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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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June 26, 1996

ANNUAL WRITERS' WORKSHOP FEATURES MONTANA AUTHORS

MISSOULA --

Writers seeking to hone their skills will find help from two well-known Montana authors at The University of Montana's annual Yellow Bay Writers' Workshop on Flathead Lake Aug. 11-17.

David Long of Kalispell, author of a critically acclaimed collection of short stories, "Blue Spruce," and Deirdre McNamer of Missoula, a UM creative writing professor and author of two novels, will teach fiction writing classes during the writers' gathering at UM's Yellow Bay Biological Station. Joining Long and McNamer on the faculty will be poet Pattiann Rogers from Colorado and nonfiction writer Bill McKibben from upstate New York.

Mornings are devoted to workshops, afternoons to craft lectures and evenings to feature readings by faculty.

"It's a small, intimate gathering," said Annick Smith, the workshop's creative director. "People come from as far as Switzerland, and as near as Bigfork. We draw a diverse group ranging from writers in their twenties to retirees."

Each of the four workshops is limited to 15 participants. The application deadline has been extended to Monday, July 22. Cost of the weeklong event is \$735 and includes lodging, meals and workshop fees. For those who choose not to stay at Yellow Bay, a special commuter price of \$435 is offered.

"The tranquil and isolated setting of the Yellow Bay Biological Station provides an ideal

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atmosphere for writers," said Program Manager Paul Svrcek of UM's Center for Continuing Education. "Participants live in cabins along the lake and in the pine woods where they can contemplate nature, write, study and discuss matters of vital concern with fellow writers."

On Sunday, Aug. 11, emerging Montana writers Gayle Shirley, Woody Kipp and Jim Peterson will perform the first reading of the Montana Writers Tour sponsored by Hellgate Writers, a literary organization based in Missoula.

To apply for the Yellow Bay Writers' Workshop, write Shauna Miller, Center for Continuing Education, The University of Montana, Missoula, 59812-1900; call (406) 243-2094; fax (406) 243-2047; or e-mail shaunam@selway.umt.edu.

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