



28th ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE February 21 & 22, 2025

The Mission of the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference is to educate, inform, and inspire writers. All levels of experience and expertise are invited to receive honest and accurate insight from authors, editors, and publishing professionals into crafting your work, marketing yourself in the literary world, and finding inspiration to get the words out of your head and on to the page. Previous keynote speakers include novelists Brian Panowich and Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle; essayists James Kilgo and Steven Harvey, agent Julie Gwinn, suspense writer Karin Slaughter, and former Georgia poet laureate David Bottoms.

On Friday, February 21st, registrants will choose between two late morning sessions. Angela DeCaires from BookLogix will discuss traditional and self-publishing options, and poet Dana Wildsmith will explore how to use words as your go-to reminder of your truest self. During the three-hour afternoon intensive workshop, Jessica Handler and Mickey Dubrow will discuss revision through the lens of two published authors with two different approaches. The session includes writing prompts, discussion, hands-on revision, and actionable items to take home. Writers of all levels and genres are welcome, and registration is limited.

Friday evening invites registrants and community members to an opening reception with short readings from conference authors. Books will be available for purchase.

Saturday morning kicks off with our keynote session, *Write Like a Wild Thing: Crafting an Unforgettable Story* with John Claude Bemis. He is the author of *The Wooden Prince*, *Lord of Monsters*, the Clockwork Dark trilogy, *The Prince Who Fell from the Sky*, and *Flora and the Runaway Rooster*. His upcoming graphic novel series *Rodeo Hawkins & the Daughters of Mayhem* will be released in October 2025. He received the Excellence in Teaching Award from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Education for his work in the schools as an author-educator and served as North Carolina's Piedmont Laureate.

The day continues with concurrent workshops including eBooks, outlines, sensory details, backstories, and writing practices. Our presenters include authors in a variety of genres, an editor, and the CEO of a full-service book printer and publishing company. Attendees will enjoy the opportunity to network with other writers and speakers throughout the conference.

Two registration options are available: \$75 for Saturday only, or \$125 for all Friday and Saturday sessions. The two-day option is limited due to the intensive workshop on Friday afternoon. The Friday evening reception and reading is open to all.

We look forward to seeing you at the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference!



REGISTRATION FORM
28th ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE
February 21 & 22, 2025

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Website _____

The open reception will be held Friday, February 21, 2025 from 5-7pm with meet and greets, readings, and book sales.

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

_____ \$125: 2-day pass per person

_____ \$75: 1-day pass per person

_____ I would like to sell books during the conference. (Registered participants only. Please complete and submit Book Sales Inventory form no later than Friday, February 14th, 2025.)

_____ 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 February 16, 2025

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. There will be an hour and a half lunch break. Bring a lunch or explore local dining options.

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): _____

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