



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org



Conference photos by Steve May

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.
Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions

- President
John McPherson
- Vice President
Gary Rodgers
- Secretary
Donna Nelson
- Treasurer
Rhonda Roberts
- Conference Chair
Kim Vernon
- Press Agent
Del Garrett
- Webmaster
Steve May

WCCW received \$935 in conference registration fees, \$864 in conference contest fees, \$12 in annual membership fees, and had expenses of \$24.50 for a new balance of \$4,422.71.

Kim Vernon-Rodgers gave a Conference update. Thirty-six attendees had registered and paid. Covid-19 precautions were in place; masks were worn.

At the August meeting, Gary Breezeel announced a contest for publication of a new novel that must be a clean read. If interested, see him. Steve May is publishing articles submitted on the WCCW site. He has enough to last until mid-fall. Anthony Wood shared a lesson on writing historical fiction. Gary Rodgers asked members to bring a conference entry or win to share at the September meeting.

--Donna Nelson

Next Meeting

Sept. 21, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Meet inside the Shelter Insurance office on Beebe-Capps. We need to follow CDC guidelines. We will have a read around of winners' contest entries.

2020 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



J C Crumpton



Dot Hatfield



Meg Dendler

2020 CONTEST WINNERS

Kim Vernon-Rodgers won 12 awards.

- 1st place Betty Slaughter Memorial Award "John Paul's Secret"
- 1st place Willis Children's Book Award "Tool Shed Surprise"
- 1st place Granny Prewitt Award "Grandma's Baby"
- 1st place Love in the Olden Days "When Lightning Strikes"
- 2nd place. Peggy's Play With Words "Zoo Visitors"
- 3rd place Morning Memo "Shift Your Focus"
- 1HM. Those Were The Days "Tiger in the Barn"
- 1HM Gin Creek Award "New Normal"
- 1HM Gimme The Creeps Award "Dead Mountain"
- 1HM. What Could Have Been "Just a Hunch"
- 3HM Junk Drawer Award "Closet Complex"
- 3HM Snapshot Award "Life Ain't Fair"

Gary Breezeel won 13 awards.

- 1st Place You Wear It Well "Clothes do Make the Man"
- 1st Place What Could Have Been "Siren Song"
- 1st Place Gimme the Creeps "Acceptable Risk"
- 2nd Place Love in the Olden Days "On the Trail of he Nazarine"
- 2nd Place Boyce Cattle Company Award "Dilemma at Commanche Creek"
- 2nd Place Morning Memo "My Place of Refuge"
- 2nd Place I Did It My Way "Feet of Clay"
- 3rd Place Junk Drawer Award "Canny Canine"
- 3rd Place Penpoint Award "Danger Along the Trail"
- 1st HM Snapshot Award "Love and the Lone Ranger"
- 2nd HM Not My Monkey Award "I'd Rather Have a Puppy"
- 2nd HM Betty Slaughter Memorial Award "Unfit for Service"
- 2nd HM The Other World Award "Dogged Dilemma"

Donna Nelson won three awards.

- 1st Place Illustrated Poetry Award "The Farmer's Battle"
- 1st Place Junk Drawer Award "The Visit"
- 3rd Place Snapshot Award "Open the Box"

Del Garrett won three awards.

- 1st Place in the Boyce Cattle Company contest for "The Fastest Gun"
- HM Glassworks poem about (Marilyn) "Monroe's Charms,"
- 3rd HM Love in the Olden Days "Rosaleen's Future"

Mike Bass won two awards.

- 2nd place Glassworks Award "For Her"
- Honorable Mention for You Wear It Well Fantasy Short Story "Unwanted Superpowers Anonymous"

John McPherson won nine awards.

- 1st Place Glassworks Award "That Girl With Rainbows In Her Hair"
- 1st Place Rhyme Time "A Song Of Silly Sevens"
- 1st Place Hippogriff Award "Pinocchio Lands a Job"
- 2nd Place Snapshot (Short Essay) "My Flashbulb Moment"
- 2nd place Illustrated Poetry Award "Snowy Owl"
- 1st HM Peggy's Play With Words: "Little Jars of Clay"
- 2nd HM Del Garrett's Gimme The Creeps Award "The Wolf Man Next Door"
- 2nd HM Morning Memo "Thud: The Sound of Mercy"
- 3rd HM Willis Children's Award: "Ollie Octopus and the Bully"

Anthony Wood won seven awards.

- 1st place Snapshot Award "How Being a Coward Changed My Life"
- 1st place Don't Close Your Eyes "Close Them or Lose Them"
- 2nd place Del Garrett's Gimme the Creeps Award "The Stare"
- 2nd place Clara Barger Memorial Award "Going to Town"
- 1st HM Betty Slaughter Memorial Award "Unnoticed"
- 1st HM Boyce Cattle Company Award "Not So Long in the Tooth"
- 1st HM Penpoint Award "Blue Shoe Elopement"

Gary Rodgers WON 11 awards.

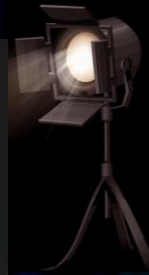
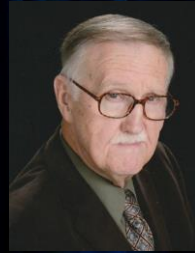
- 2nd Place-Rhyme Time Award- Ayden's Sunny Day
- 2nd Place-Junk Drawer Award- Molehill Mountain
- 2nd Place-Penpoint Award- Pre-Dawn Disturbance
- 2nd Place-Those Were The Days- Christmas at Seven
- 3rd Place-You Wear It Well- Marley the Magnificent Nincompoop
- 3rd Place-Whodunnit Award- The Not-So-Safe Room
- 3rd Place-What Could Have Been- Nightmare In the Ozarks
- 3rd Place-Granny Prewitt Award- Christmas with Grandad's Fiddle
- 1HM-Willis Children's Book Award- Christmas Comes at Last
- 3HM-Gimme The Creeps- Hairy
- 3HM-The Other World Award- Escape From Xynon

Rebecca Foster won One award.

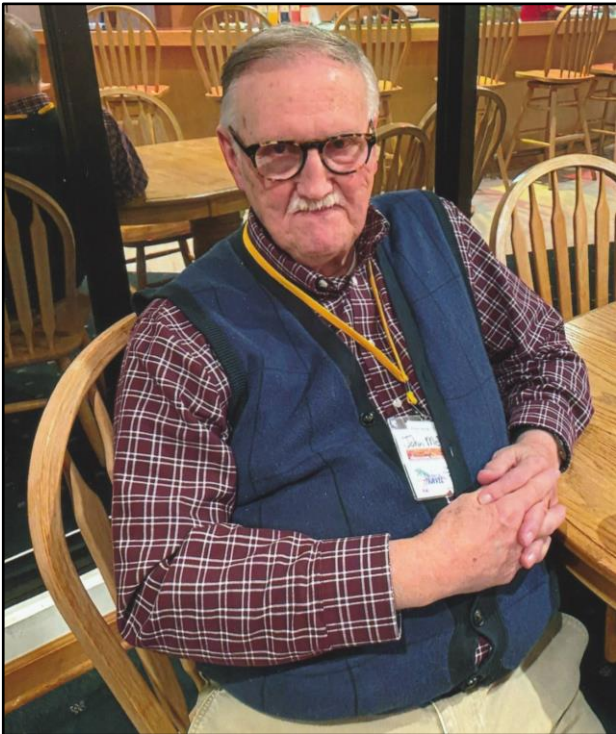
- 1st Place Clara Barger Memorial Award "Simpler Times"

SPOTLIGHT

John McPherson



John McPherson was born and grew up in White County. Graduated from Bradford High School in 1957. Married his high-school sweetheart, Hazel Morgan, in 1958. Lived in Little Rock for 42 years, where a son and a daughter were born and raised. John attended UALR part time while working full time for the USPS and completed requirements for a BBA degree in 1974.



Sometimes “working” on a project is as simple as sitting quietly and “thinking” about the next story or poem or plot point.

After he retired as Manager of Transportation and Networks and Hazel retired as Bookkeeper for the Pulaski County Special School District, they moved to Russellville, AR.’

After Hazel died in 2012, John moved to Searcy.

After a couple of years, he began meeting with the White County Creative Writers. A short while later some members formed a chapter of Poets Roundtable of Arkansas called Gin Creek Poets.

John began entering writing contests in his mid seventies.

Awards have been satisfactory, he says.

He has had poems published in Avocet, a nature poetry quarterly, as well as the weekly on-line version, in Cantos, a publication of Missouri Baptist College, WCCW and PRA anthologies.

His short stories have appeared in Volumes I, II, and III of Del Garret’s Vault of Terror series. He is presently serving as president of Gin Creek Poets and WCCW.
