

The Creative Writer

White County Creative Writers

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

Twenty-six awards at OCW went to WCCW members. See the winners list on Page 2.

Poetry Day on Oct; 18 was a wonderful event.

Terry Engel has a story in Master Review. Barry Brown made the short list for a Saddlebag Dispatches entry. He also has come up with a new logo for the group.

The bookstore for members is now up on the website, showcasing published works and linking to Amazon. To be added to the store, please send information to Steve May.

Oct. 31 was the deadline for turning in sponsorship forms and money for WCCW conference contests. Nothing will be accepted after that date.

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
prowriter001@yahoo.com.

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

President
Anthony Wood
Vice President
and
Webmaster
Steve May
Conference Chair
Rhonda Roberts
Secretary
Lisa Lindsey
Treasurer
Kim Vernon-Rodgers
Contest Coordinator
Dot Hatfield
Press Agent
Del Garrett

Everyone is invited to check out
shoutoutfromthepit.com which is a recovery podcast
to help the hurting. Guests are mainly anonymous.
There is mention of therapeutic writing in recovery.

We had a read-around featuring character centered
stories and excerpts, with many amazing stories
shared.

This month, Barry Brown will be discussing
creativity before the creativity and where the Muse
comes
from.

-- Lisa Lindsey

**Next
Meeting**



**Nov. 24, 2025
First Community Bank
800 E Beebe Capps
in Searcy, Ark.**



Ten members of the White County Creative Writers attended the Ozark Creative Writers' Conference, Oct. 9-11, in Eureka Springs, Ark. The three-day event was filled with speakers, presentations, and fellowship with writers from at least 10 states. The event ended with an awards banquet where WCCW members brought home 26 awards out of 30 contests.

THE WINNERS ARE:

Kim Vernon Rodgers

Rainbolt Children's Book Award – 1st Place
 Things That Go Bump in the Night – 1st Place
 Native American Short Story – 1st Place
 Adult Book Cover Award – 2nd Place
 Quotable Quote Blog – 3rd Place
 Travel Article – 1st HM
 Show Me Mystery – 2nd HM

Barry Brown

On The Spot Contest - 1st Place
 Fish Out of Water Tale - 2nd Place
 Space Journey - 3rd Place
 Steamy Romance - 1st HM

Julia Zelner

Best First Paragraph - 1st Place
 Historical Romance - 2nd Place
 A Fish Out of Water Tale - 3rd Place

Don Money

Velda Brotherton Memorial Contest- 1st Place
 Search For Excellence Award- 1st Place
 Everything But the Kitchen Sink- 2nd HM
 Middle Grade Fiction- 2nd HM
 Oxbow Award- 3rd HM

Gary Rodgers

Hometown Nostalgia Column – 1st Place
 Show Me Mystery – 2nd Place
 Point A to Z Award – 2nd Place
 Quotable Quote Blog – 2nd HM
 Grand Showcase Award – 3rd HM

Anthony Wood

Grand Showcase Award – 1st Place

Shirley Howard

Quotable Quote Blog - 1st HM



2026 Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame Member

By Kim Vernon-Rodgers

Award-winning author Clarissa Willis has been selected as the 2026 Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame member. The award will be presented to her at the next White County Creative Writers Conference in June 2026 in Searcy, Ark.

She writes children's books, including seven picture books and one chapter book. Bloomers on Pike's Peak, the story of Julia Archibald Holmes, received a Will Rogers Medallion Award and was the finalist for the Women Writing the West 2025 WILLA Literary Award in Children's Picture Books. Her book Fast as the Wind: The Story of Johnny Fry Pony Express Rider won a Will Rogers Medallion in 2023. The Three Little Pigs and the Not So Big Bad Wolf was released in early 2025.

Clarissa (Chrissy) Willis, a lively spirit with a creative flair, is the daughter of a minister and a drama teacher. Her rich imagination has fueled her passion for speaking and writing. She was a senior vice president of publishing for Kaplan Early Learning Company and has dedicated over 40 years to education and writing. She has been a board member of the Ozark Creative Writers' Conference since 1985 and also serves on the board of the Between the Pages Writers' Conference in Springfield, Mo. She writes curriculum for Frog Street Press and has provided keynotes and other training activities in all 50 states. She is a native of Arkansas, raised in Little Rock.

Find her books at: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Clarissa-Willis) : Clarissa Willis

Or her personal web site:

Clarissa Willis, PhD - Early Childhood Education, Consultant