

## 2012 Conference Update

Mark your calendars. The 2012 Colorado Gold Conference will be September 7-9. In addition, we are excited to announce that 2012 is RMFW's 30th birthday, and we intend to celebrate! Watch for party details in the coming months.

The Denver Renaissance Hotel has been our venue for a number of years, working with us to keep costs down and still provide elegant and welcoming accommodations and delicious meals for 400 attendees. We are happy to announce they will again be our host venue.

We will be accepting proposals in January for both the regular workshops as well as the Friday Morning Master Classes. We hope to offer the best possible balance of workshops on a wide array of topics, and we can't wait to hear your ideas! Everyone is welcome to submit proposals on any subject of interest to fiction writers. The deadline to submit proposals is March 1, 2012. Email Angie Hodapp at [angiehodapp@gmail.com](mailto:angiehodapp@gmail.com) to request proposal forms and receive additional submission information.

It is our great privilege to announce that we have two great speakers lined up for 2012: Jodi Thomas and Debra Dixon will offer up words of wisdom and inspiration at the Saturday evening banquet and the Sunday luncheon.

Jodi Thomas has earned an impressive list of distinguished awards. Her first book, *BENEATH THE TEXAS SKY* (1988), won the National Press Women's Novel of the Year in its category. Book two, *NORTHERN STAR* (1990), was named best novel by the (Texas) Panhandle Professional Writers and the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc., an organization of writers' groups from several states. Book three, *THE TENDER TEXAN* (1991), was Thomas's first national bestseller and won her the first of her Romance Writers of America RITAs, the \$1.5 billion romance publishing industry's equivalent of an Oscar. Jodi won her second RITA for *TO TAME A TEXAN'S HEART* (1994). Book twelve, *TO KISS A TEXAN* (1999), was her first novel to score on USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list. For *THE TEXAN'S WAGER* (2002), sixteen was the magic number. As Thomas's sixteenth novel, the book scored number sixteen on the NEW YORK TIMES extended bestseller list. *FINDING MARY BLAINE* (2004) received the National Readers' Choice Award in 2005. Thomas was inducted into the RWA Hall of Fame in 2006 for winning her third RITA for *THE TEXAN'S REWARD* (2005). In 2009, Jodi received the National Readers' Choice Award for two of her books: *TWISTED CREEK* (2008) and *TALL, DARK, AND TEXAN* (2008). In 2010, *THE LONE TEXAN* won the Reader's Choice 2009 Best Western Romance from LoveWestern-Romances.com. Jodi received a RITA for *WELCOME TO HARMONY* (2010) and the Booksellers' Best Award for *SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY* (2010) at Romance Writers of America's 2011 conference.

Debra Dixon is a bestselling author currently at work on her eleventh book. She has served as vice president for Romance Writers of America (RWA), an organization of over 9,000 writers. In 2003, RWA honored Debra with the national Emma Merritt Service Award, recognizing her contributions to writers and the organization. She has been awarded the Georgia Romance Writers Maggie Award; A Little Romance Magazine's ROMY Award; Colorado's Award of Excellence; the Kiss of Death Award for best suspense of the year from RWA's

Mystery/Suspense Chapter; and a Romantic Times Career Achievement Award for innovative romance series. Her published books have been finalists for the Virginia Holt Medallion, *Romantic Times* Best Loveswept, and the National Readers' Choice Award for romance fiction.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference in September!

In addition to speaking at numerous regional and national conferences, Debra developed and continues to teach a novel-writing courses for the University of Memphis as well as one-day writing workshops across the country. In late 1996, Gryphon Books For Writers published Debra's first writing book based on her popular *GMC:Goal, Motivation, and Conflict* workshop. That book is now in its sixth printing. In late 2002, Gryphon published Debra's second nonfiction book, *When You're the Only Cop in Town*, a writer's guide to small-town law enforcement.

Her latest adventure in the world of business is BelleBooks, a small press cofounded with five other commercial-fiction writers. Among them, they've written over 200 books for New York publishers and thought it was time to follow the lead of the independent filmmakers by producing and controlling some of their own work.