

## June 2006 Issue

Welcome to Summer: Relax  
at Our Annual Picnic!

### Next Event: Club Picnic on June 10

From noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday June 10, we'll be enjoying the food everyone supplies, meeting any friends or family you'd like to bring along, and celebrating the start of our sizzling summer schedule of events!

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.

#### Directions to Picnic at Polly and Henry Neal's:

From North Druid Hills Road and I-85, head north/west on North Druid Hills, cross over Buford Highway, continue straight (N. Druid Hills veers right), and take a left turn at the light onto Goodwin Road. The picnic location is the second house on the right, 1242 Goodwin Road.

Park in the street or the Neals' driveway and proceed into the backyard.

Please see page 3 for more detailed directions.

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

- **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** Cecil Murphey, former AWC President, best-selling author of over 100 books
- **May 20, 2006** Dana Wildsmith, poet, writing teacher, and essayist
- **June 10, 2006** Picnic at Polly & Henry Neal's home from 12 to 4 p.m.
- **July 15, 2006** All-day (10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) writing workshop led by author Brian Corrigan
- **August 19, 2006** Half-day (10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) publicity workshop led by Peter Bowerman
- **September 16, 2006** Booksellers Roundtable—advice on how to maximize your sales
- **October 21, 2006** Darnell Arnoult, poet and novelist
- **November 18, 2006** JoAnne Pinder, Director of Gwinnett County Public Library
- **December 16, 2006** Joe Bathanti, novelist and poet

Deadline for July E-Quill submissions is June 25th

Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com), 770-552-5887

**WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “So What Happened at BEA?”****by George Weinstein, President**

Twenty-five thousand people packed the BookExpo America (BEA) convention in May. Hundreds of publishers were present, along with scores of other vendors, and I think I walked past every booth five times. The most unexpected part for me was the vast selection of advanced-copy books these publishers were giving away. Though I'd gone there to pitch my three novels to everyone in DC who'd listen, including any subway commuter unfortunate enough to sit nearby, I collected free books by the bagful.

Oh, about the pitching. Piece of cake. After the first dozen times, you develop such a rhythm that you append your thirty-second pitch onto your dinner order and any directions you give to the bathroom.

I did learn a few things I want to impart: BEA is a great way to learn about small-to-midsize presses who are looking for new voices and don't care whether you have an agent. The representatives they send are the actual people who would read your manuscript, and quite often the publishers themselves. These folks tended to express the most interest and give the best encouragement. All the major publishing houses were there too—in “booths” larger than many homes—but they were staffed almost entirely by marketing people. Worse, New York marketing people. These sophisticates were looking to make deals with buyers for bookstores and libraries—the last person they wanted to see was, good heavens, a writer.

If you recall my May column, I went on at length about four levels of pitching, from thirty seconds to many minutes. Forget all of that. Here's how it really worked. I'd walk up to a publisher's booth, flip through their catalog or any book on display that remotely resembled my genre, and ask, “May I speak to someone in Acquisitions?” This, I learned very quickly, was the magic question that cut to the chase. Editors like to say that they're in “Acquisitions” (like they're really museum curators or Wall Street types). If you ask to speak with an editor, you often get a blank stare; ask for Acquisitions and you get an immediate answer. If Acquisitions people were there, I'd slide into my quickie sound bite, ask if they'd like to see the manuscript, and try to get business cards from them (so I didn't have to remember how to spell their names). Sometimes they'd only want to see thirty pages, or just a synopsis, but five times people said, “Sure, send me the whole thing.”

Then I got out of there. One friend of mine would end up talking to these people for thirty minutes or longer. Meanwhile, I'd hit another four to five booths like a trick-or-treater on a mission. In an hour of working the floor, he'd get one card, maybe two, and I'd have at least six. The lesson: work fast, say thank you, and move on. Let your work make the big impression— after all, that's what they'll be buying.

By the way, my AWC T-shirts (see page 7) were a big hit. I wore the black one to the Saturday show and the white one on Sunday, and collected a number of compliments, along with introductions to a few Atlantans attending BEA who just might become members. Don't forget to wear yours to our June 10 picnic. I hope to see you there. And I promise not to pitch to you if you ask for the nearest bathroom.

**OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006 Term:****President:** George Weinstein, 770-552-5887**First VP:** Ginger Collins, 770-424-0757**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:** Ginger Collins, 770-424-0757**Achievements:** Fran Stewart, 770-682-7483

## ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC ON JUNE 10

Former AWC President Polly Neal and her husband Henry once again have offered to share their lovely house, landscaped grounds, and Polly's breathtaking artwork with us for a June 10 picnic, from noon until 4. As before, each family that attends will bring a dish or beverages for everyone to enjoy. **If you haven't signed up already, please call George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or e-mail him at gjweinstein@yahoo.com and tell him how many family members or friends you'll bring and what food you plan to provide (we can always use another entrée, snack, or dessert).** With almost double the membership of the previous year, we should have quite a feast, with plenty of doggy bags and sweet memories. Note: If you haven't purchased your AWC T-shirt, or you'd like another one, I'll have a supply with me. If you do have your shirt, be sure to wear it at the picnic!

### Directions to Polly & Henry Neal's house:

- From I-85, take North Druid Hills Exit Northbound. Thus, if heading on I-85 North, you'll go under the bridge, come around the loop to the top, and turn right at the light.
- Cross over Buford Highway and get into the left lane.
- At fork, continue straight on E. Roxboro Rd. (North Druid Hills veers off to the right).
- At next light (only about 50 feet from the fork), turn left onto Goodwin Rd.
- Polly's is the second house on the right: 1242 Goodwin Rd.
- Park in the street or her driveway and proceed into the backyard.
- If you get lost, please call Polly at 404-233-5174.
- In case of rain, we'll hold the picnic at Polly's on Saturday, June 17.

## SPRING CONTEST RESULTS

### FIBONACCI FICTION:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$50:	Jack Thomas	"Stupid"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, \$30:	Nancy Dyer-Smith	"Sore Thumb"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, \$20:	Adrian Drost	"Breakfast"
Honorable Mention:	Jenny Evans	"The Ride"

### THE 360:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$50:	Buzz Bernard	"Miss Judgment, Salvation, Misjudgment"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, \$30:	John Sheffield	"Intimidation, Envy, Victory"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, \$20:	John Witkowski	"Frozen Words, Final Statement, Recovered Man & Diary"
Honorable Mention:	Jack Thomas	"The Wrong Girl, The Wrong Boy, What Does it Mean?"

### FORM POETRY: (two awards given)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place, \$50:	Dorothy Worth	"On Ithaca" (Sonnet)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, \$30:	Jeanne Osborne Shaw	"Carving David" (Villanelle)

### EDNA HAWKINS MEMORIAL INSPIRATIONAL: (one award given)

Honorable Mention:	Pat Patterson	"The Colors of Red"
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## **MAY MEETING RECAP**

by **Kathleen Craft Boehmig, Membership VP**

Did you know that "...cats are all either unitarian or wicked"?

This opinion comes to us from poet and essayist Dana Wildsmith, who spoke to 28 attendees at our May meeting. Dana included excerpts from her poems, as well as nuggets of information relevant to the writing life. She credited Samuel Taylor Coleridge with the idea of writing as a "secondary imagination," wherein we "write the thing so we can describe the shadow of it, which we're really most interested in." Thanks to Dana, who has accepted an honorary AWC membership, for an inspiring, engaging presentation.

In president George Weinstein's rare absence, Bill Jackson ably emceed the meeting. A number of talented participants shared pieces in the pre-speaker Nosh and Read segment. Adrian Drost handed out certificates and cash prizes to winners of our Fall Contest. Thanks to all who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners!

Kudos to all who contributed to our book drive to provide new or gently used books to libraries along the gulf coast. We collected four more boxes of books at this meeting. Thank you all very much! Your generosity is amazing.

## **TWO CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS NOW IN OPERATION!**

**Wednesdays, June 14 and 28:** The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique at **Nirvana Cafe and Grille in Roswell** (new location!) on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. This group focuses solely on critiquing one another's work. Please bring up to four pages of your work and six copies to share so we can give you written feedback.

Nirvana Cafe and Grille (678-277-2626) is located at 10930B Crabapple Road, Suite 120, in Roswell, situated between Von Gogh's Restaurant and the BP gas station at the corner of Hwy. 92 (Crossville Road) and Crabapple Road. We meet in the semi-private room.

**Thursdays, June 8 and Wednesday, June 21:** Our new critique group meets at the Chapter 11 in Ansley Mall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. Please bring up to five pages of your work and six copies to share so we can give you written feedback.

Directions: from Buckhead, take Piedmont Road south. Cross over Monroe and the mall will be on your right. **Note the changed day for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month (due to a book-signing on that Thursday).**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES**

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

**Sara Hines Martin** spoke and conducted book signings at a book club in Ringgold, a Civil War reenactment in Resaca, and a seniors club in Roswell.

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

#### “Participles and Pilot Lights” by Fran Stewart

Did you ever have one of those gas heaters that tended to go out on winter nights? If you’re as old as I am, you probably did. I can remember my mother clumping her way out of her bed and crouching in the hallway, where I could see her shivering as I peeked over my blue blanket. I was naturally unwilling to get up and help unless she asked me directly.

Sometimes participles are a bit like gas heaters. They do a fine job until they act up. Of course, they act up because we as writers tend to overuse them. A participle, as you know, is a verb-form used as an adjective. Participles often end in *-ing*. Here are a few florid examples:

1. His writing style was heavily dependent on flowing words of dubious origin, coming as they did from the intuiting side of his brain.
2. Her dancing partner always left her tapping feet wanting something else—rhythm, for instance, rhythm that should have been the calling card of their cha-cha troupe.
3. They couldn’t agree on whether the coming storm held freezing snow or pelting rain, and after bargaining about the pressing need for evacuation, decided to bring out the playing cards and sit tight.

I’m not saying these are grammatically incorrect. They’re not. Can you see, though, that a paragraph full of such statements becomes like a heater whose pilot light is always going out? Just when we expect a good terse descriptive word, we get a waterfall of *ing*’s. Try these, instead:

- a. He borrowed unknown words, and used them ill.
- b. Whenever she danced, her cha-cha partner spoiled the rhythm.
- c. They couldn’t predict the weather, so they played cards instead.

Not great literature, I admit, but these sentences are tighter, clearer, more to the point than the first three were. The fact that they avoid participles helps in that clarity. Not every participle needs to be replaced, of course, but a whole string of them weakens any sentence. If you write about someone who gives *a running commentary in the driving rain*, consider changing it to *he rambled on while we got soaked*. Choose your words, all of them, with care. Then they’ll keep you warm on a winter night.

### FREELANCE OPPORTUNITY

Worth Remembering Publishing, Inc. is a new publishing company that creates books filled with tributes to people “worth remembering.” They are looking for freelance writers who are interested in seeing their work in print and who would like to be compensated for their effort. Details are available in the "Writer's Workshop" at [www.worthrememberingpublishing.com](http://www.worthrememberingpublishing.com).

## **MORE SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS!**

### **July 15 – All-day Writing Workshop at the Sandy Springs Library**

Brian Jay Corrigan, AWC member and author of the widely and highly acclaimed novel *The Poet of Loch Ness*, will lead a daylong seminar (10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.) that embodies the goal of this club: to discuss the craft and business of writing, for both non-fiction and fiction (be it short story or novel). The morning discussion will focus on the magic of putting the right words together the right way, and he'll devote the afternoon to the ways and means of getting published. Brian has offered to review query letters in advance and will provide written feedback. The workshop price is \$20. You can reserve your spot by going on-line to our website: [www.atlantawritersclub.org/events](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events), and click Summer Events and then the PayPal button, or you can write a \$20 check payable to The Atlanta Writers Club, and send it to George Weinstein, 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. In response, you'll receive instructions on how to submit your query letter for Brian's review.

### **August 19 – Half-day Publicity Workshop at the Sandy Springs Library**

Back by popular demand, marketing guru Peter Bowerman will present a half-day workshop (10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) on publicity and book promotion entitled **The Well-Fed Book Promoter: *Get Your Book on the Map & In the Money!***

Got a book in you—or one already out? Wondering if self-publishing makes sense for you? Struggling with the best ways to let the world know about your masterpiece? Join nationally renowned self-publishing and book marketing pro, Peter Bowerman for an information-packed half-day seminar. You'll follow the author's firsthand experience as you learn how to:

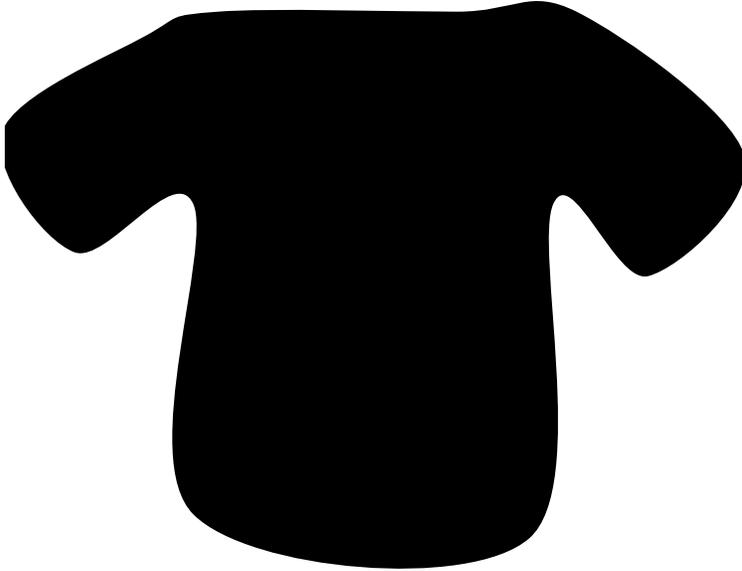
- Develop a “marketing mindset” – minus the anxiety!
- Create a book that turns heads and grabs eyeballs.
- Find tons of reviewers anxious to publicize your book.
- Get the bookstore chains to come looking for you.
- Build a cash-generating web site that works 24/7.
- Minimize your dependence on fickle mainstream media.
- Parlay one book into multiple income streams.
- Separate the “Print-on-Demand” hype from reality.

Most importantly, you'll learn a radical new approach to book promotion – one that keeps *you* in control. The result: less anxiety, higher profits, and more fun!

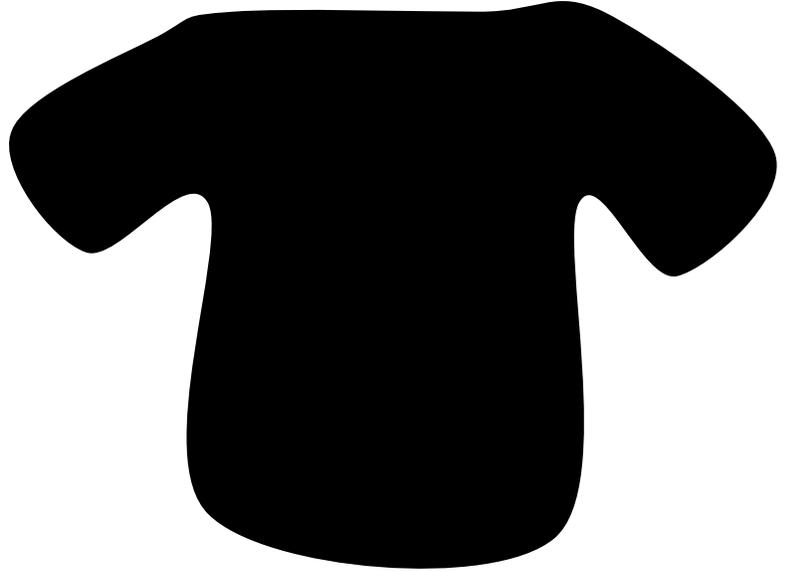
For more details and registration info visit <http://www.wellfedwriter.com/SeminarDates.shtml> or you can reserve your spot by going on-line to our website: <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events-summer.html>, click Summer Events and the PayPal button, or you can write a \$67 check payable to The Atlanta Writers Club, and send it to George Weinstein, 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075.

**THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB T-SHIRTS—2 STYLES ON SALE NOW**

FRONT



BACK



FRONT



BACK



Each shirt is a bargain at \$10 apiece, or buy two for \$18 (or three for \$27, four for \$36, etc.). There's a bonus discount if you order them on-line at [www.atlantawritersclub.org/merchandise](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/merchandise), or order by check, payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club*, by contacting George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) or (770) 552-5887. Tell him:

- 1) Whether you want black, white, or both styles of T-shirt
- 2) Which size(s) for each color: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL; and/or Child L
- 3) What quantity of each size
- 4) Whether you want the shirt(s) mailed to you or you will pick it up. They will be available for pickup and for sale at every meeting. If you want mail delivery, add \$7 for the first shirt and \$3 for additional ones for packaging and shipping charges.

## THE DAHLONEGA LITERARY FESTIVAL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

The DLF Prize in Literature seeks to recognize and reward emerging works of exceptional quality. Because the festival is a celebration of the written word, writers are invited to submit all forms of novel: category fiction, experimental, mainstream, literary, *et cetera*.

### DESCRIPTION:

TYPE: Annual prize in novel-length, unpublished fiction

GENRE: Any (including experimental)

LENGTH: 50,000-150,000 words

FEE: \$35.00 (payable to THE DAHLONEGA LITERARY FESTIVAL)

SUBMISSION WINDOW: **1 March-31 July** (the contest window closes earlier if 200 submissions are received before 31 July)

PRIZES: **First Prize:** \$500 and recommendation to a top New York agency (if appropriate)  
**Second Prize:** \$300  
**Third Prize:** \$200  
**Fourth and Fifth Prizes:** awarded where indicated and will consist of a certificate of merit.

### RULES and SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Please visit The DLF website at [www.literaryfestival.org](http://www.literaryfestival.org).

### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

- Distinctive voice
- Engaging Character and Character Development
- Sense of Atmosphere
- Crafting of the written word to advantageous effect
- General storytelling ability

### MAIL TO:

DLF FICTION CONTEST  
420 Wal-Mart Way, Box 514  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

### QUESTIONS:

Questions should be directed through the Festival website at [www.literaryfestival.org](http://www.literaryfestival.org) or directly to [brianjaycorrigan@yahoo.com](mailto:brianjaycorrigan@yahoo.com)

## Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

**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 30075-4328**

- Unpaid members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- 2006 Membership Year runs from 1/1/06 through 12/31/06

**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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_