



Catalyst Summer Writing Workshops At Dodge Nature Center with Marlais Brand, MFA

**Tuesdays 6-8pm, June 24-July 29 (no class July 1st)
Common Room, Dodge Nature Preschool
1715 Charlton Street, West Saint Paul**

Marlais Brand, Dodge teacher and author of our Dodge blog, *The Catalyst*, is hosting an exciting new class this summer for adventurous people, aged 16-100+ :

Let the landscape be your catalyst too. Join me Tuesday nights for a mid-summer writing adventure. Each class will begin with a gentle early evening hike. We will discover the hidden gems of Dodge Nature Center and focus on the flora and fauna that define this special place. For the second half of each class, we will gather for a low-key, fun writing “workshop.” Students will be invited to share their own writing for discussion and together we will read the work of various Minnescentric authors, taking a closer look at how they create a sense of place. Participants are invited to write in any genre they like--narrative, memoir, fiction, non-fiction, poetry etc--no “nature” writing necessary, and no experience necessary.

Writers we read may include Beryl Singleton Bissell, Bill Holm, Robert Bly, Paul Gruchow, Louise Erdrich, Sandra Benitez, Vidar Sundstol and others.

*Tuition: \$100 (Dodge Nature Center Members and Preschool families, \$80)
Contact Marlais to register: mbrand@dodgecenter.org or 612-978-9671*

Please bring a brief excerpt of your favorite writing about anything by any author to the first class.

Materials: notebook and pen or pencil

Suggested Materials: bug spray, water bottle, sense of adventure and snacks for yourself, or to share (I'll bring some too!)

Marlais not only writes for *The Catalyst*, she is a published author with experience teaching composition, poetry and fiction writing classes. Marlais is currently at work on a new collection of place-based fiction, *The Hungry Coast: Fables from the North Shore of Minnesota*. Learn more about Marlais and her writing life at www.marlaisobrand.com and read her latest *Catalyst* post at www.dodgecatalyst.blogspot.com.