



2024 Story Catcher Workshop *June 4-7, Gunnison & Crested Butte CO.*

Set in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, with the Western Colorado University Campus as our classroom, and the Gunnison Valley, Crested Butte and Grand Mesa National Forest as our playground!



ABOVE (L-R)Festival participants at Story Catcher 2022 on the WCU Campus. MFA Students in the Nature Writing Concentration gather for a wildflower hike at the end of their 2021 summer residency. Slate River along "Oh Be Joyful" Trail, Grand Mesa National Forest, Crested Butte.



With Western Colorado University



REGISTRATION

(www.storycatcherworkshop.org)

The following fees cover all workshop sessions and food and refreshments as outlined on the workshop schedule. All other meals are on your own. Lodging is on your own—see the affordable housing packages below.

NOTE: Space is limited to 25 Writers. (This is an adult workshop. You must be 18 years or older to register)

- **General Registration: \$300** *(Includes one-year membership to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society)*
- **Students & Sandoz Society Members: \$250**
- **Advanced Workshop/Manuscript Consultations \$30**
 - **Added to your Registration. Limited space. See details when registering.**
- **Scholarships/Fellowships:** *full details appear below (page 12)*

LODGING

WCU HOUSING: we have reserved suites in the Pinnacles Apartments. Each participant will have a private bedroom with a communal living room. Review amenities here: <https://western.edu/student-life/residence-life-housing/on-campus-housing/pinnacles-apartments/>

Rooms are available Monday, 6/3, (for those arriving early) through Friday, 6/8 (for those departing Saturday)

- **Retreat Package (\$130)** 3 nights, Tuesday-Thursday (Check-out Friday Morning)
 - **Add-On ONE Extra Night (\$43)** (Monday OR Friday)
 - **Add-On TWO Extra Nights (\$86)** (Monday AND Friday)

COUPLES PLEASE NOTE: You will EACH need to register and pay for housing per the options on the registration form online, including those staying as guests (not attending/registering for the workshop sessions).

OFF CAMPUS LODGING: The Gunnison Valley/Crested Butte region is a popular summer tourist destination, with a wide variety of lodging and recreational options to choose from. The area is typically busy in July, so early reservations are encouraged.

***Refunds:** Due to limited space in the RETREAT, refunds can only be offered up to TEN days after registration. For planning purposes, there will be no refunds made after June 1st. (Please note that if the workshop must be cancelled for any reason, we will notify all participants as soon as possible and process full refunds—and that participants impacted by any verified health-emergency, including COVID-19, are eligible for full refund at any time).*

Tuesday, June 4th

WRITER'S RETREAT DAY ONE



(Above) Sean Prentiss conducts advanced workshop consultations under beautiful Western Colorado skies at Story Catcher in 2022. (Right & Below) Opening Night Reception and Reading at the Western Student Center

Advanced Workshop:

- **9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Campus Location TBA**
 - Manuscript Consultations with Karen Auvinen (prose) and Haesong Kwon (poetry)
Limited space available. Our consultants will collect writing from the participants in advance of the workshop and then meet with the writers individually to review their projects. Procedures for the consultations will be worked out with those who sign up for this part of the workshop.
- **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
 - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.

Check In:

- **3 to 5 p.m., University Center Ballroom**
 - Confirm your arrival, get your workshop folder, and receive directions for checking into campus housing.



Evening Program:

- **5 to 6 p.m., University Center**
 - Reception and Social Hour (with cash bar)



- **6 to 7 p.m., University Center**
 - Dinner
- **7 to 8:30 p.m., University Center**
 - Welcome by Steve Coughlin
 - Featured reading by Haesong Kwon and Pamela Uschuk

Wednesday, June 5th

WRITER'S RETREAT DAY TWO

Morning Session:

- **8 to 9 a.m. University Center**
 - Complimentary Breakfast
- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. University Center**
 - Nonfiction Craft Session with J.C. Hallman
How You Say What You Say Is Part Of What You Mean
What defines imaginative writing and “creative nonfiction”?
This lecture will examine one of the most inscrutable pieces of writing ever produced—James Agee’s six-page-long “Knoxville: Summer, 1915”—to reflect on the too-often-overlooked foundations of the techniques, strategy, and purpose of literature.

Afternoon Sessions:

- **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
 - Please program for dining options in Gunnison
- **2 to 5 p.m. University Center**
 - Playwriting with Steve Hughes
 - Title and description TBD

Evening Program:

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

- Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.
- **7 to 8:30 p.m. LOCATION TBA**
 - Featured Readings by J.C. Hallman & Karen Auvinen



(Above) Writers purchase books and collect materials between sessions at 2022 Workshop in Gunnison.

(Below) Beth Piatote leads her workshop session “The Good Thing about Bad Relatives” at Story Catcher 2023 in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



Thursday, June 6th

WRITER'S RETREAT DAY THREE

Morning Session:

- **Breakfast ON YOUR OWN**
 - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison
- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. University Center**
 - Fiction Craft Session with Rilla Askew

Characters in Place: Place as Character

Whether your story is set in a contemporary interior space or historical landscapes long vanished, the physical world of your fiction shapes everything: what readers know, and don't know they know, about these characters alive in this specific time and place. Using vivid examples of published work and writing exercises that help us recognize multiple layers of place and render it on the page, this workshop is for writers at all levels, whether beginning new work or advancing a work-in-progress. Also productive for writers working in creative nonfiction.

Afternoon Sessions:

- **12 to 1 p.m. University Center**
 - Complimentary Lunch
- **1 to 2:30 p.m. University Center**
 - Publishing Panel with Story Catcher Writing Faculty
 - *From finding an agent to publishing your work, this panel will discuss the business side of writing with a focus on offering effective strategies for publication.*



(above) Kelly Ann Jacobson leads a craft session at the 2022 Workshop at Western Colorado University



Writers gather for our lunch roundtable discussion at Story Catcher 2022 in Gunnison

Evening Program:

- **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
 - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.
- **7 to 8:30 p.m. Location TBA**
 - Featured Readings by Rilla Askew & Karen Hausdoerffer

Friday, June 7th

WRITER'S RETREAT DAY FOUR

Morning Session (Crested Butte Arts Center):

- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

- Poetry Craft Session with Pam Uschuk

Tanagers, Aspens, Bears & Mountain Creeks: A Generative Ecopoetry Workshop

Welcome to this generative ecopoetry writing workshop with an emphasis on local heroes like the striking Western Tanager, our iconic and graceful Aspen trees, resident black bears (a keystone species), and watersheds like the Rio Grande and Arkansas River. I have hiked, kayaked, and lived in close contact with these locals most of my adult life. We will talk about interdependence, the way humans impact wilderness and wild beings who live in our area—while exploring poetic techniques such as sound & rhythm, ways to break lines, and various ways to create imagery. Participants will be introduced to forms like the Haibun, Abecedarian, and/or Ekphrastic poems, and will write at least one in-session poem from a prompt. We will also encounter major eco-poets such as Joy Harjo, Camille Dungy, Linda Hogan, Luis Alberto Urea, Sandra Alcosser, J. Drew Lanham, Lauren Camp, Elizabeth Jacobson, Simon Ortiz, Lucille Clifton, Galway Kinnell, William Root, Esther Belin and many more. Let's have fun while learning about and writing ecopoetry!

The Story Catcher Festival (Crested Butte Arts Center)

- **Lunch Location TBA**

Will be on your own/pay-your way, but we will try to coordinate a location where most of us can meet before the Festival Activities.

- **2 to 3 p.m. 2024 Emerging Writers**

Young Lance Fellowship & Mari Sandoz Emerging Writers

- **3 to 5 p.m. Story Sharer**

Open Mic Featuring Retreat Participants

Additional Events TBD

Evening On Your own

NOTE: All participants must be checked out of campus housing by 11 A.M. on Saturday



Story Land —Máyaⁿ Wékaⁿ

Anna Lee Walters leads the concluding session and start of the 2023 Story Catcher Festival in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Workshop Faculty

J.C. Hallman grew up in Southern California. He studied writing at the University of Pittsburgh, the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Hallman's nonfiction combines memoir, history, journalism, and travelogue. His first book, *The Chess Artist*, tells the story of Hallman's friendship with chess player Glenn Umstead. His second, *The Devil is a Gentleman*, is an intellectual apprenticeship with philosopher William James. *In Utopia* explores the history of utopian literature in the context of visits to six modern utopias in various stages of realization. *Wm & H'ry* examines the copious correspondence of William and Henry James. And *B & Me* is an account of Hallman's literary relationship with Nicholson Baker.



jchallman.com

Hallman has also published a book of short stories, *The Hospital for Bad Poets*, and edited two anthologies of "creative criticism," *The Story About the Story* and *The Story About the Story II*. Among other honors, Hallman was a recipient of a 2010 McKnight Artist Fellowship in fiction, and a 2013 Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in the general non-fiction category.

In 2015, Hallman discovered the first evidence that proved the existence of the young, enslaved woman known as Anarcha, the so-called first cure of the diabolical "father of gynecology," J. Marion Sims. In making significant contributions to the histories of slavery and medicine, Hallman's dual biography, *Say Anarcha*, excavates and centers Anarcha's story, and provides a much-needed corrective to the false narrative of Sims's career.

— "[A] truly astounding tale...*Say Anarcha* is an important book and deserves to be widely read...In the introduction, Hallman tells us that his goal is 'to subvert every aspect of the fraudulent narrative' connected to Anarcha and to 'excavate the life story of a young, enslaved woman who changed history, only to be forgotten by it.' He has accomplished that and more."

The New York Times

"“Audacious . . . Hallman ranges deep and wide in this passionate . . . **wildly intelligent, deeply personal**, immoderate exploration of Nicholson Baker's entire oeuvre, reading in general, and the state of modern literature."

—NPR



rillaaskew.com

Rilla Askew

Best known for her American Book Award-winning novel about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, *Fire in Beulah* (Viking 2001), Rilla Askew is the author of five novels, a book of stories, and a collection of creative nonfiction.

She's a PEN/Faulkner finalist, recipient of the Western Heritage Award, Oklahoma Book Award, the WILLA Award

from Women Writing the West, and a 2009 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Askew's essays, poems, and short fiction have appeared in *AGNI*, *Nimrod*, *Tin House*, *World Literature Today*, and elsewhere. Her book of essays, *Most American: Notes from a Wounded Place* (OU Press 2017), was long listed for PEN America's award for the art of the essay. Askew's most recent novel, *Prize for the Fire* (OU Press 2022), is about Early Modern English writer Anne Askew, who was burned as a heretic in 1546. A new collection of stories, *The Hungry & The Haunted*, will be published by Belle Point Press in Fall 2024.

"Rilla Askew--a storyteller of truth and grace in all she writes, whether novel or essay--moves us to compassionately consider Oklahoma in all its faces. Oklahoma is a rough story of theft and coercion, of beauty and tenderness. In Most American, Askew teaches us to see with wiser eyes."

— **U.S Poet Laureate Joy Harjo**

"Five generations of Rilla Askew's family have occupied southeastern Oklahoma. Celebrating this birthright, she has concocted of it her own Faulknerian kingdom. Askew is writing a mythic cycle, novels and stories that unsettle our view of the West's settling. In a continuous fictional mural populated with hardscrabble souls - credible, noble and flawed - Askew is completing the uncompleted crossing of the plains. Trusting prose that is disciplined, luxuriant and muscular, she is forging a chronicle as humane as it is elemental."

— **Allan Gurganus, May 20, 2009, American Academy of Arts and Letters**



pamelauschuk.com

Pamela Uschuk

Author of eight books of poems, Pam has garnered many awards, including the American Book Award, the Dorothy Daniels Writing Award from the American League of Pen Women, Best of the Web, War Poetry Award, the Struga Poetry Prize for a theme poem, King's English poetry prize and prizes from Ascent and Amnesty International.

Translated into over a dozen languages, Pam's work appears in over three hundred journals and anthologies worldwide, including *Poetry*, *Parnassus Review*, *Agni*

Review and *Ploughshares*. Her most recent collection of poems, *Refugee*, was named one of *Kirkus Review's* "favorite books of 2023" and listed by *Orion Magazine* as "one of 14 recommended books of poetry in 2022."

She is a Black Earth Institute senior fellow and board member as well as being editor-in-chief of *Cutthroat*, a journal of the arts. She was awarded a Writing Residency at Storyknife Women's Writers Retreat in Homer, Alaska for the month of September 2022. In spring 2024 she is the Pearl S. Buck visiting writer at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. When she's not writing, she's hiking with her dog Talulah and husband William root or birding anywhere she can.

"With tenderness, expansive compassion, and profound gifts of radiant description, Pamela Uschuk considers so many ways people may be estranged and lost in this precious, difficult world. With brave ferocity, her poems in Refugee navigate new vision and reconnection, so desperately longed for right now and always."

— Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *The Tiny Journalist*

"Wild in the Plaza of Memory lives up to its title. With these poems, Uschuk has opened a public space where all things, all encounters—both beautiful and dreaded—are not only possible, they are inevitable. In this plaza of poetry, the poet moves effortlessly in time and space, addresses the living and conjures the dead, confesses personal losses publicly and public losses intimately."

— Daniel Nathan Terry

"These poems are matrixes of earth creatures, winds, suns and the need to replace travesty with justice. Uschuk's best collection thus far."

— U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo

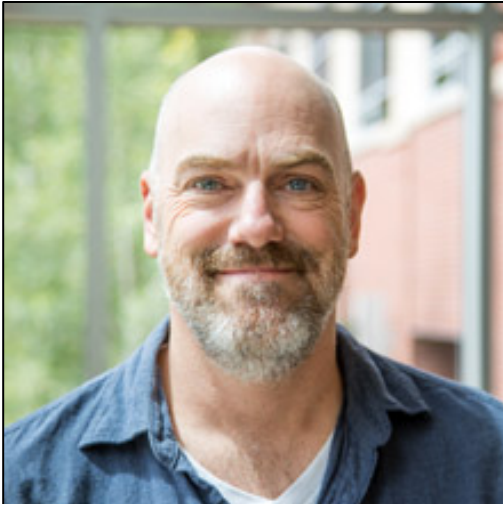


Photo courtesy of Western Colorado University

Steven Cole Hughes is an actor, director, playwright, and Assistant Professor and Director of Theatre at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, CO. His produced plays include: *The Billy Trilogy* (*Slabtown*, *Billy Hell*, and *The Bad Man*) winner of the Denver Post Ovation Awards for Best New Work and Special Achievement, *Cowboyily*, *Behold! The Fig Leaf Apron*, and *Indiana*. Commissions and productions have come from The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Curious Theatre Company, The Bloomington Playwrights Project in Bloomington, IN, and the Coterie Theatre in

Kansas City, MO. His writing has appeared in *The Wanderlust Review*, and his play *A Brief History of Banned Books* will be published by BookBar Press in April 2024 in *We Can See Into Another Place: Mile-High Writers on Social Justice*. As an actor, he has appeared at theatres all over the country, on television's *Law & Order*, and in the Denver Center for the Performing Art's production of *Macbeth*. He has a B.A. in Theatre from Indiana University and an MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory.



karenauvinen.com

Karen Auvinen is an award-winning poet, mountain woman, life-long westerner, writer, educator, speaker, and the author of the memoir *Rough Beauty: Forty Seasons of Mountain Living* (Scribner), finalist for the Colorado Book Award and the Willa Award. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *LitHub*, *Real Simple*, *Westword*, among others, and is forthcoming in *Terrain* and *Deep Wild*.

Her fiction has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes and her poetry has won two Academy of American Poets Awards. She is the 2024 winner of the Barry Lopez Prize in Creative Nonfiction. She is also on the Graduate Faculty in Nature Writing at Western Colorado University and directs the Creative Minds Residential Academic Program at CU-Boulder.



Academy of American Poets

Haesong Kwon teaches at Dine' College on the Navajo Nation reservation. He is the author of *The People's Field* (Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2019, winner of the 2018 Cowles Poetry Book Prize) and the Chapbook *Many Have Fallen*.

Recent poems appear in *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern Humanities Review* and *Meridian*. He was recipient of the 2014 Laurence Goldstein Poetry Prize, which is awarded annually to the author of the best poem or group of poems appearing that year in *Michigan Quarterly Review*.



Photo courtesy of Western Colorado University

Karen Hausdoerffer teaches environmental writing at Western Colorado University and English for adult immigrants at the Center for Adult and Family Education. She has earned an MFA in creative writing from the University of Idaho and has published work in journals including *Indiana Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Backcountry Magazine*, and *Crab Creek Review*.

Recently, her play *The Koi Pond*, was produced as a staged reading at the Gunnison Valley Theatre Festival.

Story Catcher Staff

Matthew Evertson (co-director) is a Professor of English at Chadron State College currently teaching, researching, and writing about the regional influences upon the literature of the Great Plains, with a special emphasis on the Environmental Humanities. His current writing projects include an exploration of the ecological themes surrounding “home” and “homes” in the works of Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz, Wright Morris and other Nebraska voices. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mari Sandoz Society.

Steven Coughlin (co-director) is Associate Professor English at Western Colorado University, where he serves as both the undergraduate creative writing program director and also as a faculty member in the MFA Nature Writing concentration for the Graduate Program in Creative Writing. He is a widely-published poet and author of three book-length poetry collections. He is also lead editor of Western Press Books, a well-regarded consortium of universities whose books are distributed by the University Press of Colorado. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mari Sandoz Society.

Brenda G. Lanphear (promotion and publicity) has attended every Story Catcher since its inception in 2012. She earned her MFA in Nature Writing from Western Colorado University in 2022 and now works at Chadron State College as their lead Instructional Design & Technology Specialist. When she isn't attending one of her two poetry groups or hiking, you'll find her working on her first novel.

Awards and Support for Emerging Writers



ABOVE: Mari Sandoz at work in Bernard Hall for the 1948 Writer's Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. (Courtesy Mari Sandoz Center)

Mari Sandoz attributed her writing success less to natural talent and more to hard work and determination (and lots of revision). She explored sweeping ideas and concepts related to the human drama, particularly as it played out on the landscape of the American West, depicted across multiple genres including ten books of nonfiction, seven novels, numerous essays, short stories, letters and collected writings. She was also a devoted writing teacher, reading and responding to the work of emerging writers of her time.

Emerging Writer Fellowship

Graduate students, teachers and part-time authors whose writing shows promise, may apply for the Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Fellowship each year.

The Young Lance Fellowship

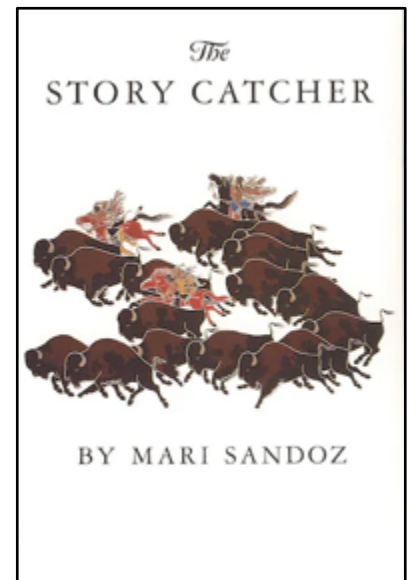
For emerging and underrepresented voices

In her 1963 novel *The Story Catcher*, Mari Sandoz depicts the adventures, sorrows, and hardships of the protagonist "Young Lance" as he develops his talents and eventually earns his new name and honor, "Story Catcher," the recorder of the history of his people.

The Young Lance Fellowship is therefore dedicated to helping underrepresented writers capture and share their stories.

Emerging Writers receive the following support:

- All Workshop Registration Fees Waived
- Paid stipends to help defray some travel/lodging costs
- Fellows receive special recognition in the Story Catcher program and website, and an opportunity to feature their writing at the Story Catcher Festival.



Scholarship/Fee Waivers

A limited number of full and partial tuition waivers will be offered to support talented STUDENT writers this year.

*Full Details are in the 2024 Story Catcher Awards Handout Online
(www.storycatcherworkshop.org)*

MAPS and DIRECTIONS

The Western Colorado University Visitor Page has some excellent resources for visiting and getting around campus:

- **Interactive Campus Map:** <https://western.edu/about/map-directions/>
- **VISITOR GUIDES:** The “Visiting Western’s Beautiful Campus” section of the “Parents and Families” Resource page (<https://western.edu/parents-family/>) has excellent information on the following:
 - Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport
 - Gunnison Valley Free Bus Schedule
 - Activities in the Gunnison Valley (and visitor guides)
 - Activities in Crested Butte (and visitor guides)
- **TRAVEL TIPS:** The “Getting to Crested Butte And Gunnison” section is particularly detailed: <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/getting-here/>
- **LODGING & RESTAURANTS:** <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/trip-planning/lodging/> & <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/trip-planning/restaurants/>
- **PARKING and CAMPUS SAFETY:** the WCU does not charge for parking during the summer, and spaces are first-come/first-served. More information can be found here: <https://western.edu/about/administration/conference-services/guest-information/>

Climate & Clothing

The Gunnison Valley is considered a semi-arid continental climate, or sometimes referred to as High Desert. The campus elevation is 7,750 feet, and the surrounding mountainous terrain has peaks as high as 12,000 feet, while the mountain village of Crested Butte to the north has an elevation of 8,900 feet. The main east/west thoroughfare, Highway 50, features expanses of flat wetlands to the east of town, and long stretches of flat, rocky terrain to the west, leading towards the Curecanti National Recreation Area and Blue Mesa Reservoir, one of the largest bodies of water in the state.

The average high temperature in July is 78 degrees Fahrenheit, with a low of 46, with generally clear days with low humidity. Because the campus and city of Gunnison are in a valley surrounded by higher elevations, cold temperatures from the mountains can descend into the valley, as well as fast-developing and sometimes intense storms. Be prepared. Most of our facilities will be air-conditioned. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME BUILDINGS CAN GET CHILLY. You may want to bring a jacket to wear indoors for these sessions.

Participants should take the typical precautions for high-altitude visits such as drinking more water, drinking less alcohol and caffeine, and protecting yourself from the sun’s intense rays at this altitude. A good overview for preparing for high-altitude travel can be found at this Center for Disease Control Webpage: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-to-high-altitudes>

Mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking and wildflower walks are the major trail activities during the summer. Trails can get busy, and trailheads will fill up early. A good resource is the “CBG Trails” webpage: <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/cbg-trails/>. The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area south of town is also a popular attraction for rock climbing and mountain biking (and outdoor motorsports): <https://www.blm.gov/visit/hartman-rocks-recreation-area>. Fishing, rafting and other watersports are also very popular in the region.

Acknowledgements

Mari Sandoz Society and the Esther and Raleigh Pilster Endowment marisandozsociety.org

Organizational support and primary funding for the Story Catcher Workshop and Festival has been provided by the *Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Society* and through a generous grant made possible through the *Esther and Raleigh Pilster Fund*, administered by the Society. Membership to the society is \$50 per year, and can be completed online at the website above.

Special thanks to *Elizabeth Chase*, Executive Secretary, for all her efforts in setting up the website, promoting the workshop, completing the contracts for the workshop and minding the budget; *J.L. Schmidt*, Public Relations Coordinator, for all the great news releases, newsletter items and publicity; and *Christy Chamberlin*, board member, for helping with planning, registration and funding.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT



Western Colorado University:

- *Steve Coughlin*, Associate Professor of English & MFA
Nature Writing Faculty, Workshop Co-Director
- Undergraduate: <https://western.edu/program/nature-writing/>
- MFA: <https://western.edu/program/creative-writing/>



English

Chadron State College: The English Program at Chadron State College has provided funding for portions of the workshop and the guiding vision and organization through our Planning Committee and our Program Staff:
○ *Matthew Evertson*, Professor, Workshop Co-Director

FIND YOUR STORY at CSC! (www.csc.edu/english)

(Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/englishCSC>) (Twitter: [@english_csc](https://twitter.com/english_csc))

Mari Sandoz Center

<http://www.sandozcenter.com/>

In addition to providing a beautiful meeting place for our workshop over the years, the staff of the center have provided invaluable support through planning, gathering materials and setting up the welcome packets, and promoting and publicizing the workshop.

Chadron State College

A very special thanks goes out to the College Relations staff, including Tena Cook and Alex Helmbrecht for promoting our event. Finally, we appreciate very much the support from the present leadership on campus including President *Dr. Ron K. Patterson* and Vice President for Academic Affairs, *Dr. James Powell* and Dean of Liberal Arts *Dr. James Margetts*.

And Others....

Thanks go out to all who have volunteered to help, promoted or supported our workshop this year