

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

WRITE HERE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS!
AN AUTUMN WRITING GETAWAY

OCTOBER, 10-12, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: I COURSE #: 08-057

FEE: \$170

INSTRUCTOR: MARY TAYLOR YOUNG



PAGE 1 OF 3

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center
 1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: Friday: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
 Sunday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Practice the art and craft of nature writing in an intimate setting near Rocky Mountain National Park. At this in-depth workshop, you will refine your skills through drills, writing exercises, discussions of the craft of writing, examination of good writers, and group critique. This is an excellent opportunity to carve out an entire weekend for writing and refining a work-in-progress or a new idea. **The instructor will meet individually with each participant during the workshop to critique a pre-submitted piece of up to 500 words. Participants should submit a piece to fieldseminars@rmna.org by October 1, 2008. Please enter “An Autumn Writing Getaway” in the subject line of your e-mail.**

COURSE LEVEL: I

Short-distance walks on accessible trails and/or indoor classroom sessions in accessible buildings

The majority of this course will be conducted at the Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center. Weather permitting, the course will include an inspirational field trip into Rocky Mountain National Park and time to write outdoors.

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org): Mary’s love of nature began with childhood summers spent exploring the Rocky Mountains from her grandparents’ cabin in Estes Park, where elk peered in the windows and hummingbirds buzzed around the feeders. Her attachment to the natural world led to a degree in zoology from Colorado State University and a life devoted to nature, wildlife and the environment. Mary lives in Castle Rock, Colorado with her husband, nine-year-old daughter and many feathered and four-legged neighbors. Award-winning and best-selling nature writer Mary Taylor Young has taught with Rocky Mountain Field Seminars since 1990. She is the author of nine books including *Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist’s Prairie Journey*, *The Guide to Colorado Birds*, and *On the Trail of Colorado Critters: Wildlife Watching for Kids*. She writes a monthly bird-watching column for the *Rocky Mountain News* called “Words on Birds.” Mary has published hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles and written many brochures, video and slide scripts, interpretive signs and exhibits, and other nature-oriented material.

INSTRUCTOR’S WEBSITE: www.MaryTaylorYoung.com

WRITE HERE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS! AN AUTUMN WRITING GETAWAY

PAGE 2 OF 3

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Field seminars utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Friday Evening:

We'll gather to get acquainted and talk about writing, why it is important to us and how it fits in our lives, why we've come and what we hope to get out of this special weekend.

Saturday:

We'll spend the day learning the craft and skills of nature writing, practicing with writing exercises and drills. We will cover using the senses, creating imagery, developing a universal theme, using metaphor and other tools. We'll spend as much time outdoors as weather allows.

Sunday:

You'll spend this morning on your own to work on focused, individual writing with the goal of completing a short piece to share with the group. In the afternoon, we'll come together to share our writing in a workshop format. We will close by evaluating our progress this weekend and articulating specific writing goals we have set for ourselves during this workshop.

Students are encouraged to pre-submit a 500-word piece of writing to Mary. She will meet with writers individually sometime during the weekend for critique sessions of pre-submitted work.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, & **WATER**
- Laptop (optional)
- Pens/pencils
- Journal
- Inspirational materials
- Writing paper

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map & compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses & sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, & water

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

WRITE HERE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS! AN AUTUMN WRITING GETAWAY

PAGE 3 OF 3

RECOMMENDED READING:

Books on Writing: Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones*.
LaMott, Anne. *Bird by Bird*.

Nature Writing: Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.
Ehrlich, Gretel. *Solace of Open Places*.
Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac*.
Tempest Williams, Terry. *Refuge*.
Lopez, Barry. *Arctic Dreams*.

Additional Authors: Abbey, Edward Cather, Willa
Madson, John Matthiessen, Peter
Oliver, Mary (Poetry) Zwinger, Ann

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar Catalog or online at www.rmna.org. Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CSU CREDIT

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To develop skills in the art of nature writing.

CONTACT HOURS: 17

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES: Participation

GRADING METHOD: TBD