

COURAGE



33rd Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers July 6-12, 2020 - Wallowa Lake, Oregon



Fishtrap
Writing & The West

PO Box 38
Enterprise, OR 97828

Mark your calendar for the 33rd annual
Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers!

July 6-12, 2020
Wallowa Lake, Oregon



Keynote Address: Craig Childs
Online registration opens
February 5, 2020
at 9am Pacific time.
For more information visit
fishtrap.org
or call 541-426-3623

33rd Annual Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers: Courage July 6-12, 2020 Wallowa Lake Lodge, Oregon

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

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.

July 6

Weeklong Check-in
Workshop Orientation
Welcome & Opening
Night Program

July 7-11

Writing Workshops
Presentations
Open Mics
Evening Readings

July 10-12

Weekend Gathering
Check-in
Keynote Address
Panel Discussions
Youth Showcase
Fishtrap Live
Closing Address

Weeklong Workshops

July 6-11, 2020

Registration for the 2020 weeklong writers gathering is \$855 (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

July 6-10, 2020

Youth workshops registration is \$550 (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:** Cameron Scott guides students through a workshop in digital storytelling
- **Ages 13-17:** In M^Osley W^Ott^A's workshop young writers will explore the world through the mediums of hip hop and spoken word.

Summer Fishtrap Weekend Gathering

Registration is \$325 (includes meals; lodging not included)

Can't come for the whole week? Register for Fishtrap's Weekend Gathering. It begins Friday afternoon, July 10 and runs through Sunday, July 12 at noon. Registration includes keynote address by **Craig Childs**, panel discussions, and more.

Yearlong Workshop with Nina McConigley

Tuition is \$7250 — includes registration and meals for the 2020 and 2021 Summer Fishtrap weeklong workshops. (meals and lodging not included) \$500 discount if paid in full by July 6, 2020.

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 2020 Summer Fishtrap and ends at Summer Fishtrap 2021. In between these face-to-face meetings, you will work closely with your instructor, exchanging monthly packets of writing and discussion of your work. Accepting applications now at fishtrap.org.

Meals

Starting at just \$75, the Lodge offers meal plans to fit most any budget.

Summer Fishtrap participants are also welcome bring outside food to the Lodge and dine with fellow writers and guests.

Lodging

Rooms and cabins at Wallowa Lake Lodge can be reserved online at wallowalakelodge.com or by calling them directly at 541-432-9821.

Fishtrap has also reserved two group campsites at Wallowa Lake State Park for \$20 per night, which you can reserve through the Summer Fishtrap registration page beginning Feb. 5. Many additional lodging options are available within a short distance from the Lodge

Visit fishtrap.org for a list of meal and lodging options, or call us at 541-426-3623.

Be a Fishtrapper and Save 10% off your Summer Fishtrap registration!

With a monthly donation of \$25 or more, you'll support Fishtrap programs including scholarships and fellowships, rural youth writing programs, workshops, Writers-in-Residence programs and more. Plus, you'll receive special discounts to Summer and Winter Fishtrap, monthly writing prompts from Fishtrap faculty, and more. Visit fishtrap.org to join the club.



Summer Fishtrap Faculty and Workshops

July 6-12, 2020

Learn more at FISHTRAP.ORG ~ 541.426.3623

CRAIG CHILDS

Writing Animal Stories

How do we interact with the other 99% of living things on Earth? Eye contact with a praying mantis, coming upon a mountain lion flicking its tail; what can these encounters convey?

From coyote stories to humming birds and bears, we will look at our own

experiences, practice ways of seeing and remembering, and turn our instances into words. While this is primarily a non-fiction workshop, it is open to anyone with animals in their writing. Come prepared with a couple stories of your own, a moment with a narwal, snake, or any creature with eyes. The stories don't have to be life-threatening or redemptive, just notable to you. Don't write them beforehand. Bring your memories and blank paper and we'll take it from there.



BETH PIATOTE

True to Form: Adventures with the Short Story

What is the one defining feature of a short story? It's short. And even that one is up for grabs. In this workshop, we'll explore the many shapes and textures a short story can take, and experiment with known, and perhaps unknown forms. To prepare for this workshop, stock your notebook with some story ideas, sketches, awkward moments, ambivalent feelings and beautiful scenes. Once we get started, you will need to have courage to be true to the form your story needs to take, even if you've never seen anything like it.



SHARMA SHIELDS

Vivid Monsters: Exploring Vulnerabilities, Fear, and Strangeness in Our Writing

Shirley Jackson once said, "I delight in what I fear." Some of our most successful and visceral writing blooms from that which terrifies us and renders us most vulnerable. In this workshop, designed for writers of prose (both non-fiction and fiction), we'll learn how to approach the monstrous and write about it with power, distinctness, and care. We'll study short pieces of writing from Lucia Perillo, Elissa Washuta, Jia Tolentino, and more, and we'll consider frames, humor, and surprise for our work to give it layered interest and necessary respite. We'll write ferociously and frequently, and by week's end our monsters will growl and glitter and leap off of the page.



OMAR EL AKKAD

The Adversarial Consciousness: Writing at the intersection of injustice and the literary imagination

It has often been easy for critics to dismiss certain works of literature as "too political," as though a heightened concern for the political – which in reality is much more often a concern for the consequences of the political – must necessitate the sacrifice of some fundamental and universal literary quality. But in an era where fascism is on the rise and the future of a habitable planet is at risk, what are the political obligations of literature? What does it mean to write politically engaged fiction, adversarial fiction, dangerous fiction? This workshop will explore these questions, primarily through examples of contemporary and historical fiction and create works of fiction inspired by the questions you pose. Focus will be on literature from outside the United States, as well as some specific examples relating to climate change.



FRANK X WALKER

Uncomfortable Skin: Accessing the Courage and Voices of Persona Poetry and History

What kind of permission do we need to write in the voices of others? It's easy to play hero, but how do you find enough empathy and courage to authentically inhabit nuanced and complex identities and experiences—particularly those voices which reveal the worst in us and our often ugly histories?



ELLEN WATERSTON

The Lyric Essay: Stencils

Courage takes many forms, not the least of which is meeting the gaze of the blank page! What better genre to reckon and capture observed and personal instances of courage than the shape-shifting lyric essay? What better non-form to encourage rule-breaking as writers refine their voices and give in to the alchemy of the telling? Over the course of the week, prompts and supplemental readings will guide in the recruitment and balance of poetry and prose, fiction and nonfiction, research and reminiscence. We will share our written documentaries of courage alongside the opportunities to show up that were missed, avoided, the shadowland of bravery's stencil...and its definition.



TIM Z. HERNANDEZ

A Blueprint for Human Narratives – Prose/ Fiction/ Non-Fiction

In this workshop we will engage in the bold process of generating hard/heart-truths gathered from our individual and collective radars. Participants will experiment with various forms of narrative, including oral histories, writing as witness, re-enactments, ekphrastic, and other means of combating what Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, refers to as, "the danger of singular narratives." To this end, we will also explore the possibilities of hybridized genres, such as auto-ethnography and documentary poetics—forms that lend themselves to fresh ways of looking at a subject and shaping compelling narratives. Together we'll discuss subjects such as the ethics of writing others stories—people outside of our own direct experience, realities, and communities, as well as other obstacles we are forced to navigate when drawing from real life. And finally, we will engage in a literary offering by speaking our testimonies to the akashic records above the story-rich land of the Nez Perce. Participants looking to experiment, and expand the possibilities of their own creative boundaries, while drawing material from real world experiences, will find this workshop especially beneficial.



LENI ZUMAS

Making Strange

Flannery O'Connor once said of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*: "The truth is not distorted here, but rather distortion is used to get at the truth." The techniques of defamiliarization, or what the Russian critic Viktor Shklovsky called "making strange," can spark fresh and thrilling possibilities in any writer's prose. In this workshop, a range of writing prompts, in-class exercises, and conversations will encourage each participant to investigate these possibilities. As well as generating and sharing work in progress, we'll look at published fiction that may inspire our own inventions and give us the courage to try something unexpected.



Youth Workshops

MOsley Wotta

(Youth ages 13-17)

Stitching Chaos

Join writer, artist, and performer MOsley Wotta in a workshop which seeks to find a thread between the discourse of the mind and the language of the world. We will learn how to mix the mind's endless productions of thought with the timeless space of silence, beat an echo, ask the open air for assistance, receive genuine trust and support from nearly perfect strangers, trade self importance for self respect, find a use for your ego, stop obsessing about what other people think of you long enough to get over yourself, utilize fear, and maybe some writing tips, too! There is magic here. Call it something else if you want. Living through our rage and our reason and responsibility to one another. It shows up as love, sometimes loss. Sometimes we pretend to forget. Stop pretending.



CAMERON SCOTT

(Youth ages 10-14)

Lightbringers, iPads, and Mufflewumps, Oh My!

Like looking at things a bit differently? Want to peer deep inside your imagination and see what's stirring? Come join youth educator Cameron Scott as you explore your thoughts and voice through generative writing exercises and visual explorations. In this fantastic and fantastical workshop, we will write each day and compose digital stories with an ear to the ground and an eye to the sky.



Yearlong Workshops

NINA McCONIGLEY

Telling Your Story: A Fiction and Creative Nonfiction Workshop

We've all heard the old adage to "write what you know," but how do you tell story of your life? In this yearlong writing workshop, you will use your own history and experiences to transform your life stories into fiction, or find your story truths in memoir or creative nonfiction. Together, we will explore using the incidents of our lives to tell compelling stories with truth at their center. We'll explore our own identities, and mine our memories to generate new material. We'll learn how to take real life experience and fictionalize it, and how to write with autobiographical accuracy in nonfiction.



LAURA PRITCHETT

The Whole Shebang: Writing that Book Inside You

Laura Pritchett returns to wrap up her 2019-20 workshop.



WEEKEND HIGHLIGHT

Explorer and story-teller **Craig Childs** will present our Friday evening keynote address. Childs has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books, including his most recent, *Virga & Bone*. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Men's Journal*, and *The Sun*, and he is a contributing editor for *Adventure Journal Quarterly*. Childs lives in Western Colorado and teaches writing for both University of Alaska in Anchorage and Southern New Hampshire University.



REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 5, 2020