

# Story<sup>the</sup>Catcher

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

## Story Catcher Writing Workshop & Festival, II

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is hosting a three-day workshop for writers of poetry, fiction and non-fiction from May 28-May 31, 2013 on the Chadron State College campus. Writers of all levels are invited to attend and explore their creativity and gain insight from noted authors.

Each workshop is led by published authors or writing professionals and sessions are open to aspiring writers of all ages (16 and up) and abilities (Students must be rising juniors or older and will need to show proof of student status to receive student registration fees.)

This is an exceptional opportunity for aspiring writers to work with published professionals and authors to sharpen their skills in a small class setting.

Participants will register for either the beginning or the advanced morning sessions. The advanced workshop category is limited to 12 participants each, so early registration is advised.

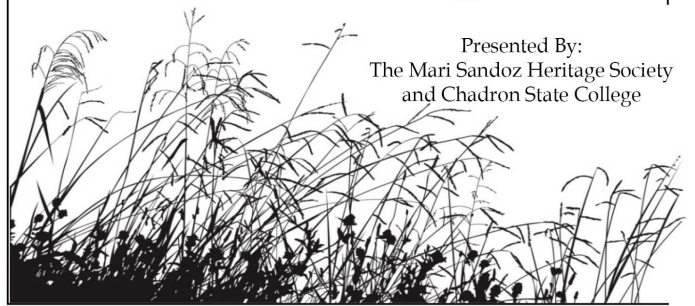
**Beginning students** can choose between Fiction, Poetry and Non-Fiction Prose.

**Intermediate/Advanced students** (who have written documents to review) are offered three morning sessions in Memoir Writing/Nonfiction taught by Linda Hasselstrom or Fiction taught by Pamela Carter Joern.

Afternoon sessions for all registered attendees will be taught by various authors and publishers. Notable instructors include Jonis Agee, Paula Bosco Damon, Kwame Dawes and Marianne Kunkel,

## Story Catcher Summer Writing Workshop & Festival

Presented By:  
The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society  
and Chadron State College



For updates on instructors or to register, go to [www.storycatcherworkshop.com](http://www.storycatcherworkshop.com).

publisher of "The Prairie Schooner."

Registration deadline is May 10, 2013.

All classes are held at Chadron State College. Additional writing excursions may be arranged, as well as nature hikes or writing retreats.

A festival, open to the workshop attendees and the public, will be held on Friday afternoon, May 31, at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Center in Chadron.

The goal of the Story Catcher Writing Workshop is to provide a learning experience where people can gather, share their creative work, receive helpful feedback from peers and professional faculty.

More details are on the website or in the April newsletter. See schedule on page 2. ✨

# 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(c)(3) nonprofit 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 symposium, the Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series and presents a writer's workshop.

Additionally, the society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College.

**Address changes should be mailed to 2301 NW 50th Street, Lincoln, NE 68524.**

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. To join the Society, fill out and mail the form on the back of this newsletter. For more information, e-mail: [marisandoz\\_society@windstream.net](mailto:marisandoz_society@windstream.net) or visit [www.marisandoz.com](http://www.marisandoz.com).

## 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*, she was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller and an 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.

# 2013 Story Catcher Schedule

## Tuesday, May 28th

- 3 - 5 p.m. Check-in and Registration  
5 - 6 p.m. Reception Beverages and Snacks  
6:00 p.m. Keynote Address by Jonis Agee  
"To Awaken the Sleepers"

## Wednesday, May 29th

- 7- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
8- 11 a.m. ► **Intermediate/Advanced Level** - Day 1 of 3  
Memoir/Nonfiction - Linda Hasselstrom  
► **Intermediate/Advanced Level** - Day 1 of 3  
Fiction - Pamela Carter Joern  
9- 11 a.m. ❖ **Beginning Fiction** - Day 1 of 2  
❖ **Beginning Poetry** - Day 1 of 2  
❖ **Beginning Non-Fiction Prose** - Day 1 of 2  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch On your Own  
**General sessions for all registrants:**  
1 - 3 p.m. Jonis Agee "A Sense of Where You Are"  
3:15 -4:15 p.m. Paula Bosco Damon "Get Down to Writing"  
"Writing Around" (writing field trips)

## Thursday, May 30

- 7- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
8- 11 a.m. ► **Intermediate/Advanced Level** - Day 2 of 3  
Memoir/Nonfiction (Linda Hasselstrom)  
► **Intermediate/Advanced Level** - Day 2 of 3  
Fiction (Pamela Carter Joern)  
9- 11 a.m. ❖ **Beginning Fiction** - Day 2 of 2  
❖ **Beginning Poetry** - Day 2 of 2  
❖ **Beginning Non-Fiction Prose** - Day 2 of 2  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch On your Own  
**General sessions for all registrants:**  
1 - 3 p.m. Jonis Agee "The First Five Pages"  
Kwame Dawes "Chameleons of Suffering"  
Poetry Workshop  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Marianne Kunkel "Publishing in Journals: An  
Insider's View"  
"Writing Around" (writing field trips)

[www.storycatcher.com](http://www.storycatcher.com)

Visit the website for updates and the most current information and to register.

# 2013 Story Catcher Schedule

*See dates and information about the upcoming Pilster Great Plains Lecture and Mari Sandoz conference on Page 4*

## Friday, May 31

7- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8- 11 a.m. ► Intermediate/Advanced Level -  
Day 3 of 3 Memoir/Nonfiction

Linda Hasselstrom

► Intermediate/Advanced Level -  
Day 3 of 3  
Fiction - Pamela Carter Joern

### General sessions for registrants:

9 - 10 a.m. Writing Life - Poe Ballantine

10:15 to 11:15 am Paula Bosco Damon "Journaling,  
Blogging/Writing Environment"

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch On your Own

### WRITING FESTIVAL (Open to the Public)

1 - 2:20 p.m. Open Mic: Readings by Session  
Participants

2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Round Table Discussion with  
Workshop Faculty

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reading Kwame Dawes/Marianne  
Kunkel - followed by Q & A

Features book sales/signing ,vendors, displays

## ***WORKSHOP REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 10, 2013***

### Registration and Tuition Costs:

Workshop Sessions are open to all aspiring writers of all ages and abilities. (High school participants must be a junior in high school or above. Students must show proof of status.)

- In order to fulfill our workshop commitments to faculty and other participants, we cannot cancel your reservation or offer refunds after May 15.
- All Registration cancellations before May 15 include a non-refundable deposit of \$50.
- Space is limited in each of the two advanced workshops to 12 writers per class, so early registration is encouraged.

### GENERAL REGISTRATION: Tuition: \$150

❖ Beginning workshop participants must pay the general registration fee, which gains you access to all beginning workshops and afternoon and special sessions over the three days.

### ADVANCED/INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP Tuition: \$250

Workshop is for intermediate writers who have work in progress and are interested in revising and refining their writing for publication with one-on-one feedback from a notable author.

Registration at this level also includes access to all afternoon workshops and special sessions.

When registering, please select ONE of the following options :

- Linda Hasselstrom (non-fiction prose/  
memoir writing)
- Pamela Carter Joern (fiction)

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

A limited number of scholarships are available for student applicants based upon financial need and written samples of their work. Please see instructions under registration tab on website - [www.storycatcher.com](http://www.storycatcher.com).

### HOUSING

- ◆ Housing costs are NOT included in your workshop registration fee.
- ◆ A limited number of dormitory rooms are available for rent at Chadron State College during the Workshop. Costs are \$20 per person, per night, single occupancy. This fee is due with registration.
- ◆ Go to web site for a list of area hotels and other lodging, as well as state parks with cabins, camping facilities. ✨

# September Pilster Lecture Speaker and Conference Speakers Confirmed

## Nature and History are Relevant

Noted environmental historian of the Great Plains, Dan L. Flores will present the 2013 Pilster Great Plains Lecture.

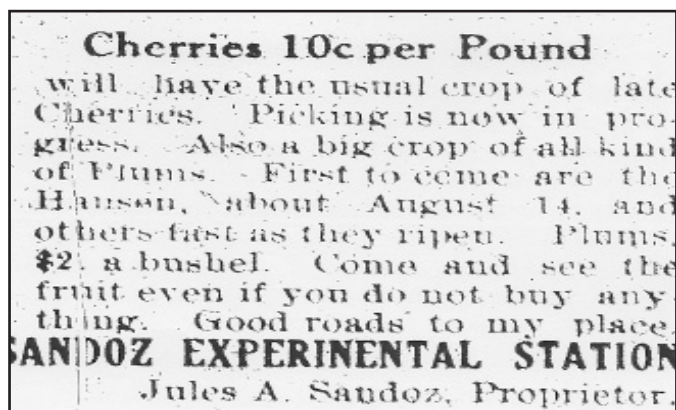
The lecture, sponsored by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7 p.m. on the Chadron State College Campus (CSC).

Flores has held the A. B. Hammond Chair in Western History at the University of Montana since 1992. His specialty is the environmental and cultural history of the American West and he is the author of eight books.

Environmental history is the study of human interaction with the natural world over time. In contrast to other historical disciplines, it emphasizes the active role nature plays in influencing human affairs. Environmental historians study how humans both shape their environment and are shaped by it.

The author will discuss the natural world, his place and experiences in it and people's fateful impact on it, including the drought.

Flores is the author of eight books, including *Visions of the Big Sky: Painting and Photography in the Northern Rocky Mountain West* (2010), *The Natural West: Environmental History in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains* (2001) and *Horizontal Yellow: Nature and History in the Near Southwest* (1999). ❀



## The Climate, Policy and Effect of Drought on the Plains is Conference Topic

The title of the 2013 Mari Sandoz Conference is "Drought and Climate in Mari Sandoz Country."

The conference will be held on the Chadron State College campus on Friday, Sept. 27.

Various works of Sandoz that speak to Great Plains climate and drought. The speakers confirmed at this point will discuss the issues below.

Dr. Lisa Pollard, Ph.D. in History from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, will talk about drought, gender and Mari Sandoz's *The Vine*.

Dr. Susan Miller, professor of American Indian studies at Arizona State University, will speak on Indigenous approaches to drought, with particular reference to Plains Indians.

Jesse Starita, University of Nebraska Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, will discuss the current drought in the High Plains, plains water policy, ranching and current water issues.

More information will be available in future newsletters.

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### *Early 20th Century Advertisement for Sandoz Fruit. It reads:* **"Cherries 10c per Pound**

I will have the usual crop of late Cherries. Picking is now in progress. Also a big crop of all kinds of Plums. First to come are the Hansen, about August 14, and others fast as they ripen. Plums \$2 a bushel. Come and see fruit even if you do not buy anything. Good roads to my place.

**SANDOZ EXPERIMENTAL STATION**  
Jules A. Sandoz, Proprietor"

# Carpenter-Nolting Brings Talents to the Board



*A photo of the signatures that are in the book, *Son of the Gambler Man*, by Mari Sandoz*

Deb Carpenter-Nolting has joined the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society board of directors.

She is currently an English instructor at Burns High School in Burns, Wyo. In her professional career, she has held positions as an instructor at Western Community College, Chadron State College and Oglala Lakota College.

Carpenter-Nolting also taught in two rural school districts near Rushville, Neb.

Speaking to participants at the 2011 Mari Sandoz conference, Carpenter-Nolting discussed rural schools especially in the early 1900s when Mari taught.

“There are days I would like to take a page from Mari’s life and post a note on the door that says, ‘Teacher gone. No school,’” she said.

It is safe to say, though, that her passion is writing and performing. She and friend, Lyn Messersmith, are on the roster of the Nebraska and South Dakota Humanities Councils, where they present stories, poems and songs of women and men who traveled and settled the West. They often perform at outdoor venues.

Carpenter-Nolting has been sharing her original work

throughout the West for several years. Deb, in partnership with poet Lyn Messersmith, performs an educational program about women who traveled and settled the Plains, and the two have developed another program about leaders and legends who helped shape the American West. Both programs are available through the Nebraska and South Dakota humanities councils.

An example of their combined work is “The Heart’s Compass: Women on the Trails.”

Carpenter-Nolting and Messersmith present an account of pioneer women crossing the Plains in the 19th century including original poems, songs and stories, as well as actual diary entries of women who journeyed on the Oregon Trail. Carpenter-Nolting demonstrates how stories from the past give insights on meeting challenges of the present.

Through the presentation, participants discover how pioneers and other leaders met hardships and helped shape the American West. They are then encouraged to create their own poems, songs, and stories to share in presentations for classmates or members of the community.

Carpenter-Nolting also travels and performs with her husband, Tim Nolting, a western poet and essayist. They live in Bushnell, Neb.

At one time, she was preparing for the Willow Tree Festival in Gordon, Neb., where she would be in character as Mari, reading from one of her works. She studied a video of Mari so she could mimic the way she carried herself and things progressed from there.

“The next thing I knew I was in Mari’s sister’s, Caroline Sandoz’s, basement commenting on Mari’s jewelry, studying the dresses hanging on the wall, mesmerized by the hats displayed here and there,” Carpenter-Nolting said.

(Before there was the Sandoz Center at Chadron State College, Mari’s personal items were housed in the basement of Caroline Sandoz Pifer’s home.)

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## Carpenter-Nolting Brings Talents to the Board

Caroline offered to loan her a dress for the occasion, but Deb turned it down.

“I would be reading in the heat of the day and would have been mortified to have sweated in one of Mari’s dresses,” she said.

Caroline didn’t seem too worried by that prospect, but she did offer one of Mari’s hats instead and Carpenter-Nolting took her up on it.

Carpenter-Nolting had a dress at home she thought would work well, but she worried about wearing it in the prairie wind for the reading in the gazebo in the park.

Mari’s youngest sister also offered her a great piece of advice. She confided that Mari had sewn washers into the hems of many of her dresses and skirts to keep them in place when negotiating prairie winds.

Carpenter-Nolting has taken that advice to heart on a number of occasions.

“Until then, I’ll be content to follow Mari’s life vicariously through her works and to keep her legacy alive by serving on the board of the Sandoz Society,” Carpenter-Nolting said. “I lost my chance to wear her dress, but I look forward to walking a mile in her shoes.” ❀

## Oglala Sioux Tribe Reclaiming a Piece of Black Hills

*Karin Eagle, Native Sun News (edited)*

*January 30, 2013*

ROCKYFORD, S.D. – Reclaiming tribal lands and focusing on the future of the tribe was the theme of the day when the Oglala Sioux Tribe, in a historic moment of agreement with the United States Government, signed a document that propels forward the vision of the first ever Tribal national park.

In a statement released about the announcement, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said, “Our National Park System is one of America’s greatest story tellers. As we seek to tell a more inclusive story of America, a tribal national park would help celebrate and honor the history and culture of the Oglala Sioux people. Working closely with the Tribe, Congress, and the public, the Park Service will work to develop a legislative proposal to make the South Unit a Tribal national park.”

For over forty years, the OST has worked with the parks service to manage the 133,000 acres of the South Unit, which lies entirely within reservation boundaries.

With the establishment of the tribal national park, the Oglala Sioux people can manage and operate their lands for the educational and recreational benefit of the general public, including a new Lakota Heritage and Education Center.

The National Park Service is expected to sign the Record of Decision this summer, however, congressional legislation is necessary before the Service can implement the Plan’s Preferred Management Option.

“These are our future rangers,” said Badlands Superintendent Eric Brunnemann. (Referring to young members of the Tribe.) “These are the young people that may lead a tribal national park into the future. I do see a time when our rangers will routinely work side-by-side with tribal biologists, archeologists, and paleontologists.” With nearly one million visitors bringing in over twenty three million dollars in revenue to the Badlands

National Park in recent years future opportunities for recreation and education in the South Unit offers prospects for local area.

Tribe with the provision that the South Unit be administered by the National Park Service. ❀

## Ron Hull Inspires Chadron State Grads

Ron Hull, Ed.D. was the speaker for the Chadron State College (CSC) undergraduate ceremony in December 2012. Coincidentally, he was also the speaker for the undergraduate ceremony in May 1975.

In addition to serving as the commencement speaker, he received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for his outstanding service to CSC and greater society from, Randy Rhine, president-elect of Chadron State college.

As the commencement speaker, Hull relayed the advice that he's gleaned from several notable Nebraskans.

"I've discovered that the most important aspect of our lives is the relationships that we have with each other," he said. "Nothing passes that.

When I was in college, I remember some cynics would say, "Ah, you won't get ahead," Hull said. It depends on who you know." It's true. It depends on who you know, but you make those connections yourself.

Hull is a pioneer of public television who has been profoundly involved in the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society since its inception.

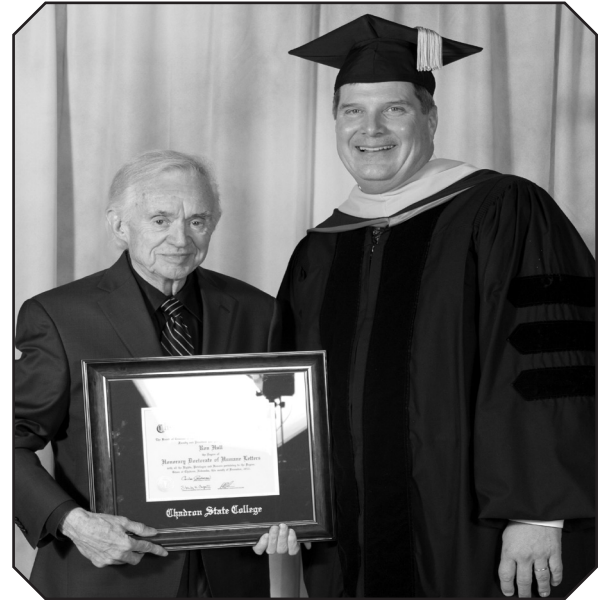
Through his involvement with the society, Hull was instrumental in the development of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center on the CSC campus. He serves as an active member of the society's board of directors.

Hull recalled stories of both Mari Sandoz, and her sister, Flora. He developed a relationship with the family after producing 18 hours of television interviews with Mari.

Hull also encouraged graduates to emulate the work ethic of Mari Sandoz. He described her as a "High Plains person" and said she worked harder than almost anyone else he's met during his profession.

"She gave 100 percent of herself, her energy and her talents to tell the stories of the people of the High Plains country," he said. "The traits Mari Sandoz had are your traits, too – hard work and giving it your best shot. We're western people. I'm from Rapid City. You have it already because you're High Plains people, too."

Hull also spoke about John Neihardt, the Nebraska poet laureate, who died in 1973. A lot of guidance can be taken in Neihardt's book, "Black Elk Speaks," Hull said, noting that it has a wealth of information about "how to live our lives."



Ron Hull (l) displays the newly awarded Doctor of Humane Letters degree with Randy Rhine, Chadron State College president-elect.

(Photo by Justin Haag)

"You choose the life you want to have, he said. If you have the life you want, believe me, that's the first step to happiness,"

Hull encouraged the students to find their happiness and told the graduates to use their educations to "get out in the world and do things for other people."

"I promise that it comes back to you 12-fold all the time," he said. "That's how the world works."

Hull served the United States Information Agency as a television adviser to the government of South Vietnam. He was instrumental in developing a four-station television network for the country in 1972.

About this experience, he said, "I kept thinking, can we inspire some of those little kids to maybe dream and develop their dream?"

You never know. You do your best. You don't know where you'll plant a seed."

*Edited from articles written by Justin Haag, CSC Information Services. ✂*

# 2012-13 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board Members

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Join the society or renew your membership at [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)

## Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Membership Form

Yes! I would like to support the work of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership payment/gift is tax deductible according to IRS guidelines. We will provide a receipt for tax purposes. To join, mail this form with your check, payable to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, to Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, 2301 NW 50th St., Lincoln, NE 68524.

Type of Membership:  Renewal  New  Gift Membership

Please list my/our name(s) as: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address	City	State	Zip Code
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\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone	E-mail
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If student, name of institution attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Library/Corporation/School contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/address for person giving gift membership: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check level of support.**

\$10 - Student

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\$40 - Family/Library

\$100 - Corporations/Schools

\$200-\$10,000 - Patron Level