

Youth workshops registration is \$575 — or just \$525 if you register by April 1. (meals and lodging not included)

Do you know a kid who loves to write? Fishtrap offers two Youth Workshops to tap your student's creative potential.

- Ages 10-14: Join Cameron Scott for Fishtrap Story Lab's digital storytelling workshop where you'll use your imaginations to create multimedia stories.
- Ages 13-17: At MOsley WOtta's workshop young writers will explore the world through the mediums of Hip-hop and spoken word.

### Afternoon Songwriting Workshop

Registration is \$150

What would Summer Fishtrap be without music?

**Beth Wood** leads this two-day workshop. Add it to your writing workshop. Open to the public.

Wednesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 12 from 1-3pm.

### Outpost with Amy Irvine

**June 25-30, 2018**

Outpost registration is \$1,145 — \$1,045 if you register by April 1, 2018 (includes all meals and lodging)

Take a hike! Fishtrap's Outpost workshop promotes writing in and about the natural environment by placing writers close to nature. The gathering is intimate, the setting remote. The work that emerges paints a complex beautiful landscape, true writing of place. Outpost takes place on the Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, a rolling grassland that stretches from the Wallowa Mountains to Hells Canyon and the Snake River.

### Yearlong Workshop with Gary Ferguson

Tuition is \$7020 — includes registration and meals for the 2018 and 2019 Summer Fishtrap weeklong workshops. (lodging not included)

Are you ready to finish that manuscript? Fishtrap's Yearlong Workshop may be the right fit for you! This 13-month intensive writing course is modeled after low-residency MFA programs with short, intense group sessions framing a year of long-distance instruction. The Yearlong program begins at the 2018 Summer Fishtrap and ends at Summer Fishtrap 2019. In between these face-to-face meetings, you will work closely with their instructor, exchanging monthly packets of writing and discussion of your work.

### Summer Fishtrap Weekend Gathering

Registration is \$300 (includes meals; lodging not included)

Can't come for the whole week? Register for Fishtrap's Weekend Gathering.

It begins Friday afternoon, July 13 and runs through Sunday, July 15 at noon.

Registration includes **Kathleen Dean Moore's** keynote address, panel discussions, plus several other weekend activities.

### Meals

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served cafeteria-style at the camp's Bailey Lodge featuring fresh local produce. Choose a meal plan from \$70 to \$250.

### Lodging

Summer Fishtrap offers several lodging options from tent spots and bunkhouse lodging to private cabins. Many additional options are available within a short distance from camp. \$190 to \$900 per person, per week

Visit [fishtrap.org](http://fishtrap.org) for a list of meal and lodging options. Or call 541-426-3623.





# Summer Fishtrap Faculty and Workshops

## July 9-15, 2018

### Learn more at FISHTRAP.ORG - 541.426.3623

#### RUXANDRA GUIDI and BEAR GUERRA

##### *Getting Others Right: Engaged Documentary Storytelling in Words, Sounds, and Images*

Nonfiction storytelling reminds us that we're not alone, that real life conflicts and resolutions, causes for pain and joy in others, are not so unlike our own. Documentary storytelling's greatest potential lies in its ability to connect us with others across cultural, ethnic, socio-economic, and geographic divides. In this course, we will work together to produce short multimedia documentary portraits that combine audio and photography. Participants will learn basic techniques for documentary writing, conducting interviews, and creating the photo essay while exploring the fundamental approaches and ethics that distinguish documentary storytelling from other forms of writing. Participants will develop their own vision as nonfiction storytellers, with an emphasis on how the collaboration between the written word and photograph offers a unique opportunity for deepening one's own story.



#### TIM HERNANDEZ

##### *Interconnected: The Beautiful Chaos of Story Making*

Whether writing fiction or non-fiction, the process can quickly grow unwieldy and at times feel like you're lost amid the clutter of ideas, story particles, voices, images, memories and artistic vision. The good news is it's all connected! In this workshop, we will engage in discussions and prose-based writing prompts and techniques, with the aim of developing practical tools for corralling the beautiful chaos, while at the same time pushing ourselves creatively beyond our comfort zones into the realm of the borderless imagination. Participants will explore methods for research and gathering information, questions of ethics and genre, and practical concerns with craft, such as plot, organization, and character development. This workshop is designed to encourage writers to strengthen, develop, and embolden their approach to story-making.



#### NINA MCCONIGLEY

##### *Murky Waters: Writing about Family and Place*

How should one approach the delicate and difficult matter of writing about those closest to you, the places closest to you? And how can we give ourselves permission to tell those stories, and perhaps more importantly, extricate ourselves enough so that we can see clearly enough to tell those stories with clarity, empathy, and culpability? We will walk through this process to give you the distance and curiosity you need to investigate the story of your family and/or where you're from in a way that produces writing that is honest and fictive. In this generative workshop, we will respond to published stories and novel excerpts, look into our own histories, and use place and where we come from to prompt our writing.



#### KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE

##### *"Keep on, Strong Heart" Writing for the Reeling World*

Our love for the world is deep and complex, and so (like E.B. White) we "arise in the morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor it. This makes it hard to plan the day." This is a workshop for writers who are determined to do both. How can our love for the world empower our voices? How can we open readers' hearts without breaking them? How can we move people to action? How can we summon the wild imagination, the joy, even the laughter we will need to defend what we love? We will explore old and new forms of writing – the personal essay and the op-ed, but also the witness, the radical imaginary, the lament and the apologia – and old and new forms of publication. Together, in a community of caring, we will find the courage in our hearts, the clarity in our minds, and the power in our words.



#### LAURA PRITCHETT

##### *Write for Change, Live Upstream*

This workshop is designed to focus on change on several levels: 1) writing for change—for if art has a purpose, perhaps it is to awaken us to be fully present, to pay attention, and to offer hope and resistance; 2) change within writing—for our characters and our ideas can't ever be static within a piece; and 3) embracing change in our writing habits and genres—for experimenting with new formats and styles is always a good way to stay out of any ruts. Underlying all this is considering "living upstream"—a figurative and literal mindfulness about our gift to future generations, both in terms of place and ideas. In this workshop, which is appropriate for all genres, we'll be generating and honing ideas to take our words in new and unexpected directions, and in doing so, move readers more deeply, and thereby sending our culture and world into new and unexpected directions.



#### JENNIFER SAHN

##### *Declarations of Love & Recipes for Resistance*

In this workshop we will pledge our allegiance to the people and places we love and wish to defend. We will speak for the underrepresented, the marginalized, the voiceless, and the silenced. We will declare our intentions, and explore how they can be met through research, writing, and action. To advocate for the kind of world you want, you must be able to articulate it: what it looks like, how it works, how we can get there. Together, we will play with the building blocks of scene, character, dialogue, and structure, while leveraging those skills to write powerfully about the things we believe in. We will compose narratives of outrage, injustice, resistance, and redemption, while covering the basics of how to do narrative well.



#### KIM STAFFORD

##### *Your Episodes of Origin in Iconic Moments: Poems & Stories*

What were the earliest tributaries of this river that is you—your character, your destiny, your chance on Earth? What early but indelible moments, encounters, epiphanies shaped your voice? How did life hurt you to endow your compassion? How did beauty make you fierce in defense of the tender and the hidden? How did light illuminate a moment that resides as a tiny film in your dreams? How did your family tribe give you a calling to report the sacred secrets? We will write the short version for a handful of your personal, family and cultural origin stories, then consider how this book of genesis wants to guide you as a writer and citizen of Earth, in poetry and lyric prose. With your story clarified, how will you testify with these literary episodes as time carries you down the river? This workshop welcomes poets and writers all.



#### JOE WILKINS

##### *The Landscape of the Poem: From Eden to Frontier*

The same way we look on a tumbling mountain river or a rocky cove on the coast and think, This must be it, Eden, we've all had the experience of reading a poem so astounding, so textured and lovely and true—that it seems as if the poem was not made but transcribed from on high. Yet every beautiful vista is the result of millions of years of natural forces—of tremendous work—and that poem you just love, no matter how perfect, too, was made, labored over, reckoned with, crafted. In this workshop, we will read and discuss a number of poems, isolating particular poetic strategies and techniques in each, before trying our hand at building similar poems.



### Youth Workshops

#### CAMERON SCOTT

##### *Writing Our Way Upstream Ages 10-14*

70% Water. 100% Awesome. Have you ever taken a look back in the direction from Where you came? Tried to put your first memories into words? Join Fishtrap's Cameron Scott for a rocking ride down the rivers of memory in this weeklong writing and digital storytelling workshop. We'll explore where we've been, who we are, and where we're going, spend some time writing about the river and natural world, and capture it all in magical multi-media pieces. Includes daily generative writing exercises, photography, iStopmotion, and iMovie on iPads. Rock skipping. And stuffed fish. Sink your boredom and start writing your way upstream.



#### MOsley WOTTA

##### *Mic drop in a bucket or How to be heard in sea of voices Ages 13-17*

Explore the world through the mediums of Hip-hop and spoken word as we better learn how to be heard in a sea of voices. The spoken word has always been a powerful tool to convey our thoughts and ideas. Long before the written word, it was the spoken word that carried our messages; convictions and questions. In today's world we are connected in a variety of ways through our tech, environment, beliefs, fears, compassion, action, apathy, etc. Imagine you had the power to convey your message to a listening ear. What would you say, ask, or demand? Would your message be a call to action, a call to question, a letter to the editor, a note to a family member? What needs to be said? Who needs to be heard?



### Outpost Workshop

#### AMY IRVINE

##### *Gasoline. Matches. Tinder. How to Set Fire to Our Stories*

We will gather the dried grass and twigs—the basics of a tale. With themes and metaphors, we'll produce sparks, maybe even coax a few flames. On the page, our goal is to let the story burn across the topographical highs and lows. Together, we will learn to craft descriptions so our scenes flare with details that leave sweat and smudge on our readers. To these ends, we'll lean into language and landscape. We'll gather and arrange the raw elements of craft to create narrative that is both intimate and incendiary. We will sing the pages of notebooks and field journals in the process. That's okay. Because the stories that burn bright are the stories that change the world.



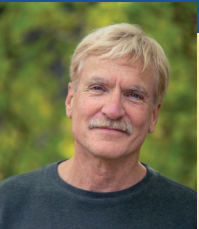
**NOTE: This workshop runs June 25-30, 2018.**

### Yearlong Workshop

#### GARY FERGUSON

##### *Intimate Nonfiction: Writing from the Inside Out*

Fishtrap's Yearlong Writing Program will be among the most intimate and creative experiences of your writing life. Working within a small, nurturing community of other committed writers, you'll gain an unprecedented opportunity not only to hone your craft, but more fundamentally, to build powerful new techniques for tapping into the essential qualities of your own life experiences. The result will be to both expand and strengthen your voice – that ineffable quality that makes you a unique storyteller, like no other in the world. Yearlong participants meet together for a week of writing and conversation at both the 2018 and 2019 Summer Fishtrap Gatherings, and at one optional winter weekend during the year. Throughout the year, Gary Ferguson will provide you with tailored exercises and monthly feedback on your writing.



### Songwriting Workshop

#### BETH WOOD

##### *Storytelling Through Song: A Lyric-Focused Songwriting Workshop*

Stories live within each of us. Songs can be powerful tools for preserving and honoring story. In this interactive workshop we will work together in a safe, non-judgmental space to access our stories and translate them into song. How do words suggest melody and vice versa? How does song form influence the communication of a narrative? We will engage in wordplay exercises and guided free-writing. We will examine and discuss examples of songs that tell a story. Bring and instrument if you wish (not required) and something to write with/on. On the second day we will share what we have created. Voluntary sharing is encouraged!



**NOTE: This workshop runs Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-3pm**

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2018.