



Nebraska Writing Project

Platte River State

Writing Marathon & Retreat

September 8-10, 2017

Platte River State Writing Marathon
Sept. 9, 2017, 12:00PM at Owen Landing

Spend the weekend with fellow NeWP teachers at Platte River State Park, located between Lincoln and Omaha on I-80 at 14421 346th St. Louisville, NE 68037. Options for lodging and participating are outlined below. RSVP to marathon or retreat events to dweis@cox.net

(Park entry requires a permit for each vehicle. Permits are \$5 per day or \$25 for an annual permit.)

Accommodation Options:

Reserve a space in the NeWP cabins, Chokecherry. Each cabin is equipped for 6, mostly bunk beds. The cost per person for the weekend is \$60 due at the time of the reservation. To hold a space, contact Diana Weis at dweis@cox.net by August 7th.

Reserve your own accommodations at the park. Platte River has options to reserve a cabin. Families or groups are welcome. To check availability and prices call 402-234-2217 or check online at <http://nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com/> The cabins closest to our NeWP Chokecherry cabins are the Goldenrod, and Bur Oak cabins (these are housekeeping cabins with a shared bathhouse but they rent for only \$50-60/ night and sleep 8). The Owen Cabins are also available and are more modern. They are on the other side of the lake. Tent accommodations are available in nearby parks. See the Platte River State Park website for more information.

Come for the Marathon on Saturday, Sept. 9th : Join us for the Fall Writing Marathon, starting with lunch at 11:30 at Platte River State Park's Owen Landing (bring a picnic or buy something from the concession stand). We will launch the writing marathon around 12:00 from the dock. Enjoy writing in the park's beautiful, rustic setting and wrap up your day with snacks and a read-around at our NeWP Chokecherry Cabins starting at 3:30 and wrapping up around 4:00. You're welcome to stay for the Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the campfire, too.

Friday, Sept. 8th

- 5:00 p.m. Check in at Chokecherry
- 6:30 p.m. Pizza Party (bring \$3 a slice)
- 7:30 p.m. Campfire & Writing Activity

Tentative Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 9th

- 9:00 a.m. UnConference & Pancake Feed
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Owen Landing (picnic lunch or concession stand)
- 12:00 p.m. **Platte River State Writing Marathon**
- 3:30 p.m. Marathon read around at the Chokecherry Cabins
- 4:30 p.m. Date-a-Book Book Exchange* (see below for details)
- 6:30 p.m. Writing Retreat Potluck and Pick a Passage

Bring a dish to share. If you are bringing one that needs to be kept warm, there are outlets in the cabins to accommodate crock pots. If your dish requires a particular serving utensil, you may wish to bring that as the cabins have limited utensils. Paper plates, napkins and plastic ware will be furnished. Bring your choice of beverage, but tea or lemonade will be available. **If you would like to participate in Pick a Passage, please bring a piece of your own writing to share or a passage from a favorite book that you would like to read to the group after the potluck.**

- 8:00 p.m. Campfire & S'mores Social

Sunday, Sept. 10th

- 9:00 a.m. Optional Writers' Coffee Klatch Groups
(meet at Owen and bring four copies of previous writing to share)
- 11:00 a.m. Checkout and resume life with a broader smile and lighter heart.

*Book Exchange: Bring as many of those books that you've read or the ones you never quite got to and place each in a paper bag Seal it and write a three to five line description of the book on the outside. The exchange will happen following the read around on Saturday. Feel free to drop them off at Chokecherry cabins before the marathon, so you can travel a little lighter.

Platte River State Park Nature-lovers delight in the variety of flora and fauna found at the park and its environs. Typical species include those common to the eastern hardwood forests, the tall-grass prairies, and the Platte River flood plain woodlands. This overlapping makes the park a rare treat for visitors interested in the world of nature.

For more info: http://outdoornebraska.gov/parks/park_pages/PlatteRiver_SP/

Activities range from swimming at the supervised pool to guided horseback trail rides through the timbered hills. Sights to see include the quaint Red Barn (converted to a group camp) and a charming little waterfall