

Saturday, October 4, 2025 (Timeline of Events):

Tyson Research Center & Endangered Wolf Center (Directions)

Optional Endangered Wolf Center Tour (See the Wolves) 9:00AM – 10:30AM

6750 Tyson Valley Rd, Eureka, MO 63025 8:30AM – 9:00AM

Non-Tour Attendees:

6750 Tyson Valley Rd, Eureka, MO 63025 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Pre-Workshop Hangout: 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Welcome Message from PITW Program Coordinator 10:30AM – 10:45AM

Faculty-Led Discussion: Clayton Adam Clark 10:45AM – 11:15AM

Get Out of the Woods by Turning Into the Body—Tapping into creative possibility through a neuroscience-based approach: This session will offer a how-to guide for a strategy that can help poets work through writer's block, struggles with revision, flagging motivation toward creative practice, distracted thinking patterns, over-intellectualizing, and many other psychological barriers to writing their best poems and poetry collections. Participants will be introduced to self-spotting, which is a sub-clinical application of Brainspotting, an emerging, neurophysiological approach to psychological healing. Clayton will lead interested participants through an optional guided demonstration of self-spotting, with an emphasis on utilizing this strategy for creative problems in the poetry writing process.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Traci Brimhall 11:15AM – 12:35PM

Poetry Pocked Field Guide: Some of our best ideas come when our bodies are in motion. In this workshop we will make small field guides that fit in our pockets. We will walk and read poems in the woods and write our observations. The generative walk-and-write session should fill your field guide with lines and images for a poem.

BYO Lunch/Composition/Discussions 12:35PM – 1:05PM

Folks may choose to use the hour to grab snacks, use facilities, compose poetry, explore the area, or talk poetry shop.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Jason Vasser-Elong 1:05PM – 1:35PM

Narrative in poetry: Narrative is an important and useful element in poetry. It can help the reader delve into the complexities created through the story, while offering rich detail. This discussion will look at a few poems that utilize narrative, and we'll discuss how we balance narrative in our own work and how we appreciate it in others.

Participant Workshop: 1:35PM – 3:35PM

Folks will read their submitted poem and receive feedback from faculty and participants on the spot. Participant workshop poem packet will be circulated prior to workshop. One printed copy will be available to read from and an electronic version will allow everyone to follow along.

Open Poetry Discussion 3:35PM - 4:05PM

Curious about publishing? Putting together a manuscript? How do you know when a poem is "done" and ready for the world? Bring your own questions for faculty or for larger discussion.

Sunday, October 5, 2025(Timeline of Events):

Tyson Research Center & Endangered Wolf Center (Directions)

Timeline of Events:

Meet at Tyson Research Center Living Learning Classroom (LLC)

6750 Tyson Valley Rd, Eureka, MO 63025

9:30AM – 10:00AM

Pre-Workshop Hangout:

9:30AM – 10:00AM

Welcome Message from PITW Program Coordinator

10:00AM – 10:15AM

Faculty-Led Discussion: Adam Vines

10:15AM – 10:45AM

Revision is Reseeing: I will discuss the revision process as radical. We will look at a poem that went through dozens of drafts over twenty-five years and how and why it evolved. Poets can tweezer a poem into insignificance. Sometimes, a sledge and jackhammer are needed.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Andrea Scarpino

10:45AM – 11:15AM

Writing Hope in Traumatic Times: Emily Dickinson wrote, “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers—/ that perches in the soul.” But writing hope, especially in traumatic times, can feel nearly impossible/simplistic/possibly problematic (are we ignoring the world’s real suffering?). This discussion will focus on the power of writing hope, especially when it feels most challenging, and offer some ideas on how to do it authentically.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Eduardo Corral

11:15AM – 11:45AM

The Poem as Echo Chamber: In this talk, we’ll envision the poem as an echo chamber of three pleasures: linguistic, emotional, and intellectual. We’ll discuss the traits of each pleasure and then isolate the three pleasures in two poems and explore how the pleasures often overlap. We’ll also discuss the benefits of using the concept of a poem as an echo chamber as a reading and revision strategy.

BYO Lunch/Composition/Discussions

11:45AM – 1:00PM

Folks may choose to use the hour to grab snacks, use facilities, compose poetry, explore the area, or talk poetry shop.

Participant Workshop:

1:00PM – 2:30PM

Folks will read their submitted poem and receive feedback from faculty and participants on the spot. Participant workshop poem packet will be circulated prior to workshop. One printed copy will be available to read from and an electronic version will allow everyone to follow along.

Open Poetry Discussion

2:30PM - 3:30PM

Curious about publishing? Putting together a manuscript? How do you know when a poem is “done” and ready for the world? Bring your own questions for faculty or for larger discussion.

Potluck Poetry Reading @ LLC:

3:30PM – 5:30PM

There will be vegan chili, cornbread and other small bites