# Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers



July 8-14, 2019 Wallowa Lake, Oregon

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 32nd Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers! I hope this week provides you with lots of inspiration, connection, community, and opportunity to explore and grow in your craft.

You're part of the first Summer Fishtrap to take place at the beautiful and historic

Wallowa Lake Lodge. Fishtrap has a long history with the lodge, and we're happy to build on that relationship. We hope you take advantage of this place. Walk the grounds, sit by the Wallowa River, and stick your toes in the lake. You have have full access to the lodge, deck, and lawn, including 24-hour access to the lobby—and lots of free coffee.

Summer Fishtrap concludes our "Year of Ursula" celebration. She's been with us through examining the meaning of refuge at Winter Fishtrap, and gave us the world of Earthsea to explore together during our Big Read community reading event. It was wonderful to to see readers discover Ursula for the first time, and to hear stories from people who loved her writing, took her workshops, and even called her friend. Ursula's influence and impact on the writing world can't be overstated. I'm happy to see it continue this week.

As I was sitting down to write this letter, I turned to her once again to see if she had anything to say about writing workshops. I've remarked several times over the past year that there seems to be an Ursula quote for every situation. I was not disappointed:

"Collaborative workshops and writers' peer groups hadn't been invented when I was young. They're a wonderful invention. They put the writer into a community of people all working at the same art, the kind of group musicians and painters and dancers have always had." —Ursula K. Le Guin, Steering the Craft

As a musician and a writer, this quote connects. Writing (and practicing) is a solitary act. It's where you get the hard work done. Where you work out the kinks, and frankly, build muscle in your craft. This is your reward for all that hard work. You get to spend time with your people. These are the folks who really understand what you're doing, and maybe even why you do it. Coming together to share your work, your experiences of writing, your struggles and victories, is how you build that community. Be inspired—and don't underestimate your ability to inspire others.

Welcome to Summer Fishtrap. Now let's get some writing done!

Sincerely,

Shannon McNerney Executive Director



Mike Midlo Program Manager



Janis Carper Marketing Coordinator



Cameron Scott Youth Program Manager



BoDean Warnock Operations Coordinator



Shannon Maslach Registration Coordinator



Whitney Chandler Fishtrap Story Lab Instructor



Shari Warnock Youth Program Assistant

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Kate Power
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Primus St. John
Kim Stafford
Luis Alberto Urrea
Rich Wandschneider

# Fishtrap History

Wallowa County bookstore owner Rich Wandschneider attended a writing conference in Portland, Oregon, but something didn't feel quite right. Rich told conference organizer Kim Stafford that it seemed the event wasn't really a gathering of Oregon writers, but of "I-5 writers." Kim agreed, but issued a challenge: "Why don't you host the next one in Wallowa County?" In 1988 with help from the Wallowa Valley Arts Council, Wandschneider, Stafford and Alvin Josephy, the famous journalist and historian of the American West, a gathering of writers was organized at Wallowa Lake in July with the theme West Coast Writers and East Coast Publishers. The Summer Fishtrap Gathering was born.



Fishtrap's founding director, Rich Wandschneider with Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.

So began an annual tradition. Every July, readers, writers, journalists, historians, publishers, and lovers of the arts from all over the world gather at Wallowa Lake to share their love of good writing, challenging conversations, and the American West. The week-long conference has provided hundreds of writers the opportunity to work with the best western instructors and authors such as Ursula K. LeGuin, Luis Alberto Urrea, David James Duncan, Bill Kittredge, and Cheryl Strayed to name just a few.

Over the next 20 years under founder Rich Wandschneider's leadership, Fishtrap grew and added programs like Winter Fishtrap, the Imnaha Writers Retreat, writing classes, and lecture series to further the mission to promote "clear thinking and good writing in and about the West." In recent years, Fishtrap has expanded to include youth programming as well as workshops and readings and lecture series designed for the local community.

In 2006, Fishtrap was one of the original organizations selected by the NEA to pilot The Big Read, a program designed to promote community-wide reading programs. In 2014, Fishtrap launched Fishtrap Story Lab in partnership with Joseph Charter School. Designed to give students the opportunity to tell their own stories with 21st century technology, Story Lab is now available to students throughout Wallowa County.

# Rounding Out "The Year of Ursula"

For more than 20 years, Ursula K. Le Guin was an influential part of Fishtrap—from teaching Summer Fishtrap workshops to serving as an advisor. In gratitude for all she has done to inspire western writing, Fishtrap has devoted all of our 2019 programming to "The Year of Ursula."

From celebrating Ursula K. Le Guin's A Wizard of Earthsea as part of this year's The Big Read, to honoring her at Winter Fishtrap's The Meaning of Refuge with programming focused on one of the central themes of her writing, 2019 has been an amazing year of celebrating the works, ideals, and legacy of Ursula K. Le Guin.

Now, with Summer Fishtrap's "Steering the Craft," inspired by Ursula K. Le Guin's classic book on the nuts and bolts of writing, we invite you to jump feet, belly, and head first into your own craft as you write, explore, and relax this week at Summer Fishtrap.

"To make something well is to give yourself to it, to seek wholeness, to follow spirit. To learn to make something well can take your whole life. It's worth it." -- Ursula K. Le Guin, Steering the Craft: A Twenty-First-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story



"Words are my matter—my stuff.
Words are my skein of yarn, my lump
of wet clay, my block of uncarved
wood."

—Ursula K. Le Guin, No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters

### **Event Descriptions**

#### **Afternoon Craft Talks**

#### Scott Russell Sanders: Stories as Containers (Tuesday, July 9, 1:30pm)

Ursula Le Guin argued in one of her wry essays that our earliest ancestors fashioned stories as they fashioned baskets, bowls, and net bags as vessels for holding valuable things. This talk explores the sorts of things that stories hold, and the qualities that make stories durable, whether in fiction, poems, essays, scriptures, or everyday conversation.

#### Kim Stafford: A Conversation on Craft (Wednesday, July 10, 1:30pm)

Ursula Le Guin's landmark book, Steering the Craft, gathers standard and deliciously idiosyncratic tools and tricks of the writer-magician to conjure visions from the page. Let's gather for a conversation about our own discoveries as writers in the realm of personal craft. What steers your craft? What particular skills have you noticed in books by others that you plan to emulate? And what deft "English" have you given the language in your own writing that you are willing to share with fellow devotees of the craft—in exchange for secrets of their own?

# Laura Pritchett: The Whole Shebang: Thinking Through Your Book and Preparing it for Submission (Thursday, July 11, 1:30pm)

Whether you're just starting your book or working on revisions, this session will focus on important considerations for a book length work – making sure you've thought through (and honed in on) the theme, point of view, character arc, and that biggie – plot. This class pertains to book-length fiction, nonfiction, and memoir. Witers of all levels are welcome. We'll also discuss basic submission protocol and publishing paths including agents, indie presses, and self-publishing.

#### **Weekend Gathering Activities**

Youth Showcase (Friday, July 12, 1:30pm)

#### Yearlong Writers Workshop Reading (Friday, July 12, 3:00pm)

Our 2018-19 Yearlong Workshop participants wrap up their year of writing with a final reading event hosted by instructor Gary Ferguson.

#### Molly Gloss: Writing Prompts from Ursula (Saturday, July 13, 9:00am)

Join Molly Gloss for a special activity utilizing writing prompts she learned from friend and mentor, Ursula Le Guin. Molly will offer one of Ursula's favorite prompts, give participants an opportunity to explore it in their writing, and then talk about what kinds of scenes (or poems) the exercise generated for them.

#### Perrin Kerns, Kim Stafford, Cam Scott: The Short Digital Story in Plein Air (Saturday, July 13, 1:00pm)

Want to make a short film of a very brief piece of writing using images from around Wallowa Lake? In this short workshop, you bring a iPhone or iPad with VoiceMemo and iMovie downloaded (or you can borrow an iPad from us) and we will create short digital stories. Bring one or two lines of writing from the week or some writing you brought with you to the gathering. We will wander the landscape, take some pictures, and each of us will create a quick digital story using your text as the foundation. Come with a spirit of exploration and play.

#### Dawn Norman: Plein Air Painting (Saturday, July 13, 1:00pm)

Learn the basics of watercolor and tips for painting on site with this perfectly portable medium. Limited to 10. Reserve your spot at the Summer Fishtrap registration table beginning Friday afternoon. Sponsored by Josephy Center for Arts and Culture.

#### Fishtrap Fellows Readings (Saturday, July 13, 3:00pm)

Since 1990, Fishtrap has offered more than 100 Fellowships to new and emerging writers. Come hear new work from this year's Summer Fishtrap Fellows at this special afternoon reading.

# 2019 Summer Fishtrap Schedule

The following is a brief look at the week's schedule. At check-in, you'll receive a handy pocket guide which provides additional information, maps, and other activities.

#### Monday, July 8

2:00pm Check-In Opens

4:30pm Summer Fishtrap Welcome & Orientation

5:00pm Intro Workshop

6:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Opening Night Program

> Welcome: Shannon McNerney, Fishtrap Executive Director & Mike Midlo, Program Manager

Opening Address: Luis Alberto Urrea

#### Tuesday, July 9

7:00am **Breakfast** 

9:00am Writing Workshops

12:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Craft Talk - Scott Russell Sanders:

Stories as Containers

3:00pm Wallowa Lake State Park youth writing activities -

Amphitheater at Wallowa Lake State Park

4:00pm Open Mic Café

6:00pm Dinner

7:30 Readings: Sharma Shields, Beth Piatote,

Scott Russell Sanders

9:00pm **Book Signings** 

#### Wednesday, July 10

7:00am **Breakfast** 

9:00am Writing Workshops

12:00pm Lunch

Craft Talk - Kim Stafford: Steering Your Craft 1:30pm 3:00pm Wallowa Lake State Park youth writing activities -

Amphitheater at Wallowa Lake State Park

4:00pm Open Mic Café

6:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings: MOsley WOtta, Perrin Kerns,

Kim Stafford

9:00pm **Book Signing** 

#### Thursday, July 11

7:00am **Breakfast** 

9:00am Writing Workshops

12:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Craft Talk - Laura Pritchett on Publishing

3:00pm **EOU Signing Ceremony** 

3:00pm Wallowa Lake State Park youth writing activities -

Amphitheater at Wallowa Lake State Park

4:00pm Open Mic Café

6:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings - Laura Pritchett, Anis Mojgani,

Gary Ferguson

9:00pm **Book Signing** 

#### Friday, July 12

7:00am **Breakfast** 

9:00am Writing Workshops 12:00pm Gathering Check-In

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Weekend Gathering Welcome

1:30pm Youth Showcase

3:00pm Yearlong Writers Workshop Reading

4:00pm Open Mic Café

5:00pm Dinner

Keynote Address: Molly Gloss 7:30pm

Faculty Reading: Jamie Ford

9:00pm **Book Signing** 

#### Saturday, July 13

7:00am **Breakfast** 

9:00am Writing Workshops

9:00am Writing with Molly Gloss: Writing

prompts inspired by the work of

Ursula K. Le Guin

Lunch 12:00pm

1:00pm Plein Air Painting and Digital

> Storytelling with Perrin Kerns, Kim Stafford, Cam Scott, and The Josephy

Center for Arts and Culture's

Dawn Norman

3:00pm Fishtrap Fellows Reading

4:00pm Open Mic Café

5:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Fishtrap Live - Screening of

Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin

Panel discussion: Dreams and Tales -

Remembering Ursula

Panelists: Molly Gloss, Scott Russell Sanders, and Luis Alberto Urrea

9:30pm **Book Signing** 

#### Sunday, July 15

7:30am **Breakfast** 

9:30am Closing Address with Gary Ferguson

11:00am **Farewells** 



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Books will be available to purchase every afternoon and evening at Summer Fishtrap

# 2019 Summer Fishtrap Faculty



#### **JAMIE FORD** - Benevolent Anarchy

Jamie Ford is the great-grandson of Nevada mining pioneer, Min Chung, who emigrated from China in 1865, where he adopted the western name "Ford," thus confusing countless generations. Jamie's debut novel, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, spent two years on the New York Times bestseller list and won the 2010 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. Having grown up in Seattle, he now lives in Montana where he's on a never-ending search for decent dim sum.

#### **PERRIN KERNS** - The Lyric Essay: Weaving Small Parts into a Whole

Perrin Kerns served as the Director of Writing at Marylhurst University for 15 years. She currently teaches

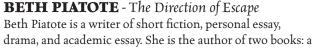
literature and creative nonfiction for Prescott College. Her own creative work has taken her from lyric essay to digital story, and to making personal narrative documentaries based on her lyric essays. Most recently, her film about a miscarriage, "What I Can Tell You," won the best short animation at the Oregon Independent Film Festival in Portland.



#### **ANIS MOJGANI** - Knowing the Unknown

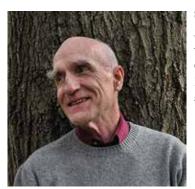
Anis Mojgani is the author of five books of poetry, is a two time National Poetry Slam Champion, and winner of the International World Cup Poetry Slam. His work has appeared on HBO, NPR, and in such journals as Bat City Review, Rattle, Buzzfeed Reader, Thrush, and Forklift Ohio. He has been

commissioned to create work for the Getty Museum, TWLOHA, and the Portland Timbers. Originally from New Orleans, Anis currently lives in Portland, OR, where he serves on the Board of Directors for Literary Arts.



scholarly monograph, Domestic Subjects: Gender, Citizenship, and Law in Native American Literature, the forthcoming mixed-genre collection, The Beadworkers: Stories and, her work has appeared in numerous journals and collections. Her play, Antíkoni, premiered in 2018 at the University of California, Berkeley where she is an associate professor of Native American Studies. In addition to writing, Beth is devoted to indigenous language revitalization, focusing on Nez Perce. She is Nez Perce, enrolled with Colville Confederated Tribes.





#### **SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS** - Stories as Containers

Scott Russell Sanders lives in the hill country of southern Indiana, where he has written more than twenty books of fiction and nonfiction, including A Conservationist Manifesto and Hunting for Hope. His most recent books are Dancing in Dreamtime, a collection of eco-science fiction stories, and Stone Country: Then & Now, a documentary narrative made in collaboration with photographer Jeffrey Wolin.

#### **SHARMA SHIELDS** - The Basement, The Stoning: Writing Metaphorically to Shed Light on the Dark

Sharma Shields is the author of a short story collection, Favorite Monster, and two novels, The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac and The Cassandra. Sharma's writing has appeared in Electric Lit, Slice, The New York Times, Kenyon Review, Iowa Review, Fugue, and has garnered such awards as the Washington State Book Award, the Autumn House Fiction Prize, the Tim McGinnis Award for Humor, a Grant for Artist Projects from Artist Trust, and the A.B. Guthrie Award for Outstanding Prose. She received her B.A. in English Literature from the University of Washington and her MFA from the University of Montana. Shields has worked in independent bookstores and public libraries throughout Washington State and now lives in Spokane with her husband and two young children.

#### **KIM STAFFORD** - Always Coming Home with Poetry

Kim Stafford is the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute, and co-founder of



Fishtrap. He is the author of a dozen books of poetry and prose, including Having Everything Right: Essays of Place in 1986, and the new poetry collection, Wild Honey, Tough Salt: Poems, in 2019. He has taught writing in schools, colleges, meadows, forests, and in Assisi, Glasgow, and a remote village in Bhutan. In May 2018 Gov. Kate Brown appointed him as Oregon's ninth Poet Laureate.

#### **MOSLEY WOTTA** - The Tao of Balance - Youth (Ages 13-17)

Chicago born, Oregon Based MOsley WOtta is a former slam poetry champion for the state of Oregon and Slam Poet Laureate for the City of Bend, Oregon. He is currently an Art Ambassador for Rise Up International in association with the US Embassy. He has

been featured multiple times on TED X and PBS/OPB. WOtta was recently elected the as the Creative Laureate of

Bend, Oregon. His works have been featured both nationally and internationally: Street Con Dubai, Valley Fiesta Australia, Magic Trade Show Las Vegas, Sundance Film Festival, Women's MUSE Conference, and Living Future Summit 2018. He is currently working on a project called "Water in the West" with the High Desert Museum. Thematically, MOsley WOtta's works often focus on inclusivity and unification through diversity.



#### **SHELLEY TOON LINDBERG** - Voices From the Land -

Youth (Ages 10-14)

Shelley Toon Lindberg is a visual artist based in Hood River, Oregon. She teaches K-12 students, adults and trains teachers in arts integration practices in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii. She studied Fine Arts at the



University of Colorado at Boulder and Interdisciplinary Studies in Arts, Education and Communications at Marylhurst University in Portland, Oregon. Her visual art pieces appear in public and private collections throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Shelley serves as the Executive Director of Arts in Education of the Gorge and is principal teaching artist for the Voices From the Land project.



# Yearlong Workshops



**LAURA PRITCHETT** - The Whole Shebang: Writing that Book Inside You - Yearlong 2019-20

Laura Pritchett is the author of nine books. She began her writing journey with the short story collection Hell's Bottom, Colorado, which won the PEN USA Award for Fiction and the Milkweed National Fiction Prize. This was followed by the novels Sky Bridge, Stars Go Blue, Red Lightning, and The Blue Hour, which also garnered several literary awards. She's the editor of three anthologies and has two nonfiction books: Great Colorado Bear Stories and Making Friends with Death: A Guide to Your Impending Last Breath. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Salon, High Country News, Orion, The Millions, Publisher's Weekly, The Sun, and many others. She holds a PhD from Purdue University and teaches around the country. She is also known for her environmental stewardship, particularly in regard to land preservation and river health.

# **GARY FERGUSON** - Intimate Nonfiction: Writing from the Inside Out - Yearlong 2018-19

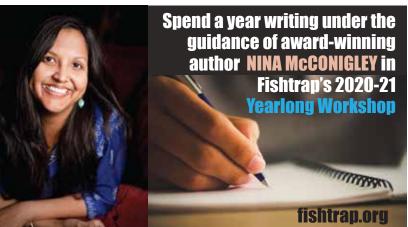
Gary Ferguson has written for a variety of national publications, including Vanity Fair, Orion and the Los Angeles Times, and is the author of twenty-five books on nature and science. His memoir, The Carry Home: Lessons from the American Wilderness, which was described by the Los Angeles Times as "gorgeous, with beauty on every page." was selected as the Sigurd Olson Nature Book of the Year. Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone (National Geographic Adventure Press), was the first nonfiction work in history to win both the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and the Mountains and Plains Booksellers Award for Nonfiction. Last spring Gary's lead essay for Orion



Magazine – "A Deeper Boom" – was selected by the American Society of Journalists and Authors as the Best Essay of 2016.

Over the past thirty years Gary has taught at writers workshops and conferences across the country. He also recently concluded ten years as a faculty member of the renowned Rainier Writing Workshop Masters of Fine Arts Program at Pacific Lutheran University.







# 2019 Fishtrap Fellows

Since 1990, Fishtrap has awarded more than 140 Fellowships to new and emerging writers, many of whom have gone on to publish and succeed in full-time careers as writers and teachers. A Fishtrap Fellowship includes full registration to the Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers, lodging, meals, and a featured reading during the week. Fishtrap is able to provide Fellowships through the generous support from individuals and foundations. We are pleased to announce the 2019 Summer Fishtrap Fellowship recipients:

#### Sakae Manning – Altadena, California

Sakae Manning's storytelling strives to give voice to women who defy cultural, racial, and gender norms. Her work typically blends race and identity, creating alliances and solidarity amongst women of color. A Mills College graduate, Manning's poem, "December Baby," was published in the College Literary Journal. Other writing credits include "Okasan/Mother," published in Making Waves: An Anthology of Asian-American Women Writers and "Sammy's Shitkickers" published in The Salt River Review. She is currently working on a novel, Kimono Blues.



Jaclyn Moyer – Corvallis, Oregon

Jaclyn Moyer grew up in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in northeastern California. Her essays have appeared in Orion, The Ninth Letter, The Normal School, High Country News, Salon, December, Hippocampus Magazine, and other publications. She was a 2017 Sozopol Literary Seminars Fellow, and a finalist for the 2016 PEN/Fusion Emerging Writers Prize. She lives with her partner and two young children in Corvallis, Oregon.



Valorie Ruiz – San Diego, California Valorie K. Ruiz is a Xicana writer fascinated

by language and the magic it evokes. She lives in San Diego and is assistant flash fiction editor for Homology Lit. Her first manuscript "In Stories We Thunder" was a finalist for the 2018 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize, the Berkshire Prize by Tupelo Press, and is currently out for consideration. Her writing has been accepted by The Florida Review, Hayden's Ferry Review, Cosmonauts Avenue, and Tinderbox Poetry among others.





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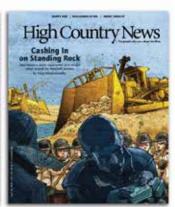




# Award-winning stories of the evolving American West.

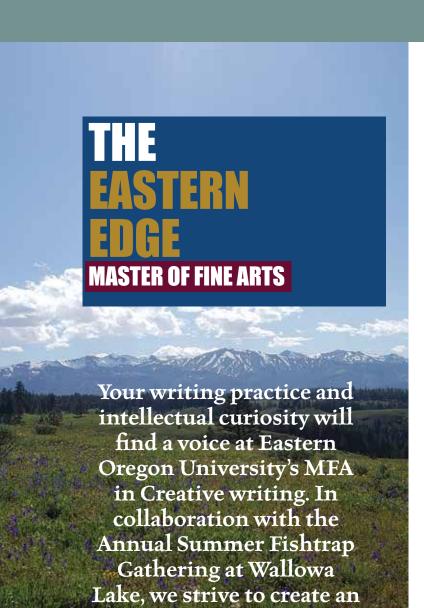






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Join Fishtrap for a celebration of partnership with Eastern Oregon University's MFA & Creative Writing Program!

Official Signing Ceremony

Thursday, July 11, 2019 - 3:00pm Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers



# Summer Fishtrap is possible thanks to generous support from the following:

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The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
The Kinsman Foundation
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The Silver Family Foundation

Fishtrap could not do what we do without the support of our Wallowa County Community. To the many local volunteers, writers, businesses, family, and friends who help us throughout the year, we send our heartfelt thanks!



PO Box 38, Enterprise, OR 97828 541.426.3623 fishtrap.org

#### Fishtrap Programs 2020

#### Winter Fishtrap

January 17-19

#### The Big Read

February-March

#### **Outpost on the Zumwalt**

June 22-27

#### Summer Fishtrap

July 6-12

#### **Outpost in Hells Canyon**

September 3-8

#### Fishtrap Fireside

First Fridays, October-April