



26th ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

April 14 & 15, 2023

The Mission of the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference is to educate, inform, and inspire writers. No matter the level of expertise, the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference provides a venue for professional writers, editors and agents to provide honest and accurate feedback to the aspiring writer in how to craft that first novel, sell a magazine article, market yourself in the literary world, or find inspiration for your poetry. Previous keynote speakers include a number of well-known writers such as novelist Claire Cook, Terry Kay, mystery writers Patricia Sprinkle, Joshilyn Jackson and Sharyn McCrumb, essayists James Kilgo and Steven Harvey, suspense writer Karin Slaughter, and former Georgia poet laureate, David Bottoms.

Saturday, April 15th begins with light breakfast fare and our keynote speech, *Breathing Life and Lives into Fiction*, by Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle. Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle, a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, resides in Qualla, NC. She holds degrees from Yale University and the College of William and Mary. Her debut novel, *Even As We Breathe* (UPK 2020), was a finalist for the Weatherford Award, named one of NPR's Best Books of 2020, and received the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award (2021). It also is the first novel published by a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Ms. Clapsaddle's work appears in *Yes! Magazine*, *Lit Hub*, *Our State Magazine*, and *The Atlantic*. Ms. Clapsaddle teaches secondary English and Cherokee Studies, is an editor for the Appalachian Futures Series (UPK), and serves on the board of trustees for the North Carolina Writers Network.

The day continues with concurrent workshops on everything from Fiction and Non-Fiction to Poetry and marketing a manuscript. Our 2023 speakers include a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry writers. Conference attendees appreciate the chance to network with other writers and speakers during the day and the opportunity to submit their work for critique by one of the conference speakers.

The Blue Ridge Writers' Conference also offers a four-hour Workshop Intensive on Friday, April 14th. For an additional fee, the Workshop Intensive provides a more concentrated workshop to strengthen and inspire your literary endeavors. Novelist and poet, Dana Wildsmith, will lead our 2023 workshop entitled *Writing Through Change*. Wildsmith's writing has its roots in literal soil: the earth of the old farm she works to keep alive, as documented in her collection of poems, *One Good Hand*, and through her environmental memoir, *Back to Abnormal*, or along the desert sands of our southern border, as told in her novel, *Jumping*, a story which grew from Wildsmith's work as a teacher of English Literacy to non-native speakers. Wildsmith has a new book forthcoming which took root as the pandemic flourished and we all searched for tools to help us cope with this unprecedented epic. *With Access to Tools* explores the role of tools in our lives: traditional farm tools, tools of the digital age, and cerebral tools such as patience and memory. Wildsmith is a highly sought-after teacher of creative writing and has garnered residencies at the Hambidge Center, the Lillian E Smith Center, Grand Canyon National Park and Everglades National Park.

If you are an author and have registered for the conference, you may sign up with the Art Center to have your books for sale on Friday evening during the reception and on Saturday during the conference until 3:00pm. Please email the attached Book Sales Inventory form to Caroline Mann no later than **March 17th** at blueridgearts@gmail.com to register. Please limit your book sales to no more than (8) titles, with a total of (10) books per title. All books for sale must be delivered to the Art Center between 11am and 4pm Thursday April 13th or Friday April 14th. The Art Center will sell books in the Mahan Gallery for a 10% commission.

We look forward to you joining us for our 26th Annual Blue Ridge Writers' Conference!



REGISTRATION FORM

26th ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

April 14 & 15, 2023

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____
Email _____
Website _____

Fees: Your registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

(BRMAA Members & Active UNG Students will receive **10% off registration fees only**. Valid UNG Student ID must be present to receive discounted rate.)

_____ \$60/Person before March 1st

_____ \$75/person on or after March 1st

_____ \$35/Critique Fee (Registered participants only. Please complete and submit Critique Request Form along with your manuscript no later than Friday, February 24th, 2023.)

_____ \$35/Intensive Workshop Fee. Workshop will take place on Friday, April 14th. (Registered participants only. Please note space is limited for the Intensive Workshop.)
Light snacks and water will be provided but please bring your own bag lunch.

_____ I would like to sell books during the conference. (Registered participants only. Please complete and submit Book Sales Inventory form no later than Friday, March 17th, 2023.)

_____ I would like to donate \$_____ to the Barbara Groce Memorial Fund. My donation will help to give the gift of the literary arts and support future conference scholarships.

_____ **Total Enclosed**

Please Note: No Refunds After Friday, March 17th, 2023.

Method of Payment:

_____ Check (payable to BRMAA) _____ MasterCard _____ Visa

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ CVV (security code) _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

Reception RSVP: I _____ do/ _____ do not plan to attend the Friday evening reception.

*Please note if you have any special accessibility requirements: _____

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



CRITIQUE REQUEST FORM

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A very limited number of manuscripts for critique will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. You will have a fifteen minute meeting with one of the conference speakers to discuss your work. The Art Center must receive your manuscript with the \$35 critique fee, your conference registration form and registration fees by **Friday, February 24, 2023**. Please check the speaker you prefer. No staples or report covers, please. **All manuscripts must be in Times New Roman, 12 point type, with page number and author's name on each page, MUST BE DOUBLE SPACED and have 1" margins.**

ALL submissions and fees **MUST be received by Friday, February 24, 2023.**

Name _____

Please indicate your critique selections below:

- Fiction: Limit 10 pages plus 1 page outline or synopsis
- Nonfiction: Limit 5 pages
- Poetry: Limit 5 pages

_____ Dana Wildsmith: Fiction

_____ Jessica Handler: Nonfiction

_____ KB Ballentine: Poetry

*Please note if you have any special accessibility requirements: _____
