

Greetings from Fishtrap's Director,

Welcome to our brochure for **the 25th Anniversary Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers**. At the foot of the Wallowa Mountains, near the shores of Wallowa Lake, we will spend one week this summer surrounded by pine trees and the occasional wandering deer, dedicated to cultivating our best creative selves. Here, time slows down; distractions are removed; mornings are collaborative and intense; afternoons offer the option to engage with others or retreat to your cabin and sink into your writing. Evenings bring a cornucopia of readings and discussions. Our faculty is top-notch. Our participants -- that's you! -- are quite remarkable as well. Maybe it's because it takes a little extra effort to get here, or maybe it's the draw of the mountains and the lake, but something special happens here at the end of the road. Countless Fishtrap participants tell us that at Summer Fishtrap they are able to take their writing to the next level; they come away with new material, lifelong friends, and a renewed dedication to the writing craft.

This year, our theme is **Catch and Release: what we hold on to, what we let go and the one that got away**. Fishing is core to the past, present and future of this area, and we will talk explicitly about the politics and future of fishing and the West. But as writers, you no doubt hear metaphoric resonances. As writers, we hunger for what hovers below the surface. We have our rituals, our secret spots, and a whole mythology around the art of the catch. Bringing our poems and stories to the surface takes that ephemeral mix of hard work, luck and patience -- a dedication to repeatedly casting the imagination out over the water. Our keynote speaker, David James Duncan, author of *The River Why*, will address the metaphoric significance of catch and release in writing and in life; our workshops will help you cultivate your own practice; and our panelists will discuss what we want to hold on to and what we might let go both as artists and as residents of the West in a time of transition. On Saturday night we will celebrate 25 years of writing and the West, with a gala "Fishtrap Live" hosted by Hal Cannon and Teresa Jordan.

This year we have expanded our traditional five-day program to a full weeklong event that begins on Monday evening and integrates workshops, panels, and readings throughout the week, through Sunday at noon, for a more robust program. A weekend-only option is also available. We continue to offer an Outpost nature-writing workshop (at a new location), two youth workshops, and, this year, two yearlong classes. As always, scholarships are available for those on a limited budget.

Whether you come for the whole week-long event or for the weekend only, you can look forward to time in a beautiful location, immersing yourself in the company of engaging, committed writers, readers, and thinkers.

We look forward to seeing you again, if you are a long-time attendee, or welcoming you, if you are new, into the camaraderie that is quintessentially Fishtrap.

Welcome!

Warmly,



Ann Whitfield Powers  
Executive Director