

CURRICULUM VITAE

LAURA PRITCHETT, PhD

Novelist, nonfiction writer, journalist
Director, MFA in Nature Writing, Western Colorado University
lpritchett@western.edu

EDUCATION

PhD	English - Contemporary American Literature/Creative Writing Purdue University: West Lafayette, Indiana Dissertation: <i>Ranch Literature: Writing the Code of the New West</i>	2004
MA	English Colorado State University: Fort Collins, Colorado	1995
BA	English Colorado State University: Fort Collins, Colorado Magna Cum Laude	1993

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Director, MFA in Creative Writing - Nature Writing Concentration 2019-present
Western Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado. Low-residency MFA/MA program.
Responsibilities include 2/2 Load with each class being 6 credits (12 credits per semester), Summer Residency, Thesis advising, and Director Responsibilities.

Freelance Teaching - Writing Workshops 2002 to present
Taught at dozens of literary organizations, including an ongoing relationship with Fishtrap, Elk River Writer's workshop, Sitka Center Workshop, Orion Magazine, Taos Writer's Conference, StoryCatcher.

Writing Coach 2008 to present
One-on-one consulting on fiction and nonfiction for 20 years. Approximately 500 clients to date.

Both short works and full-length books, beginning writers to advanced. Client names/references available on request. More than a dozen clients have their books published. I also organize and teach writing workshops in Mexico, Italy, and the US.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

Naropa University Instructor, low residency MFA program Boulder, Colorado (graduate students)	2018-2020
Lighthouse Writers Workshop Visiting / occasional faculty Denver, Colorado (all levels, fiction, nonfiction, Book Project)	2006-2015
Pacific University Faculty, MFA Program Forest Grove, Oregon (graduate fiction and nonfiction)	2012-2014
University of Northern Colorado Faculty Greeley, Colorado (undergraduate creative writing and literature, 4/4 load)	2012-2013 (1 year appointment)
University of Denver, University College Adjunct Faculty Denver, Colorado (graduate fiction and nonfiction, Capstone Project advising)	2009-2012
Northern Colorado Writers Visiting Faculty Fort Collins, Colorado (all levels, fiction, nonfiction)	2008-2012
Colorado State University Adjunct/visiting writer in Education Department; nonfiction writing for teachers Fort Collins, Colorado (graduate students in Education)	2009-2010
Purdue University	2000 – 2001

Instructor, Composition
West Lafayette, Indiana
(undergraduate)

Colorado State University
Instructor, Composition
Fort Collins, Colorado
(undergraduate)

1994-1995

PUBLICATIONS

Books – Fiction

The Three Keys: A Novel. Forthcoming, Penguin Random House, 2024. Upmarket-literary novel about a woman on a heroine’s solo journey—breaking into homes along the way.

Playing With {Wild} Fire: A Novel. Forthcoming, Torrey House Press, February 2024. Evacuation orders are coming. The wildfire is bearing down. This book captures the trauma of a small mountain town’s inhabitants as a wildfire roars their way. Playing with experimental form in order to subvert, told in polyphonic voices to inspire inclusion, and with a storyline in which residents are forced together in ways that disrupt, this book plays with expectations on every level.

The Blue Hour: A Novel. Counterpoint Press, 2017. Starred reviews from Booklist and Library Journal. Listed by PBS as “Top 10 books that will make you think about what it is to be human.” Winner of the Colorado Book Award

Red Lightning: A Novel. Counterpoint Press, 2015. Experimental in nature and giving nod to *The Bone People*, this novel recounts three critical days in a young woman’s path to redemption.

Stars Go Blue: A Novel. Counterpoint Press, 2014. Starred review from Publisher’s Weekly and Library Journal. Winner of the High Plains Literary Award. Finalist for the WILLA, the Colorado Book Award, and the Mountains & Plains bookseller award. TV rights to Tooley Entertainment

Sky Bridge: A Novel. Minnesota: Milkweed Editions, 2005. Winner of the WILLA Award. Finalist for the Dublin International Book Award and the Colorado Book Award

Hell's Bottom, Colorado: Short Stories. Minnesota: Milkweed Editions, 2001 (short stories). Winner of the PEN/USA Fiction Prize and the Milkweed National Fiction Prize

Books – Nonfiction

Crack the Egg: A Memoir and *Wild and Scenic: Essays*. Both in-progress.

Making Friends with Death: A Field Guide to Your Impending Last Breath. Viva Editions, 2017

Great Colorado Bear Stories. Montana: Riverbend Press, 2012

Anthologies – As Editor or Co-Editor

Going Green: True Tales from Gleaners, Scavengers, and Dumpster Divers, (editor and contributor.) University of Oklahoma Press, 2009. Essays on gleaning/dumpster diving. Finalist for the Colorado Book Award

Pulse of the River: Colorado Writers Speak for the Endangered Cache la Poudre (co-editor and contributor). Johnson Books, 2007. Essays and poetry on the Cache la Poudre River in northern Colorado. Finalist for the Colorado Book Award

Home Land: Ranching and a West that Works (co-editor and contributor). Johnson Books, 2007. Essays and poetry on ranchland preservation and the future of the New West. Winner of Colorado Book Award

Plays

[*Dirt: A Terra Nova Expedition*](#). Full-run premiere, Bas Bleu Theatre in Ft Collins, Colorado, April 2018

Sampling of Creative Nonfiction and Essays

Monthly columnist: I am an invited regular columnist for the *Colorado Sun*, one of Colorado's largest newspapers. My monthly articles can be found [here](#). Other recent work includes:

“Renovation,” Fall 2022, [Creative Nonfiction](https://creativenonfiction.org/writing/renovations/) <https://creativenonfiction.org/writing/renovations/>

“GenDread writers try to tell the truth about the way we live now:” [Writers on the Range](#), 2022

“Ten Seconds,” [Terrain](#), 2021

“Dieback, Beetlekill,” *Deep Wild*, Fall 2021, nominated for a Pushcart
[“Play, Hands,”](#) *The Sun* magazine, Jan 2021
[“Calling Mother Earth,”](#) *Camas*, Winter 2021
[“Wildfires Need a Collective Fix,”](#) in [Writers on the Range, syndicated](#), Nov 2020
 “Write On, Colorado,” [The Colorado Sun](#), 2020
[“On Indians, Identity, and Adoption: A Profile of Susan Harness,”](#) *Fort Collins Magazine*, Spring 2019
[“The West on Wheels: Climbing Colorado’s Mountains,”](#) *Cowboys and Indians Magazine*, March 2019
[“Migrations,”](#) *Wildness Literary Journal*, 2018
[“On Love in Death Valley: And What’s Been Lost,”](#) *High Country News*, Feb 2018
 “The Hike,” *Brain, Teen Magazine*. Vol 5, 2018
 “The Gift of Poetry,” in the book *The Dharma of Dogs: our best friends as spiritual teachers*, edited by Tami Simon, Sounds True Publications, 2017
[“Thoughts on the End of the World,”](#) co-written with Ana Maria Spagna, [High Country News, Nov 2017](#)
[“The Great West Has More than One Story to Tell,”](#) *Literary Hub*, Feb 2, 2017
[“A Writer’s Tip for Writing Better Sex Scenes,”](#) *Publisher’s Weekly*, January 2017
[“Breathing Again,”](#) *High Country News, Writers on Range*, Feb 1, 2017
[“The Middle Ages: Sex Scenes of the Middle Aged in Literature,”](#) *Bloom*, Feb 2017
[“No sound, no fury, no marriage.”](#) [New York Times, Modern Love. May 2016](#)
[“An Ode to Gardens and Dirt,”](#) [High Country News, Nov 2015](#)
 “My father’s last words.” *The Normal School Literary Journal*, Fall 2016
 “Water Out of Sunlight” *Brain, Teen Magazine*, Fall 2016
[“My father’s death did not have dignity \(so I threw a party\),”](#) *Writers on the Range (syndicated)*. 2015
[“A QA with Native American Author Erika Wurth,”](#) *High Country News*, September 2015
 “Secret Sex Lives,” *O Magazine*, October 2015
[“Caregiving: I’ll do it my way,”](#) *O Magazine*, November 2014, package winner of the ASME Award
[“The Best Mango in the World,”](#) *Writers on Range, High Country News*, July 2015
 “Ecoflight and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act,” *Fort Collins Magazine and Breckenridge Magazine*, Winter 2014
 “Hostile Takeover: An Ode to Guts and Gardens,” in *Loving Dirt: 30 Writers Get Down to Earth* University Press of New England, Sept 2015.
[“The Last Memory,”](#) [Tin House, Summer 2014](#)
[“A Writer Never Averts Her Eyes: On Killing My Father,”](#) [Writer’s Digest](#) June 2014
 “Call it Music,” *Publisher’s Weekly* online, 2014
 “The Mysterious Life of the Heart,” *Powell’s Bookstore* online, 2014
 “Ode to Snow,” *High Country News*, Winter 2014
 “Death: A Love Story: Beetle Kill Pines, Coffins, and the Nuns,” *Fort Collins Magazine*, Winter 2013
[“Colorado: Covered with Fracking Fluid?”](#) [Salon](#) Sept 2013
 “The Bully,” *5280 Magazine*, July 2013
 “Insomnia,” *5280 Magazine*, April 2013
 “Tackling the Gunman,” *5280*, March, 2013
[“When the Fires Came for Us,”](#) *Salon*, 2013
 Many features and personal essays, *Fort Collins Magazine*, see <http://www.ftcollinsmag.com/>
 “Sustainable Living Fair,” *5280*, September 2012
 “Rocky Mountain Land Library,” *5280*, May 2012

“Bone Softening: Notes from the Edge of the Writing World,” March/April issue of *Poets & Writers Magazine*, 2012
 “Wonder,” *5280*, March 2012
 “I Hate My Dog (Not),” *High Country News*, February 2012
 “Hardrock Revision: Can an old mine become a work of Art?” *High Country News*, January 2012
 “Mountains of Bears,” *Breckenridge Magazine*, Fall 2011
 “15,000 Miles,” *Breckenridge Magazine*, Fall 2011
 “T. Rex: Roosevelt in Colorado,” *5280*, December 2011
 “Remembrance of Things Past,” *5280: Denver’s Magazine*, November 2011
 “Drag,” *The Sun*, November 2011
 “Cowboy Up Cupcake: No Thanks,” in the book *West of 98: Living and Writing the New American West*, University of Texas Press, 2011
 “Moving On,” *5280*, August 2011
 “Nature Boy,” *5280*, June 2011
 “Bear Essentials,” *5280*, April 2011
 “A View to a Kill,” *5280*, February 2011
 “The Western Lit Blues,” *High Country News*, September 2010
 “Waves of the Snake,” *High Country News*, August 2010
 “The Full Catastrophe,” *5280*, September 2010
 “Marlowe’s Last Migration,” *Rescue Magazine*, Fall 2010
 “The Mysterious Life of the Heart,” *5280*, February 2010
 “Bird at the Window,” *The Sun*, January 2010 – nominated for Pushcart Prize
 “Over the River,” *Camus*, Winter 2009
 “Crack the Egg,” *Camus*, Winter 2009
 “My Brother, The Bear,” *High Country News*, November 2009
 “Wildfire Stars,” *High Desert Journal*, Fall 2009
 “Dumpster Diving for the Earth,” in the book *America’s Stories About Global Warming*, published by the Union of Concerned Scientists/Penguin Classics, 2010
 “My Day of Saving 55 Million BTUs,” in the book *How the West was Warmed: Responding to Climate Change in the Rocky Mountain West*, Fulcrum Press, 2010
 “A Door Into the Beyond: The Quiet Small Pleasures of LaPorte, Colorado,” *5280*, November 2009
 “Dear Child,” *5280*, June 2009
 “Artposium,” *5280*, September 2009
 “Sex Therapists: You(R) Friend Just Might Need One,” *Healing Path Magazine*, September 2009
 “Cowboy Up, Cupcake: Myth-Busting in the West,” *5280*, April 2009
 “The Universe on Blacktop,” *High Country News*, March 15 2009
 “Confessions of a Dumpster Diver,” *The Healing Path Magazine*, May/June 2009
 “In My Father’s Truck,” (1st place winner) in the book, *My Dad Is My Hero*, 2009
 “Fury,” in the book *My Mom Is My Hero*, 2009
 “On Not Dying in Yellowstone,” *5280*, November, 2008
 “Falling Into Myself,” *5280*, September, 2008
 “My New Friend, the Sex Therapist,” *5280*, July, 2008
 “Over the River: Christo and Jeanne-Claude Coming to Colorado’s Arkansas River,” *5280*, May, 2008
 “Music up the Canyons,” *5280*, May, 2008

“Burning Stars,” *5280*, March, 2008
 “Living Green: The Bold and Bright Way,” *Style Magazine*, February 2008
 “My Short Tenure with a Blind Pigeon,” *High Country News*, January 21, 2008
 “Blue Hour Sky,” *5280*, January 2008
 “This Quiet Joy,” *5280*, December 2007
 “Corner Stones: How digging up moss rock might just save Colorado’s open spaces,” *5280*, 2007
 “Safe Out There,” *High Country News*, April 30, 2007
 “Tender,” *Pilgrimage*, Volume 32, Issue 1, 2007
 “Between a Rock and a Hard Place,” *5280*, February 2007
 “Hoof Making Contact,” *Home Land* (book), Johnson Press, 2007
 “Proud Member of PAOBA,” *High Country News*, November 13, 2006
 “Sight the Gun High,” *Natural Resources Journal*, Winter 2006
 “Expected Progeny Differences,” *High Desert Journal*, Fall 2006
 “Visiting Hours,” *5280*, September 2006
 “New Maze,” *5280*, July 2006
 “Diving with Hank,” *5280*, May 2006
 “Godzilla at the River,” *The Pulse of the River* (book), Johnson Press, 2006
 “Resurrecting J. Thomas,” *High Country News*, March 30, 2006
 “Tangled,” *5280*, March 2006
 “A Joyous Collision: The Rocky Mountain Land Library,” *Matter*, 2006
 “Inside the Fall,” *High Country News*, October 17, 2005
 “The River Within,” *5280*, December, 2005
 “Sight the Gun High,” *Howling for Wolves: Stories from the Colorado Rockies*, 2005
 “Fury,” *High Country News*, June 27, 2005
 “Rock Work,” *Orion*, July/Aug, 2005. Reprinted in the book *Social Issues Firsthand: The Environment*, Thomson Gale Publishers, 2006
 “In My Father’s Truck,” *5280*, June/July 2005
 “The Tender Part,” *Matter*, Spring 2004
 “Hoof Making Contact,” *Colorado Review*, Summer 2004

Publications: Short Stories

“Bluestem,” *Santa Fe Literary Review*, vol 17, Fall 2022
 “Thunderstorm,” [*Tiny Seed*](#), 2021
[“One, Two, Three,”](#) *The Normal School*, Summer 2019
 “What I Would Have Asked You,” in the anthology *Sandstone*, ed Precious McKenzie, 2017
 “This Imaginary Me,” *Split Infinitive*, Spring 2014
 “Recipe: I am the devil,” *The Normal School*, Spring 2011
 “Plan B,” *High Desert Journal*, Fall 2010
 “The Sky Behind the Trees,” *Pinch Magazine*, Spring 2010

“The Color of the Impression,” *The Rocky Mountain News*, November 11, 2008 Reprinted by Fulcrum Press for book *A Dozen on Denver*, Fulcrum Press, 2009 Nominated for Pushcart Prize. Adapted for Stories on Stage, Denver and Boulder, Colorado
“Painting the Constellations,” *The Normal School*, Fall 2008, nominated for Pushcart
“The Space Between,” *Matter Journal*, 2007
“Under the Apple Tree,” *The Sun*, August, 2006
“Letters Home,” *Matter*, Winter, 2005
“Strands of Barbed Wire,” *divide*, Fall 2003, nominated for Pushcart Prize
“Last Bid,” *The Sun*, March 2000
“Dry Roots,” *The Sun*, June 1999
“Morning Conversation,” *Fox Cry Review*, 1998

Publications: Reviews

[“Aaron Abeyta’s Rise, Do Not Be Afraid,”](#) High Desert Journal, 2021
“Tough Women,” Review of *Rough Beauty* by Karen Auvinen and *Off Trail* by Jane Parnel for *High Country News*, September 2018
“The Sweet Oneiric Somnambulations of *Cake Time*” a review of Siel Ju’s novel in *The Cincinnati Review*, Winter 2018
“Home Place,” a review of Carrie LeSeur’s novel, [Fiction Writer’s Review](#), 2011
“Looking Homeward,” a review of Leslie Marmon Silko and Annie Proulx nonfiction, *OnEarth Magazine*, February 2011
“A People’s History of Wilderness,” a review of Matt Jenkins’ (ed) book, *Natural Resources Journal*, Spring 2006
“A Daughter of Montana’s Fierce Coming of Age,” a review of Judy Blunt’s *Breaking Clean* in *Elle Magazine*, March 2002

Favorite Podcasts

[Modern Love](#) :New York Times, 2020

LITERARY CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY

Fiction Editor, [High Desert Journal](#), 2017 to 2022.
Member, [Resilience Studies Consortium](#) 2019 to 2021
Board Member, [Center for the Study of the American West](#), 2017 to current
Guest Fiction Editor, *The Normal School*, California State University, California, Winter 2017
Board Member, 2006 to 2010 – The Rocky Mountain Land Library (www.landlibrary.org)
Board Member, 2006 to 2012 – Colorado Art Ranch
Contributing Editor, 2007 to 2013 – *5280: Denver’s Magazine*
Contributing Editor, 2003 to 2006 - *divide: the University of Colorado’s journal of writing and ideas*

Selected list of teaching at workshops/writing conferences:

Elk River, forthcoming Summer 2023

Sitka Center for the Arts, forthcoming Summer 2023

Elk River, Summer 2022

Fishtrap, Summer 2022

Orion online class, April and May 2022

Storycatcher Writing Workshop, Nebraska, Summer 2021

Yearlong Fishtrap Writer's Project, Faculty, June 2019-2020

Fishtrap, Enterprise, Oregon, weeklong summer writing program, July 2018

"Love the Outdoors? Write it," This House of Books, Billings, Montana, Jan 2018

Visiting author, Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana, Jan 2018

Northern Colorado Writers Conference, various workshops, May 2017

Writers and Scribblers, Durango, Co, visiting speaker, July 2017

Steamboat Springs Writing Gathering, March 2017

Colorado Writing Program, Arapahoe Community College, August 2016

Fort Collins Reads Companion Author, August 2016

Fishtrap, Enterprise Oregon, weeklong summer writing program, June 2016

Whidbey Island Writing, visiting writer, January 2016

Lighthouse Literary Festival, Summer 2015

Lighthouse Literary Festival, Summer 2014

Pacific University's Low-Residency MFA, faculty, June, 2013.

Northern Colorado Writers Conference, April 2013

“Writing the outdoors,” Steamboat Writer’s Conference, July 12-14, 2012

“Subgenres within Creative Nonfiction,” Northern Colorado Writers, February 18, 2012

“The Art of the Personal Essay,” Northern Colorado Writers, January 28, 2012

“The Art of the Personal Essay,” half-day writing intensive, Northern Colorado Writers, 2011

“Advanced Novel Writing,” weeklong intensive, SMU Creative Writing Program, Taos, 2011

“Writing Place,” half-day class, Playa Artist Residency Community Gathering, Oregon, 2011

“Thinking Through Your Book,” one-day intensive, Lighthouse Writers, November, 2010

“Love the Outdoors? Write It,” one-day intensive, Northern Colorado Writers, November, 2010

“Writing for the Earth,” one-day intensive, University of Denver, October, 2009

Various workshops, Wyoming Literary Connection, Cheyenne, Wyoming, October, 2009

“Writing Sex Well,” Colorado Art Ranch Artposium, Trinidad, Colorado, May, 2009

“Writing for Magazines,” one-day workshop, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, March, 2009

“Environmental Writing,” one-day workshop, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, January, 2009

Intermediate/Advanced Nonfiction Workshop, weekly class for 6 weeks, Northern Colorado Writers, Fort Collins, Colorado, January-February, 2009

“Out of the Sheets and Onto the Page,” one-day class, Northern Colorado Writers, Fort Collins, 2009

Intermediate/Advanced Nonfiction Workshop, weekly class for 6 weeks, Northern Colorado Writers, Fort Collins, Colorado, September-November, 2008

“What We Can Learn From the Greats,” one-day intensive, Northern Colorado Writers Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 19, 2008

“Out of the Sheets and Onto the Page,” one-day intensive, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, June 16, 2008

“Learning from the Greats,” one-day intensive, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, June 17, 2008

“Writing and Civil Discourse,” Centennial High School, National Writer’s Project, May 19, 2008

“Environmental Writing: Changing the World,” in the class “Fostering Sustainability and Economic Tools: You Can Help Change the World” (Fall 2007 Honors Course), Purdue University, September, 2007

“Story, Universality, and Clarity: Environmental Writing,” in the class “Fostering Sustainability and Economic Tools: You Can Help Change the World” (Fall 2007 Honors Course), Purdue University, October, 2007

“Teaching Writing,” Colorado State University National Writer’s Project, Fort Collins, Colorado, November 3, 2007

“Starting Your Nonfiction Book,” weekend intensive, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, Co, June 24-26, 2007

“Fiction: Where Interior and Exterior Landscapes Merge,” Lighthouse Writers Grand Lake Workshop, July 16, 2007

“Hike and Write -- Many Ways of Looking at a Place,” Lighthouse Writers Grand Lake Workshop, July 17, 2007

“Oh, That Lovin’ Feeling -- writing about lust, lovers, and other passions,” Lighthouse Writers Grand Lake Workshop, July 19, 2007

“Writing Your Home,” Northern Colorado Writers Festival, March 15, 2007

“Writing Place,” Loveland Public Library, Loveland, Colorado, October 20, 2006

Various writing workshops conducted as visiting writing instructor, variety of topics, World Fellowship Center, New Hampshire, July 10-17, 2006

“Writing Well,” Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, Colorado, April 15, 2006

“Internal and External Landscapes,” Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Denver, Colorado, May 3, 2006

“Writing Well,” Pangaea Writing Festival, Fort Collins, Colorado, April 2006

“The Art of Place: Internal and External Landscapes,” Ars Poetica Reading Series, Eastern Oregon University, February, 2006

“Writing Place,” and other various workshops, Fishtrap Organization, Enterprise, Oregon, February 2006

“Writing Place,” class visit, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, November, 2005

“Writing the Internal and External Landscape: A Fiction Workshop,” Writer’s Voice, YMCA, Cheyenne, Wyoming, September 15, 2005

“Writing the Ranch,” University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, January 27, 2004

“The Art of Place: A Fiction Workshop,” Greyrock Writer’s Festival, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, June, 2004

PRESENTATIONS

Selected List of Major Presentations (from most recent):

Keynote Speaker, Women Writing the West Conference, Oklahoma, October 2022

AWP Panel: “Urgent Wonder: Writing Climate Change,” Pennsylvania, April 2022

MC, Headwaters Conference, Colorado, 2021

MC, Headwaters Conference, Barry Lopez, Western Colorado University, 2020

Keynote speaker, Western Literature Association, 2019

TEDx Talk, Colorado State University, March 2018, “Death Prep Extravaganza! The importance of thinking about the inevitable now.”

Keynote and panel speaker, The Nebraska Association of Palliative and Hospice Care, March 10-20, 2018, Lincoln, Nebraska

Reader, Mortified, Colorado! (part of the national group Mortified, which vetted speakers broaching the embarrassing past), October 2017, Oriental Theatre, Denver

Featured Speaker, Writing the Rockies Literary Conference, Evergreen, Co, October 2016

Featured Speaker, Books and Brews Literary Festival, Fort Collins, Co, October 2016

Moderator and panelist, Jaipur Literary Festival, Boulder, Co, September 2016

AWP panel: “The New Nature Writing,” AWP, California, March 2016

Moderator and panelist, Jaipur Literary Festival, Boulder, Co, September 2015

“Conversations with Authors,” fundraiser for American Association of University Women, Loveland, Colorado, 2015

Keynote, Wyoming Writer’s Conference, June 2015

Keynote Speaker, Castle Rock Writer’s Conference, October 4, 2014

Speaker, “Bears of Colorado,” Center of the American West, CU-Boulder, April 17, 2012

Reader, “Words to Stir the Soul: A tribute to Reg Saner, Boulder, Colorado, December 7, 2011

Speaker, “Dumpster Diving 101,” Colorado Council on Climate Change, October 17, 2011

Emcee, Literary Connections, Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 2010

Keynote Convocation Speaker, Adams State University, August and September, 2010

Panel Speaker, “To West or Not to West,” Associated Writing Programs Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2010

Panel Speaker, “Myth Busting in the West,” Associated Writing Programs Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2010

Keynote Speaker, Zonta Author’s Fundraiser, Boulder Colorado, March 13, 2010

Speaker, Colorado Author’s League, Boulder, Colorado, March 24, 2010

Speaker, “Dumpster Diving,” Colorado Council on Climate Change, April 9, 2010

Keynote Commencement Speaker for the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, December 2009

Speaker, “Dumpster Diving 101,” Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair, September 2009

Speaker, Plenary Session, Western Literature Association and Center of the American West, “Women Write the Range with Teresa Jordan and Laura Pritchett,” University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, October 3, 2008

Speaker, Plenary Session, “Writing Colorado: Leading Contemporary Writers Discuss the Past, Present, and Future of Poetry and Fiction in the Centennial State,” Western Literature Association, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, October 4, 2008

Panel, "Our Stories in the West," Equality State Book Festival, Casper, Wyoming, September 20, 2008

Keynote Speaker, Thompson Awards Banquet, for the University of Colorado at Boulder and Center for the American West, Western Writing Contest, University of Colorado-Boulder, April 29, 2008

Speaker, "The Business of Publishing and Writing," The Career Center/College of Liberal Arts, Colorado State University, April 23, 2008

Speaker, "Dumpster Diving and Other Gleanings," Colorado Global Climate Conference (high school students), April 18, 2008

Panel Discussion, "The Future of the Poudre River," sponsored by the Ft. Collins Public Library, April 7, 2008

Speaker, "90 Days to Save a River: the Impacts of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Environmental Impact Statement," Art Show and Gala/Fundraiser, Poudre River Arts Center, April 11, 2008

Speaker, "Introduction to Writing and Publishing," Fort Collins Public Library, February 23, 2008

Panel Speaker, "How to Steal from the Greats: Practical Advice for Exploring Craft," Associated Writing Programs Conference, New York, New York, February, 2008

Speaker, "Dumpster Diving and Other Forms of Gleaning," Focus the Nation (Global Climate Change Panel), Colorado State University, January 30, 2008

Speaker, "An Exercise in Longing: Writing for Place in the New West," Senior Scholars of Colorado State, CSU, October 17, 2007

Speaker, "Art and Activism: Exercises in Longing," Benefit for Colorado Art Ranch, Legacy Land Trust Alliance Convention, Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, Colorado, October 5, 2007

Speaker, "Saving our River," Red Feather Lakes Public Library, Red Feather, Colorado, August 11, 2007

Speaker, "Saving our River," Fort Collins, various locations, throughout 2007

Speaker, "Passion for Place in Contemporary American Literature," Newcomers Association, Fort Collins Country Club, March 20, 2007

Speaker, "Oh That Loving Feeling: Passion for Place," American Association of University Women, Boulder, Co, February 18, 2007

Speaker, "Writing Today," Salida High School, Salida, Colorado, October 2006

Speaker, "Western Writing," Literary Soiree, Denver, Colorado, Colorado Center for the Book, August, 2006

Featured Speaker, "Writing in the West," Adams State University, April, 2006

Featured Speaker, "New Wealth and the Old West," Fishtrap Organization, Enterprise, Oregon, February 2006

Featured Speaker with Pam Houston and Gary Wockner, "Comeback Wolves," Center for the American West, Boulder, Colorado, November, 2005

Speaker, "Art and Politics: Where They Merge," University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, November, 2005

Speaker, "Introduction to Writing and Publishing," University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, November 2005 (class visit)

Speaker, "Publishing and Writing in the West Today," West Texas A&M, Canyon, Texas, October, 2005

Speaker, "Sense of Place: Writing and Reading the West," University of Colorado at Boulder, September 2, 2004

Speaker, "Literature of the New West," Colorado State University, October, 2004

Numerous pro-bono class visits (high school/college classes/guest lectures), 2001 to present

JUDGE: WRITING CONTESTS

2005 PEN USA, Fiction Judge

2006 Wyoming Writers Association, Non-Fiction Judge

2007 Colorado Center for the Book, Colorado Book Awards, Non-Fiction Judge

2008 Wyoming Arts Council, Fiction Judge

2009 Colorado Art Ranch Residence Judge, Writing

2009 High Plains Book Award Judge

2009 Colorado Book Awards, Nonfiction Judge

2009 PEN USA, Nonfiction Judge

2010 Wyoming Arts Council, Nonfiction Judge

2014 Northern Colorado Writers, Nonfiction Judge

2014 AWP First Novel Contest, Preliminary Judge

2015 Rocky Mountain Writing Conference Fiction Judge

2020 Western Literature Association writing judge
2022 Cutthroat Fiction Contest Judge

WRITING AWARDS

- 2018 Winner, Colorado Book Award (*The Blue Hour*)
- 2017 Booklist Editor's Choice (*The Blue Hour*)
- 2015 Winner, High Plains Book Award (*Stars Go Blue*)
- 2015 Finalist, WILLA (*Stars Go Blue*)
- 2015 Finalist, Colorado Book Award (*Stars Go Blue*)
- 2015 Finalist, Mountains and Plains Bookseller Award (*Stars Go Blue*)
- 2010 Finalist, Colorado Book Award (*Going Green*)
- 2010 Honorable Mention, *The Best American Essays 2010*
- 2010 Nomination for the Pushcart Prize for "Bird at the Window"
- 2008 Nomination for the Pushcart Prize for "Color of the Impression"
- 2007 Winner, Colorado Book Award (*Home Land*)
- 2007 Finalist, Colorado Book Award (*Pulse of the River*)
- 2006 WILLA Literary Award for Fiction (*Sky Bridge*)
- 2006 Finalist, Colorado Book Award (*Sky Bridge*)
- 2006 Finalist, Dublin International Book Award (*Sky Bridge*)
- 2004 Nomination for the Pushcart Prize for "Strands of Barbed Wire"
- 2003 Arts Alive Grant for the essay "Door to the Beyond"
- 2002 PEN USA Award for Fiction (*Hell's Bottom, Colorado*)
- 2001 Milkweed National Fiction Prize (*Hell's Bottom, Colorado*)

OTHER AWARDS

- Earthskin Writing Residency, New Zealand, 2019
- Aldo Leopold Writer in Residence, Tres Piedras, 2019
- Earthskin Writing Residency, New Zealand, 2014
- Ucross Writing Residency, 2013
- Green Giant Award for environmental activism, 2011
- Playa Writing Residency, 2011
- Rocky Mountain Land Library Writing Residency, 2009
- Friend of the Poudre Award, 2008
- Ucross Foundation Residency, 2004
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- Liberal Arts College Endowment Award

- Neighborhood and Community Press Association NCPA Award

RADIO AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES

- 2001 Radio Interview, local programming, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2001 Radio Interview, Colorado Public Radio, Denver, Colorado (*Hell's Bottom*)
- 2002 Television Interview, "Book Talk," Los Angeles, California
- 2004 Radio Interview, KRFC, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2005 Radio Interview, Laramie, Wyoming
- 2005 Radio Interview, KCOL, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2005 Radio Interview, KFRC, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2006 Radio Interview, Salida Community Radio
- 2006 Radio Interview, KRFC, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2006 Radio Interview, Colorado Public Radio (*Pulse of the River*)
- 2007 Radio Interview, Colorado Public Radio (*Home Land*)
- 2008 Podcast Interview, Rocky Mountain News
- 2009 Radio Interview, Colorado Public Radio, KUNC, (*Going Green*)
- 2009 Radio Interview, KRFC (*Going Green*), Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2009 Radio Interview, KRFC, (On Creativity), Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2009 Radio Interview, Colorado Public Radio (dumpster diving), KUNC, Colorado
- 2014 Montana Public Radio/ "The Write Question" (Missoula)—interview—6/13
- 2014 Colorado Public Radio—interview—6/11
- 2014 BYU Broadcasting/ "The Apple Seed" (Provo, UT)—interview
- 2014 Clear Channel Communications/ "Focus" (Denver)—interview—6/6
- 2015 KPCW, Utah, This Green Earth www.kpcw.org
- 2015 Colorado Public Radio, Andrea Dukakis, June
- 2015 Clear Channel Communications, June
- 2015 KRFC "Between the Pages" Aug, CO
- 2015 Podcast, KRFC, July
- 2015 KRBC, Berkeley, CA
- 2016 "Between the Pages," KRFC, July, CO
- 2017 Colorado Public Radio, March 2017
- 2017 KRFC, Fort Collins, March 2017
- 2017 Boulder Radio Book Group, March 2017
- 2017 Montana Public Radio, April 2017
- 2017 October through November – 20+ radio interviews for *Making Friends with Death*, including:
- KGNU: <http://news.kgnu.org/2017/10/making-friends-with-death/>
- KAHI: Sacramento, CA, Talk Radio [Making Friends with Death/KAHI](#)
- KABC: LA Talk Radio AM (starts 8:08 in)
- <https://audioboom.com/posts/6366567-mcintyre-in-the-morning-10-5-17-8am?t=0>
- WPHM: Michigan, AM Talk Radio: [Making Friends with Death/WPHM](#)
- WIP / AM FM: Philadelphia, PA, Public Affairs [Making Friends with Death on WIP](#)

WMJI : Cleveland OH FM Morning Show:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxacbQH3ATmhR2VIOGdxcGsxOGs>

First Light Radio 10/20: <http://www.firstlightradio.com/archives/>

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xxn9dy62ltsqp5n/AACpbfwQGfTOEuAW2r3TaTgta?dl=0&preview=170626resounds.mp3>

Paperback Radio (NY): <http://ow.ly/ci8I309q5fa>.

Podcast, Pain Reframed <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/id1223789711>

<http://www.ispinstitute.com/pain-reframed-podcast/>

<http://podcast.radio.com/audio/conversations-with-peter-solomon/>

READINGS (SELECTED)

- 2001 Ruminator Books – St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2001 Micawber’s Bookstore – St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2001 Jade Creek Bookstore – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2001 Tattered Cover - Denver, Colorado
- 2001 Off the Beaten Path – Steamboat, Colorado
- 2001 Public Library – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2001 The Chinook Bookshop – Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 2002 Public Library – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2002 Public Library – Red Feather Lakes, Colorado
- 2002 Jade Creek Bookstore – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2002 University of New Mexico/Bookworks Bookstore – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 2003 West Texas State – Canyon, Texas
- 2003 Greyrock Institute – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2003 Arts Alive – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2003 Everyday Joe’s – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2004 Bas Bleu – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2004 Bas Bleu – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2005 Boulder Bookstore – Boulder, Colorado
- 2005 Tattered Cover Bookstore – Cherry Creek, Colorado
- 2005 Everyday Joe’s Coffee House – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2005 YMCA – Cheyenne, Wyoming
- 2005 Avogadro’s Number – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2005 Borders – Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 2005 Garcia Street Books – Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2005 Bookworks – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 2005 Barnes & Noble – Amarillo, Texas
- 2005 Second Story Books – Laramie, Wyoming
- 2005 Center for the American West – Boulder, Colorado
- 2006 The Bean Cycle – Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2006 Eastern Oregon University – Oregon

2006 Fishtrap – Wallowa Lake, Oregon
 2006 Fort Collins Public Library – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2006 Adams State University, Colorado
 2006 World Fellowship Center – New Hampshire
 2006 Salida Public Library – Colorado
 2006 Loveland Public Library – Colorado
 2006 Tattered Cover Bookstore – Denver, Colorado
 2007 Tattered Cover Bookstore – Denver, Colorado
 2007 Tattered Cover Bookstore/Book Club Convention – Denver, Colorado
 2007 Everyday Joes, Book Release Party, *Home Land* – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2007 Blackhawk Public Library - Blackhawk, Colorado
 2008 My Word! Series – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2008 Highlands Ranch Public Library – Highlands Ranch, Colorado
 2009 Bas Bleu Theatre – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2009 Kepler’s Bookstore – California
 2009 Barnes & Noble – Los Gatos, California
 2009 Colorado State University Alumni Reading – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2009 New Belgium Brewery Lit Fest and Book Fair – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2009 Boulder Bookstore – Boulder, Colorado
 2009 Tattered Cover Bookstore – Denver, Colorado
 2009 Reader’s Cove Bookstore – Fort Collins, Colorado
 2009 Artposium/Colorado Art Ranch – Trinidad, Colorado
 2009 Wyoming Literary Connection – Cheyenne, Wyoming
 2010 Reader’s Cove -- Fort Collins, Colorado
 2010 Emcee – Wyoming Literary Connection – Cheyenne, Wyoming
 2011 SMU Taos Campus Author Night
 2011 Bas Bleu, Old Town Writer’s Group Holiday Extravaganza
 2012 Colorado’s Bears -- multiple locations across the state
 2013 Bas Bleu, Tattered Cover, other multiple locations
 2014 Boulder Bookstore—6/4
 2014 Tattered Cover (Denver, CO)—reading/signing—6/5
 2014 Lighthouse Literary Festival (Denver, CO)
 2014 Book Bar, Denver
 2014 Country Bookshelf (Bozeman, MT)—reading/signing—6/11
 2014 Fact & Fiction (Missoula, MT)—reading/signing—6/12
 2014 Kings English Bookstore (Salt Lake City)—reading/signing—6/15
 2014 Powell’s (Portland, OR)—reading/signing—6/30
 2015 City News: Bookstore & Coffee House, Cheyenne, WY
 2015 Tattered Cover, Colfax, Denver, CO
 2015 Old Town Library, Fort Collins, CO
 2015 Boulder Bookstore, Boulder, CO
 2015 Pegasus on Solano Berkeley, CA
 2015 Skylight Books Los Angeles, CA
 2015 BookPeople of Moscow, Idaho

2015 Auntie's Books Spokane, WA
2015 Elliott Bay Books Seattle, WA
2015 Powell's Bookstore Hawthorne Portland, OR
2015 Book Bar, Denver, CO
2015 Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA
2015 [Powerhouse Arena](#), Brooklyn, NY
2016 Books and Brews Festival, Fort Collins
2016 Evergreen Writing the Rockies Festival
2016 Jaipur Literary Festival
2017 Tattered Cover, Denver Co
2017 Steamboat Springs Library, Steamboat Co
2017 Fort Collins Library, Fort Collins, Co
2017 Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM
2017 The Book Haven, Salida Co
2017 The House of Books, Billings, Montana
2017 SOMOS, Taos
2017 Maria's Bookshop, Durango, Colorado
2017 Telluride Bookshop and Festival
2017 Tattered Cover, Denver
2017 Morningside Heights Library, New York
2017 City Lit Books, Chicago
2017 Boulder Bookstore, Boulder
2017 Book Bar, Denver
2018 Steamboat Springs Library, Steamboat
2018 One Book Billings, Billings Public Library

REFERENCES:

Tyson Hausdoerffer
Director, Graduate Program in Creative Writing
1 Western Way, Western Colorado University
Gunnison, Co
970-309-9956
thausdoerffer@western.edu

CMarie Fuhrman
Director, Elk River and Associate Director, Western Colorado University
Poetry Director, Western Colorado University
406-855-4581
cfuhrman@western.edu

Steve Coughlin
Director, Undergraduate Creative Writing Program
20

Western Colorado University
1 Western Way, Western Colorado University
Gunnison, Co
740.856.7860
scoughlin@western.edu

Ana Maria Spagna
Faculty Western Colorado University and several other institutions
amsandlaurie@gmail.com

Mike Midlo
Program Manager at Fishtrap
PO Box 38, Enterprise, OR 97828
541.426.3623
mike@fishtrap.org

Kathleen Yale
Orion Magazine (for online writing workshop)
www.orionmagazine.org

FORMAL BIO:

Laura Pritchett is the author of nine books. She began her writing journey with the short story collection *Hell's Bottom, Colorado*, which won the PEN USA Award for Fiction and the Milkweed National Fiction Prize. This was followed by the novels *Sky Bridge*, *Stars Go Blue*, *Red Lightning*, and *The Blue Hour*, which garnered several other awards. Her first play, *Dirt: A Terra Nova Expedition*, was performed in Fort Collins, Colorado, in the Spring of 2018 at Bas Bleu Theatre. Pritchett is also the editor of three anthologies: *Pulse of the River*, *Home Land*, and *Going Green: True Tales from Gleaners, Scavengers, and Dumpster Divers*. She also has two nonfiction books: *Great Colorado Bear Stories* and *Making Friends with Death*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *O Magazine*, *Salon*, *Terrain*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *High Country News*, *The Millions*, *The Normal School*, *The Pinch*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Sun*, *Orion*, and many others.

Pritchett built and directs the MFA in Nature Writing at Western Colorado University. She is a columnist for the *Colorado Sun*. She holds a PhD from Purdue University. She is also known for her environmental stewardship, particularly in regard to land preservation and river health. You can find out more at www.laurapritchett.com

Press about Laura - some favorite links:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/5-books-will-make-think-means-human/>

<https://litreactor.com/columns/bad-ass-women-writing-the-west>

<https://fupping.com/natty/2018/04/21/19-books-you-have-to-read-before-you-die>

<http://www.westword.com/arts/laura-pritchett-on-writing-about-sex-winning-prizes-and-bringing-back-grizzly-bears-10761551>

Channel 9: <https://youtu.be/pa45LXflWHo>

Official Websites:

www.laurapritchett.com

www.makingfriendswithdeath.com

Social Media:

Twitter: @authorlaura

Instagram: laurapritchettauthor

Facebook: Laura Pritchett