35th Annual Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers: Renewal
July 11-17, 2022 Wallowa Lake Lodge, Oregon

Renewal Friday, July 15, 2022
A special Summer Fishtrap Celebration with Juk'upsi/mey / North Star Collective
7pm, Wallowa Lake Lodge
Join us Friday, July 15 in celebration of Summer Fishtrap’s theme of “Renewal” with Juk’upsi/mey / North Star Collective, a group of Nez Perce artists, writers, and Indigenous language activists who write and perform in Nez Perce language, speaking with and from their ancestral homelands of the Wallowas. This special event is open to the public.

Weeklong Workshops
Registration opens February 1, 2022
Join us for a 1-week 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
Registration for Summer Fishtrap 2022 adult workshops is $495, $425 for Fishtrappers. (Meals and lodging not included)
Youth Workshops
Youth workshop 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.
- Entering grades 5-8: J. Nay Brown-Wood
- Entering grades 9-12: Cameron Scott

Virtual Workshop
Can’t make the trip to Wallowa Lake this year? Join us for a Summer Fishtrap Virtual Workshop with Christopher Kondrich
The last two years taught us that many of you enjoy the flexibility and accessibility of an online Summer Fishtrap experience. So for 2022, we’ve added a cross-genre virtual writing workshop including live-streaming access to all presentations at Wallowa Lake. You’ll get the same great instruction without the time and expense of travel.

Meals
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner will be available for purchase at Wallowa Lake Lodge. The Lodge will also offer a limited a la carte menu and nightly happy hour to fit most any budget. Participants are also welcome to bring their own food and dine with everyone at the Lodge.

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 also has two group campsites at Wallowa Lake State Park which you can reserve through the Summer Fishtrap registration page beginning Feb. 1. Many additional lodging options are available within a short distance of the Wallowa Lake Lodge.

Yearlong Workshop with Karen Auvinen
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 2022 Summer Fishtrap and ends at Summer Fishtrap 2023. 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.
Tuition of $7,250 includes registration and meals for the 2022 and 2023 Summer Fishtrap weeklong workshops. (Meals and lodging not included) $500 discount if paid in full by July 11, 2022.

Be a Fishtrapper and save 10% on your Summer Fishtrap registration!
With a monthly donation of $5 or more, you’ll support Fishtrap programs including scholarships and fellowships, rural youth writing programs, workshops, and Summer and Winter Fishtrap programs. Visit fishtrap.org to join the club.
AARON ABYTA - Poetry and Cross-Genre

The Wound is the Well. The Ghost is the Bucket

The old saying, what's in the well comes up in the bucket, speaks of a person's character, resolve, and ambitions. We will focus on the "ghosts" of your past, both ancestral and haunting, the themes, images, ideas, and recurring subjects each poet tends to explore over and over — the well-source we each write from. We will explore the work of others for inspiration, borrowing and deepening our own writing; writers will learn wide range of tools to deepen their own work. At the heart of the workshop is the notion that we, writers, are here to heal, repair and make whole, not just for our own sake but for our readers.

TIM Z. HERNANDEZ - Nonfiction

Embrace The Chaos: A Non-Fiction Primer

When drawing from material that is rooted in the actual, the process can quickly grow unwieldy. Where to begin? How to end? What to include? What to leave out? Am I digging deep enough? haunt our writing process, and we seek direction. We will begin each day with a meditation to help foster a foundation of openness and presence. The rest of our time we will engage in generative writing prompts, discussion, and techniques, with the aim of developing practical tools for embracing the beautiful chaos, while at the same time pushing ourselves creatively beyond our comfort zones.

CHRISTOPHER KONDРИCH - Cross-Genre (VIRTUAL)

Writing Toward Environmental Healing

"It is not enough to eulogize the nearly lost; we must try to bring them back." Robin Wall Kimmerer writes in her preface to Old Growth. The Best Writing About Trees from Orion Magazine. In this expansive and generative cross-genre workshop, participants will explore the ways that poems, stories, and essays can see the reader's attention and awareness necessary to fuel action and regeneration. We'll read and write our way through the Old Growth anthology, and explore how our writing can push past the impulse to eulogize, moving toward the restorative, like a sapling growing out the stump of a tree.

BETH PIATORE - Cross-Genre

Right Yourself

To be alive is beautiful and terrible, and this inevitably means that destabilizing events are going to come along. Some of them may even disrupt your sense of yourself and your identity as a writer. This course, open to writers working in all genres, is a chance to focus on your writing life, goals, and unique powers. Daily writing prompts will challenge you to identify and double-down on your singular visions and voice, and encourage you to "right yourself" in alignment with the work you are given to do in this world. Why do you write? For whom do you write? What happens when you ignore your true compass—or more terrifying, when you don't?

LAURA PRITCHETT - Cross-Genre

Renewal, Reinvigoration: Edge Contemporary Forms and Techniques

Experimentation is where it’s at these days—especially in the world of nature writing. If you take a look at today’s best place-based literary journals and writings, you’re going to see a lot of edge. The good kind of edge. Not only has the world of nature writing evolved in terms of content, it’s evolved in the form of form. Check out all the flash, episodic, epistolary, and hermit-crab fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Don’t know what those terms mean? Never fear! That’s what this week is about. Each day, we’ll try several new forms, and you’ll leave having generated creative, original work by taking stylistic risks. We’ll also be reading examples by contemporary nature writers (including some faculty here) as inspiration as to how form can inform content. Appropriate for all genres.

ROBERT STUBBLEFIELD - Cross-Genre

Tunnel Vision

In this cross-genre (fiction/nonfiction) workshop we explore our interests and obsessions and work toward weaving these fixations and passions into and through our writing. We’ll investigate, examine, and mine the mundane and the mysterious, and particularly the mysteries in the mundane. Whether it be work, play, landscape, or artifact, we’ll employ that which pulls, puzzles, pleasures, or nags to find new and lasting channels and avenues into our work. Touchstones are true, few, and precious, yet provide the balance and sustenance for a lifetime of creating. We’ll look at stories, essays, and excerpts by writers including Sarah Vowell, Roxanne Gay, Nick Hornby, David James Duncan, Thomas McGuane, and Annick Smith. Daily prompts and exercises will spark fresh starts and add fuel to work in progress.

FRANK X WALKER - Poetry

A Self Portrait is More Honest Than a Selfie: The Poem as Camera

Experience renewal by revisiting a once sacred art form for inspiration. In this generative workshop we will seek to capture the alchemy, mystery, and magic of the old school film developing process by interrogating the history, process, language, and hardware of "art photography"—before the digital camera and photostop. Regardless of your preferred subject or traditional form, we will utilize the trusted sources of Memory, Research, and Imagination, coupled as always with Empathy as we spend each day thinking, writing, and sharing in a safe space. Using only natural light, participants in the workshop will be challenged to experiment with special filters and lens, interrogate old photos, write original self-portraits and ekphrasis, and discover on the page how much photography and poetry truly have in common.

ELLEN WATERSTON - Lyric Essay and Prosetry

The Only Constant

Emerging like so many Rip Van Winkle from pandemic protocols and pivots, quarantines, virtual meetings, national and global upheaval, how have we changed, how has our writing changed, how has what we are moving to written changed? Is it possible to review? Or is "new", by definition, something that didn’t exist before can’t be re-upped? Let’s go with that. Let’s write the new, the change up. Let’s surface the new expression of the new questions. How now shall our writing intersect and reconnect in different ways with self and other? In this generative workshop we’ll use the lyric essay as the container for this exploration, a form that embraces hybridization and celebrates the vagaries of mixed genre.

Yearlong Workshops

KAREN AUVINEN - The Year of Writing Generously: Your Book From Inception to Full First Draft

Fishtrap’s Yearlong Writers Workshop is intent on fostering an atmosphere of big-hearted support for you and the work at hand through workshop partnerships and a scaffold of deadlines. Using generous as our guiding principle, we’ll cultivate curiosity for our narratives and write for discovery. We’ll learn flexibility as our ideas develop beyond what we imagined. The goal is a book: a full first draft and celebrating the sense of accomplishment that comes with it.

SHARMA SHIELDS - A Year of Firsts: Progressing from the First Lines of a Novel to a Full Manuscript and Beyond

Sharma Shields returns to wrap up her 2021-2022 workshop.

JaNY BROWN-WOOD - Wandering through the World of Words (Grades 5-8)

We will explore creative writing and practice capturing our worlds in words to share with others. We will engage our senses, play with plots, craft characters, and use different creative means that inspire us. We will utilize our imaginations to make magic happen on the page and learn a little more about ourselves and others as we do this. Also, we will revise our own work to help our words really sing! Participants should be ready to use their bodies and minds to interact with self, others, and nature as we wander through the wondrous world of words!

CAMERON SCOTT - Times Like These: Recovering Renewal (Grades 9-12)

Welcome to life. Has it surprised you yet? Sometimes lemons; sometimes bitter fives everywhere. Join poet and lyrical essayist Cameron Scott and your fellow writers in this weeklong generative workshop that explores topics like the weight of secrets, the nature of nature, and the nature of art and identity. Get your maps working with bitzards of imagery and life-driven narratives. Root in the writings of fellow Fishtrap Faculty members. Find your words of renewal.

Youth Workshops

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2022