

# Molly Murfee

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## EDUCATION

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, CO

*M.A., Literature*, 1995. Specialization in literature of the environment. Member of Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society.

*Master's Thesis*: "An Analysis of the Values of an Interdisciplinary Nature Writing Program Taught in an Outdoor Adventure Environment." Thesis committee: James Work (advisor), David Mogen, Holmes Rolston.

*Coursework*: Emphasis on environmental literature, international writers, Native American literature, cultural mythology, women's literature, literary theory, 20th century writers, teaching English as a second language.

TULANE UNIVERSITY, New Orleans, LA

*B.A., Literature*, 1991. Specialization in creative writing.

*Coursework*: Emphasis on nature and culture, environment and society, creative writing, women's literature and anthropology.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS, New Orleans, LA

"*Glories of France*" Honors Program, Summer 1987

*Coursework*: Studied French language and culture in Orleans, France.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

CRESTED BUTTE NEWS, Crested Butte, CO

*Columnist*. Compose regular op-ed column, *Earth Muffin Memos*, for the *Crested Butte News* with commentary on nature and the environment; social issues; political issues; cultural trends; mountain culture; sustainability and stewardship and beyond. Summer 2017 to present.

FREELANCE EDUCATOR, Crested Butte, CO

*Educator*. Teach Nature Writing & Environmental Literature courses through Western State Colorado University and the Center for the Arts Crested Butte. Co-created and teach a five-part writing and visual arts program, *Regenerations: Cultivating Connections to Earth, Art & Activism*, at Western State Colorado University, Center for the Arts Crested Butte and through a partnership with the Coldharbour Institute. Summer 2014 to present.

FREELANCE WILDERNESS GUIDE, Crested Butte, CO

*Wilderness Guide.* Lead hikes for Colorado Backcountry and the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival teaching participants about natural history, wildflowers, and backcountry travel safety and ethics. Summer 2014 to present.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Crested Butte, CO

*Marketing Director.* Hired as first Marketing Director in the history of the organization. Promote hundreds of events throughout the year including concerts, visual arts classes, gallery shows, dance, film, fundraisers and culinary and vintner arts. Developed first ever comprehensive marketing plan for events including regional outreach, social media platform, print media, feature articles and ads. Developed, write, edit and publish bi-annual Events Program, Center Stage Weekly Newsletter and annual Tour de Forks Brochure. Provide copy and editing for Crested Butte Wine & Food Festival Brochure and Program as well as event posters. Research, write and edit copy for all events used in print and digital media. Have helped support and grow Center for the Arts programs from four departments to nine during my tenure. Coordinate, collaborate and manage other members of the marketing department including website designer and graphic designer. Winter 2010 to present.

FREELANCE WRITER, Crested Butte, CO

*Freelance Writer.* Have over 500 published articles in *Powder Magazine, Telemark Skier, Patagonia-Japan, Backcountry Magazine, Cross Country Skier Magazine, The Mountain Gazette, ClimateEdu, Colorado Meetings and Events, Crested Butte News, Crested Butte Weekly, Crested Butte Magazine, Gunnison Country Magazine, Solar Today, Gunnison Country Times, the San Juan Horseshoe, offroad.com* and the *Crested Butte News Summer Guide*. Topics revolve predominately around natural history, environmental philosophy and ethics, mountain culture, environmental issues, community, and environmental-cultural relationships. Other topics have included news stories and features on cultural events, outdoor sporting events, resort reporting, and personality profiles. Fall 2004 to present.

COPYWRITER, Crested Butte, CO

*Copywriter.* Provide written copy for businesses and organizations, both profit and non-profit. Work includes press releases, grant writing and research, feature articles, website copy, newsletters, press kit copy, brochure copy, editing and promotional packages. Clients have included Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Center for the Arts Crested Butte, the Office for Resource Efficiency, the Crested Butte Writers Conference, the Elk Mountains Grand Traverse, World Telemark Freeskiing Championships, Alyeska Resort's Telepalooza Festival and Kim Reichelm's Ski Adventures, among others. Fall 2004 to present.

1% FOR OPEN SPACE, Crested Butte, CO

*Executive Director.* Director for non-profit organization collecting voluntary donations from customers of participating businesses on goods and services used to fund open space projects in Gunnison County. Duties included project funding facilitation consisting of: processing applications; review of legal documents such as appraisals and conservation easements; executing grant agreement with grantee(s); and public education of funding. Position also includes all efforts in marketing such as website maintenance, social media outreach, print media, feature articles and ads; innovative program development, planning and advancement; public relations and outreach including maintaining relationships with other regional conservation, recreation and environmental organizations; financial management and record keeping; business participation development and relationship maintenance; and all other aspects of organizational operation. Winter 2004 to Spring 2018.

CRESTED BUTTE WEEKLY, Crested Butte, CO

*Editor and Feature Writer.* Served as Editor of local entertainment and cultural newspaper for 2009 - 2010 winter season. Responsible for coordination with contributors, editorial calendar, publication marketing and promotions, publication development, internship creation, paper layout, photo editing, hiring / firing of employees, editorials, archiving, copy editing, website creation and maintenance, distribution, computer maintenance, and payroll. Additionally wrote two to three regular features per week as primary feature writer to cover cultural events, major sports events, recreational events, social events, and community personality profiles. Winter 2004 to Spring 2010.

OUTWARD BOUND WEST, Leadville, CO; Jensen, UT

*Lead Instructor.* Taught mountaineering, rock climbing, snow climbing, orienteering, outdoor living, and leadership skills to eighth grade to adult students. Summer and Fall 2003.

*Logistics coordinator.* Handled equipment, food, and transportation for rafting, mountaineering, climbing, and canyoneering courses lasting five to 83 days. Summer 1994 and Spring 1998.

CRESTED BUTTE ACADEMY, Crested Butte, CO

*Instructor.* Taught English, creative writing and grammar to eighth through twelfth grade students in Crested Butte Academy's winter tutorial program. Additionally responsible for curriculum planning and evaluation. Winter 2002 – 2003.

ALASKA WILDLAND ADVENTURES, Denali Wilderness Lodge, Denali, AK

*Program Manager / Head Guide.* Coordinated naturalist program for Denali Wilderness Lodge, a fly-in only guest lodge located in the bush of the Alaska Range. Duties included guiding hikes; assuring guiding / naturalist program quality and guest satisfaction; scheduling of guides; creating and executing guide training; creating the *Program Manager Manual*; maintaining first aid systems and kits; coordinating guide projects; and communicating with the manager, assistant manager, and lodge coordinator about quality and scheduling of naturalist program. Summer 2002.

LESLEY UNIVERSITY / AUDUBON EXPEDITION INSTITUTE, Cambridge, MA

*Senior Lead Field Faculty.* Faculty with traveling college program offering a B.S. in environmental studies and a M.A. in environmental education. Exclusively field based, program philosophies focused on experiential education, outdoor living, interdisciplinary studies, and student-centered learning. Created and taught curriculum in creative writing, research methods and literature. Additional teaching in outdoor skills, education, natural history and ecology, philosophy and culture. Position included formal lecturing and workshops, curriculum development, academic advising, library resources development, organizational advancement and logistical coordination of field component. Developed new programs in Colorado, Mexico and the Bahamas. Served as Field Manager of whole faculty team. Fall 1998 to Summer 2002.

GLOBAL ROUTES, San Francisco, CA

*Director.* In-country director for Costa Rican program. Trained and assisted college interns in teaching English and environmental education to grade school children in rural Costa Rica. Developed and implemented curriculum for teacher training. Responsibilities included observation and critical feedback on teaching for interns, student advising, logistical organization of travel. Spring and Fall 1997.

TRAILMARK ADVENTURES, Salida, CO

*Head Instructor.* Head instructor for adventure courses for teens. Taught rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, wilderness and map skills, and leave no trace camping. Duties included teaching, full team supervision, logistical coordination. Summer 1997.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY / WORLDTEACH, Cambridge, MA

*Teacher.* Through volunteer program, designed and implemented “English as a Foreign Language” courses for local adults and first through fifth graders in the rural public school in Costa Rica. Contracted by the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica. 1996.

*Environmental Education Committee Member.* Designed and implemented curriculum to teach local natural history and environmental ethics to children in the Ostional public school. Co-coordinated a nationwide environmental project reflecting these teachings. 1996.

FUNDACION NEOTROPICA, Costa Rica

*Instructor.* Taught Costa Rican ecosystems, guiding skills and English to rural inhabitants training to be ecotourism guides. Program run through Costa Rican based conservation organization. Fall 1996.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY / OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM, Fort Collins, CO

*Instructor.* Led single and multi-day courses in backpacking, snowshoeing, snow shelters, and rock climbing in the Northern mountains of Colorado and the Canyon Country of Southeastern Utah with an emphasis on low-impact camping techniques and wilderness skills. 1993 – 1997.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, CO

*Teaching Assistant,* Co-taught “Nature Writing” course with Dr. James Work. Responsible for creative writing assignments, lectures on writing and environmental authors, student conferences. Spring 1995.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, Fort Collins, CO

*Teaching Assistant,* Teaching assistant for “Wilderness Leadership” and “Wilderness Instructors” courses. Taught minimum impact camping, map and compass skills, proper clothing and equipment, rock climbing, winter camping, avalanche awareness, and first aid in both classroom and backcountry situations. Fall 1994 and Spring 1995.

COLORADO COLLEGE, Colorado Springs, CO

*Instructor.* Instructor for “The Wilderness Institute.” Taught creative writing and environmental literature with Dr. Thomas Lyon, Terry Tempest Williams and Brooke Williams in a backcountry environment. Also taught natural history, backpacking, low-impact camping techniques, and route finding. Summer 1994 and 1995.

## **VOLUNTEER WORK**

MOUNTAIN MANNERS, Crested Butte, CO

*Program Co-Director.* Curriculum and program development for a new, grassroots organization working to educate backcountry users on proper travel etiquette in the wilds of Gunnison County. Program includes Mountain Savvy educational hikes; Peak Protector Volunteer Program; collaborations with local land managers and governments. Winter 2016 to present.

VINOTOK, Crested Butte, CO

*Director.* Organize an eight-day earth-honoring festival celebrating nature and community. Events include several storytelling evenings, an all local and organic community feast, and a community bonfire. Duties include the management of the 30-member Vinotok Council, the primary organizers of each event of the festival, as well as over 200 volunteers. Also manage and oversee fundraising, budgeting, business relationships, scheduling, zero-waste initiatives, cast rehearsals, stage set up, marketing and communications, soliciting volunteers, costumes, fire construction, fire and participant safety protocol, permit process, crowd control, fire and police department communications, town council communications, and full town clean up. Lead festival development as to future events, approaches, philosophies and concerns. Fall 2008 to present.

HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION ADVOCATES, Crested Butte, CO

*Prayer flag project.* Conceptualized and facilitated the creation of Red Lady specific prayer flags to be sold in support of keeping a massive-scale molybdenum mine of Red Lady Mountain. The project continues to raise thousands of dollars every year towards the cause. Spring - Fall 2007.

ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER, Crested Butte, CO

*Instructor.* Volunteer instructor for skiers with disabilities. Winter 2002.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

WRITERS IN THE ROCKIES CONFERENCE, Western State Colorado University, Gunnison, CO

*Attendant.* July 2018.

JAMIE FORD WRITING WORKSHOP, Crested Butte, CO

*Attendant.* February 2018.

WRITING STRIDES WORKSHOPS, Crested Butte, CO

*Attendant.* Weekly workshops January – May 2018.

HEADWATERS POETRY CONFERENCE, Gunnison, CO

*Attendant.* May 2014.

CRESTED BUTTE WRITERS CONFERENCE, Crested Butte, CO

*Writer, Marketing Committee, Attendant.* Strategized and then wrote press releases and feature articles to advertise the conference. Spring 2009.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Northern Arizona University

*Presenter.* “Birthing Culture Out of Intimacy: The Personal Interactions (not observations) of Terry Tempest Williams and Annie Dillard with Landscape.” June 2001.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Michigan State University

*Attendant.* June 1999.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Colorado State University

*Organizer.* Created outdoor recreation activities for conference attendants.

*Presenter.* Member of roundtable discussion concerning nature writing taught in an outdoor environment. June 1995

*Presenter.* “Melting the Boundaries: The Goddess of Ecofeminism and Linda Hogan’s *Seeing Through the Sun.*” June 1995

WESTERN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, Salt Lake City, UT

*Attendant.* October 1994

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION, Colorado

*Attendant.* September 1994

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (Present and former)**

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)

Artists of the West Elks (AWE)

Crested Butte Creative District

Crested Butte Mountain Theatre Writers Group

Crested Butte Writer’s Network

North American Snowsports Journalists Association (NASJA)