The Creative Writer

White County Creative Writers

www.whitecountycreativewriters.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 in 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**

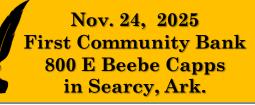
Everyone is invited to check out shoutoutfromthepit.com which is a recovery podcast to help the hurting. Guests are mainly anonymous. There is mention of therapeutic writing in recovery.

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





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. 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.

<u>Find her books at: Amazon.com: Clarissa Willis</u>
Or her personal web site:
Clarissa Willis, PhD - Early Childhood Education, Consultant