

Writing Arizona: An Immersive Haiku Workshop

Study and practice with two experienced and beloved haiku teachers in an inspirational setting.

Set at the foot of the Chiricahua Mountains alongside Cave Creek, Portal is known as an international birding site with eight bio zones from desert steppe to alpine meadows.



Who: Teachers, **Tom Painting & Agnes Eva Savich**

20 participants + host, Deborah Bowman

What: Deepen your writing, receive feedback & enjoy the outdoors!

When: September 11 - 14, 2025

Where: Portal, AZ

Why not!

Generative activities include bird and nature walks and a dark skies party with the stars. Participants are encouraged to workshop haiku brought from home as well as poems written during our time together. Some of our workshop activities will be divided into two sections for an intimate opportunity to learn with both facilitators.

Agnes Eva Savich is a haiku poet and oboe musician performing in local orchestras and a woodwind quintet. She lives in Austin, Texas where she works at the university. Agnes is an HSA mentor and currently serves as a Touchstone Awards panelist, HSA Southwest Regional Coordinator, Treasurer on the HNA Director's Board, and leader of the Austin Haiku Group and Pflugerville Poetry Society.

Tom Painting teaches at the Paideia School in Atlanta, GA. His students have been recognized in prestigious writing events, such as the United Nations International School Haiku Competition. Tom is an associate editor for the haiku journal *The Heron's Nest* and has been active in the haiku community for over twenty-five years. Tom is an active birder and leads birding walks for youth in Georgia.

2025 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

THUR, SEPT 11

5:30 **Dinner** Welcome, orientation, get to know one another

FRI, SEPT 12

- 6:30 **Breakfast** (early to see birds & walk before it's hot!)
- 7:30 - 9 *Ginko walk* Group A: Tom - birding Group B: Agnes/Deborah - nature
- 10 - 11:15 *How to Haiku: Workshop* with Tom
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 3 - 4:30 *Haiku and the Art of Revision* Group A: Tom Group B: Agnes
- 5:30 **Dinner**
- 7:30 *Dark Skies: gathering* at Deborah's home **dessert, drinks**

SAT, SEPT 13

- 6:30 **Breakfast** (early to see birds & walk before it's hot!)
- 7:30 - 9 *Ginko* Group A: Agnes/Deborah - nature walk, Group B: Tom - bird walk
- 10 - 11:15 *Human Nature and Nature: Workshop* with Agnes
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 3 - 4:30 *Haiku and the Art of Revision* Group A: Agnes Group B: Tom
- 5:30 **Dinner**
- 7:30 *Kukai: sharing haiku* at the library

SUNDAY, SEPT 14

- 6:30 Optional bird feeder visit to neighborhood site
- 8 **Breakfast, farewells**
- 11 Check out time at Lodge

Accommodations

Rooms are at the Portal Peak Lodge where most of our meals will be served. Good weather may allow us to have some meals under the shade of the sycamore trees on their generous patio. Downtown boasts an historic post office and library — that's it!

All rooms have 2 double beds, bathroom, microwave, etc. To learn more about the site see portalpeaklodge.com

Our group rate for double accommodations at the Lodge, 3 nights: \$176 for each person sharing a double room. We are happy to assist in pairing you with another participant (see registration form below). Tax included in the fee.

Our group rate for single accommodations at Lodge, 3 nights: \$352 for one participant in a double room. There are limited rooms available for single occupancy. Sign up early if you would like a room for just yourself. Tax included in the fee.

Due to the number of rooms at the lodge limited space is available for non-participating partners. Please contact us if you are interested in this possibility.

There are nearby National Forest camping sites (Idlewild, Stewart and Sunny Flats), a commercial trailer park (Rusty's RV Ranch) and other accommodations in the area.

Meals at the Lodge

\$155 for full 8 meal package (tax & tips included, does not include drinks). You will have 2 choices at each meal. Most meals are served in a dedicated dining hall for our group at the Portal Cafe. The Friday & Saturday breakfasts will be served offsite. If you want vegetarian, vegan or gluten free meals please indicate this on your reservation sheet.

Besides wine & a few sundries at the lodge store there are no regular grocery or drug stores within 55 miles of Portal. The closest gas station is 25 miles.

Workshop Fee \$95

We anticipate our workshop will fill up fast and we will be accepting a waitlist in case of cancellations.

If you intend to stay and eat at the lodge please make your payment for the workshop, accommodations and meals at the same time.

Travel

Portal is in a remote area. Plan to arrive in town for our Thursday night dinner. There are no other food services in the area after the cafe hours. At night the roads are dark, animals abound and if you get a flat it can be a long wait with no cell service.

If you wish to carpool from the airport in Tucson please indicate on your sign up sheet that you want to make your contact information available to others who are also interested in carpooling. It is a 2.5 hour drive.

Vehicles

Please let us know if you will have a vehicle on site and if you are willing to help us transport participants to and from some of our activities (max. 4 miles either way).

Mobility

If the morning walks are not accessible for you, the patio at the Ranch with their outdoor bird feeders is a good alternative. The Ranch also has a cozy room with an excellent collection of books available for identification of both flora and fauna.

What to bring

Sturdy shoes, socks and casual clothes. Layer warm clothes for possible cool mornings and evenings and cool clothes for hot days. It can be windy and long sleeves and pants help even when it is warm.

Sun hats, sunscreen, sunglasses and a water bottle are essential.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Let us know if you don't have a pair and we will make sure we have enough good loaners for everyone.

Mosquitos are not a problem. A small flashlight is helpful at night.

Bring \$1's and \$5's if you wish to visit the local bird feeders. The 10 a.m workshops on Friday and Saturday will be at Cave Creek Ranch. If you wish to linger at their many feeders before or after the morning workshop there is a \$5 fee. A hiking trail is nearby and you are free to wander the gravel roads on and near their property.

Safety

In answer to a common question: rattlesnakes are in this area. You will be instructed in safety measures and we will be practicing mindful walking. Good for you and good for haiku!

In case of any kind of illness or emergency, EMT services are available in town. If necessary, a person for hire will be available to drive a participant to the nearest urgent care an hour away. A helicopter pad is one minute from the lodge for flight-for-life medical emergencies.

Questions? Please contact [Deborah](#).

Registration form on page 5.

Writing Arizona: Immersive Haiku Workshop 2025
Registration Form — Please Print

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

_____ \$95 Workshop Fee

_____ \$176 3 nights Shared Two Double Bed Room (group rate, includes tax)

I am sharing a room with _____

Would you like us to share your contact info with others interested in sharing a room? _____ Would you like us to pair you with someone of the same sex? _____

_____ \$352 3 nights Single Occupancy Room (group rate, includes tax)

_____ \$155 Meal Plan (group rate, includes tax & tips, does not include drinks or alcohol)

___ non-vegetarian ___ vegetarian ___ vegan ___ gluten free

___ other food restrictions _____

_____ Total fees: Check _____ Venmo _____ PayPal (3%fee) _____

To register and hold your spot please email a copy or a photo of this completed form to dbowmanphd@gmail.com. You will be invoiced if you wish to pay by Venmo or PayPal.

Send checks payable to: Deborah Bowman, P.O. Box 16243, Portal, AZ 85632. We will hold your spot and contact you if we have not received a check within one week of your registration.

If you need to cancel please do so ASAP. If you cancel you are responsible for the workshop fee unless we are able to fill your spot. You are responsible for your lodging fee if you cancel after August 10 except in the case of a serious emergency.

Other:

_____ Would you like us to share your contact info with others who are interested in sharing a rental car to and/or from the Tucson airport? (It's a 2.5 hour drive one way).

_____ Are you willing to shuttle other participants to our local activities? How many are able to help shuttle in your vehicle _____. I will let you know later if I can help shuttle _____.

_____ I do not have binoculars and will need a loaner pair. Thanks!