

**Temporary logo*

The Legend

Emerald Coast Writers, Inc.

Member Newsletter

www.wff.org

September 2022 Edition

Join us at the Open Mic on September 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom!

Fall has officially arrived, ya'll, and we want YOU to join the Emerald Coast Writers community at Open Mic to celebrate!

Join your host, Northwest Florida Poet Laureate Katherine Nelson-Born, and let's celebrate each other by showing up to greet old friends and new members alike, sharing your creative writing, whether memoir, essay, fiction, or poetry.

Feel free to read something you've written, are working on, or a piece from a favorite author. If you have a book, blog site, website, or maybe a writing contest to share, drop it in the chat to share with your fellow members.



Need some writing inspiration? Participate in the September Flash Creative Writing Challenge!

For the September Open Mic, you are invited to participate in a NEW Flash Creative Writing Challenge. Choose one of the following prompts (or make up your own flash writing), write 50-750 words, AND YOU CHOOSE whether fiction, non-fiction, or prose poetry, to share at Open Mic!

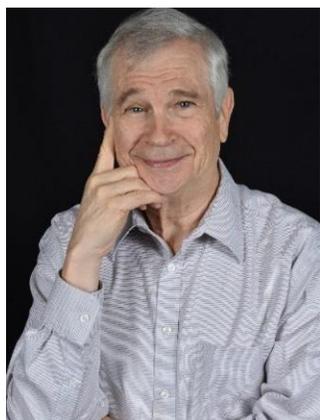
Flash Writing Prompts:

- Someone does something extreme to return a borrowed item from years ago.
- Remember that imaginary friend of your sibling/friend or your own childhood? What happens to the imaginary friend when we grow up and away? Write from the perspective of the imaginary friend fading away.
- Most of us have experienced some tragic incident in our lives. Write a scene that happens right after a tragedy, but do NOT reveal what the tragedy was.

An invitation to Open Mic on Zoom will be coming your way soon, so stay tuned!

NOTE: Katherine Nelson-Born will be available in a separate chat room at 6:00 p.m. to discuss flash writing, answer any questions you might have, or listen to your challenges or accomplishments.

Message from the President



It's September and still HOT in Northwest Florida. Cool off with a beverage and the September issue of *The Legend*.

Our Open Mic this month is September 20 at 6:30 pm. The "Network and Nosh" portion of last month's Open Mic went over well, so join our social/networking pre-meeting beginning at 6:00 pm using the same Zoom link.

We will have several Zoom Rooms so smaller groups can meet up and chat without being in the main meeting room. To learn more about Zoom Rooms, follow this [link](#) or just Google "Zoom Breakout Rooms."

For you fiction writers out there, for the October Open Mic we are planning to have 3-4 authors do readings from their prose fiction. This can be a reading from a short story, flash fiction, or an excerpt from a novel. Details will be emailed and appear in October's *The Legend*.

I received word that we are guaranteed a booth at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival/Heritage Arts which will run November 4-6. Look for an email this month on how you authors can sign up for slots at the booth. We need volunteers for set-up on November 3rd and take-down on the 6th. We also need member volunteers to be cashiers. Training will be provided.

The ECW Board is actively planning a virtual writers' conference in November. This will be a series of webinars presented by successful local and national authors and writing consultants. Stay tuned for more details. Keep in mind that even though this is an online event, we will need some volunteer help in various areas (publicity, marketing, etc.). For more info, please reach out to us via email at [Emerald Coast Writers](mailto:info@emeraldcoastwriters.com).

My thanks to Katie Rankin for putting out such informative and creative issues of *The Legend* over the past several months.

If you're interested in low-cost webinars on the craft of writing, Free Expressions is a website offering a series of 21 classes each 2 ½ hours long in the evening. They're presented by well-known authors and agents, including Donald Maass and Arielle Haughee. Check the website at [Free Expressions](http://FreeExpressions.com).



Don't forget about our new feature on our Facebook page called "**My Writing Space**" where you can share a photo of your writing space. It's simple:

- Photograph your writing space. Take a picture of where you write. Don't clean it up. Show us the natural environment where you make the magic. You can be in the picture if you want.
- Send the picture to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com with "My Creative Space" in the subject line.
- Keep watching the Emerald Coast Writers' Facebook page and when you are featured, share it with the world!

Publishers Weekly offers an assortment of **free** e-newsletters that can give you inside information on your specific area of writing interest from children's book to religious books. Here's the [link](#).

Finally, my writer "bar" jokes got a laugh or two last month, so here's a few more. Enjoy!

A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.

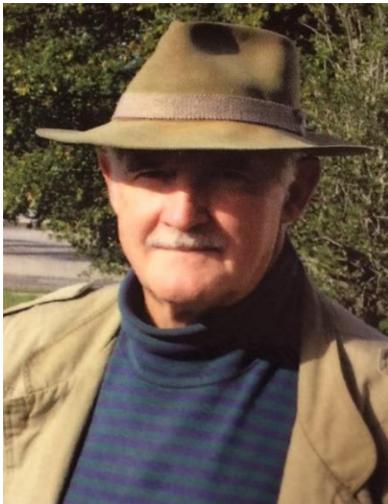
Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.

Papyrus and Comic Sans walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Get out – we don't serve your type."

–Tom Roberts

Meet Our Members:

Joe Edmisten



We asked to feature longtime member Joe Edmisten and sent him a series of questions. He wrote back with such great detail in his own words that we'll just quote him for his own feature:

"I joined Emerald Coast Writers in the late eighties along with my wife, Patricia (also a current member), so we've been around to see its many phases. I joined the University of West Florida shortly after its founding in 1967. There I headed up the environmental studies department and taught biology and ecology. While at the University my writing appeared in numerous scientific journals, much of it concentrating on tropical rain forests.

In 1975 I left UWF to form my own ecological consulting company, Joe Edmisten and Associates. We did environmental impact studies for companies that needed permits before they could develop a new tract of land. As part of those studies, I also inventoried rare and endangered species for the State of Florida, and, with my staff, designed and built wetland mitigation projects to offset losses that might result from land development.

Patricia and I love to travel. Several years ago, we circumnavigated the globe on the SS Universe Explorer. We joined Semester at Sea as faculty. That year the program was sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh, but the universities that sponsor the program rotate. Our ports included the embarkation point in the Bahamas and then on to Venezuela, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Japan. After crossing the north Pacific, we arrived in Seattle. We were at sea 107 days and taught each day, even on weekends, except for those days in port when we would lead students on field trips, many of them to remote locations within each country. I taught classes in ecology.

I grew up in Boone, North Carolina, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. I am a mountain man at heart. My mama had the stove burning day and night for our large family and other farmhands, and she canned fruits and vegetables from our garden. My daddy was not only a farmer but also a game warden. He was a *de facto* vet for the cows and horses we kept. He taught us everything to know about farming. If we slacked off with the hoeing, as was our inclination, we'd get a good whupping. My grandmother was a self-taught medicine woman, and I learned

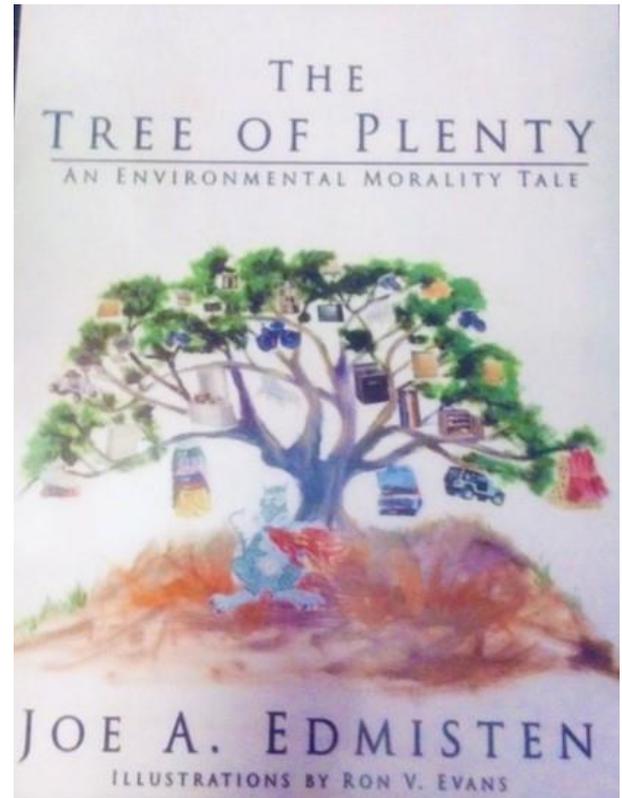
about plants at her side. The career of ecologist came naturally to me.

After getting my master's degree at the University of North Carolina, I taught at Appalachian State University in Boone and taught at the University of Georgia after getting my doctorate at the University of Florida.

My children's book, *The Tree of Plenty: a Morality Tale*, was a natural outgrowth of my upbringing. It reflects the mountain values with which I was raised, such as generosity, industriousness, dedication to family, respect, and courage. I encourage parents, grandparents, and teachers to read it along with the young'uns because Patricia added little question marks at strategic story intervals to indicate a pause when children are encouraged to volunteer what they might do in a situation similar to those found in the book. I'm very proud of the illustrations done by my now deceased friend and former colleague, Dr. Ron Evans."

Thank you, Joe, for sharing your story and

your writing with us. [View more about his book here.](#)



Announcements:

ECW at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival



Emerald Coast Writers will again have a presence at the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival on November 4-6.

Hours for the event are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Look for an email this month on how authors can sign up for slots at the booth or how you can volunteer to assist with set-up, with take-down, or as a cashier. Training will be provided.

Join Our Member Directory and Be Featured on Our Website

Are you featured in our Emerald Coast Writers member directory on our website? Check it out at <https://wflf.org/MemberDirectory>.

Support your fellow writers and their creative work. If you're not listed on here but you wish to be included, complete the form [here](#).



Featured Member

Lori O'Gara

Member | Director
<https://the-ogaras.com/>

About

Lori O'Gara is a writer of contemporary fiction, fantasy, and real-life commentary. She is an advocate of human decency, believes that magic is real and love is a gift from the Divine. Lori is happiest with her feet in the sugar white sand on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. When not at the beach, writing or reading, she can be found wandering the stacks in her library, watching Doctor Who or spending time with her family. A large blended family that consists of six children, seven

grandchildren and one dog named Harley Quinn.

Winners of the 2022 Youth Writing Contest:

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The Book Anthology of Winning Pieces is Coming!

Please visit our booth at the annual Gulfcoast Arts Festival on November 4th, 5th, or 6th in Seville Square to pick up your complimentary book. Additional copies will be available for purchase. These make wonderful holiday gifts! Hours are as follows: Fri. and Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. Watch your email for more details!

Send In Your Creative Writing, Photos, or Art!

Have you:

- Written a whimsical poem or Haiku recently?
- Taken a beautiful photo of a sunset on the beach?
- Want to include an excerpt from your book as a teaser to our members?
- Created a beautiful art piece that you'd like to share and showcase?

Share your creative writing, photos, and art in the monthly *Legend* newsletter. All forms are welcome and will be considered for publication.*

If you submit a photo or image, please include a short writeup about it (two or three sentences explaining the work and what it means/is). Let's get the inspiration going and uplift each other through words, images, and creativity. Submit your work via email to the *Legend* editor at editor@wflf.org anytime. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing your amazing work!

I can't help but believe the reason Naomi's poem is so popular now is the world needs it desperately. I close with this idea. Consider something that visits you often. Listen to what it is suggesting. Trust the act of writing it down because you may grow into it. Below are the opening lines to "Kindness" and a link to a reading by this thoughtful poet.

Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth

youtube.com/watch?v=bBYzMsUVvtQ

"My Writing Space" Submissions from Our Members

Patricia Taylor Edmisten



Publishing and Member News

Claire Massey has collected her flash fiction, poems and memoir vignettes into a book titled *Driver Side Window*, which will be available from Amazon this fall. She is grateful for the assistance of fellow ECW

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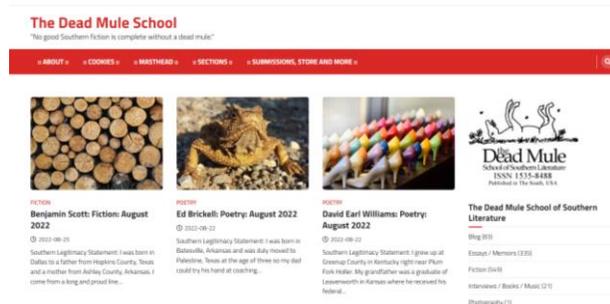
member, Diane Skelton, who has acted as publishing consultant and book designer.

Claire plans to donate any author royalties earned to her favorite non-profit organization for wildlife conservation.

You can read the poem which gave title to her book by visiting the School of Southern Literature's website and literary journal at <https://deadmule.com>.

Writers' Cooperative's 2022 Writing Contests and second place in Free Verse.

She read both poems at the Virtual Event on August 27, where Alabama's Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones gave the keynote address. The AWC, formerly the Alabama Writers Conclave, was organized in 1923. This year's competition included seven categories.



Karen McAferly Morris was awarded first place in Prose Poetry in the Alabama

Ongoing Workshops

MONDAY'S WORD WEAVERS (POETRY, PROSE, MICRO-WRITING FORMS) –

The goal of this workshop is to assist you to further develop writing skills, learn to critique, and grow in confidence as you polish your authentic voice and achieve the next level of your personal writing goals. Join us virtually on the first Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, please contact Debra Stogner at debrastogner@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY PORTFOLIO and EXCHANGE SOCIETY –

A lively critique group meets every Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., on Zoom. The group is looking for writers of any genre — memoir, poetry, fiction, nonfiction — who want to work on completing a project in 12 months. Since the group formed, several members have published books. Participants exchange writing tips, websites, and general trivia. For more information, please reach out to Diane Skelton at dianeskelton@att.net.

Please contact Diane regarding meetings during this time.

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Emerald Coast Writers Board of Directors

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Secretary: Charline Barger
Treasurer: Scott Finelli
Director: Debra Stogner
Director: Lori O’Gara
Director/Poet Laureate: Katherine Nelson-Born
Legend Editor: Katie Rankin

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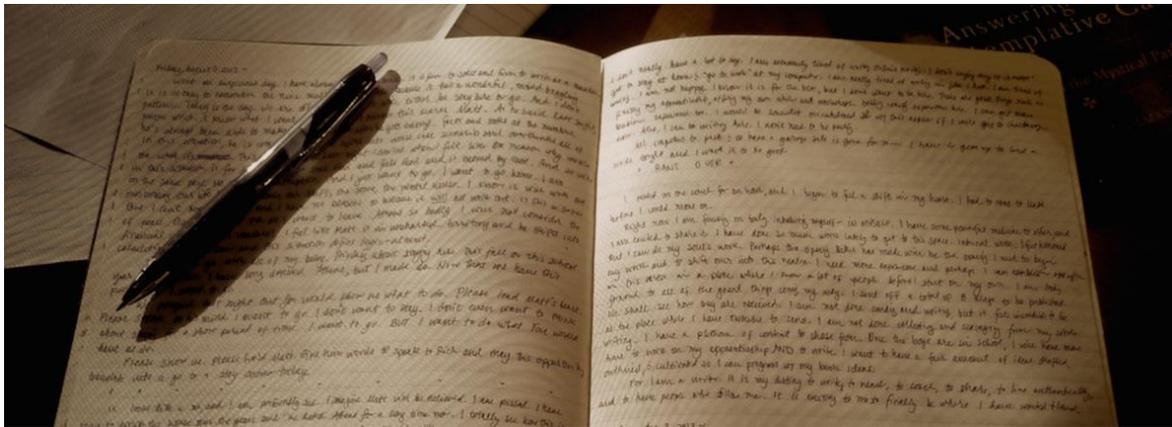
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- Check out our website at: www.wflf.org
- “Like” us on Facebook, (under) West Florida Literary Federation, at: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Florida-Literary-Federation-WFLF-255101747857712>
- “Follow” us on Twitter @WSTFLLITFED





Join ECW or Renew Your Membership

Memberships are good for one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Individual membership is \$35/year, two-year \$60. Couple one-year \$60, two-year \$115. New members joining after July 15 pay \$20 or may pay \$45 which also pays for the following year. Subsequent years are due annually by January 1. Student membership is \$15.

I would like to sponsor: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check one please: New _____ Renewal _____

Date: _____

Circle the items you **do not** want published in the Emerald Coast Writers members only directory:

Address Phone Email

If no item is circled, we will include all your information in the next published directory.

How to join or renew your membership:

Pay your membership dues online with a credit card at www.wfff.org and then email this form to westfloridaliteraryfederation@gmail.com

or

Mail your check and this form to:
Emerald Coast Writers
400 South Jefferson Street, Suite 212
Pensacola, FL 32502

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