For 2016, plan on joining us the second week of June for a great series of writing events centered around the theme of *writing wild*. Set in the beautiful Pine Ridge Region of Northwest Nebraska, we will gather to explore the untamed terrains of our lives: in nature and the outdoors, in our relationships with one another, in our place and purpose in the world.

The first two days will feature a RETREAT for advanced writers, set at historic Fort Robinson State Park. Events will take place in the historic buildings and scenic spots around the park, and participants will lodge in the 1890 Brick Officer Quarters. Renowned writers will lead morning sessions focused on crafting and improving our writing, followed by afternoon sessions designed to give participants a chance to create new work and receive feedback on that work during the retreat.

On Saturday we will meet on the campus of Chadron State College for the General Workshop where we will present a mix of hands-on workshops, critical feedback and inspiring instruction from acclaimed authors and teachers who are passionate about writing and can help you get published!

We will wrap it all up on Sunday with a festival celebrating the work of everyone involved in the workshop, from published authors to beginners.

WORKSHOP FACULTY:
- Robert Wrigley
- Kim Barnes
- Joe Wilkins
- Dan O’Brien
- Alan Wilkinson

Find out more and join our mailing list:
[www.storycatcherworkshop.org](http://www.storycatcherworkshop.org)
WRITING RETREAT at Historic Fort Robinson:
Thursday, June 9th to Friday, June 10th
With 2016 Writers-In-Residence Kim Barnes, Robert Wrigley & Joe Wilkins
Special Guests Dan O’Brien

• Registration: $350 (Includes two days lodging at our retreat venue* AND admission to the General Workshop and Festival taking place on CSC Campus June 11th through 12th).

• Students and Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Members Receive a 20% discount.

• ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS February 5
  ○ DEADLINE: MAY 30, 2016
  ○ Space is limited to 15 writers. Early registration is encouraged.

*This is a writing retreat, with an emphasis on building a community of writers in our two days together. Participants will not only share their writing in process, but also the 1890 Brick Officer Quarters. This is a large building, but be aware that sleeping accommodations will be communal, with up to four individual bunks in some of the rooms. (When registering you may indicate if you are attending with another person, and if you are comfortable with gender-neutral room assignments. We have two private rooms with queen-sized beds available for couples).

In the spirit of “writing wild,” many of our events will be taking place outdoors and in historic buildings. Participants should be prepared to navigate stairs and for moderate physical activity in variable weather.

General Workshop & Festival at Mari Sandoz Center (CSC Campus):
Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12
With 2016 Writers-In-Residence Robert Wrigley and Kim Barnes
& Special Guests Joe Wilkins and Alan Wilkinson

• Registration: $150 (Includes access to all workshops/sessions, the Keynote Reception, Continental Breakfast/Refreshments and Festival events).

• Students and Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Members Receive a 20% discount.

• ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS February 5 (you can also register at the door)
  ○ There is no deadline for General Registration, and you do not need to sign up for any specific sessions in advance. However, EARLY REGISTRATION is encouraged as materials and notices will be sent out to registered attendees in advance of the workshops.

Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Instructorship
Graduate students and others who have writing classroom experience (either as a teacher, student or both), and whose work shows promise, may apply for the Emerging Writer Instructorship. The successful applicant will be honored as a “Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer,” will have fees waived for the Retreat and Workshop, and will lead a workshop session of their design for the rest of the Story Catcher participants. A small stipend will be provided for their instruction and to help defray a portion of their travel expenses. See application for details.

Lodging & Meals:
Affordable lodging and dining options are available. See our website or contact us for further details.

For more information about the workshop, a complete schedule and for registration information, please visit us at www.storycatcherworkshop.org or www.facebook.com/storycatcherworkshop or email mevertson@csc.edu
Thursday, June 9th — WRITER'S RETREAT DAY ONE
Fort Robinson State Park

MORNING SESSIONS
Buffalo Soldier Barracks Squad Room
9am to 9:30 am
Check-In
Continental Breakfast

9:30 to 11:30 AM Advanced Fiction Craft Lecture
With Fiction Writer in Residence Kim Barnes
• Kim Barnes will lead participants through a series of craft lectures, exercises and prompts to prepare them for the afternoon sessions.

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
The Fort Robinson Inn/Restaurant in the Main Lodge is open from 6:30 AM to 9pm daily, and starts serving lunch at 10:30 AM. A list of other dining options in nearby Crawford is included in your packet.

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 to 3:00: Writing Time
• This time has been set aside for participants to work on their individual writing projects or respond to the prompts from the morning session. Weather permitting: field trips will be available to one of our nature retreats for those interested in an inspirational setting.

3:00 to 5:00: The Story Catcher Workshop (Buffalo Soldier Barracks Squad Room)
• This time has been set aside for participants to share their work and get feedback from other writers and from our writers in residence.

EVENING PROGRAM

5:00 to 6:00: Move-in to Officer's Quarters 19B “Bricks”

6:00 to 8:00 PM Dinner and Discussion
• Special Guest Dan O’Brien
  o Readings from Wild Idea: Buffalo and Family in a Difficult Land, and his novels set on Fort Robinson (The Contract Surgeon and The Indian Agent)
• BBQ featuring Wild Idea Bison Products
Friday, June 10th — WRITER’S RETREAT DAY TWO
Fort Robinson State Park

MORNING SESSIONS
Main Lodge
Breakfast 8-9 AM
We encourage you to gather for breakfast at The Fort Robinson Inn/Restaurant in the Main Lodge before our morning session, which takes place in the same building. (Pay your own way—full breakfasts are from $5 to $8).

Henry Dodd Hall (upstairs from the Restaurant in the Main Lodge)

9:30 to 11:30 AM Advanced Poetry Craft Lecture (Henry Dodd Hall)
With Poet in Residence Robert Wrigley
• Robert Wrigley will lead participants through a series of craft lectures, exercises and prompts to prepare them for the afternoon sessions.

LUNCH
Meet back at the Officer’s Quarters 19B for lunch. (Complimentary Sandwich Bar)

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 to 3:00: Writing Time
• This time has been set aside for participants to work on their individual writing projects or respond to the prompts from the morning session. Weather permitting; field trips will be available to one of our nature retreats for those interested in an inspirational setting.
• The Intertribal Gathering (Powwow) may be starting around this time for those interested in an activity or event to watch/write about.

3:00 to 5:00: The Story Catcher Workshop (Henry Dodd Hall)
• This time has been set aside for participants to share their work and get feedback from other writers and from our writers in residence.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN
We encourage participants to gather for Dinner at the Lodge Restaurant, downstairs from Henry Dodd Hall. (Pay your own way—full dinners are from $12 to $20; Sandwiches $5 to $8; soup and salad bar also available).

There will also be vendors selling food items for the Intertribal Gathering this evening.

EVENING PROGRAM

7:00 to 8:30 PM “Discovering the Creative in Creative Nonfiction”
A Craft Lecture and Reading Featuring Nonfiction Writer in Residence Joe Wilkins
• Light refreshments served

CHECK OUT TIME ON SATURDAY is 9am
ALL SATURDAY SESSIONS ARE AT THE SANDOZ CENTER, CSC CAMPUS
Saturday, June 11th – General Workshop  
(Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Atrium)

**MORNING SESSIONS**  
9 to 10 AM: Morning Check-In & Registration for General Workshop  
Continental Breakfast

9:30 to 11:00: Now What?: The Art of Publishing with Kim Barnes, Robert Wrigley, and Joe Wilkins  
• This panel discussion will feature each of our distinguished writers in residence as they share successful strategies for publishing.

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

12:30 to 1:45: The Poetry of Nonfiction  
*With Nonfiction Writer in Residence Joe Wilkins*  
• Joe Wilkins will lead participants through a short craft lecture followed by exercises and prompts that examine the relationship between poetry and nonfiction.

2:00-3:15: The Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Lecture and Workshop (Prose)  
*Featuring the Mari Sandoz Emerging Prose Writer*  
• Description to follow

3:30 to 4:45: The Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Lecture and Workshop (Poetry)  
*Featuring the Mari Sandoz Emerging Poet*  
• Description to follow

5:00 to 6:00: Reception

6:00 to 7:30 PM Keynote Reading (open to the public)  
*Featuring Kim Barnes and Robert Wrigley*  
• book signing to follow

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Sunday, June 12th  
WRITING FESTIVAL 8 to NOON  
(Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Atrium—Open to the Public)  
• Booksellers, Vendors, Displays all morning

8:30 to 10 AM: Making a Living as a Writer  
*Featuring Alan Wilkinson*  
• From Durham, England, to the Sandhills of Nebraska, Wilkinson will share his adventures as a roustabout writer earning is living across a variety of settings and subjects.

10:15 to 12 PM OPEN MIC  
• Readings from Workshop Participants
2016 Fiction Writer in Residence: Kim Barnes

Kim Barnes is the author of *In the Kingdom of Men*, named a best book of 2012 by *San Francisco Chronicle, The Seattle Times*, and *The Oregonian*, and long-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Her second novel, *A Country Called Home*, winner of the 2009 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Fiction, was named a best book of 2008 by *The Washington Post, The Kansas City Star*, and *The Oregonian*. She is a recipient of the PEN/Jerard Award in nonfiction for her first memoir, *In the Wilderness*, which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Her work has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies, including *The New York Times, WSJ* online, *The Georgia Review, Shenandoah, Fourth Genre, Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly*, and the *Pushcart Anthology*. She is a professor of English in the MFA program at the University of Idaho.

In her most recent novel, *In the Kingdom of Men*, Barnes introduces us to Gin Mitchell who believes a better life awaits her when she marries hometown hero Mason McPhee. Raised in a two-room shack by her Oklahoma grandfather, a strict Methodist minister, Gin soon moves with Mason to Saudi Arabia where he takes a job with the Arabian American Oil. In the gated compound of Abqaiq, Gin and Mason are given a home with marble floors, a houseboy to cook their meals, a gardener to tend the sandy patch out back—even among the veiled women and strict laws of shariah, Gin’s life becomes the stuff of fairy tales. She buys her first swimsuit, she pierces her ears, and Mason gives her a glittering diamond ring. But when a young Bedouin woman is found dead, washed up on the shores of the Persian Gulf, Gin’s world closes in around her, and the one person she trusts is nowhere to be found.

“*[In the Kingdom of Men]* is something more than a novel about an [Oklahoman] who causes trouble in a foreign land. It’s that, and a feminist bildungsroman.” — *The New York Times Book Review*

“If you want to understand, right in your gut, the history of the American relationship with Saudi Arabia; if you want a magical, layered story of west-inside-east, culture layered over culture, and the slow—still ongoing—revolution of gender and race oppression, *In the Kingdom of Men* is your book. It’s *Mad Men* meets *The Sheltering Sky*, a *Revolutionary Road* for the oil-addicted. It’s also an utter pleasure to read.” — Anthony Doerr, author of *Memory Wall*

“Unfurled like a rich carpet, rolling out over a vast space before it gently settles and fills every corner. Barnes . . . gets more motion and feeling into a deceptively plain paragraph than many novelists can cram into a chapter. . . . The women who populate [*A Country Called Home*] are all heroic in their various ways, a wonderful juxtaposition alongside this man’s world built by oil money.” — *The Seattle Times*
Robert Wrigley was born in East St. Louis, Illinois. The first in his family to graduate from college, and the first male for generations to escape work in a coal mine, Wrigley earned his MFA from the University of Montana, where he studied with Madeline DeFrees, John Haines, and Richard Hugo.

Wrigley’s poetry examines the influences of the physical world on our daily lives. He holds that “poetry can have a redemptive function. It can look at the chaos you see and make a kind of sense of the smallest part of it.” His poems are concerned with rural Western landscapes and humankind’s place within the natural world, and he aims to “tell all the truth, but make it sing.”

His collections of poetry include *Earthly Meditations: New and Selected Poems* (2006); *Lives of the Animals* (2003), winner of the Poets Prize; *Reign of Snakes* (1999), winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award; and *In the Bank of Beautiful Sins* (1995), winner of the San Francisco Poetry Center Book Award and finalist for the Lenore Marshall Award from the Academy of American Poets. Wrigley has also won the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize, *Poetry* magazine’s Frederick Bock Prize, the Poetry Society of America’s Celia B. Wagner Award, *Poetry Northwest’s* Theodore Roethke Award, and five Pushcart Prizes.

Wrigley has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Idaho Commission on the Arts. His poems have been widely anthologized, twice included in *Best American Poetry*, and featured on NPR’s *The Writer’s Almanac*.

Wrigley has taught at Lewis-Clark State College, Warren Wilson College, the University of Oregon, the University of Montana, Warren College, and the University of Idaho.

“Wrigley is a truly good poet . . . . His poems always have that most essential quality of seeming as they were written by a human who lives and feels his world and not, like too many poems, by a brain on a pedestal in some bare, unbelievably clean room.”—Christian Wiman, former editor of *Poetry*

“Listen to the play of sense in [his] lines. The human presence in them owes much to Wrigley’s own remembered experience, but even more to his consciousness of language and his discernment in marshaling it. His poetry faces up to the primal challenge of the original human setting: a wild world that brings all the poet’s memory, instincts, imagination, and sensuous resources into play in the language he uses.”—Peter Davison, *The Boston Globe*
2016 Nonfiction Writer in Residence: Joe Wilkins


A National Magazine Award finalist, PEN Center USA Award finalist, and Pushcart Prize Winner, Wilkins is the recipient of the Richard J. Margolis Award of Blue Mountain Center, which goes to "a promising new journalist or essayist whose work combines warmth, humor, wisdom and concern with social justice." Of Wilkins's work, the *Indiana Review* writes, "The most striking component of it is its awareness of 'the whole world.' What is ordinary becomes transcendent. In places derelict and seemingly unexceptional, Wilkins compels us to recognize what is worth salvage, worth praise."

In *The Mountain and the Fathers*, Wilkins explores the life of boys and men in the unforgiving, harsh world north of the Bull Mountains of eastern Montana in a drought afflicted Big Dry, a land that chews up old and young alike. Wilkins was born into this world, raised by a young mother and elderly grandfather following the untimely death of his father. That early loss stretches out across the Big Dry, and Wilkins uses his own story and those of the young boys and men growing up around him to examine the violence, confusion, and rural poverty found in this distinctly American landscape.

After graduating from Gonzaga University with a degree in computer engineering, he spent two years teaching ninth grade pre-algebra in the Mississippi Delta with Teach For America. He then went on to earn his MFA in creative writing from the University of Idaho. Wilkins now lives with his wife, son, and daughter in western Oregon, where he teaches writing at Linfield College.

*Notes from the Journey Westward* is visionary. It is admirably consistent and meditative, relentlessly honest in its rejection of any romantic version of the West, and reverent before stars and morning, before the earth and the people who have survived on it. Joe Wilkins honors them by telling their stories.—Tami Haaland, *The Billings Gazette*
Special Guest: Dan O'Brien

Described by the New York Times “as a writer with a keen and poetic eye,” Dan O’Brien is one of the most powerful literary voices on the Plains, author of numerous novels and memoirs, including Buffalo for the Broken Heart and The Contract Surgeon, winners of the Western Heritage Award for best nonfiction in 2001 and for best fiction in 1999, respectively. Buffalo for the Broken Heart, which explores the history of his ranch and the conversion from beef to buffalo, was chosen as One Book South Dakota in 2009. Dan’s latest non-fiction book, Wild Idea – Buffalo & Family in a Difficult Land is its sequel. O’Brien’s latest novel, Stolen Horses, has won wide praise and was featured in an NPR review by noted book critic Alan Cheuse. His other novels include The Indian Agent, The Spirit of the Hills, In the Center of the Nation, and Brendan Prairie.

O’Brien has been a wildlife biologist and rancher for more than thirty years. He is also one of the most celebrated falconers in America today and was a prime mover in the restoration of peregrine falcons in the Rocky Mountains in the 1970s and 80s. O’Brien’s memoirs on falconry include, The Rites of Autumn and Equinox, which are intimate and revealing explorations of his life-long search for wildness on the Plains. He is a two-time winner of the National Endowment for the Arts individual artist’s grant and a 2001 recipient of the Bush Creative Arts Fellowship.

In addition to writing, O’Brien divides his time among the company he founded, Wild Idea Buffalo, teaching ecology and writing, running the Sustainable Harvest Alliance and serving on the Black Hills branch of The Nature Conservancy. He is the owner of the Cheyenne River Ranch just west of the Badlands National Park and North of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where he lives and shares his life on the ranch with his wife Jill, and their old friend Erney Hersman. You can find out more by visiting his website: http://wildideabuffalo.com/about-us/dan/

Writing Faculty TBA
Recipient of the Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Instructorship

Graduate students and others who have writing classroom experience (either as a teacher, student or both), and whose work shows promise, may apply for the Emerging Writer Instructorship.

The successful applicant will be honored as the “Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer,” will attend the workshop events for free, will receive a small stipend and will lead one of our workshop sessions.

See application for details.
Story Catcher Festival

The last day of the workshop is a FESTIVAL, open to the public, and set aside to celebrate the work of our participants, to promote writing and creativity in the region, and to highlight achievements of an important writer or figure associated with writing whose work echoes the spirit of Mari Sandoz.

Featured Writer: Alan Wilkinson

Making a Living as a Writer

A resident of Durham, England, Alan Wilkinson has made a living as a writer since the early 1990s. His main literary and historical interests lie in the American West, and he has completed twenty major road trips there in the last thirty years, crossing the region from north to south and east to west a dozen times. He has lived in New Mexico, where he studied writing under Rudy Anaya, and on a cattle-ranch in Nebraska. The Red House On The Niobrara (2014) came out of the experience; his 5000-mile road-trip from Mexico to Canada and back gave him the material for Toad’s Road-Kill Café (2012).

Alan has a varied writing portfolio, and can testify to the life of a working writer. He started out producing articles, features and reviews for national newspapers, trade magazines and literary quarterlies, then progressed to books. He’s published around twenty, all of them historical or factual. Success in co-authoring and ghost writing assignments has given Alan the freedom to write for his own pleasure during half of each year--to pursue his interests in the American West (and various aspects of the great outdoors) and to maintain his blog (walkinonnails.blogspot.com).

He’s written for TV and radio (factual and drama), and has also been a Writer in Residence in Jack Kerouac’s old house, spent six months as a Wingate Scholar on a Nebraska cattle ranch, and supplemented his income as a reader of non-fiction for Britain’s foremost literary consultancy, TLC. In January 2015 he completed a 3-month residency in Taos, New Mexico, courtesy of the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation. A frequent visitor to the Sandhills and Pine Ridge region of the Story Catcher workshop, you can check out his latest adventures and publications at alan-wilkinson.com
Story Catcher Scholarship Application

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Society and the department of English and Humanities at Chadron State College are pleased to announce that a limited number of full and partial tuition waivers will be offered to support talented STUDENT writers this year.

Depending on the number of applicants and the merit of the writing samples that are submitted, a variety of waivers will be awarded (full or partial remission of fees for the Retreat and/or General Workshop)

Each scholarship recipient is responsible for her or his transportation and/or lodging costs (except for during the retreat portion of the workshop). Visit our web site for further information about the workshop: http://www.storycatcherworkshop.org

APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name ____________________________

E-mail ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Daytime Telephone (_______) ____________

City ____________________________

State ____________

Zip Code ____________________________

SCHOOL NAME AND LOCATION

Please indicate if you are interested in attending/participating in the Fort Robison RETREAT, the GENERAL WORKSHOP, or BOTH.

BY COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION YOU AFFIRM THAT ALL WRITING SAMPLES ARE YOUR OWN.

(evidence of plagiarism will result in rejection of the application or cancellation of the award)

1. Submit no more than 10 pages of prose or poetry. Manuscripts and supporting materials will not be returned.

2. The deadline for application is MAY 20, 2016 (postmark).

   NOTE: spaces for the RETREAT are limited, and applications will be reviewed weekly starting April 15th, until filled. Early submission is recommended.

Send application materials to:

Story Catcher Writing Workshop Scholarship Committee

Dr. Matthew Evertson, Director

Chadron State College

Department of English & Humanities

1000 Main Street

Chadron, NE. 69337

(308) 432-6462

OR EMAIL the above information and writing samples to mevertson@csc.edu
Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Instructorship

Graduate students and others who have writing classroom experience (either as a teacher, student or both), and whose work shows promise, may apply for the Emerging Writer Instructorship. The successful applicant will be honored as a “Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer,” will have fees waived for the Retreat and Workshop, and will lead a workshop session of their design for the rest of the Story Catcher participants.

A stipend of $300 will be provided for their instruction and to help defray a portion of their travel expenses.

APPLICATION

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INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION & TITLE:

Please indicate if you will be attending the RETREAT

BY COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION YOU AFFIRM THAT ALL MATERIALS YOUR OWN.
(evidence of plagiarism will result in rejection of the application or cancellation of the award)

1. The deadline for application is April 15, 2016 (postmark).
2. Submit no more than 20 pages of prose or poetry. Manuscripts and supporting materials will not be returned.
3. Submit your current professional CV/Resume or Background Information
4. Submit a proposal/lesson plan for a 75 minute Workshop/Writing Session that you would present and lead at our workshop.
5. The conference planning committee will review the applications and contact recipients by May 1.

Send application materials to:
Story Catcher Writing Workshop Scholarship Committee
Dr. Matthew Evertson, Director
Chadron State College
Department of English & Humanities
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE. 69337
(308) 432-6462

OR EMAIL the above information and writing samples to mevertson@csc.edu