

The Passionate Fact: Storytelling Scientific, Historic and Cultural Information 3-Day Workshop

Event Date:

Fri, Feb 15, 2013

Susan Strauss, Professional Storyteller

A naturalist's life experience holds a wealth of story material. Personal experience or anecdote is the most accessible story form for the beginner storyteller and useful in a multitude of situations. Join Professional Storyteller Susan Strauss as she guides you through the creation and use of story to relay scientific, historic and/or cultural information. This workshop is designed for interpreters, educators and resource managers.

DAY 1 (Friday evening, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

In Day 1 of this workshop, participants will refine a personal anecdote for use in an interpretive program, while at the same time develop an understanding of the essential elements for developing any compelling story and a story well told. Participants need to bring to the workshop a personally moving experience they had in or with nature, history or culture. Their story will be put through a series of activities that will shape and transform it, making it ready for public telling. This journey will deepen the participants understanding of what is needed to form any compelling story, be it mythic, historic or folkloric. Participants also need to bring to the workshop a small body of specific scientific and/or historic information on a particular subject such as the geology of a specific area, a particular plant or animal or bio-region. This information will be worked into exercises on Day 1 and Day 2, and be specifically addressed on Day 3. Also included in Day 1:

- An introduction to other story forms.
- Samples of actual and potential interpretive uses of these forms.
- An introduction to voice work.

DAY 2 (Saturday, all day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

In Day 2, the basics are reinforced by learning to tell a traditional story; more specifically: myth, folk tale, fable, parable, legend or fairy tale. Engaging with the telling of a traditional story deepens the participant's understanding of the story crafting art as it varies in different cultural styles and has been refined over time. Participants may bring a traditional story of choice to learn or choose from a selection of tales that will be available. Voice and movement work from the first day will be further developed as it applies to character voice and narrative word choices. Practice techniques for memorizing stories will be introduced. Various texts of a single story will be studied to better understand the uses of language, dialogue and cultural/historic influences on a story.

DAY 3 (Sunday morning, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

In Day 3, what has taught in Day 1 and Day 2 is used to transform scientific, historic and/or cultural information into a story form or a "story way of giving information." A variety of story structures will be studied. Participants will go through a process for developing a story structure for their specific information. Model texts and recordings which illustrate how fact can be integrated with story will be studied and discussed. Movement, music, drawing and imaginative activities will be used to enhance and refine the story.

Please note: Food will be provided (snacks on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday). Registration is limited to 20 participants.

Code: WM021513

Date: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 15-17

Time: Workshop runs Friday night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FREE: Pre-registration required



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