

# The Owl's Hoat



A publication of the  
Ozarks Writers League  
501(c)(3)  
[ozarkswritersleague.org](http://ozarkswritersleague.org)

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Editor's note: Wow! Get ready for a bang-up meeting in May. Registration deadline for making pitches to the agents/editor is May 10th. Email [jymorrill@gmail.com](mailto:jymorrill@gmail.com) to sign up. Choice for May lunch menu is on page six (6) of this newsletter, cost \$8.00. You must register in advance for lunch, deadline May 10th. Deadline to reserve a Friday night meal, May 14th, cost \$9.50.



*"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light." ~ Helen Keller*

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## "Marketing Your Book or Business in the Digital Age"

**DIANNA GRAVEMAN** is a former corporate training designer, teacher, and publishing house staff editor. She has taught both graduate and undergraduate writing students at several area colleges and universities and currently teaches workshops for the University of Missouri "Write Stuff" writing certificate program. Her publishing portfolio includes over 160 writing credits, 22 awards, and co-authorship of four regional histories and one anthology. Dianna holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and an MFA from Lindenwood University, where she also taught in the program. She is a partner at Treehouse Publishing Group and the founder, writer, editor, and designer at 2 Rivers Communications & Design, whose clients include Dale Carnegie & Associates, The Benfield Group, Lohman Hills Creative, and many others.



If you've written a book or own a freelance business, communicating effectively online is a must. Learn some tips for using LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, and other applications to build your business, network with others, or market your book. Online press releases, media kits, infographics, easy-to-build websites, blogs, book trailers, and more will be discussed, as well as lesser-known applications for managing and monitoring your online presence.

**GORDON WARNOCK** is a founding partner at Foreword Literary, bringing experience as a senior literary agent, marketing director and editor for independent publishers, freelance publishing consultant, and college-level writing tutor. He frequently teaches workshops and gives keynote speeches at conferences and MFA programs nationwide.



With a zest for fresh, new voices and a deep love of the classics, Gordon actively seeks out both the timely and the timeless.

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## Not one, not two, but three agents/editors for May

In that spirit, he establishes involved, long-term working relationships with talented and dedicated authors of many genres.

Gordon will be taking pitches. Specific genres he represents include: Memoir, Cookbooks, Political and Current Events, Pop-Culture, Humor, Career, Self-Help, Pets, High-Concept Commercial Fiction, New Adult, Graphic Novels, and Contemporary Realistic YA (that means no vampires).

He does not represent: Religious Fiction, Genre Fiction, New Age, Children's, Middle Grade, Collections of Essays, Short Fiction or Poetry. For more information, visit <http://www.forewordliterary.com/>

**MARI FARTHING** is Senior Editor at Buzz Books.



A technical writer and editor for 20 years, Mari branched out into freelance writing and editing ten years ago. She joined the staff of

*MetroFamily Magazine* in 2004, where she earned several industry awards for writing and editing. She has been the Editor of *MetroFamily Magazine* since 2008.

For members making pitches, Mari asks that you review the submissions page on the *Buzz* website (<http://buzzbooksusa.com/submissions>) so you'll be clear on the types of submissions *Buzz* is looking for. She would like to see a printed one-page synopsis of the work you'll be pitching.

Please include your basic contact information.

In the afternoon session, Mari will speak about editing, self editing, working with others (workshopping, early readers, etc.) and working with a professional editor. She welcomes questions and feedback.

**MICHELLE WITTE:** As a children's literary agent with



Mansion Street Literary Management, she brings with her a wealth of experience within the publishing industry, from the idea and writing stages to editing, design and production, and to

bookselling and publicity.

Previously, she worked as an editor with nonfiction publisher Gibbs Smith and as a copy editor and reporter with the *Deseret Morning News*. She is the author of *The Craptastic Guide to Pseudo-Swearing* (Running Press, 2012) and *The Faker's Guide to the Classics* (Lyons Press, 2013). She lives in Utah.

Michelle will be taking pitches for middle grade or young adult fiction and nonfiction. It is not necessary to bring a synopsis or any portion of your manuscript with you to the pitch session, because due to limited space, Michelle will not be able to take them with her.



## The President's Page



Recently, the Northwest AR Writers held their annual Free Conference in Fayetteville, AR. This is a conference that relies heavily on the gifts of time given by a variety of people in the writing field. From organizing, to setting up, to presentations, to tearing down, time dedicated to this year's conference came solely from NAWA.

We are so very lucky that Dusty Richards and Velda Brotherton started this group and, after more than twenty-five years, continue to mentor us each week. From their bountiful trees, many acorns have fallen and with their nurturing, many have blossomed into trees.

This is the same feeling I have about Ozarks Writers League. When I first started attending the meetings, I was in awe of the accomplishments of many of the members. More so, I remember feeling blessed that I was a part of a community that volunteered its time to help a "newbie" like me. I have no doubt that without the support of those ahead of me, I never would have finished writing *The Red Kimono*.

As writers, as human beings, we all want to make a difference. How lucky we are that we have been given the opportunity to make a difference not only to the world through our writing, but to other writers in our mentoring and volunteering. In that way, the difference we make is multiplied.

There are so many ways to support our fellow writers. One of the best is to go beyond simply attending meetings. Instead, become *involved* in writers' groups such as Ozarks Writers League. There are a variety of ways to be a MEMBER of this wonderful community: Help with set up and tear down audio equipment, tables, chairs, etc. Help at the registration desk. Suggest speakers. Donate items to the May auction. Volunteer to help on committees such as Friday dinner, Auction, Shepherding. Volunteer to serve as an officer or on the board.

For the first couple of years I belonged to Ozarks Writers League, I enjoyed attending the meetings while I gathered my bearings as a new member.

But, as I watched Delois McGrew, Lou Turner and others, running around to get everything done, I felt a bit "on the outside." As my confidence grew, I served on the board. When Delois asked me to be Vice President, I agreed, with some admitted trepidation. Next, President.

It feels good to now be involved, to be part of supporting other writers. The attitude of giving and sharing shown by our mentors has trickled down, and many of the authors they have "raised" now give back. I saw it in the faces of all of the volunteers who helped out with the Northwest Arkansas Writers Conference, and I see it on the faces of OWL members, too. I consider that time, many years ago, when I became not only a serious writer, but a member of a community, one of the luckiest (most blessed) days of my life.

Now, on to the nuts and bolts of the May meeting: Email me by FRIDAY, MAY 10 at [jymorrill@gmail.com](mailto:jymorrill@gmail.com) to schedule a pitch appointment with Gordon Warnock, Michelle Witte or Mari Farthing

Email [jymorrill@gmail.com](mailto:jymorrill@gmail.com) by TUESDAY, MAY 14 to make a dinner reservation and/or open mic at Boxcar Willie's on Friday night. At the February meeting, we over-ordered our dinners because several people who made reservations did not attend on Friday. This caused us to have to pay for extra dinners, and we lost money on the evening.

**Therefore, for all future meetings, we ask that you mail in your dinner payment ahead of time. If you want to attend the Friday night dinner, please mail \$9.50 to:**

Brenda Black  
10515 N. Black Nursery Road  
Prairie Grove, AR 72753

Happy Spring! I look forward to seeing you in May! Jan

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR DUES VIA PAYPAL BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

[www.ozarkswritersleague.org/payments.htm](http://www.ozarkswritersleague.org/payments.htm)



## OZARKS WRITERS LEAGUE

### Minutes of Board Meeting

16 February 2013

Courtesy of Jan Morrill

The first quarterly meeting of the 2013 OWL board was called to order by President Jan Morrill at 3:10 p.m. Board members present: Jan Morrill, Duke Pennell, Brenda Black, Dusty Richards, Patty Stith, Pam Jones and Ruth Weeks. Those absent: Ellen Withers, Beth Carter and Fred Pfister. Lucia Dulen Hawkins resigned as Publicity Director.

**Secretary's Report:** Following a review of printed minutes, the reading of the minutes was dispensed. The motion to accept the minutes passed by unanimous vote.

**President's Report:** Jan Morrill informed the board that the scheduled speakers for May had been confirmed.

**Treasure's Report:** The quarterly report was accepted as distributed to the board, reflecting a December 31st balance of \$ 3,578.62. The motion to accept passed by unanimous vote. Brenda said she has set up a PayPal account. Duke and Brenda will work together to get the Paypal button put on the OWL Website so a member can make a payment via PayPal. The audit committee met on Monday, February 18 to review the financial records for the year November 2011 - November 2012. Present at the meeting: Brenda black, Edward Downey, Pamela Foster and Jan Morrill. All records were accurate and adequate with proper backup material. A motion for the board to accept the audit report will be made at the May meeting.

**Membership Report:** Prior to the meeting, 80 members had renewed membership for 2013 and 20 renewed at the February meeting.

**Contest Report.** Beth Carter sent the contest brochure to the meeting with Jan, and she let the board know that Beth obtained four new contest sponsors for the 2013 writing contest.

**New Business:** Jan said that volunteers are needed in the areas for Auction, set-up/tear down for lunch, to make the May meeting a success. Suggested changes for the auction this year.

Change # 1: Ask members who donate to provide information sheet and/or suggested price for bidding; Change # 2, Have auction committee select higher value items for a silent auction.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

### Webmaster's Report

Hi everyone. Like everything else the OWL website is changing to keep up with the times.

**Duke Pennell**, the OWL Vice-President, currently doubles as interim OWL webmaster until the next magician comes along. Though normally an editor and publisher at Pen-L Publishing his



hobbies are writing and computer wrangling, which is how he got roped into keeping the site up temporarily. If you're web savvy and would like to take on the Webmaster job, email Duke: [webmaster@ozarkswritersleague.org](mailto:webmaster@ozarkswritersleague.org). Any Questions or suggestions about the website? let him know. If you would like your name linked to your blog or website, please email [webmaster@ozarkswritersleague.org](mailto:webmaster@ozarkswritersleague.org) giving your name and the link to your website or blog. Duke will post it to the OWL site and maybe drive a bit more traffic to you.

### Agenda for May

8:30	Registration
9:00	Announcements
9:10	Agent Panel
9:45	Dianna Graveman
10:30	Break
10:45	Dianna Graveman continues
11:30	Break for lunch on the patio
12:00	Auction begins in auditorium
2:00	Announcements
2:10-3:00	Mari Farthing
3:15	Board Meeting



# Owl News



If you'd like more information on the meeting, please visit one of the following links:  
<http://owlpresidentblog.wordpress.com/2013/02/27/get-ready-for-may/>  
<http://www.ozarkswritersleague.org/news.htm>

## 2013 OWL CALENDAR

### Quarterly (Saturday) Meetings

*May 18th, August 17th, November 16th*

**Anthology** (Short stories, essays, poems) Deadline September 1, 2013

**All other contests:** Deadline September 1, 2013

**See website for guidelines for all contests.** Send entries to Ozarks Writers League, c/o Beth Carter, 5263 E. Farm Rd. 174, Rogersville, MO 65742 [bethecarter@hughs.net](mailto:bethecarter@hughs.net), **except for Anthology entries**, which go to Lou Turner at [louturn@aol.com](mailto:louturn@aol.com) (For Echoes of the Ozarks, must put **Echoes IX Submission** in subject line.)

## 2013 OWL OFFICERS

**President** Jan Morrill  
[jymorrill@gmail.com](mailto:jymorrill@gmail.com) (918) 409-7570

**Vice-President:** Duke Pennell  
 479-871-3330 [duke@dukepennell.com](mailto:duke@dukepennell.com)

**Treasurer:** Brenda Black  
 10515 N. Black Nursery Rd.  
 Prairie Grove, AR 72753  
 (479) 846-3440 [bblackwriter@gmail.com](mailto:bblackwriter@gmail.com)

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

**Past-President** Dusty Richards  
[dustyrichards@cox.net](mailto:dustyrichards@cox.net) (479) 751-7246

**Membership Director:** Fred Pfister,  
[frpfister@suddenlink.net](mailto:frpfister@suddenlink.net)

**Board of Directors:** Jan Morrill, Fred Pfister, Duke Pennell, Dusty Richards, Brenda Black, Ellen Withers, Patti Stith. **Historian** – Ruth Weeks; **Contest Chair**– Beth Carter; **Web-site**– Duke Pennell.

Newsletter–Jeanie Horn;  
[jeanhorn@windstream.net](mailto:jeanhorn@windstream.net)  
 116 Duvall St., Marshall, AR 72650  
 870-448-2499

## MEETING INFORMATION

### Motel Accommodations

Boxcar Willie Inn, 360 Schaefer Dr., Branson, MO, offers a rate of \$45.00 plus tax for two. Continental breakfast. Identify yourself as an OWL member when making reservations. Phone 417-337-7070. Check the Boxcar Willie website 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** As a 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

## Auction

The **auction** will be held **Saturday, May 18**, after lunch. Tables will be set up with auction items on display inside the Plaster auditorium, so you can browse.

The auction's success over the past years can be directly attributed to OWL members who donate items and also make winning bids. Income from the auction has steadily grown through the years.

Some donated items created bidding wars. It's always fun to see what the next sought-after item will be. Thanks to all who supported the auction in the past, and thanks ahead of time to all of you who will support this year.

To reserve lunch, email [jymorrill@gmail.com](mailto:jymorrill@gmail.com) by **FRIDAY, MAY 10th**. (Please let her know which box lunch)

### CHOOSE ONE

Chicken Salad Sandwich, or Roast Beef Sandwich or Veggie Wrap. Meal will include dessert. Cost is \$ 8.00.

**You must place your order ahead of time. You will not be able to order a lunch at the door.**

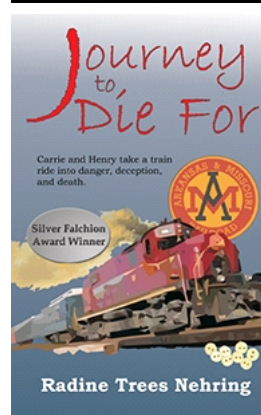
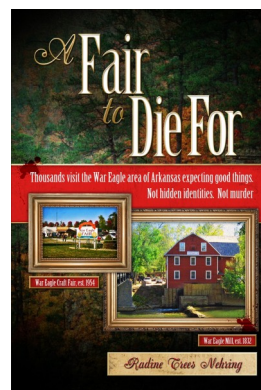


Multi-published author **RADINE TREES NEHRING** and husband John moved to rural Northwest Arkansas from Tulsa, OK, in 1988. Radine began writing a series of articles, essays, and stories about the Arkansas Ozarks shortly after she and John bought land in the area, and these found interested readers around the globe. Many were collected in her first book, **DEAR EARTH: A Love Letter from Spring Hollow**, initially published in New York in 1995. When asked which of her books is her favorite, **DEAR EARTH** is the one Radine names. It is still available in print, has been published in Chinese, and also continues to sell well in e-book form.



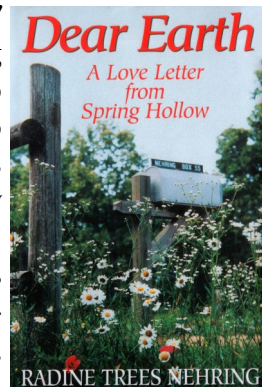
Radine says all of her writing expresses her love for the Ozarks and, when she began writing her "To Die For" traditional mystery series in 2000, Ozarks tourist destinations were natural settings for her.

*"I enjoy writing about what I love, and sharing these places with readers everywhere. Both they and I experience my chosen destinations while the story unfolds."*



During her writing and career, Radine also wrote and hosted a radio program, "Arkansas Corner Community News," for ten years. The program, as well as her other writing, featured unique people, places, and events in the area.

She has received many regional and national awards, including a National Silver Falchion for mystery writing, and the Governor's Award for best writing about Arkansas. In 2011 she was inducted into the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame.





# THE WRITER'S LIFE

OWL (Ozarks Writers League or One Weird Lot)

“Weirdness, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.”

Written by Rick Yates

I had an occasion to accompany my wife, Diane, to the annual 2012 OWL awards dinner on Friday evening. Not sure what to expect, I had visions of an evening filled with philosophical discussions and dissertations on such lofty subjects as the “relevancy of why”. I was sure the eccentric and deep thinkers, having been told to dress like Hillbillies going to a banquet, would certainly be a sight to see and possibly a source of entertainment. What else could one expect with a theme such as this and a selected location with the name “Boxcar Willies”?

However, I was wrong. Individuals I met were warm, witty, and borderline normal. The dress was quite humorous. Best ladies costume was what I envisioned a Hillbilly millionaire might think appropriate. Winner of the men’s costume competition was a quiet-spoken, cheerful, yet softly devilish looking gentleman. It was reported the clothing and the hat he had worn were what he wore every day; I’m not sure if this was the case, or an attempt to provoke laughter, as it did just that.

A fine lady with, what seemed to be a dead Armadillo lying on its back, called out the winners, and a jolly soul named Dusty took pictures as the victorious came to claim their prize. There was a sharp witted colorful gentleman that was, I believe, either Duke the Second or Duke the First, but I know there was at least one more Duke that came after him. I met what I think was a group, but I could be wrong, referred to as The Sisterhood of The Traveling Pen. These, those, or possibly this woman or women seemed to have a message that was to be bestowed on the group as a whole the next day, with great anticipation. It would seem that the group looked forward to each segment of the next day’s enlightenment with great hopes as to its content and how it could help them in their literary journey. I was informed there was some connection to the Subaru Forester and ones tendencies to have at one time been in the closet, or having come out of said closet, or something like that. I was compassed about with a great multitude of meaningful conversations, ranging from Vietnam era reminiscence and a heartfelt expression of appreciation for my involvement, with Linda Apple, to the discussion of the marketing expertise of the likes of Sam Walton and Amazon with whom I perceived to be the patriarch of those gathered around. These delightful, dedicated, and cheerful individuals made you feel as if their accomplishments, dreams and desires somehow included everyone in the room.

As the night wore on I started to see this group unfold before me and as it did I realized that there was a true admiration for the structure that held them together. There were seasoned members who were talked of as mentors and guides to be followed, and whose teachings could then be enhanced by the follower’s own creativity and expertise. There was a true desire to share, praise, and give encouragement. All present seemed to share a love for the written word and how to help those words connect us to each other. I heard that you must become one with your characters if you were to connect them to the reader.

I am not a writer, but if I were, I would like to think that I would be able to share my craft and my love for what I did the way I saw it shared that weekend.

Submitted by **DIANE YATES**  
Author of *Clella*

