



## An Immersive Workshop

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

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

**Who:** **Tom Painting & Mary Stevens**  
18 participants + host, Deborah Bowman

**When:** Sept. 24-27, 2026  
**Where:** Portal, AZ

Classes and workshops led by Tom and Mary invite all levels of haiku writers to feel at home, enriched and challenged in this participatory and intimate gathering.

Participants are encouraged to workshop poems written during our time together as well as poems brought from home. There will be opportunities for everyone to learn and receive feedback with both facilitators. Generative activities include nature and bird walks as well as writing prompts and time for quiet reflection.

**Tom Painting** teaches at the Paideia School in Atlanta, GA. His students have been recognized in the United Nations International School Haiku Competition and the Nicholas Virgilio Memorial Haiku Contest. Tom served as an associate editor for the haiku journal *The Heron's Nest* and has been active in the haiku community for over thirty years. Tom is an avid birder and leads walks for his school community.

**Mary Stevens** is author of haiku collection *enough light* (2023). She judged the Peggy Willis Lyles Awards contest (2024) and is a judge for the Touchstone Awards. With the Route 9 Haiku group, she publishes the haiku journal *Upstate Dim Sum*. Mary is a freelance book indexer living in the Hudson Valley, NY. She loves capturing beauty and meaning through writing and expressive movement.

Questions & registration: [dbowmanphd@gmail.com](mailto:dbowmanphd@gmail.com)

THUR, SEPT 24, 2026

5:00	Cafe Dinner, Orientation	7 - 8 Haiku warm-up	Town
<b>FRI, SEPT 25</b>			
7:00	Catered Breakfast		Cave Creek Ranch (CCR)
7:45-8:45	Ginko walk	Tom, Mary & Deborah	South Fork
9 -10	Tom — Haiku: A First & Last for Everything		CCR
We will explore memorable moments, both the firsts and lasts and ponder the fleeting here-and-now. For inspiration, participants will call upon some of the many fine haiku written in English that illustrate the workshop's theme.			
10:30-11:30	Writing revision:	Group A: Mary	Group B: Tom
noon	Catered Lunch		CCR
2:15-3:15	Mary — Connecting with the Self Who Writes		Library
Take a deep dive into what you are about as a haiku poet and how you can support your writerly self. Let's find out how your writing might be a way you, in Parker Palmer's words, "answer the heart's longing to be connected with the largeness of life."			
5	Cafe Dinner		Town
7:00	Haiku play & social, <b>drinks &amp; dessert</b>		Deborah's
<b>SAT, SEPT 26</b>			
7:00	Catered Breakfast		CCR
8 - 9	Mary — Writing with <i>Wabi Sabi</i>		CCR
We will look at the Japanese aesthetic of <i>wabi-sabi</i> —the transitory beauty of things—in the haiku of ancient and modern masters. Bring along an object you like that is imperfect or shows the effects of time and is made of natural materials so others may contemplate it to compose haiku.			
9:30 - 11	Writing revision:	Group A: Tom	Group B: Mary
noon	Catered Lunch		CCR
2:15 - 3:15	Tom — Haiku: A First and Last for Everything (continued)		Library
5	Cafe Dinner		Town
7:30 - 9	Kukai: final sharing haiku		Library
<b>SUN, SEPT 27</b>			
	6:30 - 8 am	Catered Breakfast	Deborah's

## **Recommended lodging with a range of prices:**

**Cave Creek Ranch** - All various cabins have beds, bathrooms and a kitchen. 2 miles west of Portal. <https://www.cavcreekranch.com/lodging/>

**Portal Peak Lodge and Cafe** All rooms have 2 double beds, bathroom. In town. <https://www.portalodge.com/new-page-2>

**Rusty's RV Ranch** - Trailer park with swimming pool. 8 miles east of Portal. <https://rustysrvranch.com/>

**Coronado National Forest** - Camping for vans, tents. (sites: Idlewild, Stewart and Sunny Flats). 3-5 miles west of Portal. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/coronado/recreation>

**Air b&b's** - Myrtle Kraft, Querencia, Four Bar, Quail Run. All locations .2 - 5 miles east of Portal. <https://www.airbnb.com/>

## **Travel**

Plan to arrive in town in time for our Thursday night dinner. At night the roads are dark and animals abound. If you get a flat it can be a long wait with no cell service.

Portal is remote. Downtown Portal boasts a historic library & post office. That's it! Besides wine & sundries at the Portal Peak Lodge & Cafe there are no regular grocery or drug stores within 1 hour of Portal. The closest gas station is 25 miles.

## **Accessibility**

The patio with outdoor bird feeders at the Cave Creek Ranch is a great alternative for the ginko if the walk is not accessible for you. If you have any other needs please contact us.

## **What to bring**

- Sturdy shoes, socks and casual clothes. Bring cool clothes for hot days and a layer for cool mornings or evenings. It can be windy and long sleeves and pants will help.
- Bring sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and flashlight (your phone will do!).
- Bring binoculars if you have them. Check the registration form if you need a loaner pair.
- Bring \$1's and \$5's if you wish to visit the various local bird feeder stations.

## **Safety**

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 an emergency, EMT services are available. The drive to urgent care is an hour away. A helicopter pad is one minute from the lodge for flight-for-life emergencies.

**Any Questions:** Please contact Deborah at [dbowmanphd@gmail.com](mailto:dbowmanphd@gmail.com) or 303 440-0808

## Haiku Arizona: Immersive Workshop 2026

### Registration Form — Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check:

\$115 Workshop Fee

You are responsible if you have dinner at the Portal Cafe. Please note this is the sole eating establishment in Portal. Menu: <https://www.portalodge.com/menu>

Fri & Sat Breakfast: \$28 Includes coffee, tea Cave Creek Ranch

Fri & Sat Lunch: \$30 Includes coffee, tea, salad Cave Creek Ranch

Sun Breakfast: \$14 Includes coffee, tea Deborah's home

Please check if you need: Vegetarian  Vegan  Gluten Free

On this line please list your total fees:

Check how you wish to pay: Venmo  Check  PayPal (3%fee)

To register send this form, attachment or photo of this form to: [dbowmanphd@gmail.com](mailto:dbowmanphd@gmail.com)

Send checks payable to: Deborah Bowman at. P.O. Box 16243, Portal, AZ 85632.

If you need to cancel, please do so ASAP. You will be responsible for the workshop fee unless we are able to fill your spot.

#### Please check:

Would you like to be in touch with others who are interested in sharing lodging?

Would you like to be in touch with others who are interested in sharing a rental car from the Tucson airport? (It's a 2.5-hour drive one way).

Let us know if you need a loaner pair of binoculars for the event. We have extras!