

MEET MR. WRITE

Oregon Poet Laureate Kim Stafford teaches workshops April 22-23 in Astoria

By **PATRICK WEBB**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

The poet laureate of Oregon will visit Astoria during Earth Day.

Organizers hope people will see the words for the trees.

Kim Stafford will lead a renewed commitment to preserving the Northwest's evergreen environment.

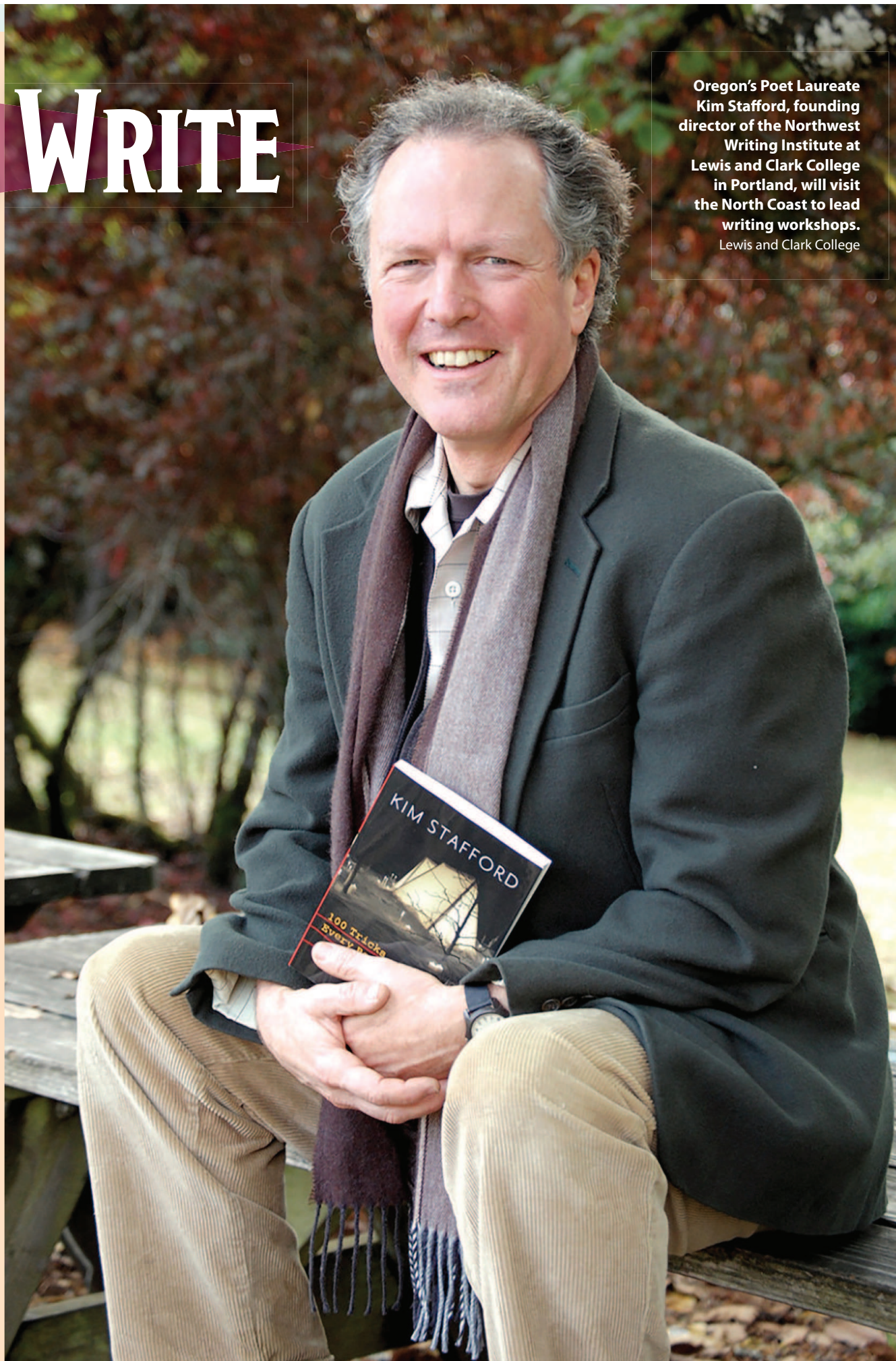
And, during two days of workshops, he will encourage writers to find their voice and investigate a sense of place — demonstrating that people write best when they write about what they know.

“In some native American cultures, if you want to be a shaman, you must bathe in every body of water in your home region,” Stafford said. “I think a writer should do that same thing. Know about the plants and birds, and have a sense of the seasons — then you step into the world knowledgeable about your place, and can be a good, active citizen.”

Stafford's visit features multiple workshops for students Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23, as part of the “Forest Visions” project coordinated through Clatsop Community College. It is spearheaded by Roger Dorband, Dan McClure and Susan Banyas.

‘Righter’ by Kim Stafford

“When things go catawampus,
when silences abound,
when nations reel from troubles
and tyranny is crowned —
by writing, be the righter
and see what can be found
for remedy and comfort
by writing stories down
of all our old connections,
then pass your blessings round —
for people long divided,
restore our common ground.”



Oregon's Poet Laureate Kim Stafford, founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, will visit the North Coast to lead writing workshops.
Lewis and Clark College