

## Why This Writing Conference Is Unique

One of the things that makes Peninsula Writers retreats/conferences special is that we do not just talk about writing---we write. Conference participants actually have time to compose and share what they have created in small writing groups every day. It is the reason we have gathered since 1984.

## About Us

Peninsula Writers is a non-profit organization supporting writers and writing. Incorporated in 1984, PW was founded by a group of teachers who believed that the best way to teach writing was to be a writer. Over the years, Peninsula Writers' role has enlarged to encompass any writer from any walk of life. Much has changed since 1984, but the commitment to writing and the process involved, to the encouragement of writing, has not changed. We continue to celebrate writers and writing.

## About Small Groups and Read-Around

If you are at a PW Retreat, you will be participating in a small group and read-around. The small writing group is a one of the central premises of a Peninsula Writers. The first audience is the writer. The next audience is the small group. Small group is designed so that writers not only shares their writing, but get feedback and give feedback. Finally, there is read-around where the author finds a larger audience. All steps are necessary to the writing process.

## Contact Us

Peninsula Writers can be found at:

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

[www.facebook.com/PeninsulaWriters/](https://www.facebook.com/PeninsulaWriters/)

<https://www.instagram.com/peninsulawritersmi/>

For questions about the retreat, contact:

[cerisefuhrman@att.net](mailto:cerisefuhrman@att.net)



# The Elk Lake Conference featuring Mary Ann Samyn

Winner of the Ohio State UP/*The Journal* prize,  
Professor of English undergraduate and MFA programs in creative writing at West Virginia University



For information about PW Scholarships, go to our website, or contact Robyn Ford: [inkspot77@comcast.net](mailto:inkspot77@comcast.net)

To view the resort and cottages, <https://wandawoodresort.com/>



## A HOME BY THE LAKE PENINSULA WRITERS 2026 ELK LAKE CONFERENCE AND RETREAT SEPT.12---19, 2026

### RETREAT INFORMATION

**DATES:** 3:30 PM SATURDAY SEPT. 12 THROUGH 10:00 AM SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

**PLACE:** WANDAWOOD RESORT ON BEAUTIFUL ELK LAKE NEAR ELK RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**PURPOSE:** WRITERS' CONFERENCE AND RETREAT FOR WRITERS AND EDUCATORS

If you would like to acquire your own housing, check the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce for housing. <https://www.elkrapidschamber.org/>

## Conference Schedule (Subject to change)

### **Saturday, Sept. 12**

**3:30-5:00** Arrivals

**5:30** Small group leaders meeting\* (Pilgrim)

**6:00** Mentor meeting\* (Pilgrim)

**6:20** New members, first time attendees, long-time gone attendees meeting (Pilgrim)

**6:30** Welcome Dinner /Introductions  
(Pilgrim House)

Meet with Small Groups (Pilgrim)

### **Sunday, Sept. 13**

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

**4:00** Workshop with Mary Ann Samyn (Pilgrim)

**5:30** Dinner at Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen\*

### **Monday, Sept. 14**

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

**3:00—4:00** Ekphrastic event at Walk of Art  
Sculpture Park (weather permitting)

**7:00** Margarita Ice Cream social (Pilgrim)

### **Tuesday, Sept. 15**

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

**6:00** Soup and salad dinner (Pilgrim)

### **Wednesday, Sept. 16**

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

**3:00** Large group meeting (Pilgrim)

### **Thursday, Sept. 17**

**12:00-1:00ish** Lunch on the Lawn (Pilgrim)

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

### **Friday, Sept. 18**

**1:00** Small Writing Groups

**5:30** Read-Around followed by  
Closing Night Pot Luck (Pilgrim)

### **Saturday, Sept. 19**

**8:30 –10:00** Goodbyes/Group departs

## **Other Fun or Useful Things (optional)**

5:00 from Monday---Thursday —Social Hour at  
Pilgrim House

Create a genre-based group (poetry, fantasy, CNF,  
literary fiction or whatever)

Get a new-to-you read at the used book sale in  
Pilgrim House

Walk one of the many trails around Elk Rapids

Go out to breakfast

Go shopping in Elk Rapids or Traverse City

**Personal time has been built into the  
schedule. If there is interest in  
additional specialty small writing  
group meetings, sign-up sheets will be  
posted.**

**Scholarship recipients are *REQUIRED*  
to attend *ALL SESSIONS* except  
*optional events* (\*)**



## **Housing Fee Due in Full if You Cancel**

**Once you commit to a retreat/conference,  
you are responsible for paying your  
housing fee in full, even if you are unable  
to attend the conference.**

Once you have reserved your space, if you are unable to attend the conference for any reason, **you are still responsible for paying your full share of the housing expense if you or PW are unable to find someone else to take your place.** When housing is reserved, PW guarantees that rental to the provider ; if you cannot attend, that housing cost still has to be covered. In an effort to keep our conferences as affordable as possible, it is the policy of Peninsula Writers not to pass this expense to other members, but to collect the funds from the original registrant if a replacement registrant cannot be found. This policy holds true for those receiving scholarship funds for housing. **If you have received a scholarship, but are unable to attend the conference, your scholarship will be voided. If a replacement registrant cannot be found, you will be responsible for the full portion of your housing costs.**

**PENINSULA WRITERS RETREAT AT Wandawood Resort Sept. 12—19, 2026**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

PW Member? Yes No (\$50 non-refundable membership fee due with registration)

Must be a current member to attend the conference.

Amount due with registration: **CURRENT MEMBERS= \$470** (\$70.00 registration fee; \$400.00 housing deposit)

**NEW MEMBERS = \$520** (\$70.00 registration fee; \$400.00 housing deposit; plus \$50 membership dues)

Roommate(s) preference \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage Preference (cottage cannot be guaranteed) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_

Linen package fee to be added to final payment

**PLEASE CIRCLE APPLICABLE CONSIDERATIONS:**

Difficulty climbing stairs.

Unable / unwilling to share cottage with opposite gender.

Request private bedroom. PLEASE NOTE: If space is available in your cottage, you may request a private room. However, a single room CANNOT BE GUARANTEED!

I am applying for PW Scholarship assistance. (PLEASE NOTE: Scholarship Deadline for all materials is May 15, 2026. Applications / instructions available on website @ [www.peninsulawriters.com](http://www.peninsulawriters.com) Mail to: ROBYN FORD, 1404 Yarrow Dr., Holt, MI 48842.)

Other:

**Registration due by Friday, May 29. No refunds after May 29th. Space limited. We will try to accommodate all participants, but specific accommodations cannot be guaranteed!**

**Your BALANCE OWED will be billed via email, and is due by July. 14th.**

**A map, directions, and more details about the retreat will be e-mailed to participants.**

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration and fees to: PW 2026 Elk Lake Conference, c/o SJBTS, P.O. Box 1, St. Johns, MI 48879. Make checks payable to Peninsula Writers. Please Note: No fees or dues will be collected at the conference.**

**ABOUT THE COTTAGES & PRICING:**

Pricing is per bed based on the number of beds filled. Final costs (including linen package) and cottages cannot be determined until after the registration deadline. Price goes down the more people register. ( See chart.). All cottages are one story except PILGRIM HOUSE. Suggested occupancies are indicated below. We try to honor specific cottage requests, but space is limited; participants will be matched to openings until capacity is reached on the Wandawood campus You will receive cottage assignment confirmation by **June 27th**. Conference organizers will contact you personally if any changes arise after that date.

**BED AVAILABILITY** is included below to help participants determine their cottage preference. Again, every effort will be made to place you in your cottage choice, but such placement cannot be guaranteed.

**KEY Q = Queen ALL COTTAGES HAVE WIFI**

**Pilgrim House: 5 bedrooms/3 baths/2 stories: 3 Q (down); 1 Q, 1 daybed (Up)**  
**RESERVED;CONFERENCE CENTER**

**Vagabond North:** 3 bedrooms, 1 bath: 2 Q, 1 with 2 Double 3—4 people

**Vagabond South:** 1bedroom, 1 bath: 1 Q, 2 Double in living room 2-3 people

**Rambler North:** 2 bedroom, 1 bath: 1Q, 1 with 2 Double & 2 bunked twins 2-4 people

**Rambler South:** 1 bedroom, 1 bath: 2 Double, 1 Q in living room alcove 2-3 people

**Venture North:** 1 bedroom, 1 bath: 1 Q, 2 single in living room 2-3 people

**Venture South:** 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 Q, 2 single in living room 2-3 people

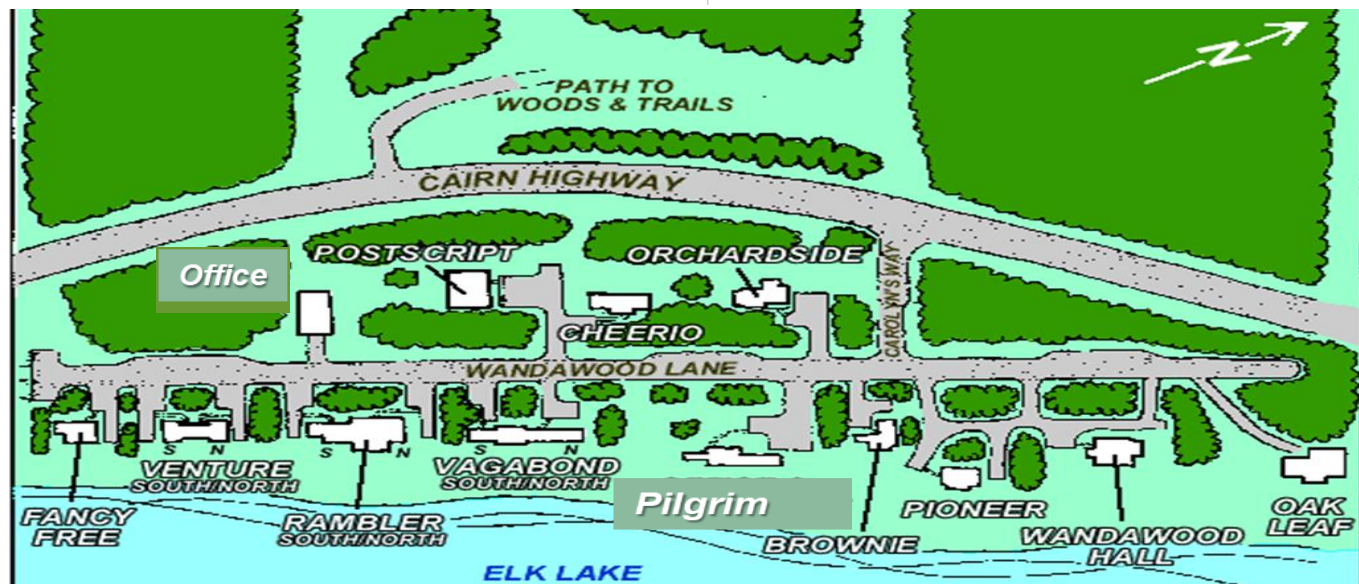
**Fancy Free:** 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 Q, Futon in living room 2—3 people

After your registration is received, and when cottage assignments are completed, you will receive an email indicating your cottage assignment, roommates, and balance due in advance of the conference.

## Price Estimate Chart

Estimated pricing is per bed based on the number of beds filled. Final costs and cottages cannot be determined until after the registration deadline. *(These estimates do not include the linen package.)*

- 24 people--- \$603 per person
- 20 people--- \$723 per person
- 16 people---\$904 per person
- 12 people---\$1205 per person
- 8 people---\$1808 per person



***We have all the lakeside cottages from Pilgrim south.***

**All Cabins to include LINEN PACKAGE (additional cost dependent on cottage assignment. Cost to be divided among cabin occupants, added to final payment, )**

- 1-bedroom cabin---\$40
- 2-bedroom cabin---\$50
- 3-bedroom cabin---\$60

All sheets/ pillow cases, bath towels, wash clothes, hand soap, dish clothes/sponge, kitchen towels, dish soap, paper towel, garbage bags, toilet paper.

**Pilgrim House**---linen package included

No cleaning fee for the cottages