

**Craig Childs** is a writer who focuses on natural sciences, archaeology, and remarkable journeys into the wilderness. He has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books on nature, science, and adventure. He is a commentator for National Public Radio's Morning Edition, and his work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal, Outside, Orion, and High Country News. His subjects range from pre-Columbian archaeology to US border issues to the last free-flowing rivers of Tibet and Patagonia.

The expeditions Childs undertake often last weeks or months, informing his writing with a hard-earned sense of landscape and culture. The New York Times says "Childs's feats of asceticism are nothing if not awe inspiring: he's a modern-day desert father." He has been called a born storyteller by the New York Sun, and the LA Times says his writing is like pure oxygen, and "stings like a slap in the face." He has won several key awards including the 2008 Rowell Art of Adventure Award, the 2007 Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award and the 2003 Spirit of the West Award for his body of work, an honor he shares with Wallace Stegner, Terry Tempest Williams and N. Scott Momaday. Childs is an Arizona native, and grew up back and forth between there and Colorado. With a mother hooked on outdoor adventure, and a father who liked whiskey, guns, and Thoreau, his life was rigged from the start. In his teens, Childs began working as a river guide, and since then has held numerous jobs to support his field time, from gas station attendant to journalist to beer bottler. Now making a living as a writer, Childs lives off the grid with his wife and two young sons at the foot of the West Elk Mountains in Colorado.



**Nancy Takacs** lives in Wellington, Utah and is the author of books *Pale Blue Wings*, Limberlost Press, 2001; *Preserves*, City Art Press, 2004; and *Wild Animals*, Outlaw Artists Press, 2008. She has been the recipient of several poetry awards, including First Place both in the Utah Arts Council Poetry Book Competition and in its Poetry Competition, The Nation/Discovery Award, as well as Utah Individual Art Grants and fellowships, and residencies at Ucross and Vermont Studios. Takacs was a wilderness studies instructor and a creative writing professor at the College of Eastern Utah in Price, from where she has recently taken early retirement. She was also co-founder there of the longest ongoing Poetry Readers' Series in Utah. Her poetry and reviews have appeared most recently or will be appearing in *terrain.org*, *Diner*, *Red Rock Review*, *Cutthroat*, *Plainsongs*, *Adirondack Review*, *The Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Weber Studies*. She received an Honorable Mention from *Diner's* 2006's poetry contest, and has been a finalist for the Alligator Juniper Prize, the Joy Harjo Prize, among others, and was nominated three times for a Pushcart. *Pale Blue Wings* and *Preserves* were finalists for the Utah Book Award. Her poetry can be heard at <http://www.terrain.org/index-22.htm>



Takacs also collaborated with sculptor Karen Jobe Templeton for two years creating paired poetry and sculptures related to Central Eastern Utah women's lives, past and present. She is currently an artist-in-education for the Utah Arts Council, having done workshops in prisons and schools through this program for the past ten years. In addition, she has given workshops and readings throughout the west. She received an MFA from the University of Iowa. A new book *Juniper* is forthcoming from Limberlost Press sometime this year.

**Bruce Hucko** employs photography to express the ongoing relationship between people and the land. Since 1976 Bruce has taught visual art, photography and video to children in the American Southwest, USSR and New Zealand. Much of his work has been with Navajo and Pueblo children, teaching the art in an environment of cultural and community integrity. School projects integrate the visual art core curriculum, school goals and other curriculum areas where appropriate, employing specific skills in painting, drawing and photography for creative expression. Bruce recognizes that each child has a separate and unique potential that requires skill development within a creative process. He views children as creative peers whom he guides toward informed self-expression. Bruce works in drawing, painting, sculpture and photography. Drawing classes blend visual discrimination skills with the imagination. Painting focuses on color and creative image making. Sculpture is often made with found objects. If photography is needed Bruce can offer classes in pinhole photography, Polaroid and modern color and black and white techniques. Material requirements vary according to type of project. Available statewide but prefers rural schools not usually served by art programs. Bruce is available for residencies, teacher training, extended projects, collaborations with other artists, and short-term activities.

