

# Story<sup>the</sup> Catcher

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

## Pilster Lecture: Author Margaret Coel will offer insights on the “Mysterious Plains”

Western mystery writer Margaret Coel will be the keynote speaker at the 2014 Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series, **Thursday September 25th at Chadron State College**. The Pilster Lecture will be more informal than years past and will be held at the Student Center. The theme for this year's conference is “The Mysterious Plains.” Coel is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the acclaimed Wind River mystery series set among Arapahos on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation and featuring Jesuit priest Father John O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden. Among the series of 20 titles are the recently published “Killing Custer” and “Buffalo Bill's Dead Now.” Along with the Wind River mystery series, Coel is the author of five non-fiction books including the award-winning “Chief Left Hand”. The biography of an Arapaho Chief and the history of the Arapahos in Colorado was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The Colorado State Historical Society has included both “Chief Left Hand” and Coel's memoir-history of railroading, “Goin' Railroading” (which she wrote with her father, Samuel F. Speas) among the best 100 books on Colorado history. She writes in a study in her home on the side of a hill outside Boulder. The window frames a view of the Rocky Mountains and the almost-always blue sky. A herd of deer are usually grazing outside. “Every day,” she says, “I drink in the West.” To learn more about Margaret Coel and her books, please visit her website at <http://www.margaretcoel.com/novels> The lecture is scheduled for 7:30 pm (MST).



*Noted Author Margaret Coel at home in the Colorado Rocky Mountains*

*The Pilster Lecture is made possible by a Mari Sandoz Heritage Society endowment which started with the gift from Esther Pilster of ranchland in Dawes County in honor of her late husband Raleigh who grew up there with his parents John and Grace Pilster. Esther, a teacher and school administrator for 44 years, lives in Omaha.*

### 2014 Sandoz Conference Information & Registration Form Inside!

#### Join the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society TODAY!

Join us in keeping the spirit and work of Mari Sandoz alive by supporting the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society with a new membership, gift membership or renewal! You can visit our website at [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org) and complete the online form, or you can download a copy of the membership form and mail it to us.



# This Year's Storycatcher Workshop A Success

Story Catcher Writing Workshop and Festival Director **Matt Evertson** couldn't be more pleased with the way the third annual event concluded in June at Chadron State College. The theme, "What's YOUR Story?" was highlighted by five guest authors over four days. **Dan O'Brien** met with his advanced students early on Tuesday morning and put them right to work. In the afternoon **Todd Mitchell** led a very informative session on beginning fiction, bringing lots of examples and tips from his experiences of teaching fiction and publishing for a wide variety of audiences. O'Brien delivered the keynote address, "Writing the High Lonesome." Wednesday started with continental breakfast and work on writing and shaping compelling novels with Todd Mitchell, or "writing the land" with **Dawn Wink**. After a fun lunch break downtown with more mixing and mingling at the Bean Broker Coffee House, writers returned to afternoon sessions focusing on Science Fiction/Fantasy, Mystery Writing and one author's journey with her first novel. General Sessions concluded on Thursday morning, focusing on Dawn Wink's session on getting your book published, and **Rich Kenney's** poetry workshop. The afternoon saw participants on a nature retreat at Fort Robinson State Park, home of so much history (much of which Mari Sandoz wrote about) and so much scenic beauty. What an inspiring backdrop for writing, hiking, reading, chatting and, of course, eating! We started our journey at the historic dining hall of the lodge restaurant, where most of the group dined on buffalo dishes (tacos, open faced sandwiches, even cabbage burgers—all prepared with bison). Participants then took a drive to some scenic parts of the park, winding up at the Ice House pond area for some writing exercises and nature walks. We concluded the evening with a cookout at the picnic shelter near the historic parade grounds in the park. What a wonderful, inspiring day! While we are certainly proud of all the wonderful programming we are able to offer at the Story Catcher Workshop, the focus of all we do will always be on the WRITERS who come from far and wide to develop and share their own stories—this is why we conclude each workshop with a day to celebrate the writing of our participants. This year we adapted our "open mic" event to a "table read," where several volunteers shared their work—and we all shared our thoughts and ideas about continuing to make writing a vital component of our lives.



*Keynote speaker Dan O'Brien (top photo) meets with his advanced writing students for an early morning session. Dawn Wink (bottom photo) talks about writing the land. Both authors were featured at the annual Story Catcher's Workshop at Chadron State College. (photo credits Story Catcher Workshop)*



## Trail of Authors Event on Sandoz in Beatrice

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is sponsoring an afternoon of Sandoz in Beatrice, NE as part of the 2014 Trail of Authors event hosted by the Heritage Highway 136 group. The event will be held on **Saturday, August 2, 2014** from **NOON to 5pm** at the historic **Carnegie Building, 218 N. 5th Street** in downtown Beatrice. There will be a display as well as presentations about Sandoz and the Society and book readings and discussions. The event is free and open to the public. People are free to come and go during the event and refreshments will be provided.

## The Mysterious Plains: 2014 Sandoz Conference

The 2014 Mari Sandoz Conference will be held on the Chadron State College campus on Friday, September 26. The theme is "The Mysterious Plains." Lunch round table discussions will be led by Pilster speaker Margaret Coel and other moderators. Early registration (before September 15) is \$50 for Sandoz Society members, and \$60 for non-members. The schedule and a registration form are included in this newsletter. You can find more detailed conference information and can register for the conference online at [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org).

# Preliminary Schedule

All events take place on the Chadron State College campus in Chadron, Nebraska. The conference schedule reflects times in the Mountain Time Zone. The Conference is open to anyone. Registration is required, except for the Pilster Great Plains Lecture which is free and open to the public.

## Thursday, September 25, 2014

7:30pm MT **Pilster Great Plains Lecture with Author Margaret Coel** CSC Student Center  
"My Journey With the Arapahos Through History and Mystery"  
  
*The Pilster Great Plains Lecture is FREE and open to the public. A reception and book signing will be held following the lecture at the CSC Student Center.*

## Friday, September 26, 2014

8:30am MT **Conference Registration & Packet Pick Up** Sandoz Center

8:50am MT **Welcome & Introductions** Sandoz Center

9:00am MT **Conference Session #1** Sandoz Center  
"Mari Sandoz and the Mysterious Case of the Sappa Creek Cheyenne Massacre of 1875"  
*Speaker: Kurt Kinbacher, Chadron State College*

10:15am MT **Conference Session #2** Sandoz Center  
"Sandoz and the Death of Crazy Horse"  
*Speaker: P. Jane Hafen (Taos Pueblo), University of Nevada-Las Vegas*

11:30am MT **Luncheon | Spirit of Sandoz Award | Book Discussions** CSC Student Center

1:15pm MT **Conference Session #3** Sandoz Center  
"Mysteries from the Far Corners of the Globe: Exotic Nebraska"  
*Speaker: Sean Doolittle (Council Bluffs, IA), University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

2:30pm MT **Conference Session #4** Sandoz Center  
"Writing Plains Fiction" Panel Presentation  
*Speakers: Tom Bennett, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Casey Pycior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Raul Palma, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Nick White, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Jordan Farmer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

4:00pm MT **Closing Remarks & Announcement of 2015 Pilster Lecture and Conference** Sandoz Center

## Lodging and Visitor Information

A full list of lodging options as well as visitor information for Chadron and Chadron State College can be found on our website under Sandoz Conference information. A block of rooms is available at the Best Western West Hills Inn at 1100 W. 10th Street in Chadron, NE. The phone number is (308) 432-3305. Queen size rooms are \$83.99 (before tax) and King size mini-suites are \$93.99 (before tax). The room block is released after August 26th so be sure to make your room reservations before that date.

Please direct any questions about the conference or registration to [echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net) or 402-499-3703

For more detailed conference information and to register online, visit [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)

# 2014 Sandoz Conference Registration

Please copy and use a separate registration form for each person

Conference registration includes all refreshments, all educational sessions and lunch

**DEADLINE FOR EARLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 15TH**

Please direct any questions about the conference or registration to [echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net) or 402-499-3703

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees

<b>\$50</b>	SANDOZ SOCIETY MEMBER EARLY REGISTRATION ( <i>Before September 15</i> )	\$ _____
<b>\$60</b>	NON-MEMBER EARLY REGISTRATION ( <i>Before September 15</i> )	\$ _____
<b>\$65</b>	SANDOZ SOCIETY MEMBER LATE REGISTRATION ( <i>After September 15 &amp; on-site</i> )	\$ _____
<b>\$75</b>	NON-MEMBER LATE REGISTRATION ( <i>After September 15 &amp; on-site</i> )	\$ _____

Please note any dietary restrictions, allergies or special requests here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sandoz Society Membership

Non-member conference attendees are encouraged to join the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society to help preserve the legacy of Mari Sandoz and support the programs and work of the Society including this annual conference. To join the society, please indicate your membership level below and include your membership payment with your conference registration.

- \$100** Sustaining Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$50** Member \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$50** Student \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed form and payment to:

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 6808  
Lincoln, NE 68506

REFUND POLICY: A full refund is available with notice prior to September 26, 2014. A letter or email requesting the refund should state the registrant's name and address. No refund requests will be honored after September 26, 2014. Weather related refunds are made on an individual basis.

For more detailed conference information and to register online, visit

[www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)

# Ron Hull Tells Writers About His Friend Mari Sandoz at Story Catcher Closing



Ron Hull, President Emeritus of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society (photo credit Story Catcher Workshop)

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board Member and President Emeritus Ron Hull of Lincoln encouraged participants in the Story Catcher Summer Writing Workshop and Festival to, “tell it the way it is,” during the final presentation of the four-day event hosted at Chadron State College. A personal friend of Mari Sandoz and founding member of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Hull described friendships and experiences included in his recently published book “Backstage: Stories from My Life in Public Television” Friday afternoon in the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. “Do you have a story you have to tell? Do people tell you that you should write your stories? Do people ask you if you have written a book?”

Hull said. Hull said when Sandoz wrote “Old Jules,” the publisher warned that she could be sued by those portrayed in a negative manner. She responded that she always kept back a few details, and if anyone tried to sue her she would release everything she knew. The strategy worked for Sandoz; she was never sued. He urged the audience members to seize opportunities to learn from master writers, relating times he spent working at Sandoz’s home New York. Hull said his motivation in publishing his book was to extend the lives of those, like Sandoz, who made a difference in his life. So, with encouragement from Virginia Faulkner, an outstanding editor who worked with Sandoz, Hull wrote the book. “Virginia was one of the most interesting people I’ve ever known. Mari contended with her throughout the editing process. I thought at times they might harm each other. But, in the end, Mari said Virginia was a great editor. I hope she told her that, but I don’t know if she did,” Hull said. Another prominent friend of Hull’s featured in the book is Nebraska poet laureate John Neihardt. He helped advance public television in Nebraska. “Once, he recited, from memory, over 20 minutes worth from his book, ‘Black Elk Speaks,’ verbatim. Neihardt joked that he felt 18 instead of 81,” Hull said. Hull shared several other examples of his first-hand interactions with the visionaries and detractors who played a part in the development of public television. In the fledgling days of Nebraska Public Television, Hull and his crew used cameras and microphone during off hours at the Channel 10 studio in Lincoln. *(This story was written by the Chadron State College Information Services)*



## Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is on Facebook!

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society has joined the social media revolution and now has a Facebook page. Keep up to date with Sandoz Society news and activities by “liking” our page!

## The StoryCatcher

The “StoryCatcher” is the title of a book by Mari Sandoz and it is the title of Helen Winter Stauffer’s biography of Mari, *Mari Sandoz: The Story Catcher of the Plains*. The StoryCatcher is published four times a year by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, a 501©(3) non-profit organization. The vision of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is to perpetuate and foster an understanding of the literary and historical works of Mari Sandoz and to honor the land and the people about which she wrote; Native Americans, ranchers, farmers, and the people who settled the High Plains country. The Society hosts an annual conference, the Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series, and a writer’s workshop. Additionally, the Society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

## Address Changes

Address changes should be mailed to:  
**P.O. Box 6808, Lincoln, NE 68506**

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. To join the Society contact visit our website at [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)



## Mari Sandoz

The feats, the passions, and the distinctive speech of the West come alive in the writings of Mari Sandoz (1896-1966). As the author of 23 books, including *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse, the Strange Man of the Oglalas*, Sandoz was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller and artist passionately dedicated to the land. With her vivid stories of the last days of the American frontier, Mari Sandoz has achieved a secure place as one of the finest authors in American literature and one of Nebraska’s most important writers. As a historian and as a novelist, Sandoz was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1976 and posthumously received the coveted Wrangler Award from the Hall of Great Westerners.

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society  
PO Box 6808  
Lincoln, NE 68506-0808

[www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)



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