

# The Creative Writer

[www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org](http://www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org)



Veda Boyd Jones discusses the value of research in writing stories.

Photos by Steve May

## 24th Annual White County Creative Writers' Conference a success

The 24th Annual White County Writers' Conference had gifted speakers, enthusiastic participants, and dozens of contest winners. Featured speakers included historical fiction writer Veda Boyd Jones, Arkansas Poet Laureate Jo McDougall, and non-fiction writer Steve May. The conference was attended by writers from all over Arkansas and several states, including Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee.

### The Creative Writer

is a monthly newsletter for the White County Creative Writers of Searcy, Ark.

If you have news stories or photos to share, send them to [del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com](mailto:del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com). Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Del Garrett

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Seven members of the Searcy-based White County Creative Writers brought home eight 1st Place awards, five 2nd Place, eight 3rd Place, and 11 Honorable Mentions.

### List of Winners

#### 1. White County Creative Writers Award:

**Honorable Mention:** Kimberly Vernon for "Opening Doors"

#### 2. Zippy Kids Award: The Piece/Peace Makers:

**First:** Del Garrett for "A Time for Heroes"

**Third:** Gary L. Breezeel for "Transatlantic Union"

**HM:** Gary Rodgers for "A Better America"

#### 3. Take a Vacation:

**Third:** Donna Nelson for "You Had to be There"

#### 4. PenPoint Writers Award:

**Second:** Kimberly Vernon for "Hike at Crater Lake"

**Third:** Gary Rodgers for "The Lights of Providence"

**3 HM:** Gary L Breezeel for "More Things in Heaven and Earth"

#### 5. Granny's Gadgets Award:

**First:** Gary L Breezeel for "Grandma's Legacy"

**Third:** Debra Wantulok for "The Future Holds what the Past Already Knows"

**2 HM:** Gary Rodgers for "The Greatest Woman"

**3 HM:** John McPherson for "The Rooster Jars"



Arkansas Poet Laureate Jo McDougall gave the keynote address. She was joined by historical fiction writer Veda Boyd Jones and non-fiction writer Steve May. Afterwards, several writers presented short readings to wrap up the conference. Several new people came this year.

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## Write your own story—speaker shows how

Last month, Kay McGowan, shared her lesson, “Writing Your Story.” She encouraged us all to leave the treasure of our stories with our children and grandchildren. Your story is personal and can be informal.

John McPherson’s assignment for members for September is to write and share a portion of Your Story based on Kay McGowan’s teaching. Bring your stories to the next meeting.

Kim and Gary reminded members of the Ozark Creative Writers Conference October 10 -12.

--Donna Nelson



BREEZEEL



VERNON



RODGERS



GARRETT



WOOD



WANTULOK



NELSON



MCPHERSON

### 6. Whodunnit Award:

**First:** Kimberly Vernon for “Murder at Turpentine Creek”

**Second:** Gary Rodgers for “Cover-Up at the Caverns”

### 7. LovePat Press Award:

**Third:** Gary Rodgers for “You’re Not My Real Dad”

### 8. Reversal Award:

**First:** John McPherson for “The Crystal Clear Waters of Ordinary Madness”

**Third:** Donna Nelson for “Time Flies”

### 9. RobertsFamilyArk Award:

**Third:** Debra Wantulok for “I Can Do it Myself”

### 10. The Take Five Award:

**First:** John McPherson for “July Paradox”

**2 HM:** Kimberly Vernon for “Spring Rain”

### 11. Del Garrett’s Gimme the Creeps Award:

**First:** Kimberly Vernon for “Monster in the Graveyard”

**1 HM:** Anthony Wood for “Graveyard Reckoning”

**2 HM:** Gary L. Breezeel for “Grave Outcome”

### 12. Nelson Poetry Award:

**First:** John McPherson for “Freddy the Rooster”

**Second:** Kimberly Vernon for “Sunday Fun Day”

**2 HM:** Del Garrett for “Rainbows Follow Rain”

### 13. How-to Contest:

**Second:** Donna Nelson for “How to Administer CPR”

### 15. Stranger Adventures:

**1 HM:** Gary Rodgers for “Teacher of the Year”

**3HM:** Gary Breezeel for “I’ve Got You Babe”

### 16. Gin Creek Poetry:

**Third:** Gary Rodgers for “Walls for Friends”

### 17. Let’s Play Award:

**First:** Gary Rodgers for “Dumb Luck Earl”

**Second:** Del Garrett for “Dead End on a Dirt Road”



See our web page for a complete list of all winners.

## Next meeting

Sept. 16, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Simmons First Bank

401 South Main

Searcy, Ark.