



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

27th Annual Conference: speakers, wins, door prizes

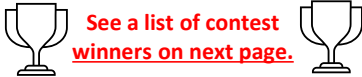
The WCCW Conference was held, Sept. 3, 2022, at the White County Extension Service Building, in Searcy, Ark. Guest speakers included *USA Today* bestseller Laura Castoro; four-time winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award and twice winner of the Western Fictioneers Peacemaker Award, Rod Miller; and Harding University Professor of English Michael Claxton.

Doors opened at 8 a.m., with registration and swag bags, then announcements at 8:30. Each speaker provided two sessions, one before and one after the luncheon and awards. During the awards, a plethora of door prizes were made available as guests' names were called and they made their selections.

Laura Castoro opened with a "No Sex, Please" workshop outlining the task of writing compelling sensual scenes in romance writing. Her afternoon session "Will I Read On?" focused on creating compelling beginnings.

Rod Miller presented "More Than Glamor"—a look at modern day telling of how the west is presented today. His afternoon session of "Cowboy Poetry" was, in itself, a breakdown of rhyme and meter and poetic devices of consonance, assonance, alliteration and other aspects of poetry.

Prof. Michael Claxton's sessions included writing humor and the importance and challenges of biological research.



See a list of contest winners on next page.

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

Gary Rodgers

Vice President

Kim Vernon-Rodgers

Secretary

Anthony Wood

Treasurer - Conference Chair

Rhonda Roberts

Contest Monitor

Dot Hatfield

Press Agent

Del Garrett

Webmaster

Steve May



Photo by Del Garrett

Next Meeting

Sept. 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Simmons Bank, 401 S Main Searcy, Ark.



WINNERS

Rhonda Roberts—1st Place, Intriguing Beginnings Award; 1st Place, Fur in Flight Contest Award; 1st Place, Fledgling Dragon Contest Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Grandpa's Rocking Chair Award; Honorable Mention, More Than Meets the Eye Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Life Lessons Not Learned in School Award.

Kim Vernon—1st Place, Rod Miller Dialog Award; 1st Place, Two for One Award; 2nd Place—Intriguing Beginnings Award; 2nd Place, Cozy Seasoned Romance Award; 2nd Place, Grandpa's Rocking Chair Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Whatever Floats Your Ghost Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Granny Prewitt Award; 3rd Honorable Mention, Roberts Family Ark Award.

Gary Breezeel—1st Place, Cozy Seasoned Romance Award; 1st Place, Granny Prewitt Award; 2nd Place, Whatever Floats Your Ghost Award; 3rd Place, Two for One Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Glassworks Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Grandpa's Rocking Chair Award; Honorable Mention, Fur in Flight Contest Award.

Don Money—1st Place, Close Encounters Memorial Award; 1st Place, Gimme the Creeps Award; 2nd Place, The Word Today Award; 3rd Place, Intriguing Beginnings Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Granny Prewitt Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Three Little Pigs True Story Award.

Peggy Sanders—1st Place, Remember When Award; 1st Place, The Word Today Award; 3rd Place, Life Lessons Not Learned in School Award.

Alyssa Darby—1st Place, Character Sketch Award; 2nd Place, 4X4 Poetry Award; 2nd Place, Gin Creek Poetry Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Three Little Pigs True Story Award.

John McPherson—1st Place, Roberts Family Ark Award; 2nd Place, Glassworks Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, Remember When Award; 2nd Honorable Mention, 4X4 Poetry Award.

Mike Bass—1st Place, 4X4 Poetry Award; 2nd Place, Tribute to the Bard Award.

Del Garrett—1st Place, Grandpa's Rocking Chair Award; 3rd Place, More Than Meets the Eye Award.

Gary Rodgers—2nd Place, More Than Meets the Eye Award; 2nd Place, Gimme the Creeps Award; 2nd Place, Three Little Pigs True Story Award; 2nd Place, Whodunnit Award; 3rd Place, Whatever Floats Your Ghost Award; 3rd Place, Fur in Flight Contest Award.

Naomi Sechrest—2nd Place, Remember When Award.

Sandi Furlong—3rd Place, Glassworks Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Roberts Family Ark, Award.

Anthony Wood—1st Honorable Mention, Remember When Award; 1st Honorable Mention, Gimme the Creeps Award.

Julia Zellner—1st Honorable Mention, Cozy Seasoned Romance Award; 1st Honorable Mention, The Word Today Award.

Donna Nelson—1st Honorable Mention, 4X4 Poetry Award.

Laticia Harris—2nd Honorable Mention, Character Sketch Award.

August meeting gives contest updates, writing historical fiction

For the August WCCW meeting, members present included Gary Rodgers, Kim Vernon, Dot Hatfield, Steve May, Del Garrett, Rhonda Roberts, Donna Nelson, Gary Breezeel, Lisa Lindsey, Deborah Middleton, Naomi Sechrest, John McPherson, Anthony Wood, Don Money, Laticia Harris, Rebecca Foster, Sandi Furlong, Alyssa Darby, Micoala Campbell, and visitor Bob Green.

Rhonda Roberts reported more than 30 people had registered for the conference. \$160 had been donated for book sales coupons. Beginning balance was \$3,652.28. Ending balance is \$5,548.28.

Old Business:

Dot Hatfield reported receiving 371 contest entries from 72 people with over \$1,000 in fees collected.

New Business:

Kim Vernon suggested that after the conference we shore up our contest rules to be consistent in all communications—website, brochure, registration.

Del Garrett mentioned that AWC will now only take electronic contest entry submissions but will accept hard copies during the transition. AWC is sponsoring a 1,500-2,500 word winter contest with four first place winners.

Anthony Wood passed around a copy of the Summer 2022 issue of *Saddlebag Dispatches* that contains his cover story article “Legacy of Violence.”

Activity:

Anthony Wood made a presentation on historical fiction and offered an assignment for the October meeting. Next month we’ll have a read around of contest entries and winners.

Announcements:

The deadline to submit a ghost story for Del Garrett’s *Vault of Terror* Vol. 5 is Dec. 31, 2022.

--Anthony Wood

Two WCCW authors get good news

Don Money, of Beebe, Ark., writes short 100-word stories for on-line publishing. His latest story has been published by *Trembling With Fear* on its Horror Tree website. “I also signed a contract with them for three other 100-word stories to be published in their *Trembling With Fear- Summer Special* print edition.”

One of the newer members of WCCW, his writings have won more acceptance since joining the writing club.

“*Medusa Tales* magazine is publishing one of my stories in its Issue #3 which comes out in September,” he said.

He was also published in Vol. 4, *The Vault of Terror—Tales to Tell* earlier this year.

After some delay *Toolshed Surprise* has finally published Kim Vernon Rodgers new book

She wrote a children’s story in 2019 for a contest about Bigfoot. It received an Honorable Mention; then, in 2020, a different contest called for a children’s story on any subject.

Her Bigfoot story won, and the judge, Clarissa Willis, who was then the acquisitions editor at Young Dragons, contacted the author, interested in publishing her story.

It is now available on Amazon.com.

“Maybe I’m a pessimist,” Kim said. “but until this book actually showed up on Amazon to order, I was not 100-percent sure it would ever really happen. So, it has been quite a roller coaster ride.”

According to Kim, the book is probably most suitable for children seven to 10, but can be read to younger ones. It’s available in paperback from Amazon, and should be available in e-book at a later date.

SPOTLIGHT

Dot Hatfield



Dot Hatfield is the 2020 inductee to the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame.

She is the author of seven books, including four novels, a collection of short stories, a one-act play and a collection of essays from her blog. Her most recent novel, *Worth the Candle* debuted in 2019.

She is a freelance writer whose op-ed pieces have appeared in the *Nashville Tennessean*, the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, and several regional newspapers. Her devotional material has been printed in *The Upper Room*, *Mature Living*, *Evangel*, *Church Educator*, and *Ministry Now*.

After living in Texas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, Dot now makes her home in Arkansas.

She is past president of White County Creative Writers and encourages every serious writer to find a critique group or mentor.

You can find out more about Dot at her website: www.dothatfield.com.

Her books are available at Amazon.com,

Dot was recently featured in a cover story of *Writers Monthly PDF* in which she told readers how she came to be a writer.

"I didn't find my voice for fiction until about the time I reached retirement age.

"In 1999, a local community college offered a six-week course on writing fiction—new territory for me, but an irresistible challenge. To complete one particular assignment, I wrote my first story. I don't remember my grade, or even the story, but I'll never forget how it felt when I had finished. It's a feeling like no other," Dot said.



In explaining her approach to fiction writing, Dot said, "My genre might be called mainstream, incorporating a little romance and mystery. There is usually a spiritual theme, though not as didactic as the usual Christian fiction."

Dot said she will continue to write and edit as long as she's able.

"One of my favorite quotes is by Erma Bombeck: 'When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me.'"