

THE CRUMB

The Bread Loaf
Writers' Conference

VOL. 81

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006

NO. 6

“Breaking it down, old school style.”

Today's Events

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

8 a.m.

Writer's Cramp Race, starts next to the Annex

10:10 a.m.

Panel discussion: “A Film Scene I Wish I Had Written,” with Mark Doty, Randall Kenan, and Ted Perry, Barn 1

12:30 p.m.

Picnic at the Frost Farm and a talk with John Elder: “Robert Frost: Poet as Naturalist”

4:15 p.m.

Reading: Oni Buchanan, Katherine Noel, and Cheryl Strayed, Little Theatre

5:30 p.m.

- Special talk: H. Emerson Blake on *Orion*, Little Theatre
- Blue Parlor reading, Blue Parlor

6:30 p.m.

Dinner, Bread Loaf Inn

8:15 p.m.

Reading: Rachel DeWoskin and Mark Doty, Little Theatre

Bookstore Hours Today and Tomorrow

Today the bookstore will be open **9 a.m. to 12 noon** but will not be open this afternoon. On Tuesday it'll be open **9 a.m. to 12 noon** and **2 to 6 p.m.**

• **Wanted:** Faculty and fellows ready to serve up Wednesday lunch in the dining hall. Please sign up in the Back Office.

Take a Break Today

Time to rest. No workshops today. Relax and recover.

Picnic Day

Join us at Homer Noble Farm, located about 1.5 miles from the Bread Loaf Inn. Stroll down with us. For those who would like a ride in the Bread Loaf van, meet in front of the Inn at 12:15 p.m. Following the picnic, John Elder will give a talk entitled “Poet as Naturalist: Robert Frost and the Forests of Vermont.” Afterward we'll tour Robert Frost's summer cabin. For those unable to hike the small hill from the picnic area to the Frost cabin, a minivan will be available for a mini-taxi ride to the top. Don't miss this event—John is one of the most popular teachers at Middlebury College, where he teaches English and environmental studies. He lives in the nearby village of Bristol with his wife Rita. His two most recent books, *Reading the Mountains of Home* and *The Frog Run*, explore the meaning of Vermont's landscape and environmental history for him as a teacher, writer, and householder. He is co-editor of the *Norton Anthology of Nature Writing*.

Please note: If the picnic gets rained out, we'll post this information on the front door of the dining hall today by 11 a.m.

Bread Loaf Blogfest

Starting today the conference goes online on the Poetry Foundation's Web site. Five writers from the conference will offer their perspectives on the happenings and buzz around campus on the Bread Loaf Journal. Check it out under the Journals section at: www.poetryfoundation.org/

Important Departure Details

Go to the front desk today after lunch to confirm your flight, bus or car-rental departure time. Please do this today as it will simplify departure planning.

Announcements

No shuttle today

The shuttle to Middlebury won't be running today, but it will run Tuesday through Friday.

Volleyball players wanted

Come to the volleyball court, weather permitting, at 9 o'clock today. We'll have a Frisbee and soccer ball, too - as other options.

Massage

Prevent or release tension and stress. Sign up for a massage today, Tuesday, or Wednesday. The bulletin board is outside the dining hall. Only three days left.

Lost

Black cap with "INTERVIEW" on bill. Please return to the front desk, mailbox 2383.

Overheard

- "I can't eat just anyone's hummus." "That's because you're married."
- "He's a solid 'B' plus." "What?! Isn't that grade inflation?"

Write It Out: The Overheard Challenge

Up for some fun? Take one of the lines from the Overheard section and incorporate it in a short poem or the first paragraph of a story. Drop a copy of it (with your name written legibly) into the Crumb box near the Back Office. Each day's winner will receive a complimentary soda or water from the front desk.

Learn about Orion

H. Emerson Blake will offer a talk on Orion today, at 5:30 p.m., in Barn A.

Blake is the editor-in-chief of Orion, a magazine devoted to ecology and cultural change. Previously he was editor-in-chief of Milkweed Editions, a book publisher. He is the editor of hundreds of magazine articles, as well as many books of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's fiction. Among the writers he has worked with are Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest Williams, Wendell Berry, Faith Sullivan, Rick Bass, Jane Goodall, David James Duncan, Pattiann Rogers, Joseph Bruchac, and Mary Oliver.

Visitors

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain: Thom Ward, H. Emerson Blake, Peter Connors, and John Elder. The following conference guests will be leaving the mountain today: Miriam Altshuler, Gregory Donovan, Peter Lewis & Ted Walsh, Martha Rhodes, and Anjali Singh.

BOA Talk Canceled

- Due to a last minute change in scheduling, the editors from BOA Editions are unable to arrive in time to offer the afternoon talk today on BOA. They will, however, be able to make all of the individual meetings already scheduled with Bread Loafers.

Get to Know the Faculty, a Quiz

- Name the faculty member who dived two miles to the bottom of the ocean in a three-man submarine to observe underwater volcanoes. (The answer will be published in tomorrow's Crumb.)

- Yesterday's challenge: Name the faculty member who wrote a science fiction novel under the pseudonym of "Shale Aaron." Answer: Robert Boswell.

Talk about Mysteries

- Come to a discussion about mystery writing, moderated by Bread Loafer Ronnie Klaskin, today at 11 a.m. in the Blue Parlor. The talk will cover mysteries with literary merit, the wide range of mystery styles, the different requirements of mystery novels and mystery short stories, and marketing the mystery novel.

Bread Loafing with Kids?

Join other Bread Loafers, their partners, and their toddlers (or babies! or school-age children!) for a playgroup at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday (8/22), Barn A. Bring some toys if you can!

Put on Your Blue Suede Parlor Shoes

The Blue Parlor continues to rock the Inn (or should I say the casbah) as last night's travel reading packed the Blue Parlor. Tonight's open reading bill is: Sanae Yamada, Meghan Clay, John Raimo, Laura Golberg, Turner Davies, Lindsay Moore, Gus Napier, J. Mickela Sonola, Annie Pluto, and Kathleen Gurnett. The reading starts at 5:30 p.m. – be there or be square.

A sign-up went up this morning for Wednesday's "One Minute in Heaven" reading. All flash fiction, poems, non-fiction, etc. is welcome. Please make sure your piece is timed to **one minute** and get ready for an evening of one-minute of paradise. There will be spaces for 50 – so sign-up today! Tomorrow, the sign-ups for "Religion and Politics" and the "Erotica" reading will be posted. Please make sure to write your name legibly.

Questions? Suggestions? Riddles? Contact Blue Parlor Czarina
Nina McConigley.

.....

New Work

(Excerpts from the workshops)

My dad likes tuna fish and fresh lemonade. He loves his dogs. He likes after-dinner liqueur drinks and Chateau d'Quiem. He likes clever gadgets (hands-free, hard-boiled egg peeler; one-touch cappuccino maker) and things that last a long time (forty-year-old sports coat bought in 1952 for \$150). Sweets are for normal people with normal expectations of the shitty, miserable ordeal that is life. Candy to these people offers a respite, a mirage, an oasis on which to enjoy a few, crap-free minutes of existence while gumming a *See's* dark chocolate nougat. These people are not my father.

- from "Visitation," by Laurie Frankel

[The monk] was conscientious about the penances he assigned, recording every one, and checking with the sister when next he shrove her, to be sure she had followed his instructions. Sometimes he asked a sister to lift her robes and show him the marks, so he could be certain that her penance had been performed with sufficient vigor...He suffered tremendously in the performance of these duties, feeling the devil fingering his own body.

- from "Being on Fire," by Jean Petrolle