

Women's Writing Weekend

November 21-23, 2008

at Tygart Lake State Park

Have you ever thought of writing a memoir for your children, a novel about your ancestors, or a poem dedicated to your best friend or your first love? Have you ever wished you could write an essay for radio broadcast, a song, or a play? In this workshop, you'll learn that your own memories and experience are the raw material for art — and you'll get some practice with the tools that can make your writing, in any form, more vivid and shapely.

Writer Colleen Anderson will lead this weekend session at Tygart Lake State Park. The weekend package includes lodging and all meals in addition to the workshop sessions.



Colleen Anderson is a writer, performer, and owner of Mother Wit Writing and Design, a creative studio in Charleston. She has written reviews, travel articles, and feature articles for *Mid-Atlantic Country*, *West Virginia Quarterly*, *Goldenseal*, and other publications. Her short stories have appeared in *Redbook*, *The Available Press/PEN Short Story Collection*, *Kestrel*, *Arts & Letters*, and others.

Two stories were nominated for the Pushcart Prize, her collection *Windfall* won first place in a WV Writers annual competition, and her poems have appeared in numerous literary magazines. She has won two Literature Fellowships from the WV Commission on the Arts and a residency fellowship from the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of Taos, New Mexico.

Anderson's short essays for West Virginia Public Radio won awards in two national competitions. Her songs have been featured on Mountain Stage and The Folk Sampler, and she has produced two collections of original songs, *Fabulous Realities* and *Going Over Home*.

She has conducted hundreds of creative writing and songwriting workshops for students, teachers, and adults. For more information, visit: www.motherwitdesign.com

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday Evening: Getting to Know You

A get-acquainted session, beginning at 7:30 p.m., that includes an exercise to help participants gather material from their own experience to explore in writing.

Saturday Morning: Making Memories Immediate

We'll be doing plenty of "rough draft" writing this morning — delving into the storehouses of memory, bringing out discoveries, and examining them with all five senses.

Saturday Afternoon: Polishing the Jewels

This session will concentrate on revising — tightening the language and shaping the narrative. There will also be some free time for writing, hiking in the park, or just relaxing.

Saturday Evening: Wine & Cheese Reading

A celebratory time for listening and for sharing your work, if you choose (you will not be pressured!).

Sunday Morning: Farewell Thoughts

A final session to integrate your new skills, a few words of encouragement, and a chance to bring up any writing-related topics we haven't addressed.

For more information, or to register, contact:

Tygart Lake State Park

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