

## **Friday, November 7**

Finish Ecology work with Paul Arbetan. Discuss developing a survey protocol for our Stream Surveys at the El Coronado Ranch.

Cross international boundary, arrive at the Lichty Center at the Nature Conservancy's Gila Farm Preserve near Cliff, NM. Driving time is approximately 3.5 hours, 170 miles.

We will be camping out, but we will have access to the Center for group meetings. The Center is heated with passive solar and has showers. On Friday and Saturday evenings, we will be sharing the Center with TNC volunteers, who we will also host for dinner.

After dinner, writer Sharman Apt Russell will join us for an evening discussion and orientation (see below)

## **Saturday, November 8**

Writing Workshop with Sharman Apt Russell. Here is the workshop's description:

### *Nature Writing in the 21st Century*

As writers and readers, we will all be defining nature writing in the twenty-first century. In your three days in the Gila Valley, I'd like you to explore who you are as a nature writer/reader. What are the themes that compel you? What are the books (articles, short stories, poems, essays, novels) you long to write and read? What will you be writing and reading in 2058--fifty years from now?

I'll get a chance to meet you on Friday evening and we can introduce ourselves. I'm open to any question you have, on the topic of my recent book--pantheism, on writing and the writing life, on environmental issues in the Gila Valley.

On Saturday morning, we will talk a bit about the past, present, and future of nature writing. We will also do a writing exercise called Fruitful Questions. At the end of our time together, by Monday morning, I would like you to have a statement about your relationship to nature writing which you are willing to share. In the afternoon, you will be doing some work on the Gila River Farm for The Nature Conservancy. It is a beautiful time in the valley now, with the cottonwoods turning yellow, and the sandhill cranes in the fields. You'll be close to the river, right in the middle of things. In the evening, we can get together again. More questions and answers or discussion. Perhaps some of you will read from your work.

On Sunday morning, I'd like to focus on the actual craft of writing, particularly writing about the natural world or what I call research-based prose. How do we weave musicality into work that deals with facts, figures, and unmusical terms? How do we find a personal voice that is also true to science and natural history? E.O. Wilson urges us to forge ahead,

"That is why I would like to suggest the fiery circle of science and humanities could be closed and creativity in the two branches of learning might converge through natural history and nature writing of the kind that may well be emerging into its twenty-first century form." As someone who has written about a broad range of subjects, I call this workshop "A Fearless Heart." If you have the chance, look up that song by Steve Earle and listen to the lyrics...

On Sunday afternoon, I'll let you write while I meet with students individually, one to one. I like to take a carload of three or four people up to Sacaton Mesa, about five minutes away. It's a 360 degree view, and I can talk with you one at a time for about fifteen minutes each, part of a small group walking and talking. This is a chance for you to ask me specific writing questions about your work or the writing life or anything else you want to ask. I can walk and read, and so we can actually go over a page or two of your work if that is helpful. We can all meet again after dinner to read and share work.

By Monday morning, I hope you have three pieces of writing: a reflective essay about your relationship to nature writing and reading, a series of fruitful questions relevant to your own work, and a piece of research-based prose (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry). We can workshop these pieces now or read them out loud or talk in general.

As noted in Sharman's description, we will be combining forces with other TNC volunteers for a service project Saturday afternoon. Details TBA. We might also take a look at the results of the 2006 SITW project.

At dinner, we will meet Martha Schumann, The Nature Conservancy's SW New Mexico Field Representative, who will talk about TNC's conservation vision for the Gila Farm Preserve and beyond.

### **Sunday/Monday, November 9-10**

Writing Workshop with Sharman Apt Russell (see description above)

### **Tuesday, November 11**

Fast, early breakfast, travel to El Coronado Ranch near Sunizona, AZ. 200 miles, driving time approximately 4 hours.

Afternoon: Orientation to El Coronado Ranch in preparation for our stream survey. President George Bridges and Trustee Tom McCracken will join us for dinner.

### **Wednesday/Thursday, November 12-13**

Stream survey, El Coronado Ranch.

George Bridges and Tom McCracken will be in the field with us on Wednesday, and will stay for dinner and camp. Evening readings of student work for George and Tom on Wednesday evening. They will depart on Thursday.

Visit [www.cuencalosojos.org](http://www.cuencalosojos.org)

Additional readings and materials in “Borderlands” Folder

### **Friday, November 14**

Travel to camp near Arivaca, AZ to meet Whitman Alums Danielle Alvarado and Johanna Allen, who are working for the humanitarian aid group No More Deaths. Driving Time approximately 3.5 hours, 180 miles.

Visit [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org)

Additional Readings in “Borderlands” Folder

### **Saturday, November 15**

Travel day: Arivaca, AZ to Joshua Tree, CA. We will be camped north of Joshua Tree National Monument on public land.

Driving Time approximately 8 hours, 480 miles

### **Sunday, November 16**

Meet Jim Harvey, Alliance for Responsible Energy Policy to discuss proposed solar power projects in California’s Mojave Desert

Visit [www.protectourlands.org](http://www.protectourlands.org)

Additional Readings in “Climate Change Epiphanies” Folder

### **Monday, November 17**

Drive to Tejon Ranch near Bakersfield, CA

Driving Time approximately 4 hours, 220 miles

Evening reading of student work with Paul Hoornbeek

### **Tuesday, November 18**

Orientation to Tejon Ranch with Tejon Ranch Staff

Writing workshop with Paul Hoornbeek

Climate Change Epiphanies Due

### **Wednesday, November 19**

Discussion of Tejon Ranch Conservation Deal and prospects for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy with Michael White and Tejon Ranch Staff

Evening: More Climate Change Epiphanies

### **Thursday November 20**

Field Tour on Tejon Ranch with Graham Chisholm, California Audubon, on California Condor Conservation

Writing Workshop with Paul Hoornbeek  
Final Wave of Climate Change Epiphanies

### **Friday, November 20-21**

Writing workshop with Paul Hoornbeek: Discuss narratives for podcasts, and Western Epiphanies. (These not actually due until we are at JWC)

### **Saturday, November 22**

Morning: Finish writing workshop with Paul  
Afternoon: Drive to Sacramento, CA  
Driving Time approximately 5 hours, 295 miles  
We will be staying at the home of Gabrielle Boisrame.

### **Sunday, November 23**

Travel Day: Sacramento to Bend, OR  
Driving Time approximately 7.5 hours, 440 miles  
We will be staying at cabins made available to us by Ben Hayes.

### **Monday, November 24**

Final Leg of the Journey, Bend to Johnston Wilderness Campus  
Driving Time approximately 5.5 hours, 290 miles