

OPA 2025 Summer/Fall Contest Judges

Oregon Poet's Choice - Ellen Waterston

Member's Only - Emily Ransdell

Extended Prompt - Richard Tillinghast

Theme "Waves of Peace" - Charles Goodrich

Oregon Poet's Choice - Ellen Waterston (Oregon Poet Laureate)

Award-winning poet and author Ellen Waterston has dedicated herself to writing and advocating for the literary arts in the high desert region of Oregon, all the while continuing to write poetry and nonfiction works that have evolved into essential reading about Oregon and the West. She has published four poetry and five literary nonfiction titles, including, most recently, *We Could Die Doing This* (2024) and *Walking the High Desert* (2020). She is the founder of the Writing Ranch and of the annual Waterston Desert Writing Prize. 2024 was a banner year for Waterston who, that year, received Soapstone's Bread and Roses Award, Literary Arts' Stewart H Holbrook Award, and was named the eleventh Poet Laureate of Oregon. She is currently completing a fifth collection of poetry. For more information visit <https://www.writingranch.com/>

Member's Only - Emily Ransdell

Although she was born in Indiana and raised in Ohio, Emily Ransdell is a poet of the Pacific Northwest. For more than 30 years, Emily and her husband have divided their time between Camas, Washington and the North Oregon Coast. As evidenced in many poems, Emily holds these places dear—the scent of cedar and fir, the frequent drizzle of grey days. On the coast, she is active in the creative life of Manzanita's Hoffman Center for the Arts, where she founded the biannual Word & Image project, a juried collaboration between writers and artists. She teaches poetry workshops for poets at all levels there as well. Her debut poetry collection, *One Finch Singing* (2023), won the 2022 Concrete Wolf Louis Award. <https://emilyransdell.com/>

Extended Prompt - Richard Tillinghast

Richard Tillinghast has published fourteen books of poetry and five works of creative nonfiction including *Finding Ireland: A Poet's Explorations of Irish Literature and Culture*, and *Istanbul: City of Forgetting and Remembering*. His thirteenth book of poems, *Blue If Only I Could Tell You*, winner of the White Pine Press Poetry Prize, came out in 2022; his new book, *Night Train to Memphis*, is out this year, also from White Pine. He studied with Robert Lowell at Harvard and wrote a critical memoir, *Robert Lowell's Life and Work: Damaged Grandeur*. He has been a faculty member at Harvard, UC Berkeley, Sewanee, Trinity College Dublin, and the University of Michigan, and is one of the founders of Bear River Writer's Conference. Richard retired from the University of Michigan in 2005 and lived in Ireland for six years, moving back to this country in 2011. He now lives most of the year in Hawaii and spends his summers in Tennessee. <https://bit.ly/4dVRoF6>

Theme “Waves of Peace” - Charles Goodrich

Charles is the author of four volumes of poems, *Watering the Rhubarb*, *Going to Seed: Dispatches from the Garden*, *Insects of South Corvallis*, and *A Scripture of Crows*, and a collection of essays about nature, parenting, and building their house, *The Practice of Home*. He also co-edited two anthologies of writing at the interface of literature and science, *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens* and *Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry in an Old-Growth Forest*. He earned his MFA in creative writing from Oregon State University, and served for seven years as Director for the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word at Oregon State, a program that hosts writers' residencies, literary readings, and symposia at the intersection of literature, environmental science, and ethics.

<http://www.charlesgoodrich.com>