

## About the Wrangell Mountains Center

The Wrangell Mountains Center is a private nonprofit institute dedicated to environmental education, research, and the arts in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Our programs foster understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wildlands in Alaska and beyond. The Center's activities are based in the Old Hardware Store in McCarthy, AK. Located just one half mile from the toe of the Kennicott Glacier, the facility includes a meeting hall, dining room, library and other quiet writing rooms as well as a garden and cooperatively run kitchen. Tasty meals (mostly vegetarian) are included in the price of the workshop. In keeping with the Center's commitment to cooperative living and sustainable systems, writers are expected to contribute to daily chores surrounding preparation and clean-up of meals and garden upkeep. Camping is available for free at a private site ten minutes away by foot. Participants also have the option to rent a bed at the historic Commissioner's Cabin or the full service McCarthy Lodge. The workshop is available for credit through agreement with Prince William Sound Community College (CWLA 594, 1-2 credits).



### Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this workshop? \_\_\_\_\_  
 How do you plan to reach McCarthy? Will you drive, fly, or need a ride \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you're driving, are you willing to take riders? How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: *Optional college credit costs an additional \$25. Early enrollees paying in full by June 1<sup>st</sup> may deduct \$25 from total. Non-refundable deposit of \$75 due with registration. Balance of fees due July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Workshop fees (\$595.00 includes meals and camping).....	\$ _____
Tuition fees (\$25.00 for 2 credits, optional).....	\$ _____
Total Balance due.....	\$ _____
Early bird discount (minus \$25 if payment received by June 1)	\$ <u>25.00</u>
Total Enclosed.....	\$ _____

Deliver check or money order payable to **Wrangell Mountains Center** to:  
 2104 Lincoln Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99517. Call 503-791-1514.  
 or email [spandika@yahoo.com](mailto:spandika@yahoo.com) or [info@wrangells.org](mailto:info@wrangells.org)

Workshop is limited to 14 participants. Register soon!

# Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop

*Creative Cross-pollinations*

Frank Soos, Margo Klass, Nancy Cook  
Jonathon Gray and Maria Shell



July 17-24, 2010  
McCarthy, Alaska



Wrangell Mountains Center  
 Prince William Sound Community College  
 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve  
 Alaska State Council on the Arts

[www.wrangells.org](http://www.wrangells.org)

## About the Workshop

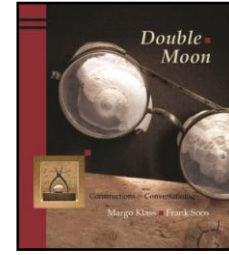
Join writers and visual artists to revivify your creativity within the gorgeous mountain setting and historic remains of McCarthy, Alaska and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Discover a melting glacier, write beside a quiet beaver pond, or witness nature's reclaiming of the famous Kennecott Mill. Workshop activities include craft talks and critique sessions led by visiting writer Frank Soos, along with field excursions and daily writing circles led by Workshop Director, Nancy Cook, plus various other craft sessions with visual art collaborators Margo Klass (box constructions & book artist) and Maria Shell (quiltmaker). As we work to craft original writings, we will also have the opportunity to help piece a community quilt and produce non-traditional book structures. Jonathon Gray (performance studies scholar), will lead a series of movement exercises designed to open the individual to deeper experiences of landscape. Looking to the landscape for natural stages, find innovative ways to perform our writings for a variety of audiences, and throughout the week, actively consider the ways performance affects the writing process—from invention to revision to, well, performance. Participants may work individually or take on collaborative projects. Maybe someone will write a one-act? Maybe someone will write with thread? Other activities include individual conferences, staff and participant readings, and guided opportunities to explore the area. Limited to 14 participants, this workshop provides an intimate, supportive artistic community in an inspiring setting.



## Theme for 2010: Creative Cross-pollinations

Why collaborate? Why cross-pollinate? In nature, cross-pollination occurs when pollen is delivered to a flower from a different plant. More broadly defined, cross-pollination is the influence or inspiration between or among diverse elements. Most plants reproduce by cross-pollination, which increases the genetic diversity of a population, but too often writers deem their work a solitary task. At the WMWW, we have witnessed the potential of writers working in intimate community, sharing ideas like pollen and producing stronger work because of it. This year's workshop simply ups the ante, presenting a diversity of approaches to fertilize writers' fruit. What can writers learn from visual artists? We might consider quilting or bookmaking as metaphor. Structure is central to a quilter's or bookmaker's process, and structure informs our perception of nature. Structure is also central to the craft of writing. Like quiltmakers, we piece ourselves, we piece our histories, and we certainly piece our essays, stories, poems—sometimes from given patterns, sometimes working organically, but always seeking to assemble our words with grace and impact. Throughout the week we will celebrate the spirit of Beginner's Mind: recognizing that something wonderful happens in the brain when we make it try something new—whether it be walking on a glacier for the first time, performing in a community word jam, or trying to bind a book with found natural materials.

## About the Workshop Staff



### Frank Soos & Margo Klass

Fairbanks writer and visual artist team Frank Soos and Margo Klass began their collaboration in 2002 by juxtaposing Margo's mixed media box constructions with Frank's miniature essays. Their intent is to create a conversational push and pull between visual art and words. **Frank Soos** has published two works of fiction: *Early Yet*, and *Unified Field Theory*, the 1997 winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, and a book of essays, *Bamboo Fly Rod Suite: Reflections on Fishing and the Geography of Grace*. His short essay responses to Margo's work represent a new and unexpected direction in his work, resulting in his most recent book, the collaborative *Double Moon: Constructions/Conversations*. Frank taught creative writing for 18 years at University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he is now Professor Emeritus. With a PhD from Bryn Mawr College, **Margo Klass** taught art in the Washington, D.C. area for more than 20 years before devoting full attention to her own artwork. Her mixed media constructions draw upon her training in art history, interest in medieval altarpieces, and responsiveness to the natural environment. She was Artist-in-Residence in Denali National Park in 2007. Exhibitions include the Dadian Gallery in Washington, D.C.; Bunnell Street Gallery in Homer, Alaska; Alaska Pacific University; and Fairbanks Arts Association. Her work is included in the collections of the Anchorage Museum and the University of Alaska Museum of the North. She is a 2008 recipient of a Rasmuson Individual Artist fellowship. [www.margoklass.com](http://www.margoklass.com).

**Nancy Cook** A former NPS Interpretive Ranger, Nancy Cook, Workshop Director received her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and currently serves on the full time faculty at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon. Her poems and prose have appeared in *River Teeth*, *Mountain Gazette*, *Anchorage Daily News*, *Slightly West* and the Seal Press anthology, *Going Alone*. The mother of one daughter, she continues to spend summers at her cabin near McCarthy.

**Jonathon Gray** An associate professor in the Department of Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University Carbondale Jonathon Gray PhD teaches and researches rhetoric and performance studies. His professional work addresses performance and other artistic practices as tools for fostering ecological awareness. His essays have appeared in *The Drama Review (TDR)*, *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, *Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture*, and *Call to Earth*. He is also a solo performer, currently touring two original shows nationwide: *Trail Mix: A Sojourn on the Muddy Divide Between Nature and Culture* and *Cross/Walking*.

**Maria Shell** Quiltmaker Maria Shell earned an MFA in Creative Nonfiction before becoming a full time visual artist. Her art quilts and threadwork have earned national and international recognition, with recent work featured in several prestigious gallery shows as well as the travelling shows *Explorations in Quilting* and *Fiber Force 2009*. She is one of 35 artists selected to represent Studio Art Quilts Associates in *SAQA@ 20: Art and Excellence 2009*. Awarded a Rasmuson Emerging Artist fellowship in 2009, several national and international art quilt magazines have featured her work, as will the forthcoming books *500 Art Quilts* and *Journey of Hope: Quilts Inspired by President Barack Obama*. [www.mariashell.com](http://www.mariashell.com).