

# The Owl's Hoop



A publication of the  
Ozarks Writers League  
501(c)(3)  
ozarkswritersleague.org

Editor: Jeanie Horn  
jeanhorn@windstream.net



Editor's note: Deadline for submitting Kudos for the May newsletter is 1 April 2014. Words Paul Johns wrote of the first ten years of Ozarks Writers League members, hold true today. "They are people who care about their craft and are willing to give of their time and talents to help others and to make OWL a better organization."

"When the world says, 'Give up,' hope whispers, 'Try it one more time'." ~ Carolyn Agrimis

Volume 30, Number 1

1983-2014

February 2014

## Working Together: Collaborating For Fun & Profit: Love and Kamberg.

**ROLLAND LOVE** is a writer and storyteller by trade, the author of award winning short stories, novels, and a best-selling computer book. Some stories he wrote are set in the Ozark Mountains. He lived on the Jacks Fork River during summers when he was a kid and helped his uncle run a fishing camp. That job inspired some of his stories. Titles published include, *Fish Fry*, *The*



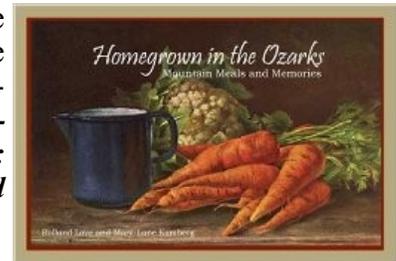
*Life of a 110 Pound Catfish in the Missouri River*, *A Commentary on Social Networking*, *Death in a Cave*, *Hillbillies Are Smarter Than You Think!* **PARTS (1) (2) and (3).**

"Teaming up with a subject expert or fellow writer is a great way to break-in to publishing. Share the work (and profits) on your next book or article. It's fun, even when frustrating."

During this presentation, OWLs will learn about potential pitfalls along with the secrets of a successful collaboration; how to work together and remain friends when the job is finished.

Rolland was a re-enactor with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial expedition and played the role of Silas.... He has appeared on talk shows, and been interviewed by numerous publications, including the Kansas City Star.

Rolland Love and Mary-Lane Kamberg co-authored *Homegrown in the Ozarks: Mountain Meals and Memories*.



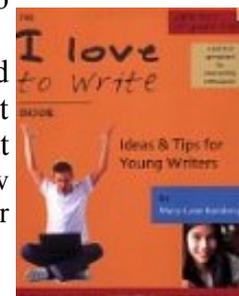
**MARY-LANE KAMBERG** is a professional writer, editor, and speaker from Olathe, Kansas. She specializes in nonfiction, but also writes short fiction and poetry. She is the author of the *I Don't Know How To Cook* book.



Her workshops include practical advice for using humor in poetry, following the narrative form for essays, and writing "Letters to the Editor"

just for fun. Participants will learn how to use writing techniques to get readers (and editors) laughing. She has published hundreds of articles and 25 books, many for young readers. She founded and directs the I Love To Write Camps for young writers.

"Learn how to mine your mind for ideas. You'll be amazed at what others want to know that you take for granted, and how eager publishers are for your knowledge."



## Keeping Suspense In Your Writing

**RADINE TREES NEHRING** fell in love with



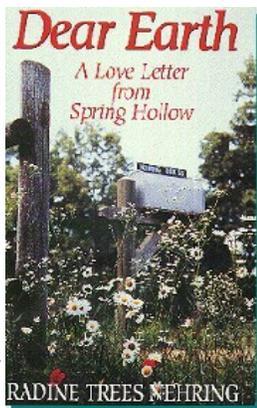
the Ozarks in 1978, while living in Tulsa, OK. After she and her husband, John, bought their land, and then moved to rural northwest Arkansas in 1988, she began writing and selling essays about the area.

She worked as a broadcast journalist and Ozarks feature

writer for magazines and newspapers before her first book, *DEAR EARTH: A Love Letter from Spring Hollow*, was published in New York in 1995. Her writing found interested readers around the globe.

When asked which of her books is her favorite, *DEAR EARTH* is the one Radine names. It won the Governor's Award for the best writing about Arkansas. The book is still available in print, has been published in Chinese, and also sells well in e-book form. Her *TO DIE FOR* mystery series began in 2002 with Macavity nominee, *A Valley To Die For*. The series earned twenty-five awards, a National Silver Falchion for mystery writing, two Arkansas Book of the Year awards, and won first place for best mystery novel at a writers conference. Short stories featuring her major characters, Carrie McCrite and Henry King, are also available in several anthologies. In 2011 she was inducted into the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame.

Radine is a member of Sisters in Crime, the Authors Guild, the Ozarks Writers League, and Mystery Writers of America. She will talk about using characters, setting, weather, history, goals, and plot in creating suspense. Authors and poets, bring examples to show how you create suspense in your own writing.



Radine, when she learned all her books will be archived in the University of Arkansas Libraries, with Special Collections for use by researchers and future generations.

\* \* \* \*

Seated L-R: *Charlotte & Jory Sherman, Artie Ayres*; Standing L-R: *Kathaleen Burr-McCrite, Bob McGill, Dusty Richards, and Fred Pfister*.



*Charlotte*, Charter member, has served as Vice-president and as Secretary. *Jory*, Charter member, suggested the name Ozarks Writers League in 1983 and that name was adopted by the fledgling group. Members have been known as OWLs for 30 years. Jory served as Vice-President and later as President. *Artie*, Charter member, was elected first President of Ozarks Writers League in 1983. *Kathaleen*, Charter member, has served as Secretary/Treasurer. *Bob*, Charter member, has served as President. *Dusty*, long-term director, has served as President and was inducted, along with Pat his wife, as Lifetime members for their outstanding and long service to OWL. *Fred*, Charter member, has served as publicity chair, Vice-president, President, Membership director, and Historian. These charter members presented a Q & A panel at the November 2013 general meeting, with history and anecdotes from OWL's past.

Jory received the Owen Wister Award at the 2013 WWA conference.

## The President's Page

**KAREN NELSON** Branson, Missouri has been called the Land of the Big Buffets for its many dining opportunities, and February is going to be a smorgasbord of writer's cuisine at the OWL meeting! You may want to wear your buffet britches—you know—with the elastic band that S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-S.



If you've ever considered sharing the creative load with a fellow writer, this could be the spark you need to get going on that partnering project. ***Rolland Love and Mary-Lane Kamberg*** will be teaching breakout sessions individually, along with Arkansas Hall of Famer, ***Radine Trees Nehring***, on everything from writing memoir and how-to pieces, to injecting suspense and humor into your stories.

Many of you have requested the chance to participate in a critique group at the OWL meetings, and we are pleased to add this to our offerings in February. Not everyone has access to a local writing group, or maybe you just aren't sure about sharing your work in public yet. The helpful and encouraging guidance of veteran writer ***Pamela Foster*** will put you at ease. She invites you to ***bring 15 copies of up to 5 pages of your work*** in progress to share with attendees. If you're not quite ready to jump to the head of the class, feel free to sit in and learn how this effective tool can get your writing polished and publishable.

Of course, February means it's time for the annual Art & Photo Contest, so make plans to submit your entries at registration that morning. This is a fun and enjoyable way for members to see the many talents within the organization, and help promote the visual arts.

For those who like to come in on Friday night, a delicious meal is planned at Ye Olde English Inn, courtesy of Riverstone Restaurant. It will be a relaxing evening with plenty of time to catch up with friends far and near. Your 2014 Board is excited about the coming year, and we are here to assist you in your writing endeavors. We're going to share a feast for the mind, and I am thrilled we are sharing a table!

Karen Nelson, OWL 2014 President

### Friday, 14 February 2014; Dinner and Open-Mic at Ye Olde English Inn

**5:30 p.m.** Musical Guests: "***Music From Two***" brother/sister team combine vocal harmony with the mountain sounds of violin, mandolin, banjo and more.

**6:00 p.m.** Dinner, \$ 9.95 per meal. Menu includes; Pork Tenderloin, Potato Medley, Vegetables & Salad, Rolls, Apple Dumpling Dessert, (Water, Tea, Soda) Open bar for additional cost. Make dinner reservation by February 9th, contact Karen Nelson (dkaren@centurytel.net) for reservations. Payment via PayPal at the OWL website, ozarkswritersleague.com. Or send a check, \$9.95 per person, made out to OWL, mail to Ellen Thompson; OWL Treasurer; P.O. Box 114; Farmington, AR 72703.

**7:00 p.m.** Open-Mic Readings: To reserve your 5-minute session, deadline 9 February 2014, contact Diane Yates (Diane@DianeYates.com)

Overnight reservations at Ye Olde English Inn 417-544-9056; special rate \$59.00 for OWL members. Accommodations also at Boxcar Willie Motel 877-704-6611, special rate \$45.00 for OWL members.



L-R, ***Beth Carter, Jan Morrill, Linda Apple***

Beth and Linda presenting Jan with flowers and gifts to show OWLs appreciation of her hard work for the two years she served as Vice-President and her year as 2013 President. Jan also received her own star of fame.

## OWL Minutes for November 2013

Courtesy of Secretary Ellen Withers

During the opening session at 9:30 a.m., there was a short business meeting with the membership. President Jan Morrill first spoke about the proposal for raising OWL dues, from \$20.00 to \$25.00 if paid by February, \$30.00 if paid late, after the February meeting. A voice affirmation was unclear, but a show of hands confirmed dues passed by a large margin. She then introduced the slate of officer candidates and began to introduce them individually, but the motion was made by Dusty Richards and seconded by Jory Sherman to vote by acclamation for the slate nominated. The vote passed unanimously with a yes vote.

Officers elected for 2014: President; **KAREN NELSON** - Vice-President; **JEANIE HORN** - Treasurer; **ELLEN THOMPSON** - Secretary; **ELLEN WITHERS**.

The OWL board meeting was called to order at 2:50 p.m. Board members present; Jan Morrill, Beth Carter, Fred Pfister, Duke Pennell, Karen Nelson, Ellen Thompson, Jeanie Horn, Ellen Withers, Sylvia Forbes, Dusty Richards, Diane Yates, Kent Bonham, Rochelle Fields, and Brenda Black. Chet Dixon, Pamela Foster, and Patty Stith were absent.

**Secretary's Report:** After a review of the printed minutes, reading of the minutes was dispensed. A vote was taken to accept as written and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The quarterly report was accepted as distributed to the board reflecting an October 31st balance of \$ 5,462.25. The yes vote passed unanimously. Ellen Thompson took over as treasurer.

**Membership Report:** Diane Yates reported that some members paid dues early at today's meeting, and five new members joined.

**Hospitality Report:** Sylvia Forbes announced she is putting together a welcome packet for new members and brought flyers to today's meeting entitled, "How to make the most of your Ozarks Writers League Membership." The flyers were received favorably.

**President's Report:** At 3:05 p.m. President Jan Morrill passed the gavel and welcomed Karen Nelson as incoming 2014 President. Board Members also welcomed Karen. She passed out printed copies of current board information and duties of each member.

**New Business:** Sylvia Forbes suggested that OWL look into taking bids for print and e-books for another OWL anthology. Others will also obtain information about requests for bids, and the board agreed to consider only publishers/printers that are also OWL members, keeping September 1st as the deadline.

There was a discussion about having a theme for the anthology. A couple of themes were offered, and the suggestion that the general membership also be contacted for their input about a theme for the anthology.

Speakers who had been contacted for the February meeting are Rolland Love and Mary-Lane Kamberg, co-authors from St. Louis. Radine Trees Nehring will present a breakout session for mystery writers.

Ye Olde English Inn will accommodate the Friday night dinner as well as a reduced room rental rate. Box-car Willie's will retain their status as a room provider, different choices for OWL members to consider when staying overnight.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

## February 2014 Agenda

8:30—Registration begins

9:00—Announcements, recognition, auction preview, & door prizes.

9:15—"Working Together: Collaborating For Fun & Profit"-Love & Kamberg.

10:00—Short Break.

10:15—Rolland Love "Why Write Your Life Story?" (Auditorium)

Mary-Lane Kamberg, "Writing How-To Books & Articles" (Classroom 1)

11:30—Lunch on your own.

1:00—Announcements, door prizes.

1:15—Radine Trees Nehring, "Keeping Suspense In Your Writing" (Auditorium)

Pamela Foster, **Critique Group** (Classroom 1)

2:00—Mary-Lane Kamberg, "What's so Funny?" (Auditorium)

2:30—Art/Photo Contest Winners.

3:00—Board Meeting.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ozarkswritersleague/>

**Membership dues for 2014 are due.** Early Birds, \$25.00 for the full year. After the February meeting, dues will be \$ 30.00 for the year. Visitor fee, \$10.00 for one meeting. C of O students, one half the established fee, \$12.50.

## Owl News

### OWL AUCTION IS COMING SOON

Since becoming a member of OWL, I've been impressed by the quality of programs and speakers at every quarterly meeting. Let's keep it going. There are many ways to participate in the 2014 auction. Help collect good auction items. Talk to relatives and businesses you know. Lots of people are waiting to be asked, and will offer something. Seek support from local groups you belong to. Ask vendors and businesses you buy from to donate items.

We will talk about another fundraiser idea when we meet in February. It's easy and one that we can participate in throughout the year. We need to keep reminding ourselves that the energy we spend in making our auction successful will be returned many times in good programs, good speakers, and improved writing and publishing skills. However, the only way we can do this is through membership dues and the annual auction. It's important that we begin now to prepare for the auction and not make it a last minute rush.

A new fund-raiser would be for members to sell raffle tickets, another idea to discuss further in February. The auction committee promises to do our best to make the auction something you will enjoy and want to continue making the event a success.

**Chet Dixon, Auction Chair**

### 2013 OWL OFFICERS

**President:** **Karen Nelson**  
818 Hwy O; Kisse Mills, MO 65680 417-546-4937  
dkaren@centurytel.net

**Vice-President:** **Jeanie Horn**  
**Treasurer:** **Ellen Thompson**  
P.O Box 114; Farmington, AR 72703  
whalechaser@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** **Ellen Withers**  
lnwithers@yahoo.com (501) 329-7477

**Past-President:** **Jan Morrill**  
**Past-treasurer:** **Brenda Black**

**Membership Director:** **Diane Yates**  
105 S. Williams; Fayette, MO 65248 660-728-3407  
Diane@DianeYates.com

**Historian:** **Fred Pfister**  
frpfister@suddenlink.net

**Board of Directors: Patti Stith; Pamela Foster; Beth Carter; Dusty Richards. Auction Chair-Chet Dixon; Contest Chair-Rochelle Fields; Hospitality Chair-Sylvia Forbes; Publicity/Assistant Editor; Kent Bonham.**

Website - **Karen Nelson.**

Newsletter-Jeanie Horn; jeanhorn@windstream.net  
jeanie71@hotmail.com 870-448-2499  
116 Duvall St., Marshall, AR 72650

### OWL video on YouTube:

Karen Nelson uploaded the OWL History Presentation onto YouTube and it is available for everyone to watch. DVDs of the program are also available, at \$ 5.00 each.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfGkejxhsgs>

### Motel Accommodations

**Ye Olde English Inn**, will provide a special rate for OWL members, as well as **Boxcar Willie Inn**. Identify yourself as an OWL member when making reservations. Check their websites for directions.

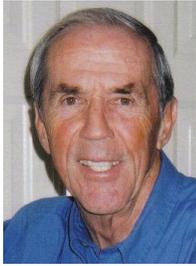
### OWL Meeting Place

Ozarks Writers League meets in the Plaster Auditorium at the College of the Ozarks. Through the entrance, follow Opportunity Ave. to Plaster Auditorium, the 3rd major building on the right. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

**Cell Phone Courtesy** to our speakers, **turn off** cell phones, or set on vibrate during the meeting. **Please**, no conversations in the meeting room. Use the lobby.

## KUDOS TO OWL MEMBERS

### NEIL CHANDLER:



“During my career as a Certified Public Accountant, I wrote thousands of words in tight, precise, technical terms. After retirement I began writing fiction short stories and non-fiction articles. These pieces met with success in writing contests, a handful published in magazines. Enjoying the achievements with this writing effort that allowed freedom,

I wrote, published and successfully sold a memoir, *The Last Decade of Innocence, Thoughts from a 1940s Boyhood*. Subsequent to 2007 I published *Sloville: Its Citizens' Saga, Sorta*, three short-length volumes containing humorous stories covering five generations of families living in a rural community. Intrigued by an old news article about a woman convicted of a 1936 murder in Ft. Smith AR, I completed and published in 2011 a fictional novel, *The Search for Avice Buckman*. In 2012, I published *The Search for Feeney Williams*, the second in a planned trilogy of "cozy" mysteries, this story exploring the world of drugs and the Federal Witness Protection program.

While working on the third "Search" novel, in 2013 I published a compilation of short stories and musings titled *The Day Tinker Johnson Died*, which include, among other writings, contest winners and a few non-winners. These seven books are available in both print and Kindle versions on Amazon. In the meantime, I'll follow my singing and golfing endeavors.”

**VELDA BROTHERTON** has two new books out. *The Purloined Skull* is the beginning of a mystery series published by Oak Tree Press. This book launched 19 October 2013. The second book, *Once There Were Sad Songs*, published by



The Wild Rose Press, comes out in February 2014 in print copy. Chapters and a synopsis of this book won the Crème de la Crème at OWFI in 2008.

“See how long that took. Never give up,” she said.

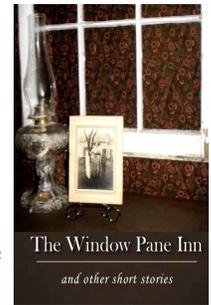
**MARILYN K. SMITH:** Published an anthology, *The Window Pane Inn and other short stories*.



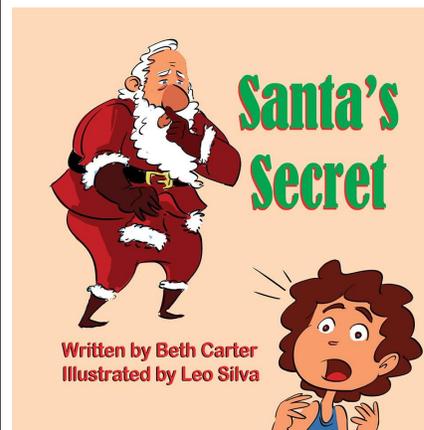
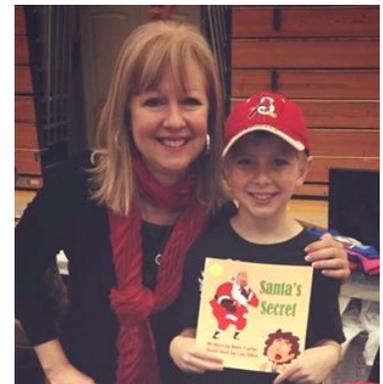
"Father, son duo make farmers' market a family affair" and

"Brothers get up close with wild animals at their dream jobs," in the October 2013 issue of Neighbor News, Living Better publication. She also has a weekly column, *A Tale or Two*, in the Buffalo Reflex Newspaper.

In the Springfield Poets & Friends 2013 writing contest, Marilyn won—3rd place, *Deceived*; free verse—1st place, *Summertime*; formal structure—1st place, *Lost Keys*; Humor—3rd place, *my flower bed dressed*; Haiku/Senryu



**BETH CARTER'S** third picture book, *SANTA'S SECRET* was published by Mirror Publishing.



“This is one of the major reasons I love writing kidlit. I get to meet my little fans like Alex! It warms my heart to inspire children to read and/or write.”

Continued on p. 7

**JAMES WILLIS** has written three books, *Arkansas Confederates in the Western Theater*, published by Morningside Press, Dayton, OH and was awarded the “Douglas Southern Freeman History Award for best published book of high merit in Southern History from colonial time to the present. The second book, *The Other Side of Silence*, is a Civil War novel/faction based on his fourteen years of research, which makes it historically accurate. The third book is his autobiography. James is a new OWL member, and won 2nd place in the Memoir category for *Just One of the Boys*, at the November 2013 writing awards.



“I came to writing late in my life and enjoy it more than anything I have done except teaching.”



OWLs enjoyed excellent entertainment from The Possum Holler Fiddlers at the 2013 November Awards Banquet in Hollister, MO.



In 2008 a musical program was begun by Ozark Adventures, dedicated to teaching, learning, and keeping alive the history and culture of the Ozarks. Summer of that same year the first week-long Traditional Ozark Music Camp was held at the Ozark Mountain Folk Center in Mt. View, AR.

Twenty young people, age 10-18, from both Missouri and Arkansas attended the camp. Instructors for the camp were master fiddlers well versed in traditional Ozark music.

That same year the young students were invited to perform at Silver Dollar City near Branson, MO. In response, a troupe of the better fiddlers, named The Possum Holler Fiddlers, was formed.

Summer of 2014 will mark the seventh annual Traditional Ozark Fiddle Camp under the direction of Bob and Karlene McGill. The music camp pairs old time Ozark fiddlers with young fiddle players from throughout the Ozarks. Possum Holler Fiddlers is a direct result of this camp.

In the years since their inception, the Possums have played at festivals and in churches and venues throughout the Ozarks. Their most notable performances include the Shriners Children's Hospital in St. Louis, the Fringe Festival in Scotland, and the White House. After a month of preparations, seven Possums, accompanied by ten parents and siblings, traveled to Washington where they stayed at the National 4-H center, then performed in the large exit foyer for three hours to roughly 2,000 visitors. If any OWL member knows of a church, venue, or an Ozark festival where the Possums might perform, please contact Bob or Karlene McGill (417-230-5530).

This touring group exists because of support and dedication from parents of the young musicians, and the generous gifts of individuals and corporations..

The music program is now expanding to teach fiddling in area after-school programs.

## AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, 1 February 2014, 9 A.M.-2 P.M., authors will sign and sell their books at the Kimberling Area Library in Kimberling City, MO. For more information go to:

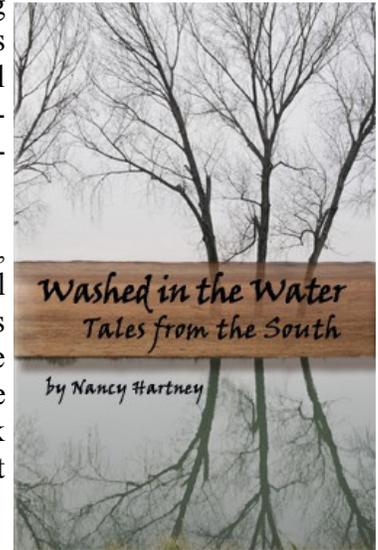
[www.kalib.org](http://www.kalib.org)

# THE WRITER'S LIFE

## *Nancy Hartney*

**When did you decide to be a writer, and why?** In school, elementary as well as high school, I jumped into my writing assignments with abandon. I wrote a few short stories during that time but they were pretty naïve and amateurish. Not until I did articles for my college newspaper did I really begin to think about writing. I focused for years on nonfiction pieces covering horse events, motorcycle touring articles, and book reviews for various publications. I slipped into short stories, had several published in regional anthologies, and won awards at writers' conferences which built confidence. I belong to a critique group—two in fact—and have been endlessly encouraged by those folks. I love each and every one of them.

**What kind of writing do you do?** I write short stories set in the South, western tales, and nonfiction articles for magazines and newspapers. I'll keep writing out of sheer pleasure. Look for another collection of tales that take place in the South, stories set in the racing world, and maybe some western short stories. I'm playing with the idea of a novel. At one time I rode to the hounds. The rallying cry in the hunt field was "Kick on," meaning to ride forward no matter how trappy the terrain or height of the jump. Now I shout "Write on!" Same idea.

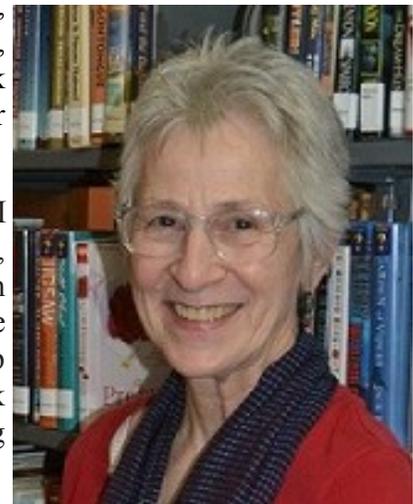


**What inspires you to write?** Ideas come at all times, day and night.

They arrive in an overheard conversation, a phrase or word, a song, or in the way night sidles along a street, like a ghost cat. I'm never without a pen to jot down a story beginning or ending or middle. I've been known to grab a napkin or wadded up paper and start writing. The thing that encourages and inspires me the most are unsolicited reviews by people I don't even know and will probably never meet. Those reviews most frequently nail the reader's real reaction to my writing.

**What do you usually read?** I cannot eat just one potato chip. I can't name one favorite author. I can't pinpoint a favorite book. Mood, time, and place all factor into what I read. Generally, I like everything from flash fiction to short stories to novels and nonfiction. International authors such as Michael Ondaatje, Margaret Atwood, Isabel Allende, and Colum McCann make my mouth water with their prose. Nonfiction work of Thomas McGuane, Jane Smiley, Larry McMurtry, Roy Reed, and Ivan Doig are an endless delight. Favorite fiction writers include Lee Smith, Flannery O'Connor, Alice Walker, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Erskine Caldwell, and Tom Franklin. However, when I pick up a book to read, I draw a line at about 275 to 350 pages. Past that, a good editor needs to step in.

**What, or who, has been the most helpful to you in your writing?** I can't even begin to list the many folks that have offered advice, help, or a leg-up when it comes to writing. Everyone has been generous with their time, sharing experiences, offering marketing ideas—you name it—they have done it. Teachers, workshop leaders, critique group members, family, strangers, friends, people that have bought my book – each and every one has been an invaluable inspiration on this writing journey.



**SHARON KEELING DAVIS; Writing as S. D.**

**KEELING**, winner of the President's award, Best of the Best, for her entry in category #11, Unpublished Book, *The Amulet Of Isis*.

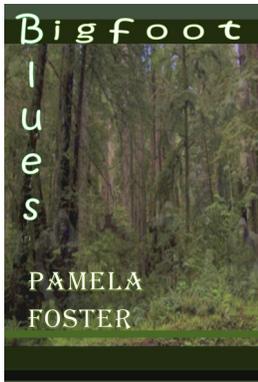
"I'm a photographer, president of Ozarks Romance Authors and mother of two rambunctious little boys. I'm currently working on revisions for my debut novel, a middle-grade time travel adventure:

*THE AMULET OF ISIS.*"

**PAMELA FOSTER**

Pam won the OWL Book of the Year award for her novel *Bigfoot Blues*.

She also won 1st place Showcase Award, *Boogie With Chesty*, at the October 2013 OCW conference in Eureka Springs, AR.

**OWL Writing Contest Winners****#1: Gene Andereck Short Story**

1st: *My Unlikely Life* - W.E. (Bill) Mueller

2nd: *Spring Fever* - Gail Pierce Larimer

3rd: *A Good Place To Die* - Pamela Foster

1st HM: *Sun and Shade* - Marcia Gaye

2nd HM: *The Communion* - Shannon Cavanaugh

**#2: Judges, Jailhouses, Lawyers & Gumshoes Short Fiction**

1st: *The Unlawful Adventures of Boomer, Cyclone and Rosie Red* - Bonnie Tesh

2nd: *Eyes of A Tiger* - Donna Volkenannt

3rd: *Elmer County Politics* - Diane Smithey

**#3: Flash Fiction Mystery**

1st: *Patient Privilege* - S.D. Keeling

2nd: *No Numbers In The Dark* - J.C. Crumpton

3rd: *Three For The Show* - Gary R. Hoffman

1st HM: *My London Assignment* - W.E. (Bill) Mueller

2nd HM: *The Mystery of the Stumbling Piranha-Ravaged Skeleton* - Marcia Gaye

Continued on p. 10

**BONNIE TESH** loves writing

short stories.

"I also have two novels I am revising and will try to market them this year. I'm working on a compilation of my prize winning short



stories. I have stories in three anthologies, *Shadows After Midnight*, *Fifty Shades of Santa*, and *Cupids Quiver*, published as e-books by Welkin Press. *Fifty Shades of Santa* is now in print. My 1st place Showcase Award winner, *Devil Wind*, from the 2012 OCW Conference is in *Shadows After Midnight*. I have one story in an anthology published by High Hill Press, *Bigfoot Confidential*, *Having a Beer With Bigfoot*.

**JIM HAMILTON**, senior writer for *Neighbor News*, received a 1st place award for serious columns, class 2 weeklies, the Buffalo Reflex, in the 2013 Missouri Press Association Better Newspaper Contest. He accepted a 1st place Best Special Section award on behalf of the Country Neighbor staff for the July issue of that quarterly supplement to five Neighbor Newspapers, including the Buffalo Reflex. He also garnered a 2nd place Best Special Section award for the April 2012 edition of Country Neighbor, as well as a 2nd for coverage of agriculture and rural living, published in the Reflex.

**DUKE PENNELL**, editor & publisher of *Frontier Tales*, Pen-L Publishing, became a Western Writers of America (WWA) member in October 2013.

**DIANE WEST** won 3rd place with *Sled Dogs on Mercy Mission*, and won an HM with *Train Wreck*, non-fiction in the Springfield Writers Guild 2013 writing contest.

**#4: Best Nature Article**

1st: *Death On A Creek Bank* – Shannon Cavanaugh  
 2nd: *Limited Visibility* – Pamela Foster  
 3rd: *Conversations With Birds* – Gary R. Hoffman  
 HM: *A Summer Sweet Heart* – Geneva King Emerson

**#5: Photo Prompt – Romance Short Story**

1st: *Model Dance* - Sara Gipson  
 2nd: *Until Death Do We Part* - Marilyn K. Smith  
 3rd: *How Could I Tell Her?* - W. E. (Bill) Mueller  
 1st HM: *Lost and Found* - S.D. Keeling  
 2nd HM: *The Man in the Suit* - Diane Yates

**#6: Flash Fiction**

1st: *Lessons From Nature* – Sylvia Forbes  
 2nd: *Just Now* – Gary R. Hoffman  
 3rd: *Hope* – Patricia A. Oplinger  
 1st HM: *Delete* – S.D. Keeling  
 2nd HM: *The Ugly Lover* – Harry McDermott

**#7: Paranormal Short Story**

1st: *The Promise* – Jeanie Horn  
 2nd: *Celestial Night* – Donna Volkenannt  
 3rd: *No Qualms About Wisdom Less Than Hers* –  
 Roxann Phillips/Madison Woods  
 1st HM: *Drucilla Came Back* – Linda Fisher  
 2nd HM: *The Monster of Tinker's Dell* – Diane  
 Smithey  
 3rd HM: *Grave Hill* – Mary Horn

**#8: Western Short Story**

1st: *Ladies Don't Do That* – Claudia Mundell  
 2nd: *Ephraim's Birthday* – Nancy Hartney  
 3rd: *Rising Up* – Diane Smithey  
 1st HM: *Ride on A Full Stomach*–Gary R. Hoffman  
 2nd HM: *A Formidable Encounter* – Sara Gipson

**#9: Literary Short Story**

1st: *Yeah I Get That A Lot* – Gary R. Hoffman  
 2nd: *Too Many Tears* – Sara Gipson  
 3rd: *Fall From Grace* – Bonnie Tesh  
 HM: *Red Shoes* – Brenda Black

**#10: Young Adult Short Story**

1st: *After Ever After* – Karen Nelson  
 2nd: *The Lesson* – S.D. Keeling  
 3rd: *Red Shoe Envy* – Vivian Barcroft  
 HM: *Stalking The Homecoming Queen*–Jennifer  
 DiCamillo

**#11: Unpublished Book**

1st: *The Amulet of Isis* – S.D. Keeling  
 2nd: *Ridgeline* – Pamela Foster  
 3rd: *That Horrible Sunday Afternoon*-Veda Boyd Jones

**#12: Dan Sault's Personal Essay**

1st: *Sister Wives* – Karen Nelson  
 2nd: *Saving the Earth With Words*–Susan Varno  
 3rd: *Aunt Laverne's Legacy*–Donna Volkenannt

**#13: Poetry**

1st: *Malala* – Bill Rhodes  
 2nd: *On The Road to Camdenton* - Karen  
 Nelson  
 3rd: *Skilled Nursing* – J.C. Crumpton  
 1st HM: *Ann Templeton* – Patricia A. Oplinger  
 2nd HM: *Massacre on Shepherd's Hill*  
 R.H. Burkett  
 3rd HM: *An Actor's Zeal* – Marcia Gaye

**#14: Non-Fiction Article**

1st: *When Valor Proudly Sleeps* – Jeanie Horn  
 2nd: *Christmas Eve, Cell 8* – W.E. (Bill) Mueller  
 3rd: *Casting On* – Karen Nelson  
 HM: *In the Heart of Manchuria* – Bill Rhodes

**#15: Six-Word Memoirs**

1st: *Hate Self-Promotion. Taking Lessons  
 From Hooker* - Karen Nelson  
 2nd: *Characters Fill My Head. Never Alone* -  
 S.D. Keeling  
 3rd: *It's An Autobiographical Romance/  
 Cookbook/Thriller.* - Bonnie Tesh  
 HM: *"I'm Upbeat, Confident, Polished and  
 Rejected."* - Marcia Gaye

**#16: Memoir**

1st: *The Summer I Met A Real Hero* –  
 Sara Gipson  
 2nd: *Just One of the Boys* – James Willis  
 3d : *Tales From The Swamp* – Sylvia Forbes  
 1st HM: *Something To Remember Him By* -  
 Melba Payne  
 2nd HM: *One Sister, Cheap*–Jennifer  
 DiCamillo

**MARY NIDA SMITH**, 2014 ORAC (Ozark Regional Arts Council) Historian, also founded Creative Writers & Illustrators in 2013. She published a poem in Premier Issue, *Journey of the Ozarks*, won 2nd place and HM for photographs in the Area Art Club 2013 Art Show. She was a speaker at Baxter County Historical & Genealogical Society, and sold 6x6 painting at ORAC Fund Raiser.

### Connecting at Conferences; by Karen Nelson

You've packed your bags, booked your room, put fuel in the car, and have notebook in hand. There's just one problem . . . you'll be walking into a room full of people. Going to a writers' conference is exciting, but can also be a little intimidating. How can you get the most out of your next writers' event? OWL meets four times a year in what has been described as a "mini-conference." Visiting speakers share their expertise, and authors from all over plan to network with other writers and industry professionals. We attend to learn and make progress with our craft, but we also come to meet other human beings. Here are five tips to make your next encounter a success (*adapted from Tricia Goyer's site allume.com*):

**Start with an introduction.** Meeting people at conferences is easier than you think. Even if you

are shy, there are natural places to connect with people, such as in line for registration, sitting in workshops, or at meals. Every friendship starts with an introduction, "Hi, I'm Karen. What's your name?"

**Listen first.** When I go to a conference my goal is not to tell everyone all about me. Instead, I like to hear what others are up to. A few questions I like to ask: *What do you like to write about? Tell me about your blog/book/artwork. What are you most looking forward to today?* These are simple questions, but their answers help you get to know a person. Their answers can highlight simpler interests. And you'll never know where those relationships will lead.

**Find a mutual friend.** You may want to connect with "important people" at an event, but so does everyone else! Remember that the person YOU may need to connect with may be sitting right next to you, or be a friend of a friend. Look for those connections that apply to your special area of writing, regardless of the source.

**Follow-up on connections.** Take the time to send an email or thank-you note to anyone you met that helped you on your road to success. I jot down names and addresses during the day, then make those follow-up responses as soon as I get home. This keeps the excitement of the conferences going long past the "good-byes", and begins to build those relationships we crave in the writing community.



**Share the love.** When you return to your local guild or critique group, share with others what you've learned. Post photos on the web and relate funny stories you heard. Repetition helps us remember, and it inspires others to follow your footsteps. You might just gain a driving buddy or find a co-author to share your next project!