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July 2020

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Writing Ranch!

Since 2000, over 1,500 writers and poets have participated in Writing Ranch workshops and one-on-one Manuscript Labs. What an honor and pleasure it has been for me personally to get to know and to work with each of you. Thank you, everyone!

Book Launch a Success!

A heartfelt thanks to the High Desert Museum for hosting the June 17th official launch of my most recent title, *Walking the High Desert, Encounters with Rural America along the Oregon Desert Trail*, UWA Press 2020. The virtual launch allowed for hundreds to "attend" from all parts of the country. Thanks to all who tuned in.

The Museum has reopened and is better than ever, if that's even possible, after three months shutdown due to COVID-19. If you haven't visited this national treasure, now's the time! And don't miss this year's virtual High Desert Rendezvous on August 29, 2020. [Sign up on the High Desert Museum website.](#)

What Can I Do?

What use this howling tenderness?

- Andal, eighth-century poet

Do what you have always done. Write the way, your way, to answers, to healing. Write congressional representatives, write letters to the editor, write essays and poems, write your morning pages. Words are inspiration. Inspiration is the guide to right action.

Monthly Prompt

How many times has your phone or computer guessed at the word you were trying to type? Be intentionally reckless as you type and see what the computer brain makes of your incoherent efforts, blend them as a poem. Me ta phors be with you!

Let's Get Virtual: Lots of Events Coming Up!

Ellen Waterston to Lead "Stencils, a workshop on the Lyric Essay" at Summer Fishtrap Gathering 2020, July 6-12.



Sign up for Ellen Waterston's workshop on the lyric essay. Participants will recruit poetry and prose, fiction and nonfiction, research and reminiscence to build written documentary relating to "courage," this year's Fishtrap theme. As part of the week, join chats and other creative Zoom events conducted by this year's illustrious Fishtrap faculty, including a keynote by author Craig Childs.

Note: Time is short! Register through July 4, 2020 at www.fishtrap.org.

Join Ellen Waterston for These Virtual Readings and Presentations from *Walking the High Desert*


July 2020 will find Ellen Waterston offering virtual readings and presentations about her new book, *Walking the High Desert, Encounters with Rural America Along the Oregon Desert Trail*.



On July 14, 6:00 p.m., Waterston will read at Elliot Bay Book Company, Seattle, Washington. [Reserve here.](#)

Roundabout Books in Bend, Oregon will host a reading on July 18 at 1:00 p.m. [Join the Zoom event here.](#)



 **Atlas Obscura** Atlas Obscura will offer a talk by Waterston, in their Wonder at Home series, on July 21 at 8:00 p.m. titled "Walking the Oregon Desert Trail: the making and writing of *Walking the High Desert*. [Reserve here.](#)


You can order a copy of *Walking the High Desert* from the bookstores named above or from [University of Washington Press](#).

PLAYA: The Master Class Series

Online Workshops Inspired by Oregon's High Desert Landscape

Author and poet Ellen Waterston teaches "Making Real What is Remote"

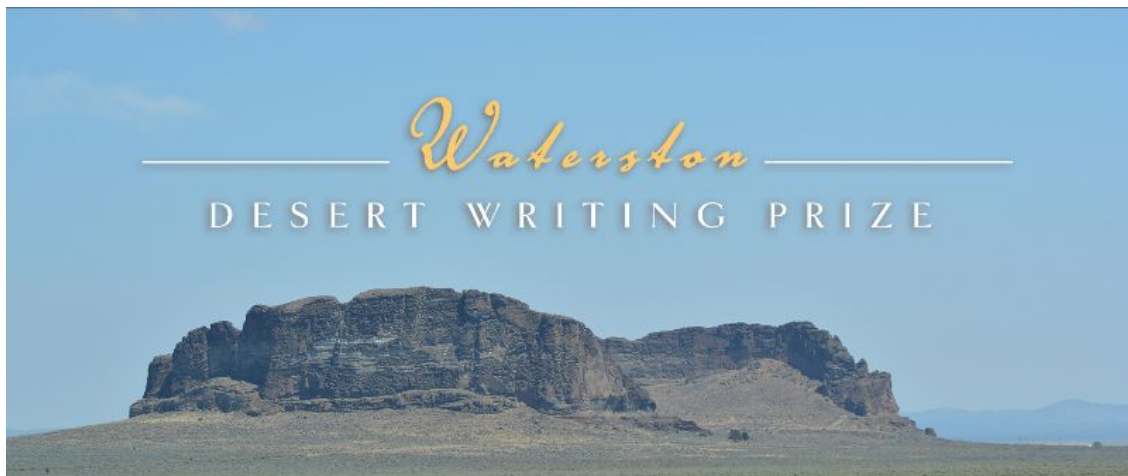
August 8-9, 2020

 Remote access, remote learning, fuggedaboutit! I don't know about you, but I want to gather with other writers at PLAYA, in the presence of the remote and staggering beauty of Summer Lake. But not so fast. With the southeastern Oregon landscape as our muse, this two-day generative writing intensive will explore the job of writing to render actual what is remote, to transform what we see and feel into a real experience for the reader using imagination, memory, experience, and language. We'll work in short narrative "prosetry" (forgive me) drawing inspiration from supplementary readings to make the written thing evoke the thing itself.

Register at www.playasummerlake.org

Limited to 12

Fee: \$250



2020 Waterston Desert Writing Prize

Awards

Thursday, September 10, 2020. 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by the High Desert Museum

Readings by winner Hannah Hindley, Tucson, Arizona; and finalists Eli Beck, Salt Lake City, Utah and Leath Tonino, Ferrisburgh, Vermont. New this year! Presentation of the student desert writing prize. Inaugural reading by Al Lehto, Bend, Oregon.

[RSVP High Desert Museum Calendar for Zoom link - coming soon!](#)

No charge to join the event.

Together Again!

2020 In-Person Workshops

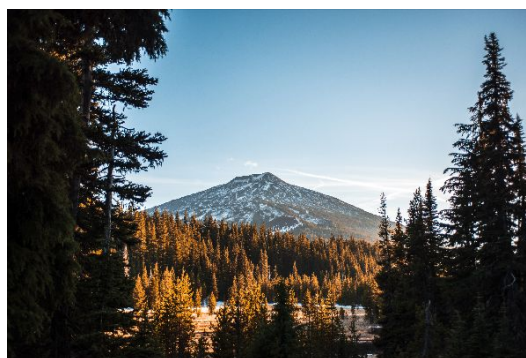


"Finding Solid Ground"

Yamsi Ranch Writing Intensive

September 24-27, 2020

Poet and author Ellen Waterston and guest presenters will lead a generative workshop addressing who, what and why as, after months of incubation, hibernation and contemplation, we return to a world of more activity. Established and emerging writers will leave the retreat with renewed commitment and inspiration. The retreat, held at the Yamsi Ranch on the Williamson River, is limited to 12 to ensure an intimate setting and



Mapping Memoir: A Writing Intensive

December 4-5, 2020

Have a memoir in mind or one started? Enroll in the Writing Ranch's "The Story You Came To Tell," December 4-5, in Bend, Oregon to stake out your ideas and create a road map for your story. Benefit from exercises and craft talks that will hone your memoir-writing skills. Workshop sessions will be held at the Sunrise Village clubhouse, located on a ponderosa pine-covered ridge with beautiful views of the Cascades, a peaceful location perfect for a two-day intensive

equal opportunity for participation. Sign up soon as spaces are filling up! For registration, please visit www.writingranch.com.



About Ellen Waterston

Walking the High Desert, Encounters with Rural America Along the Oregon Desert Trail, is Waterston's third nonfiction title. She has also published four collections of poetry. Waterston founded the Writing Ranch in 2000 to support the craft and careers of writers through workshops and retreats. She is founder and president of the Waterston Desert Writing Prize. For more information about Ellen Waterston, the Writing Ranch or the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, visit writingranch.com, email info@writingranch.com or call 541.480.3933.

retreat. Visit www.writingranch.com to register.

COVID-19 Special Discounts

Visit the [Writing Ranch website](http://WritingRanch.com) for special offers on Manuscript Lab and one-on-ones.

Poem of the Month

The Path

by

Ellen Waterston

There is no cure for living. Except to walk. In time with your life. The path you seek, your very own, is made by walking. Nothing more. Your footsteps are the path. The path is made by walking. Your footsteps are the path.

(After a poem by Antonio Machado)
*Vía Láctea, A Woman of a Certain Age
Walks the Camino*
Atelier 6000, 2013



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