

Purple Pros

The Official Newsletter of

Southeastern
Writers

writers helping writers



PURPLE PROS – SOUTHEASTERN WRITERS NEWSLETTER – MAY 2022

SWA Writers Conference - June 10-14



Epworth by the Sea - St. Simons Island

SWA Vice-President's Letter

**2022 Writers Conference
is only six weeks away!
Early Bird Registration
has been extended!
FREE Writing Contests
are accepting manuscripts
from paid conferees only!**



Our long-anticipated live annual conference is only a month-and-a-half away. Although it was unfortunate one of our faculty had to cancel for this year, we were so

lucky to have such a talented instructor, Dr. Walter Curry, to step in and join our teaching team.

A common conceptualization and stereotype of the book-buying world is a lone author laboring on a typewriter (now a computer), for hours and days at a time, penning out word after word, paragraph after paragraph, and chapter after chapter until at long last, the magnificent manuscript is completed.

The ecstatic writer does a few edits and then submits a query letter to a literary agent, who, duly impressed, sends the author an offer and they are off to the races. This is such a mind-blowing picture. Yet, when the public goes to a bookstore and buys a book or reads reader reviews on Amazon, usually the singular name that is prominent on the book is the author's name. The

general public believes that person is solely responsible for the entire venture.

We all know why that happens. The author is building his/her platform, growing his/her reputation, and setting the stage to sell books and establish a reader following. Of course, there is always the acknowledgment page in every book where the writer provides their gratitude to everyone who contributed to the finished novel or their team. But it would take way too much space on the cover to mention all of the people involved in the writing of the book.

Successful writers know in order to have a successful publication, it takes not only the work and talent of the writer's word-smithing, but to also put together a team including literary agents, editors, researchers, beta readers, and a publisher whom the public never knows or rarely appreciates. Being entertained by the story is the reason the book is being purchased.

What our annual conference offers during four days in June is a teaching team which provides attendees a buffet of instruction and an opportunity to explore the team's expertise. This year's group is amazing and hopefully what you learn will help you put together a team that will take your next project to a higher level.

Be a sponge at our conference, soak up everything you can.

**Jim Furry, Vice-President
Southeastern Writers Association**

SWA 2022 Writers Conference Schedule (subject to change)

Times	Friday, June 10, 2022	Saturday, June 11, 2022	Sunday, June 12, 2022	Monday, June 13, 2022	Tuesday, June 14, 2022
7:30 - 8:30AM	Welcome to the Southeastern Writers Association 2022 Writers Conference	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30AM		Val Mathews Part 1 Creative Tools to Jumpstart Your Writing	Walter Curry Intro to Historical Non-Fiction	Steve Kistulentz Why Tell What Happened? Liberating Ourselves from Our Own Experience	Check Out Goodbye until Next Summer!
9:30 - 9:45AM		Break	Break	Break	
9:45 - 10:45AM		Val Mathews Part 2 Creative Tools to Jumpstart Your Writing	Piper Huguley Part 1 Filling in the blanks: the boom in diverse historical fiction novels	Walter Curry Tools & Tips in Self Publishing Historical Non-Fiction	Board Meeting
10:45 - 11:00AM		Break	Break	Break	
11:00 - 12:00PM		Michael Lucker Breaking the Book	Piper Huguley Part 2 Filling in the blanks: the boom in diverse historical fiction novels	Michael Lucker Selling the Screenplay	
12:00 - 1:30PM		Lunch/Bookstore Open	Lunch/Bookstore Open	Lunch/Bookstore Open	
1:30 - 2:30PM		Steve Kistulentz Learning Not to Flinch: Understanding Why We Must Write the Ugly Truth	Walter Curry Strategies & Resource Historical Non-Fiction	Piper Huguley What's in a name? Everything!	
2:30-2:45PM		Break	Break	Break	
2:45 - 3:45PM		Piper Huguley How to start writing your historical fiction novel	Steve Kistulentz The Invitation: How Personal Material Expands the Audience for Your Poems	Michael Lucker Making the Movie	
3:45 - 4:00PM		Break	Break	Break	
4:00 - 5:00PM		Registration	Val Mathews Part 3 Creative Tools to Jumpstart Your Writing	Michael Lucker Writing the Screenplay	Steve Kistulentz Growing as a Literary Citizen: An Open Forum
5:00 - 5:30PM		Break - Announcements	Break - Announcements	Break - Announcements	Break - Announcements
5:30 - 6:30PM		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7:00-8:00PM	Orientation	Open Mic Night	Val Mathews What are publishers looking for today?	Awards Ceremony	
8:00 - 9:00PM	Keynote: Buzz Bernard Booksigning to Follow	Socializing/Networking	Socializing/Networking	Cocktail Party at King & Prince	

Meet the faculty

St. Simons Island, GA
June 10-14, 2022



Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr.-
Historical / Non-fiction Instructor



Michael Lucker-
Screenwriting instructor



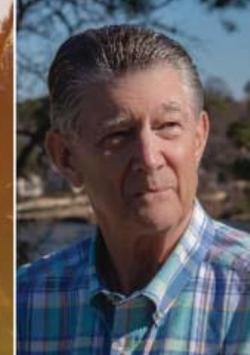
Val M. Mathews-
Editing instructor



Piper G. Huguley-
Fiction instructor



Steve Kistulentz-
Poetry instructor



Harold "Buzz" Bernard-
Keynote Speaker



To Register visit:

<https://www.southeasternwriters.org>

2022 SWA Conference Faculty

Harold “Buzz” Bernard, an alumnus of Southeastern Writers Association, will be one of the evening speakers.

Bernard has a background as a meteorologist, but his last three books have been about something completely different. He is the author of two books in a series about World War II pilots – *When Heroes Flew* and *The Shangri-La Raiders*. Book three – *The Roof of the World* – will be released this summer.

Bernard will speak about his writing journey and share some of his SWA memories. <https://buzzbernard.com/>



Dr. Walter B. Curry, a native of Orangeburg, SC, is Author-In-Residence at the Aiken Center for the Arts, where he lectures and provides learning exhibits for Aiken County Public Schools.

In 2018, Curry launched Renaissance Publications, LLC., a self-publishing company, which publishes books that focus on African American history through ancestry. Curry has published two award-winning books – *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830-1960)* and *The Awakening: The Seawright-Ellison Family Saga, Vol.1, A Narrative History*. Both books consist of stories that cover Curry's lineage of ancestry from slavery, The Civil War, The Reconstruction Era, and family life in Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg, and Richland counties, SC.

Curry is the recipient of the 2019 African American Historical and Genealogy Society Book Award, two legislative resolutions from the South Carolina General Assembly for his significant work in service to African American History and Heritage in South Carolina, two Literary Titan Gold Awards, and the Martha Schofield “Work The Legacy” Award. Also, Curry is a member of the Inaugural South Carolina State University 40 Under 40, and he was selected as one of 2022 Richland Two School District Black History Month honorees.

Piper G. Huguley, who was named 2015 Debut Author of the Year by Romance Slam Jam and Breakout Author of the Year by AAMBC – is a two-time Golden Heart ®finalist. She is author of “Migrations of the Heart,” a three-book series of historical romances set in the early 20th century featuring African American characters.

Her first book in the series, *A Virtuous Ruby*, won Best Historical of 2015 in the Swirl Awards. Book #3, *A Treasure of Gold*, was named by Romance Novels in Color as a Best Book of 2015 and received 4 ½ stars from RT Magazine.

Huguley is also the author of the “Home to Milford College” series, which follows the building of a college from its founding in 1866. Her contemporary romance debut, *Sweet Tea*, will be published by Hallmark Publishing in July 2021. Her historical fiction debut, *By Design: the story of Ann Lowe, Society's Best Kept Secret*, will be published by William Morrow in March 2022.

Huguley lives in Atlanta with her husband and son and blogs about the history behind her novels at <https://piperhuguley.com>.





Steve Kistulentz is the author of three collections of poetry: *The Mating Calls of the Dead* (2021), *Little Black Daydream* (2012) and *The Luckless Age* (2010). His narrative nonfiction—mostly on the subject of popular culture—has appeared widely in journals. He is also the author of the acclaimed novel *Panorama* (Little, Brown & Co., 2018).

Kistulentz serves as poet laureate of Safety Harbor, FL. His other honors include the Benjamin Saltman Award for *The Luckless Age*, as well as fellowship support from Writers at Work, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, an individual award from the Mississippi Arts Commission, and from Creative Pinellas.

He has taught at Johns Hopkins University; the University of Iowa, where he was the Joseph and Ursil Callan Scholar; and Florida State University, where he was an Edward and Marie C. Kingsbury Fellow for Excellence in Thought; Millsaps College in Jackson, MS; and the University of Tampa. Currently he serves as the founding director of the graduate program in creative writing at Saint Leo University.

Kistulentz holds degrees from the College of William and Mary, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, and Florida State University.

Michael Lucker is a professional screenwriter and professor of screenwriting with 20 years experience writing for major studios and 10 years experience lecturing at major universities.

He began his career writing and directing cable commercials while earning his undergraduate degree in broadcasting and film at Boston University's College of Communication. Soon after, he landed in Los Angeles working in production for ABC, NBC and CBS, before taking a job as assistant to Steven Spielberg at Amblin Entertainment on the feature films *Always*, *Arachnophobia*, and *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*.

Lucker later served in creative affairs on feature films at Hollywood Pictures before embarking on a career as a screenwriter for Paramount, Disney, DreamWorks, Fox and Universal on such movies as *Vampire in Brooklyn*, *Home on The Range*, *Mulan II* and *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2002 as best animated feature.

An opportunity to serve as executive producer at Turner Entertainment brought him home to Atlanta in 2007. He went on to work in television for Animal Planet, Cartoon Network, Travel Channel, History, Discovery, NBC, TBS, TNT, TLC, OWN, DIY, MSNBC and A&E.

Recently, Lucker served as consultant on the feature films *Fear of Rain* starring Harry Connick Jr., *A Wing and A Prayer* starring Denis Quaid and *The Curse of La Patasola* starring AJ Jones. His latest effort – the dramatic thriller *10-56* which he co-wrote and co-produced – has been named a finalist in film festivals worldwide.

A renowned instructor in screenwriting, Lucker serves as lecturer at University of North Georgia and Emory University, a mentor in Reinhardt University's Creative Writing MFA Program, advisor to the Georgia Film Academy, and founder of the Screenwriter School. His book on screenwriting – *Crash! Boom! Bang! How to Write Action Movies* – is available wherever books are sold. His debut novel – the crime thriller *Rule One* – is scheduled for release in fall 2022.



Val M. Mathews is a big-hearted, fun-loving editor at The Wild Rose Press, the kinder and gentler publishing house in New York. She accepts pitches for everything from romances to challenging science-fiction. Recently, she has contracted nine new books, including Mary Cunningham's cozy mystery *Margaritas, Mayhem & Murder*, debut author J.A. Nielsen's YA urban fantasy *The Claiming*, and Paul DeStefano's challenging dark fantasy *Riftsiders: Unlawful Possession*.

Mathews teaches courses in structural editing and copyediting for Queens University in Ontario, Canada, and developmental editing for the Editorial Freelancers Association in New York. Val also freelances on the side. Fun fact about

Val: She's been an FAA-certified flight instructor for over twenty-five years, and in the past, she flew Lear jets for a living.

SWA Conference Update

As SWA's treasurer, I've been asked to provide an update on the status of this year's conference. Due to the pandemic, the Board canceled the 2020 and 2021 annual conferences. But optimism was high going into our 2022 planning meeting that we could reunite at Epworth by the Sea in June. To many, it's more than a conference, it's a family reunion.

A stellar lineup of instructors was assembled. Unfortunately, I need to report that Amy Collins won't be able to attend. Not to fret, though, because Dr. Walter Curry (see Faculty Bio) will be taking her place. I'm delighted to report, too, that Amy has agreed to return for our June 2023 conference.

All that's left now is for the registrations to flow in. My guess is many members are waiting to see if we're going to get hit with another COVID outbreak. I haven't even reserved my own room yet at Epworth, my writer's paradise.

Though I can appreciate this wait and see approach, the Board needs to see an uptick in registrations, if we're to hold our June 2022 conference. The good news is we still have time to register and to share our conference with others. If you plan to join us in Epworth in June, don't delay. Please sign up now and bring a friend or two. And don't forget to enter those FREE writing contests, a great way to build one's writing resume. Contests are open to all paid conference attendees only. **We are extending the contest deadline to May 13.** Remember, contest winners receive cash awards!

I have more good news to share. The Board has decided to extend the **early bird tuition rate of \$395 for the full conference until Friday, May 13, a \$50 savings.**

We're also hoping to attract students to our conference by offering a student tuition rate of \$100 per day.

This will be my tenth SWA conference. I wanted to leave you with a writer's testimonial. Mine. I wrote this testimonial after my third conference. My only wish is that I had attended the SWA conference before 2011.

I hope to see you in June. Keep writing.

Patrick Hempfing, SWA Treasurer

A Writer's Testimonial By Patrick L. Hempfing

During this year's banquet, I was shocked, thrilled, and humbled to receive a number of awards for my contest entries. I felt validated as a writer. But most importantly, I was thankful.

The Southeastern Writers Association (SWA) has been instrumental in the growth of my confidence and success. I decided to share my story to motivate writers, both aspiring and established, to attend future workshops and to thank the wonderful people of the SWA who have made a difference in my writing career.

For over 20 years, I had a successful professional career in banking, accounting, and internal auditing. In 2004, I became a dad to a beautiful daughter. I've been a "Mr. Mom" since her birth. When she began Pre-K, I decided to pursue my fourth career - writer. In my spare time as Mr. Mom, I had written a creative nonfiction manuscript as I had lots of stay-at-home dad stories to tell. I also wrote a number of children's stories. The time had arrived to get out from behind my computer.

I came across the 2011 Southeastern Writers Association workshop and signed up after much thought and prayer. As this "lost puppy" drove to the workshop held annually on St. Simons Island, I thought, "What was I thinking?" I'm glad I didn't turn around.

At the registration desk, Tim and Sheila Hudson greeted me. I remember saying, "Here I am, but I don't know if I belong here." Sheila said, "Sure you do." A few minutes later, I sat around the dinner table talking with other writers of different genre, many of whom have become my friends, sounding boards, teachers, and inspiration to continue my writing journey.

The workshop rocked! I plugged into as many sessions as possible and asked lots of questions. I met with a NY City literary agent - twice. The instructor who evaluated my children's manuscript liked it so much that she contacted Holly McClure, a local literary agent. She and one of her employees met with me for over an hour the next day as I shared my work

with them. Though I didn't walk away with a contract, I had a better direction on where I needed to go.

Cappy Hall Rearick did a session on newspaper column reporting. Through group discussions, I came up with a plan to get my work published in a parenting magazine. I was also thrilled that my children's story won honorable mention in the Young Child and Juvenile Writing category during the awards banquet. I left the workshop more confident and with a plan. I also realized it would take time and lots of work to build my writer's platform.

Motivated by the workshop, I put together four sample columns and submitted them to the local magazine editor. She called me the next day and offered me a monthly gig. I earned my first publishing credit in September, 2011, when Moments Magazine published my first column of "moMENTS."

The drive to the 2012 SWA workshop seemed much shorter. I was greeted with hugs and handshakes and had five great days of listening, writing, and learning. Once again, the instructors were top-notch. I pitched my book idea to the literary agent in residence. She requested that I send her my manuscript and has since written back to provide me with her feedback. It needs more work, but I know it's getting there. My essay won an honorable mention in The Hal Bernard Memorial Award for Nonfiction at the awards banquet. I left the workshop pumped again.

Near the end of 2012, I decided to self-syndicate my reprints of "moMENTS" to other parenting magazines across the country as I continue to define my niche and build my platform. As of this writing, my work has been published 46 times in eight states and two Canadian provinces. It's exciting to update my website each month (<http://patrickhempfung.com>), a website made better because Charlotte Babb, a writer that I met at the 2011 conference, took time to answer my WordPress questions. "Writer's helping writers," that's the SWA motto.

This past April, I attended a function at my wife's work and had an epiphany. Since my daughter's birth, whenever I've been asked what I do for a living, I've responded, "I'm a Mr. Mom." This year, when an older gentleman asked my occupation, I responded, "I'm a writer." Wow! I am

a writer!

The 2013 workshop couldn't roll around fast enough. I'm lucky I didn't get a speeding ticket on my drive to St. Simons. Once again, I received great instruction and spent quality time with other writers. The awards were great, but of secondary importance.

I have lots to read, learn, write, and re-write, if I am to realize my dream of becoming a NY Times national best-selling author. But I also know I'm making strides in the right direction. I've been blessed to meet many wonderful people, fellow writers who share my dream, professional literary agents, talented instructors, and board members who devote their time and energy to make SWA the successful organization that it is today. Thank you to all.

I must thank one other person, Harry Rubin. I had the pleasure of sitting with Mr. Rubin during lunch at the 2011 workshop. I could tell that he was instrumental in the Association's success, when he was given an award at the end of lunch. At this year's banquet, Lee Clevenger, SWA President, announced that Mr. Rubin is in poor health and to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. He also noted that the SWA would not be here today if Mr. Rubin had not used his personal funds a number of years ago to keep it up and running.

Thank you, Mr. Rubin. You made a difference in this writer's life and I'm sure countless others, too. Because of you and the SWA, I can say today, "I am a writer."

Don't forget:
Attendees are able
to sign up
at conference
for FREE 15-20 minute
manuscript consultation
with faculty member(s).

SWA Member News

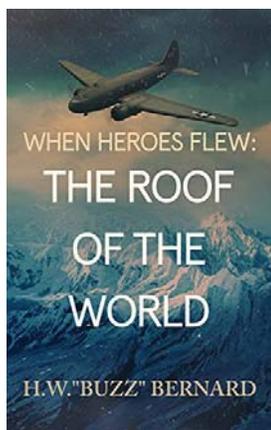
Dana Wildsmith, author of the environmental memoir *Back to Abnormal: Surviving with an Old Farm in the New South*, will teach a writing class at the John C. Campbell Folk School this summer. “What is in Your Writing Folder?” will be taught August 14-20.

Wildsmith, a Folk School instructor since 2004, says “I would love to have the chance to work with some of our members there!” Follow this link to sign up for her class: https://classes.folkschool.org/class_details.aspx?pk=24941

Wildsmith also writes poetry. Her most recent collection of poems is “One Light,” a memoir in poetry, published in *Texas Review Press*. She is also the author of five additional collections of poetry, including “Christmas in Bethlehem.”

Wildsmith has served as artist-in-residence for Grand Canyon National Park and Everglades National Park; as writer-in-residence for the Island Institute in Sitka, Alaska; and is a fellow of the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. She teaches English Literacy through Lanier Technical College

H.W. “Buzz” Bernard, the author of two books in a series about World War II pilots – *When Heroes Flew* and *The Shangri-La Raiders* – has announced that book three in the series – *The*



Roof of the World – will be released May 24 by Severn River Publishing.

In *The Roof of the World*, a legendary WWII airlift mission cuts through the snaggletoothed Himalaya Mountains—the Hump—where both the terrain and weather prove uncommonly savage. Major Rod Shepherd, a C-46 pilot and Army

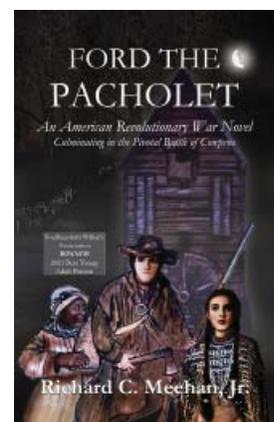
Air Forces weather officer, risks incredible danger with every flight. But when a mission of grave importance is imperiled at high altitude, Rod faces an unthinkable dilemma.

Richard C. Meehan, Jr.'s new book *Ford the Pacholet: An American Revolutionary War Novel Culminating in the Pivotal Battle of Cowpens*

(Noggin Universe Press, LLC) was released April 9. It is a stirring and historically accurate fiction novel about Lem Farnandis, a Colonial American teenager who became caught up in the pivotal Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781.

Meehan said last year he submitted beginning chapters of *Ford the Pacholet* to the annual SWA writing contest and won Amy Wethington's 2nd place award for YA/Midgrade markets.

<https://www.rcmeehan.com/ford-the-pacholet>

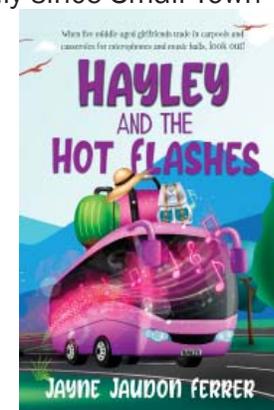


Marlene Ratledge Buchanan has been selected by Ladies of All Nations International as a finalist for Beautiful Survivors World of Honors, which recognizes remarkable individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary courage and leadership, those who are willing to be a voice of change and survive no matter what breakdowns they went through.

Buchanan has been selected to receive the Beautiful Survivor Recognition Award.

Jayne Jaudon Ferrer's novel, *Hayley and the Hot Flashes*, will be released on June 8th, National Best Friends Day. That's perfect timing for this rollicking road trip tale about has-been country music diva Hayley Swift and her four best friends from high school.

Author of six poetry collections and a nonfiction book about games, Ferrer is excited about entering the fiction arena, especially since Small Town Girl Publishing, an imprint of Brother Mockingbird, chose this as its debut release. Hayley and her friends prove that it's attitude that matters—not age—as the “Retro Rodeo Tour” sends them sparkling and singing all around the South.



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