

**Thirteenth Annual  
Blue Ridge Writers' Conference**

*A meeting in the mountains for readers and writers*

**March 27 – 28, 2009**

**North Georgia Technical College  
Blairsville, Georgia**

**Keynote Speaker  
Sharyn McCrumb**

**Sponsored by  
Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association  
Blue Ridge, GA  
706-632-2144  
[brmaa@etcmail.net](mailto:brmaa@etcmail.net)**

## About the Speakers

### Keynote Speaker

**Sharyn McCrumb's** novel *St. Dale* won a 2006 Library of Virginia Award as well as the Appalachian Writers' Association Book of the Year Award. McCrumb, who was named a Virginia Woman of History in 2008 for Achievement in Literature, was a guest author at the National Festival of the Book in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the White House in 2006. She is best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels, set in the North Carolina/Tennessee mountains, including *She Walks These Hills*, *The Rosewood Casket*, *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*, *The Songcatcher*, and *Ghost Riders*. McCrumb's other honors include a place on the *New York Times* Best Seller list, AWA Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Literature Award, and AWA's Best Appalachian Novel. Her novels, studied in universities throughout the world, have been translated into ten languages. She has lectured at Oxford University, the University of Bonn-Germany, and the Smithsonian Institution. A film of her novel *The Rosewood Casket* is currently in production.

### Conference Speakers

**Maggie Bishop's** latest novel, *Perfect for Framing*, is the second mystery in the Appalachian Adventure Mystery series. She was honored in 2007 as one of "100 Incredible ECU Women" for literature and leadership. She is the author of two romance novels and one mystery set in the mountains of North Carolina: *Murder at Blue Falls* and *Emeralds in the Snow*, and award winning *Appalachian Paradise*.

**Chad Farrell** has worked in both New York and Los Angeles in front of and behind the camera, and has production experience in both independent films and television. Chad worked at several production companies before he began writing and producing his own material. His fifth and most recent film is currently in post-production. Two of his films premiered in Los Angeles at the 48 Hour Film Festival under the banner "Rock Steady Films."

**Judith Geary** is the author of *Getorix: The Eagle and The Bull*, *Celtic Adventure in Ancient Rome*, endorsed for classroom use in the 16 member states of the Southern Regional Education Board. Geary teaches at Appalachian State University and is a free-lance fiction editor. She joined Bob and Barbara Ingalls in forming High Country Publishers in 2001, and still edits for Ingalls Publishing Group.

**Jane Hicks** is a poet and fiber artist from upper East Tennessee. The Jesse Stuart Foundation published her acclaimed book, *Blood & Bone Remember*, which won the Poetry Book of the Year 2006 Award from the Appalachian Writers' Association. She coined the term "cosmic possum" and her poems have been quoted in works by Pamela Duncan and Silas House. She has just finished her first novel.

**Jennifer Jabaley** grew up in Bridgewater, New Jersey, and when not writing, she is busy being an optometrist. She now lives in Blue Ridge, Georgia. A short story published in *Puttin' on the Grits - A Guide to Southern Entertaining*, Dutton, 2005, was her first official publishing credit. Her first novel, *Lipstick Apology*, will be published in August of 2009 by Razorbill/Penguin Books.

**Shelley Lieber**, author of *4Ps to Publishing Success: Get Your Manuscript Off Your Desk & Into Print*, uses her background in writing, editing, marketing and public relations to help writers communicate their message. She publishes the free weekly e-zine "The Wordy Woman." Lieber has been profile editor for *Balance*, columnist for *Us Artists* and contributor to *CitySmart*, *Las Olas* and *Lincoln Road* magazines. She has been a book editor for Holt, Rinehart & Winston; Macmillan; and McGraw-Hill.

**Janelle McCarthy** turned down a traditional contract for her book, *Every Girl Needs a Hatbox*, because of self publishing's advantages. She represents qualified authors at events from New York to California and teaches authors to achieve their goals and enjoy the writing journey. A member of the New York Center for Independent Publishing, her latest work is *Celebrating the Uniqueness Within Us All*. Janelle is contracted to complete a number of books, one screenplay, and several publicity/marketing ventures.

**Alice Naylor** is a retired professor from Appalachian State University. For five years she hosted a weekly children's television program for the Milwaukee Public Library. She has chaired or served on many book award committees, including the John Newbery Medal Selection Committee, the Batchelder Committee, and the Notable Books Committee. She co-authored *Children Talking About Books* and *Children's Books in Children's Hands*. Among her awards is membership in The Order of the Long Leaf Pine conferred by the State of North Carolina in 2008 .

**Chris Roerden** celebrates 45 years as an editor in publishing. Her 11th book, *Don't Sabotage Your Submission*, is the all-genre edition of *Don't Murder Your Mystery*, winner of the Agatha Award for Best Nonfiction. Her clients have been published by St. Martin's, Berkley Prime Crime, Midnight Ink, Intrigue, Viking, and more. She has taught writing at the University of Maine-Portland; and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## Schedule of Events

**Friday, March 27, 2009**

**Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, Historic Courthouse, Blue Ridge, Georgia**

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

**North Georgia Technical College, Blairsville, Georgia**

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Check-in

8:45 - 9:00 Announcements and Welcome

9:00 – 10:00

Keepers of the Legends: Using Folklore and History in the Novel, *Sharyn McCrumb*

10:15 – 11:15

- a) Get Started, Get Organized and Get Your Memoir Done, *Maggie Bishop*
- b) We're Not in Kansas Anymore: The Children's Book Market in the Digital Age, *Judith Geary*
- c) How to Not Sabotage Your Submission, *Chris Roerden*
- d) Bring YOUR Story to Life, and to Print, *Janelle McCarthy*

11:30 – 12:30

- a) A Dark and Stormy Opening: How to Begin Your Work, *Sharyn McCrumb*
- b) Book Proposals that Sell Your Work: How Marketing Can Make You Irresistible to Agents, *Shelley Lieber*
- c) Fine Tune Your Poetry: The Editing and Revising Process, *Jane Hicks*
- d) Navigating Your First Screenplay, *Chad Farrell*

12:30 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15 – 2:00 Panel: Guerilla Marketing, *Judith Geary, Maggie Bishop, Chris Roerden*

2:15 – 3:15

- a) How Reading Poetry Will Change Your Writing – Even if You Write Prose, *Jane Hicks*
- b) Five Keys to Writing a Successful Mystery, *Maggie Bishop*
- c) Thinking Outside the Borders: Sell Your Work Online and Overseas, *Janelle McCarthy*
- d) Books for Young Children: The Difficult Art of Keeping it Simple, *Alice Naylor*

3:30 – 4:30

- a) Navigating Your First Screenplay, *Chad Farrell*
- b) Ten Deadly Mistakes in Historical Fiction, *Judith Geary*
- c) Mistakes, Myths & Miracles of Book Publishing, *Shelley Lieber*
- d) Concept to Print: A Roadmap from Inexperience to Published Author, *Jennifer Jabaley*

### Critique Information

**A limited number of manuscripts for critique will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. You will receive a written evaluation of your work from one of the conference speakers. BRMAA must receive your manuscript with the \$35 critique fee, your conference registration form and registration fees by February 20, 2009. Please check the speaker you prefer. All manuscripts must be in 12 point type, with page number and author's name on each page, MUST BE DOUBLE SPACED and have 1 1/2" margins. Please send two copies and keep the original manuscript.**

**Poetry: Limit 5 pages**

\_\_\_ Jane Hicks

**Fiction: Limit 10 pages plus 1 page synopsis**

\_\_\_ Janelle McCarthy

\_\_\_ Jennifer Jabaley

\_\_\_ Maggie Bishop

\_\_\_ Chris Roerden

**Historical Fiction: Limit 10 pages plus 1 page synopsis**

\_\_\_ Judith Geary

**Nonfiction: Limit 10 pages plus 1 page synopsis**

\_\_\_ Shelley Lieber

\_\_\_ Chris Roerden

**Children's literature: ONE Story, limit 10 pages**

\_\_\_ Alice Naylor

**Screenplay excerpt, limit 10 pages**

\_\_\_ Chad Farrell

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE AREA, PLEASE CALL**

**1-800-899-6867**

**OR VISIT**

**[www.blueridgemountains.com](http://www.blueridgemountains.com).**

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**Registration Form  
Blue Ridge Writers' Conference  
March 27 - 28, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees: Your registration fee includes a box lunch provided by Mercier's Orchards, including sandwich, chips, drink, and fried apple pie, as seen on the Food Network show, *Al Roker's On the Road*.**

- \_\_\_ \$60/person before March 1
- \_\_\_ \$55/member of BRMAA before March 1
- \_\_\_ \$45/student before March 1
- \_\_\_ \$35/critique fee
- \_\_\_ \$10 additional registration after March 1
- \_\_\_ Total enclosed

**PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER MARCH 1.**

Method of payment:

\_\_\_ Check (payable to BRMAA)  
\_\_\_ MC or \_\_\_ VISA  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception RSVP**

**I \_\_\_ do \_\_\_ do not plan to attend the Friday Evening Reception at the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association.**

Please tell us which sessions you will attend.

Session I      \_\_\_a) \_\_\_b) \_\_\_c) \_\_\_d)  
Session II     \_\_\_a) \_\_\_b) \_\_\_c) \_\_\_d)  
Session III    \_\_\_a) \_\_\_b) \_\_\_c) \_\_\_d)  
Session IV     \_\_\_a) \_\_\_b) \_\_\_c) \_\_\_d)

Please note: Temperature inside the conference center tends to be unpredictable, so we suggest you dress accordingly.