



WWA Fall Conference 2022 Media Kit

Media Contact

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Your local, regional and national audiences will be delighted to learn about the rich pool of authors and publishing experts who reside in the Northland and how their many talents contribute to the fabric of our literary scene. Please contact Barry to schedule an interview.

About WWA

Founded in 1948, Wisconsin Writers Association (WWA) is a vibrant creative community dedicated to the support of writers and authors. WWA sponsors and hosts year-round workshops and events throughout Wisconsin, offering exclusive resources and discounts to more than 500 members. WWA shares its knowledge base and provides members the means to develop their craft, discover resources, expand their networks and build their audiences.

About the 2022 Annual Conference

Conference Overview

- For the first time in the 74-year history of Wisconsin Writers Association, the Fall Annual Conference will be held in the true Northland of Wisconsin in Superior.
- We expect writers who reside in the Duluth-Superior area, as well others from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Ontario, Canada, will attend in person and develop relationships, both personal and professional, to enhance their writing skills. They also will experience the natural beauty and welcoming atmosphere of our communities while they engage with other attendees, and the highly-credentialed and dynamic presenters from our area.
- Our 17 exceptional speakers hail from Northwestern Wisconsin and Northeastern Minnesota. They include members of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Fond du Lac Ojibwa Band, Duluth Poet Laureates, a Newberry Award winning author, nature writers, noted professors, memoirists, novelists, educators and trade professionals.
- Participants unable to attend in person, due to geographic distance, personal or mobility issues will have the opportunity to attend virtually.

Conference Attendee Benefits

Creativity: Writers can find, renew or repurpose their inspiration by attending this first-time event in the upper Midwest. They will take in the wisdom, warmth and experience of award-winning authors in the unparalleled Northland setting of the greatest of the Great Lakes: Superior.

Value: Attendees will hear from 17 writers and literary trade professionals in an efficient timeframe for just \$85 early bird or \$115 (Wisconsin Writers Association and Lake Superior Writers price); non-members pay \$110 early bird or \$145. They will be encouraged to come early or stay late to explore all that Duluth and Superior have to offer in the way of shopping, attractions, nature, eateries, culture and their friendly locals who will warmly welcome them.

Mingle: Participants will be shoulder-to-shoulder with others who treasure the written word and have the chance to meet fellow writers and swap tips and strategies for being a disciplined writer.

Something for everyone: Writers will gain practical tips, tactics and tools to help their writing process. On Friday they will hear two engaging speakers and the melodic strains of Native American pipe music. The presentations on Saturday will provide a deep pool of information on how to navigate “the writer’s life,” with plenty of real-life examples of taking a work from concept to published product.

Local, diverse talent: All in the stellar roster for this conference are from the Northland region. Writers will absorb the true voices, characters and works that emanate from this region.

Statements of Support

This conference will further WWA’s mission to grow a supportive, diverse community of writers and to offer resources for achieving their goals. Seeding this creative energy could start ripples throughout the community – encouraging young people and others to write and to appreciate the stories of this region.

Konnie LeMay
Editor
Lake Superior Magazine

As President of Lake Superior College, I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Wisconsin Writers Association to bring their 2022 Annual Conference to Duluth/Superior. Inspiring participants – including students – at the conference can only add to the rich fabric of our literary community today and into the future.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
Lake Superior College

This conference will provide valuable learning experiences for college students and other community members in the Twin Ports, while highlighting the literary richness of a more remote part of Wisconsin.

Julie Gard
Professor of Writing
University of Wisconsin-Superior

WWA is dedicated to growing a supportive and diverse community of writers. The annual conference offers incredible and accessible resources to support writers along their intellectual journey.

Kaishan Kong, PhD
Associate Professor of Chinese
Department of Languages
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Conference agenda and presenters

Friday - September 30, 2022

3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Registration

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Cash Bar

5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Welcome and Banquet Dinner

6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Presenter: Carol Dunbar

Topic: Guided by Voice: How listening to your characters can help you find the story

In her book on writing craft, Vivian Gornick makes a distinction between the situation and the story that applies whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, poetry or prose. One has to do with the outer life, the other, the inner. Author Carol Dunbar shares her discoveries about this process while developing a rotating, third-person voice for her first novel, *The Net Beneath Us*. Learn about employing psychological distance, how to use nature to inform emotion, and how to mine your failed drafts for clues about the inner story that's lying beneath the surface, waiting to be found.

7:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Charette – Laughing Fox

Topic: Tales of Laughing Fox

Tales of Laughing Fox is a collection of musical imagery featuring original Native American flute music. A musical journey of assortments of flutes and stories, haunting melodies of this true sounding instrument will carry you into other worlds. With over 20 flutes in his collection, each one has its own voice, its own song, and its own spirit. Bapii Waagosh (Laughing Fox) weaves traditional stories of the Anishinaabe people and his own experiences.

Saturday - October 1, 2022

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. **Registration**

8:00 – 8:10 a.m. **Welcome**

8:10 – 9:00 a.m. **Presenter: Emily Stone**

Topic: *Natural Connections: Building Empathy for Nature through Language and Story*

Words have the power to change the way we think and feel about the natural world. This talk will cover ways to build empathy between our readers, ourselves, and nature by applying the grammar of animacy and by using the power of story to make science come alive. We'll also consider how the celebration of diversity in nature can be extended toward diversity in our human communities as we meditate of author Daniel Quinn's idea that "there is no one right way to live."

9:10 – 10:10 a.m. **Keynote Presentation: Thomas Peacock**

Topic: *Talking Story - Place and Time in the Indigenous Experience.*

The Indigenous experience is at once triumph and tragedy, complex, and full of truths as well contradictions. Capturing these realities in any genre requires a keen awareness of all of these things, and more, and those who live it can best understand it.

10:10 – 10:40 a.m. **Break for Exhibit Review**

10:40 – 11:30 a.m. **Presenter: Gary J. Boelhower, PhD**

Topic: *Process Follows Purpose*

The celebrated architect Louis Sullivan coined the wise principle "form follows function" and his student Frank Lloyd Wright changed the phrase to "form and function are one." Gary looks at the craft of writing in two ways. First, in terms of the diverse projects over the course of his writing life—from non-fiction to poetry to children's stories. From this perspective, the process of writing is formed by the purpose of the particular project. Second, in terms of the granular level of the paragraph, sentence, phrase. This perspective reveals a constant set of priorities—focusing on story, metaphor and sound.

11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion: *Tips and Tactics for Writing Across Genres***

Fiction/Historical Fiction – Jan Jenson, publishes as Janet Kay. Books include *Amelia 1868*, *Waters of the Dancing Sky*, and *Rainy Lake Rendezvous*.

Poetry – Sheila Packa. Duluth's Poet Laureate 2010-2012. Has four books of poems published.

Nonfiction/Memoir – Christy Wopat. Award-winning author of *Almost a Mother: Love, Loss, and Finding Your People When Your Baby Dies*.

Screenwriting – Dale Botten. His screenplay “ALAMO DULUTH: Anatomy of a Lynching” won the Grand Prize at the 2010 Screenwriters Expo in Los Angeles. It was retitled in 2015 to “Hate Storm” and it won the Screenplay of Merit Award at the Catalina Film Festival.

Children’s Book Author/Illustrator – Chris Monroe. Chris is the author of seven picture books. She has also illustrated books for authors Kevin Kling, Jane Yolen, and Janice Levy. She has a comic strip called “Violet Days” that has been in print for over 19 years.

12:30 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. **Break for Lunch**

1:10 – 2:00 p.m. **Presenter: Thomas Wayne King**

Topic: *DONE? - Information, Inspiration & Laughs as We Explore that Pernicious Uncertainty We All Encounter*

Across genres, writers ponder the always-vexing question: AM I DONE YET? Ideas in this session will help you embrace that complex reality inherent with all writing projects. How to know when your works are completed may involve more variables than you think. Join Tom, a versatile, multi-genre author, folk composer, skier, hiker and karateka, as he leads you through aspects of DONE, whatever your literary projects. Share some word-nerd laughs, sample diverse points of view, and engage to retain all you can. Tom gives you his full notes, so you can enjoy and not have to scribble so fast. You may view your own works in different ways after this session...and get DONE.

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Exhibit Review**

2:30 – 3:20 p.m. **Presenter: Margi Preus**

Topic: *Catching the Wind in a Net (and Other Writing Requirements)*

Sometimes writing feels like magic. And sometimes it feels like trying to carry water in a sieve or having to catch the wind in a net. It may seem like it’s time to put down the pen or take our fingers off the keyboard, but it’s just when things get impossible that the truly miraculous can happen. How can we take on the impossible challenges of writing to create something of real meaning and beauty? I’ll offer ideas, strategies, tips, tools, and a little pixie dust to help capture and hang onto the magic.

3:30 – 4:20 p.m. **Panel Discussion: Partners for Success**

Featuring these literary trade professionals:

Publisher & Editor Jim Perlman, Holy Cow! Press

Publisher Elizabeth (Betsy) Albert-Peacock, Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing

Illustrator/Artist/Author Sam Zimmerman

Editor/Publisher/Illustrator Marlene Wisuri, Dovetail Press

Publishing Generalist and Author Relations Sean Malone, Orange Hat Publishing