



October 2005 Issue
A Scarily Good Start

Next Meeting: October 15, 2005

- **1:00 – 1:15 Potluck Nosh:** Bring your favorite snack.
- **1:15 – 1:30 Share Your Writing:** Read a short work.
- **1:30 – 2:15 Guest Speaker:** Horror writer James A. Moore discusses writing fright fiction and the scary road to publication.
- **2:15 – 2:30 Club Business:** Outreach program.
- **2:30– 3:00 Our Turn:** Jim Stevens leads a discussion about how we create fictional characters.

The Atlanta Writers Club was founded in 1914.

We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing.

We also sponsor judged contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

NEW MEETING LOCATION: Sandy Springs Regional Library Meeting Room: 395 Mount Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. (404) 303-6130. The library is one mile north of I-285 and west of GA 400. For detailed directions, look inside this issue, view our website, or go to <http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.atlantawritersclub.org

2005-2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

- **September 17, 2005** Bob Lancer, radio personality and motivational speaker on creativity
- **October 15, 2005** James A. Moore, horror writer
- **November 19, 2005** Bill Starr, director of the Georgia Center for the Book
- **December 17, 2005** Shelia P. Moses, award-winning novelist and biographer
- **January 21, 2006** Peter Bowerman, freelance writer and motivational speaker
- **February 18, 2006** Laurie Abkemeier, nonfiction literary agent for DeFiore & Company
- **March 18, 2006** Spoken Magazine (members read their works) hosted by Kathleen Mainland
- **April 15, 2006** TBA
- **May 20, 2006** TBA

Deadline for the November E-Quill is October 25th

Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Another Treat in October”**by George Weinstein, President**

Thank you so much for making our September 17 meeting such a treat. Not only did thirty-two of you come to our new Sandy Springs location—our second largest attendance in recent memory—but most of the visitors who gave us a try joined the club that day or soon after. You made our great experiment a great success.

Now I hope you'll help us build on our achievement and enjoy the pre-Halloween treat we've planned for October 15. Local horror writer James A. Moore, author of a number of acclaimed novels, will share his secrets for chilling the blood and tingling the spine as well as overcoming the truly scary hobgoblins that lurk along the road to publication.

We pledge to bring professionals to our meetings who'll discuss the craft and business of writing. Additionally, our pre-meeting *Nosh & Read* allows you to meet your peers and share your work, and the *Our Turn* segments encourage you to exchange the lessons you've learned on your writing journeys. If you don't come away with some insight or inspiration every month, then I've failed. And I hate to fail.

I promise a frightfully good time at our meeting this month. The trick will be to top that in November, but fear not—we've kept some treats in reserve.

See you at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 15.

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2005-2006 Term:

President: George Weinstein, 770-552-5887 **First VP:** Joan Harmon, 404-351-5691
Membership VP: Kathleen Craft Boehmig, 678-393-9324 **Treasurer:** Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Publicity VP: Lu Ann Sodano, 770-739-4749 **Secretary:** Angela Harvey, 404-578-2002
Contests VP: Richard Anderson, 770-830-6131 **Quill Editor:** George Weinstein, 770-552-5887

OTHER CONTACTS:

Historian/Photographer/By-Laws: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Copy Editor: Richard Anderson, 770-830-6131 **Poetry Editor:** Dorothy Worth, 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews: Joan Harmon, 404-351-5691 **Achievements:** Fran Stewart, 770-682-7483

PRE-MEETING NOSH & READ

Please bring your favorite snack to share during our pre-meeting social that begins at 1 p.m. At 1:15, members or guests can read a brief work they've written.

OCTOBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW

“Be Curious About This Writer of Horror Whose Essence is Pure Heart” by Joan Harmon, First VP

When I was asked to talk with James A. Moore as a potential speaker for the October meeting, I was a bit intimidated. I'm a nonfiction writer. My interests are in psychology and philosophy. Not only am I unfamiliar with horror writing, but James Moore is a successful, published author of fourteen novels. Some of his highly acclaimed horror novels are *Fireworks*, the *Serenity Falls* series, *Possessions*, and *Rabid Growth*.

I met James at one of his book promotions to personally ask him to speak to our group of writers. He stands well over six feet tall and has auburn hair down to his waist. He was wearing a black T-shirt with a skull emblem. I recognized him immediately, because I had visited his excellent website www.jimshorror.com. Although I was not intimidated by his presence, I was still intimidated by his success as a published author. My unease was immediately put to rest by this gentle man whose essence is pure heart partnered with a wonderful sense of humor.

James has been writing for about thirteen years. We talked about the mechanics of writing, knowing where to put the commas, how to structure a correct sentence—the hard stuff for some of us. He taught himself how to do that. Pretty amazing. Think of the patience and dedication.

Come meet James on October 15. Be curious about this interesting, personable man who will share how he transitions his manuscripts into published works, and also how he creates horror in the mind of the reader. By the way, I purchased three of James's books, an absolutely fascinating, entertaining, frightening, and witty introduction to horror writing.

OCTOBER OUR TURN

Member Jim Stevens will lead a discussion about how we create characters for works of fiction. Please join in with your own approaches for making your characters come to life.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

by Kathleen Craft Boehmig

At one o'clock September 17 in our new digs, the Sandy Springs Library, our 2005-2006 season started off with a bang: thirty-two people in attendance! Five members read or recited their own works during our lively pre-meeting nosh. Motivational speaker/columnist/corporate coach and registered yoga instructor Patrice Dickey (also president of her own company, Art of Change) then led us through a fascinating exercise into our own psyches. We now welcome Patrice as our newest honorary member. Check out her website, www.ArtofChange.org.

In the Our Turn segment, Buzz Bernard read his hilarious first-place humor entry from the AWC Spring Contest and led a discussion on the origins of our storytelling inspirations.

Kudos to many AWC members for giving generously to our Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive, and to our Reader-to-Reader Book Drive. The miscellaneous donated items have been distributed among needy families in Mississippi, and over 60 books were collected. I will continue collecting children's books at each meeting.

Please email any questions to me, Kathleen Craft Boehmig, at pkboehmig@charter.net.

NOVEMBER MEETING PREVIEW

On November 19, we welcome Bill Starr, the director for the Georgia Center for the Book, for a discussion about ways to encourage more reading (and, thus, book-buying) by the public and the means of promoting your book(s) through his organization.

For those who can join us, we'll hold a pre-meeting in the library meeting room that starts at 11:30 a.m. so Kathleen Craft Boehmig and George Weinstein can present their seminar entitled "The Will and Wherewithal to Write," designed to encourage and attract new writers (to be given at bookstores, libraries, etc.). We need your critiques to make the hour-long presentation as effective as possible. As an incentive for helping us with your comments, we'll provide lunch!

CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUP CONTINUES

The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique group at the Village Veranda coffee shop in Alpharetta on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. The next meetings are October 12 and 26. All members and guests are welcome. This group focuses solely on critiquing one another's work. The only rules are as follows:

- 1) Limit of 500 words for the piece to be critiqued
- 2) Bring at least ten copies so others can read along and provide written comments
- 3) Arrive on time and sign up, since only eight people can share their work on a given night

The Village Veranda (678-240-9202) is located at 52-B North Main St. (Hwy. 9) in Alpharetta, on the same block as the Welcome Center. Heading north on N. Main St., turn left onto Church St. and then make an immediate left to access the Village Veranda parking lot. We meet upstairs.

FALL WRITING CONTESTS

by Richard Anderson, Contests VP

Sharpen your skills. Try out a new genre. Receive recognition for winning entries.

Entries for all Contest Categories must be Received by 19 November 2005

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u> (excluding Title, Page #s, etc.)
Nonfiction	1000 words	2000 words
Short Story	2500	3500
Juvenile Story	750	1500
Serious Poetry		60 lines
Light Verse		60 lines

Cash Prizes in all Categories!

<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>	<u>Honorable Mention</u>
\$50	\$30	\$20	Citation at judges' discretion

Eligibility

Contests are open only to current, paid members of The Atlanta Writers Club. Entries must be original, unpublished and never have received any previous award.

Submission Rules

You may enter all 5 categories but only *one manuscript per category*.

Type your work in Times New Roman font, size 12, using 8.5x11 page format.

Double space prose entries. Single space poetry.

Place full Title and Category in upper left corner of first page.

Place title in upper left corner and page number in upper right of following pages.

Do **Not** place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry.

Submissions may be e-mailed, mailed or delivered to the contest chairperson.

E-mail submissions must be as Word Attachment.

Give author's name and entry title, category and word count in *body* of e-mail.

If entry is mailed or delivered to chairperson attach a *note card* with:

Author's name, title of entry, category and number of words or lines.

Manuscripts will not be returned. Be sure to retain a copy of your work.

Mail entries to Richard Anderson, 136 Manor Way, Carrollton, GA 30117,

or e-mail to Richard at: BeardedOne@charter.net,

or deliver to Richard at or before the AWC meeting on 19 November.

Judging

Judges are qualified, experienced writers who are not AWC members. Entries may be disqualified by the contest chair if word or line limits are not observed, if submission rules are not followed or if received after the deadline.

Polish up your best work now and enter it into our Fall Contests !

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month:

“Pencils” by Fran Stewart

We did it! We lived through another summer. I may have thought I’d never stop wilting when I walked out into that wall of humidity that lurked outside my door, but—lo and behold—it’s coming up on autumn and my windows are open again.

This is a good time to take up where I left off last spring and begin to write outdoors. Even if you have a laptop, why not try stepping outside and writing with a pencil, just for the fun of it? It’s a truly marvelous invention, and it’s been around since 1565. Anything that’s lasted that long must have a few things going for it.

Let’s see . . .

1. It’s portable.
2. Runs without batteries. For that matter, it can run without brains, but I hope that’s not the case here.
3. Has an eraser, the 1565 version of a delete key.
4. Provides a handy canvas for tooth imprints. I’ve never known anyone who hasn’t occasionally chewed on a pencil. What computer gives a frustrated writer that kind of alleviation? I just don’t group *solitaire*, *Pac-Man*, or *minesweeper* in the same league with a yellow number 2 *Ticonderoga*.
5. Can be thrown across the path / room / deck when simple deletion or chewing is not active enough (see numbers 3 and 4 above).
6. Can be sharpened without a fancy gadget. My Swiss Army knife works just fine. In a pinch I can even sacrifice a fingernail to tear the wood back away from the graphite.
7. Can be broken in half to fit in a tiny notebook or a small pocket. Of course, this eliminates the delete function of one-half of it, but I can use the bare half for my *Journal of Work in Progress*. That *Journal* isn’t edited, after all. It just gets me rolling and gives me a chance to air those vague ideas—and the just plain stupid ones that will never show up in my finished manuscript, but need to be released from my psyche before the good ideas can roll out.

Go ahead. I dare you. Try writing outside, under a tree or on a deck or next to a lake, and see how your writing blossoms. And all because of a simple pencil.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483)

Edna Hawkins’ article “Bright Side” was recently published in a Smyrna newspaper. *Reminisce Magazine* published her story “Blessed By an Angel,” and *Mature Living Magazine* accepted her article “Peggy’s Cove” about a place that is thirty miles from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

New member **Patricia Patterson** signed a contract with a literary agent.

DIRECTIONS TO SANDY SPRINGS LIBRARY

Don't forget that we will meet on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in September, at the Sandy Springs Library Meeting Room at 1 p.m. There are many ways to reach our new meeting location:

From NORTH of the Branch

- *via Roswell Road*

Turn left onto Mt. Vernon Highway. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

- *via Georgia 400*

Exit Abernathy Road, bearing right. Turn left at the first light, Barfield Road. Travel up Barfield to the first light, turn right on Mt. Vernon Highway. Go through the next traffic light and watch for the library on the left at 395 Mt. Vernon Highway.

From SOUTH or EAST of the Branch

- *from Buckhead via Roswell Road*

Travel about 8 miles on Roswell Road; cross over I- 285. continue 3/4 mile to Mt. Vernon, turn right. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

- *via Georgia 400*

Exit at the Glenridge Connector exit, turn left. Travel north on Glenridge to Mt. Vernon Highway (traffic light), turn left. Travel down Mt. Vernon; the library is on your left.

- *via I-285*

Exit at Roswell Road and head north. Drive north ¾ mile to Mt. Vernon Highway and turn right. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

From WEST of the Branch

- *via Johnson Ferry Road*

Travel east toward Roswell Road. Before you reach Roswell Road, you will encounter the library on your right. If you reach the intersection with Mt. Vernon Highway, you can turn right and enter the library parking lot (again on your right) from that road as well.

Thank You, George!

by Adrian Drost

Being from the old guard and reluctant to accept major changes, I must admit that George's vision of moving the club to a new location and into a new time slot has proven to be a good one. The downhill slide in member participation had forced the board to make some drastic decisions about the club's future. Thank you, George, for being a visionary and for all your hard work in putting this move together. So far the signs for the club point to a stable future—may this remain for a long period.

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

2005-2006 Membership Dues: \$30 per member \$ _____

Note: Students, ages 25 and under, pay only \$20 year-round

Donation in the amount of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with checks payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club* to
Adrian Drost, 500 Periwinkle Drive, Roswell, GA 30075

- Unpaid members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- 2005 Membership Year runs from 9/1/05 through 8/31/06

Member Information: (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name _____

Address _____ City & Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Sponsor (if any) _____

Tell us about yourself:

1. Please circle your three primary interests novel/ poetry/ short-story / humor/
nonfiction/ fiction/ juvenile/ travel/
drama/ screen-writing/ other

2. Please identify you experience level published submitted none

3. Please tell us how long you have been writing <5 yrs <10 <20 or >20

4. Please tell us what you expect from the club _____

Date: ____/____/____