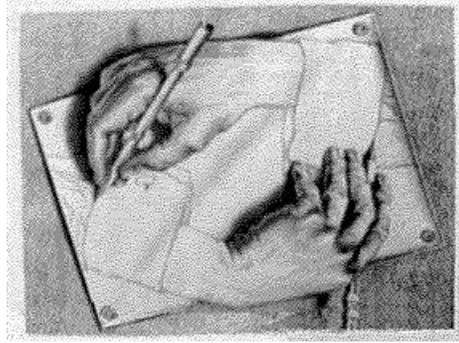


The Write Stuff

*Newsletter of the Columbia Chapter –
Missouri Writers' Guild*

*July 2012 Issue
Edited by – Eva Ridenour*



"The ideal view for daily writing, hour for hour, is the blank brick wall of a cold-storage warehouse. Failing this, a stretch of sky will do, cloudless if possible."

Edna Ferber

The President's Message

We've had a busy quarter. Lots of good things have been happening.

Our April program gave members the opportunity to "write to a prompt." While this is not an exercise for some, I was pleased everybody hunkered down and used the time for the learning moments available. If you happen to be having a problem with your work in progress, writing to an appropriate prompt may lead you in a new and interesting direction.

May 6 was a big day. While Linda Fisher was kept very busy winding up *Well Versed ~ Literary Works 2012* and making sure we had plenty of books on hand, I was busy sending out press releases for the book launch and conscripting a friend into service as a photographer. Von Pittman and Kit and Cathy Salter made arrangements for beverages, plates, cups, and napkins for our refreshments. Everyone attending must have brought some kind of treat to share as we had plenty and it was delicious. Thank you to all for your contributions to our event.

On launch day Linda Fisher and Harold Ream brought in several boxes of the new edition of *Well Versed*. Along with Bridget Bufford, they set up a table to handle copy distribution ordered by contributors. They also made sales to guests that day. We had only three books left at the end of the day. Sales were so good, several members opted to wait and pick up their books at the June meeting so Linda and Bridget could keep selling. Wow!

June 3 we had a Seven-Minute goal-setting seminar. Probably wouldn't work for everyone, but in the past it gave me direction and incentive to accomplish some pretty daring things. How it works is on another page.

Carolyn Mulford has come up with some interesting ideas for the conference. Some speakers are already lined up.

I am asking all of you to volunteer to help. Like I said at the meeting, "many hands make light work."

The July 1 gathering will see a panel of column writers giving us insight on how they got started and how they write their columns. This should be interesting and informative. Check the website or further on in this newsletter for more details.

My best advice at the moment is

Stay Cool!

Judy Stock
President – CCMWG

**Our Conference - The
Write Direction!
will be Saturday,
November 10, 2012.
We need YOUR help.**

Officers of CCMWG 2012

President	Judy Stock
Vice-President	Linda Fisher
Secretary	Christian A. Young
Treasurer	Bridget Bufford
Administrative Assistant	Eva Ridenour
Member-at-Large	Carolyn Mulford

Three Columnists Share Experiences During CCMWG's July 1 meeting

Three local writers—**Wayne Anderson**, **Elizabeth Davis**, and **Cathy Salter**—will discuss how they landed regular newspaper columns, where they find ideas week after week, what special techniques they use in preparing columns, and how being a columnist can further your writing career.

The columnists' topics and styles vary widely, but they face common challenges. Much of their advice will apply to columns (or similar material) published in magazines, newsletters, and corporate and individual blogs.

To know where they're coming from, read their columns before the meeting.

Wayne Anderson writes a weekly travel column, "Venture Bound," for the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. While a professor of psychology, he traveled extensively abroad and in the United States with the International Center for Psychosocial Trauma. Now a professor emeritus, he continues to teach courses in crisis management and human sexuality and to write articles and books on a range of topics.

Elizabeth Davis recently updated her weekly "Historically Yours" column on the Civil War to a daily blog on American history for the *Boonville Daily News*. For several years she has contributed book reviews to the newspaper's "Gift of Story" column and both poetry and prose to *Well Versed*.

Cathy Salter writes an award-winning weekly lifestyle column, "Notes from Boomerang Creek," for the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and the *Boone County Journal*. A former history/geography teacher, she served on the staff of the National Geographic Society's Geography Education Division and wrote an article on the Missouri River for *National Geographic*. She has published a collection of her essays and is working on another.

At the end of the discussion, the panelists will answer questions and sell/sign their books. Carolyn Mulford will moderate the discussion.

Novel Writing Critique Group is in the Works

We are pulling together several members who are interested in writing novels. We aren't too sure how it is supposed to work, but have received some direction from Carolyn Mulford who has been in such a group for several years.

Anyone who is interested should write Judy Stock at j-stock@sbcglobal.net. If I have already contacted you, you are on the list.

For the present all communications will be by email. Any questions, just ask. We'll try to find the answers.

Contest

The Daniel Boone Regional Library Flash Fiction Contest. Deadline is July 16, 2012. See the website for guidelines, rules and entry forms.

<http://next.dbrl.org/summer-reading-2012/flash-fiction-guidelines/>

Opportunity for writers - summer workshop in St. Louis in July.

Webster University - St. Louis -The 17th Annual Summer Writers Institute will take place from July 13-21, 2012, and feature a number of exciting changes.

First is our new compressed format: workshops will meet intensively for eight days in July. Workshops will be held in the evenings and include: creative nonfiction, sudden fiction and prose poetry, fiction, and more. Weekends will be devoted to day-

long seminars, where local authors and experts will lecture on various craft subjects. As always, our workshops will be taught by professional, published writers, experts in their fields. SWI will, as always, feature one-on-one critiques, faculty readings, and an open mic. Sections will be kept small to facilitate discussion and are for-credit only. And new this year will be the opportunity to use Washington University's historic literary campus as a writing retreat, both before and during workshops.

Please visit our website for more info:

<http://pages.wustl.edu/swi>

Upcoming Conferences

Ozark Creative Writers 45th Annual Conference

to be held Oct. 11-13, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, phone 800-552-3785. Make hotel reservations early and let them know you're with Ozark Creative Writers. For more information on the conference see their website at:

www.ozarkcreativewriters.com. Louella (Lou) Turner will be on the faculty. She attended our *Well Versed* launch along with Donna Volkenannt.

Midwest Writers Workshop, July 26-28, Muncie,

IN - Attending agents: Kathleen Ortiz (Nancy Coffey Literary); Brooks Sherman (FinePrint Literary); J.L. Stermer (NS Bienstock); and Sarah LaPolla (Curtis Brown).

Killer Nashville (MWA), Aug. 23-26, Nashville, TN - Attending agents: Jill Marr (Sandra Dijkstra Literary); Holly McClure (Sullivan Maxx Literary); and Nicole Resciniti (The Seymour Agency).

Chicago Writers Conference, Sept. 14-16, Chicago, IL - Attending agents: Jennifer Mattson (Andrea Brown Literary); Danielle Egan-Miller and Joanna Mackenzie (Browne & Miller); and more to be announced.

Missouri Library Association's - The Missouri Writers Guild has purchased booth space at this annual conference Thursday, October 4, in Springfield and will use the booth to promote member authors. Authors who are interested in participating should send one copy of your most recent book for display at the conference to:

Deborah Schott
15719 Lamar Ridge Court
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Please also send ordering information separately--an e-mail to this address will work fine. Be sure to include ISBN as well as details on how to contact your publisher or distributor.

In addition, if you have promotional materials you would like us to give away (bookmarks, brochures, postcards, whatever), send those to Deborah too.

If you live in the area--or not--and would like to spend some time in the booth visiting with librarians from across the state, please let me know. We can set up a schedule so that as many authors as possible will be able to make personal contact with Missouri librarians. Depending on the number of people who are interested in being in the booth, the scheduled time will be an hour to an hour and a half. If you're interested in this component of the event, please mention that in the e-mail you send with ordering information.

Steve Wiegenstein,
MWG Treasurer

www.missouriwritersguild.org

Columbia Chapter Launches Well Versed Works 2012

The Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild launched *Well Versed ~ Literary Works 2012* Sunday, May 6, 2012 at the regular group meeting. Writers whose works appear in the new edition reading from their work replaced the normal program. In addition to members, families, and friends were invited to the event.

According to one member, *Well Versed* was first published in the early 1990s, a twenty-four page booklet, folded, and stapled in the middle. The last three years, the juried journal has run about 200 pages, the current issue is 251 pages.

Evelyn Somers Rogers, associate editor of *The Missouri Review*, judged the fiction entries; Becky Carr Imhauser, well know author, judged the nonfiction entries; and Harvey Stanbrough, writer, poet, freelance editor, and writing instructor, judged the poetry. A record number of quality entries made them ponder long over their ratings.

Linda Fisher, managing editor for the 2012 edition, announced the awards for first, second, and third places, and several honorable mentions. Winning authors present received their certificates

and prizes. She then introduced the readers by reading the short bio from the book.

While authors read from a wide variety of chosen work, poet, J. M. Brandt read first as she had her husband's graduation to attend.

The journal has become one in which writers like to be published because works are judged blind and the *Well Versed* committee doesn't announce the judges' names until after the winners have been selected. This, as well as close attention to detail, have been instrumental in increasing the quality of the publications through the years. Writers like to know a superior submission will receive a superior rating. We are not only drawing more submissions each year, but the names on the submissions are recognized. This has not stopped beginning writers from submitting as the judges don't know if you are new to the game or a veteran, the works are judged on quality.

The CCMWG is proud to have launched the "best one yet."

CCMWG Winners Well Versed ~ Literary Works 2012 Contest

Poetry

1st Place

J. M. Brandt - "Gérecz Attila—1956, Budapest"

2nd Place

Ida Bettis Fogle - "Seeing Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Birds' at Age 7"

3rd Place

Marcia Gaye - "Flash Flame"

Honorable Mentions

Carol Gorski Buckels - "Before the Eclipse"

J. M. Brandt - "Before It Rains"

Marcia Gaye - "July Fifth, Last Night"

Fiction

1st Place

Bob Hodgson - "A Coat for All Winters"

2nd Place

J. M. Brandt - "The Stupid Things We Do"

3rd Place

Cynthia Reeg - Sky High Stitches

Honorable Mentions

Jimmy Capps - "Fire on the Flight Deck"

Kit Salter - "Swimming with Mao"

J. M. Brandt - "The Eye"

Nonfiction

1st Place

Donna Volkenannt - "The Magic of Writing"

2nd Place

Alice Muschany - "High Five"

3rd Place

Mary Koeberl Rechenberg - "God Speaks—Ever So Softly"

Honorable Mentions

Alice Muschany - "Decorated with Love"

Donna Volkenannt - "A Fine November Day"

Marilyn Hope Lake - "A Special Family Sunday"

Successes

Von Pittman received an honorable mention from Outrider Press for his story "Romeo Corpen," published in Outrider's original trade paperback, *Deep Waters*. Outrider "launched" *Deep Waters* at the recent Printer's Row Book Festival in Chicago.

Other Successes

Barri Baumgarner, can now be referred to as Dr. Barri Baumgarner. Her latest book is her dissertation entitled "Digital Storytelling in Writing: A Case Study of Student Teacher Attitudes Toward Teaching with Technology," and was completed in 2012. She says that she loves having the Dr. in front of her name – finally! And now she can jump back into two different book projects and return to the land of authors. Congratulations, Dr. Barri.

Markets

Bad Hair Day Call to Submissions – Short Deadline -Mozark Press seeks humorous fiction stories for *A Shaker of Margaritas: A Bad Hair Day*. For this anthology, a bad hair day is one of those days when things don't go according to plan; in fact, it is as horrible as a bad perm or hair that turns green—unintentionally. Things go wrong, but with humor, stubbornness, and attitude—the female protagonist can survive any kind of bad hair day.

Submissions deadline is July 15, 2012. Approximately 20-25 stories will be selected for the anthology and will be paid \$20 upon publication.

For submissions guidelines visit the "Bad Hair Day" page on www.mozarkpress.blogspot.com.

Are You Interested in What is Being Said About the Publishing World Today?

Sylvia Forbes sent this great link that describes the publishing world today. It can give you some insight into why you're getting rejected like you are, markets available and where the publishing world is headed. It's well worth the few minutes it takes to read it.

<http://annerallen.blogspot.com/2012/05/who-are-big-six-what-does-indie-really.html>

An Opportunity Lost for Writers

The University of Missouri Press is shutting down. It's that many more opportunities lost for writers. The press has been a way of preserving Missouri history. This press has published many historical works about the state that no one else would print. You can read about the proposed shutdown at - <http://www.kansas-scbwi.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.aspx?linkAndRecipientCode=snHAtDP4%2f3wxjzBtOGBxQ3YTuzO5VjAXzHZrRI8D3rYMs3ZLrURJVHL0zgLxAUTpKB5MrjwT9kif02ffvGT8Ebh3jZdg42YQIZ80iuKf88M%3d>

However, this is something all CCMWG members should be interested in. Maybe the board to send the University a letter of protest. If the university can spend millions on football to go to the SEC, they should be

interested in keeping the press alive. As I finish this newsletter, I have just learned that the University of Missouri is now going to start a multi-million dollar project to expand all sports as well as to add about 6,000 seats to the football stadium. Yet, they're closing the University Press because it lost \$400,000. We thought priorities were education, maybe not.

Working Backward to Set Goals

(program from June 3 meeting)

I. Work Backward with a Letter

- A. Select a friend or family member to be the recipient of the letter.
- B. Post date the letter a year in the future.
- C. Tell the friend or family member everything you accomplished in the previous year.
- D. Don't be a wimp; challenge yourself.
- E. Mail the letter.

II. Taking the Next Step

- A. Choose one of the items from your list.
- B. Decide what you need to have done in the first six months.
- C. Decide what you need to have done in the first three months.
- D. Break the task into smaller increments until you have it a week at a time.
- E. Go to the next task and do the same thing.

III. Get Busy on Your Tasks—You've Got a Lot of Work to Do

IV. Why This Method Can Work

- A. It breaks the BIG jobs into tiny bites that are much easier to swallow.
- B. You challenged yourself. That alone can increase motivation.
- C. You mailed the letter. Are you really going to let your friend or family member know you weren't up to the challenge? Nah!