

Workshop Descriptions

FRIDAY

11:00 - 4:00pm **Registration**

12:00 pm **Cowboys, Cops, Fantasy Figures & their Weapons (special interest)** **Criss Clinton**
Historic firearms (from 1850 on), firearms currently in use by law enforcement professionals, & various types of swords will be described and presented via photographs. Q&A. (two hours)

Getting to Know Your Characters (basic craft) **Beth Groundwater**
Learn tools and techniques for getting into the heads and hearts of your characters and turning them into realistic, three-dimensional people. (one hour)

The Goddess of Good Fiction (basic & advanced craft) **Linda Berry**
Discussion of basic elements of good storytelling (pacing, adding complications, weaving plots and sub-plots, handling back story, creating tension and conflict, organizing material, and fitting the pieces together) and a way to brainstorm your way out of the cul de sac we call writer's block. (one hour)

Don't Dread the "R" Word: Seventeen Steps for Revising Your Way to Novel Writing (basic & advanced craft) **Laura DiSilverio**
In the first hour, we'll look at re-visioning your novel and fixing the big elements like plot, theme, and characters. In the second, we'll use the revision microscope to examine dialog, scene structure and ratcheting up the tension. Practical exercises. Attend one hour or both. (two hours)

Welcome to RMFW (special interest) **Dave Jackson**
Make the most of your visit to our big party. Newcomers to RMFW of conferences will learn about the conference and receive tips to put them on the fastest track to publication while having a blast doing so. (one hour)

1:00 pm **Editor/Agent Critique Workshops & Short Story Intensive (all levels)**
Pre-registered participants receive feedback from editors, agents, and other attendees on their first ten manuscript pages or 4000-word short stories. (three hours)

Secrets to a Successful Book Signing (marketing & career dev't) **Kirt Hickman**
You'll learn the secrets of when to sign, where to sign, what to bring, what to do (and not do), and what to say (and not say). Through this workshop, you can transform your signings from lonely and depressed to fun and profitable. (one hour)

Communicating Character (advanced craft) **Carol Berg**
More and more readers demanding believable, complex characters. Learn writing techniques for revealing character and how you can use the developing story to expand your own understanding of the personalities you've created. (two hours)

How to Write Funny (basic & advanced craft, special interest) **Lesley Smith**
An overview of humor in general and a focused look at the specifics of literary humor. We'll look at some examples, techniques, and time permitting, we may try some funny writing ourselves. Be ready to discuss your favorite funny authors. Jokes welcome! (one hour)

2:00 pm **Playing Spider: Enticing your Web Audience (marketing, special interest)** **Ron Heimbecher**
For authors and writers who would like to present an active, dynamic community web presence without substantial investment in either dollars or time (includes access to on-line tutorial workspace). (one hour)

Networking: Sowing the Seeds of Success (all levels, marketing) **Brenda Novak**
While writing is an art, publishing is a business. To a lot of writers, that's bad news. They don't want to deal with the left side of their brain. But between good writing and seeing one's name on the bestseller lists, there's a lot of work to be done, and not all of it is related to writing. Designed for writers at any stage, this workshop focuses on the "other" side of a writer's life by giving simple sales and marketing techniques an author can use to increase her chances of success beyond creating a saleable novel. (one hour)

Basics Boot Camp (basic craft) **Kay Bergstrom, Carol Caverly, Christine Goff, Christine Jorgensen, Cheryl McGonigle**
This is a trilogy of basic panels which will take the writer from thought to plot to product. It is designed to promote understanding of the entire process of novel writing, from recognizing and developing the germ of an idea, to peopling it with compelling characters and then building a plot that is a best-selling, page-turning read. (three hours)

Survive to Write, Write to Survive: Practical Tips on How to Hang in There Until You're Published (basic craft, general interest)

Robin D. Owens

Practical tips on how to hang in there until you're published. Includes self-image and visualization, goal-setting, creating a positive environment, dealing with negatives, affirmation, and rituals. (one hour)

3:00 pm

High Concept: Titillate Me, but Do It Fast! (marketing)

Karen Albright Lin

High Concept for novelists, nonfiction writers, and screenwriters. What is it? Why do you need it? How do you make your "hook" excite and invite (in conversation and on paper).

It Gets Complicated: The Difficult Art of Dealing with the Middle of Your Novel (advanced craft)

Connie Willis

A discussion of complications, raising the stakes, reversals, and other techniques for getting your story or novel from that great beginning to the killer ending without miring down in the mud along the way. (one hour)

Press Releases: Writing, Targeting, Distribution & Media (marketing, career dev't)

Susan Mitchell

How to target a press release and make it timely, how and where to distribute releases, and media thinking. This session will also include an interactive press release exercise. (one hour)

XX vs XY (basic craft)

Mario Acevedo, Jeanne Stein

Do women and men really look at things differently? An interactive, improvisational workshop. We'll take audience suggestions and compare the male and female POV through the eyes of our vampire protagonists Anna Strong and Felix Gomez. (one hour)

4:00 pm

Rhythm and Cadence and Beats, Oh My! (basic & advanced craft)

Margie Lawson

Rhythm. Cadence. Beats. Tune your Cadence Ear! Learn how to enhance your structural savvy. Learn where to shine your cadence-driven spotlight. Learn how to avoid syntactical acrobatics by structuring sentences and paragraphs to enhance rhythm. Make your cadence count. (one hour)

Pitch Appointment 101 (basic craft)

Peggy Waide

Worried about that moment when you sit across the table from an agent or editor? Learn what's involved in the pitch process, whittle down the storyline of your novel to the most important details and practice your "pitch." (one hour)

Publicity, Promotion & Media Relations for Writers (marketing)

Susan Mitchell

An overview, including creating a marketing action plan, creating a media kit, self-promotion, free marketing resources, the BIG interview, and defining success. (one hour)

Self-Publishing in the 21st Century—Is it for You? (gen'l interest, career dev't)

Michelle Black

A comprehensive discussion of the pros and cons of self-publishing. In the internet age, bringing your work to a mass audience has never been easier or less expensive, but is it a solid career choice? Will it help or harm your chances of finding a commercial publisher? What are the differences between self-publishing and the vanity press? What genres are most likely to succeed as self-published titles? How has the internet changed the self-publishing landscape? (one hour)

5:30

Cash Bar

6:00 pm

Italian Buffet

Kickoff Speaker: RMFW Writer of the Year

7:30 pm Book Sale

Short Story & a Beer (a casual workshop held in the lounge where we can do a short reading of published short story, discuss how it works—and maybe how it doesn't—and let the conversation—and drinks—flow from there. — Electric Spec editors Betsy Dornbusch, Lesley Smith, & David Hughes)

SATURDAY

7:00 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00 am

The Facts of Death (special interest)

Laura Manuel, Ph. D

This workshop will cover the basic difference between the cause and manner of death. How coroners identify the deceased as well as how the dead are identified when remains are scarce, methods used to determine the time of death (liver, rigor, and algor mortis) and their accuracy, disposal of bodies (time permitting). Warning: photographic illustration. (two hours)

Agent Panel One (all levels)

Agents Sandra Bond, Kristin Nelson, Laura Rennert, and Michelle Brower answer writers' questions about the submission and acquisition process. (one hour)

Guest Agents**Writing About Characters with Psychological Disorders (special interest)**

What do you know about bipolar disorder, clinical depression, schizophrenia, addictions? Is there a Dexter in your imagination? Whatever your genre, characters have to deal with emotional/mental challenges. We'll discuss several mental health diagnoses, their commonly occurring symptoms, how they impact the person/character, and ways to manage the illness. Bring your questions about your characters. (one hour)

Lynda Hilburn**Writing for Teenagers (special interest)**

The young adult (YA) market is flourishing. How do YOU break in? Who is your inner teen? How do you develop his/her voice? We'll also discuss what makes a book YA, examine sub-genres, and explore which sub-genres fit with YOUR voice. (two hours)

Victoria Hanley**Where Do You Get Your Ideas? A Survivor Game for Writers (basic craft)**

A novelist reality show. Watch a panel of authors sweat and groan. Watch their brains explode as they develop a germ of an idea suggested by the audience into a workable plot in a matter of minutes. Will they succeed? And who will be voted off the island? (one hour)

**Kay Bergstrom, Janet Lane,
Steven Moores, Robin D. Owens, Thea Hutcheson**

9:00 am

As Miss Piggy Says, It has to go Somewhere: the Problem of Plot Exposition (advanced craft)

Where and how to put all that information your readers need to know into your story or novel without them knowing that's what you're doing. Planting clues, avoiding expository lumps, avoiding the "As we all know, captain..." problem, misdirection, and other techniques for working in critical information. (one hour)

Connie Willis**Agent-Author-Editor Relationships (career dev't)**

This panel, consisting of an author, her literary agent, and her editor, will discuss the relationships between those roles and how to make them successful. (one hour)

Beth Groundwater, Sandra Bond, Terri Bischoff**How Do I Get Noticed? (marketing, career dev't)**

What to Willie Nelson, Andy Kaufman, the Blue Man Group, and the JK Wedding Entrance Dance have in common? They all got noticed...by millions. How did they do it? We'll build an innovative plan based on your style to promote your novel. For members of RMFW who have "struck gold" and whose publications are available through stores, we're proud to set you up with a new program associated with One Book One Denver. (two hours)

Dave Jackson

10:00 am

Visceral Rules...and Everything Adrenaline-Driven (basic & advanced craft)

Teaches writers how to write fresh visceral responses, how to write Motivation-reaction units, how to structure scene components to set the strongest emotional hook—and how to make the adrenaline on your page stimulate your reader's adrenaline. Learn those psychologically-based dynamics and you'll know how to write a page turner. (two hours)

Margie Lawson**Searching for Harry Potter: the Key Elements of Successful Middle-Grade and Young Adult Fiction (special interest)**

Get an agent's insider view on the state of the market for middle grade and YA fiction. Learn about current trends and the five crucial elements of commercial success in the genre. Gain an awareness of the conceptual tools at your disposal and discover the criteria for noteworthy middle-grade and YA fiction. For new and well-established authors. (two hours)

Laura Rennert**How to Format a Manuscript for Electronic Submission (special interest)**

Do you know what an electronic page break is? You don't? You should. This isn't "Formatting for Dummies" nor is it formatting for digital publication—just the basic information one needs to survive, perhaps even enhance, one's electronic submission. (one hour)

Deni Deitz**The Balancing Act of Writing Historical Fiction (basic craft, special interest)**

If you write historical fiction, you know it's a tough act, balancing the story line and historical details. The challenge is heightened by reader expectations, which differ depending on the type of historical fiction you're writing. Amanda will help you categorize your book at the same time she presents concrete ways to striking the proper balance to intrigue both editors and readers. (one hour)

Amanda Cabot

11:00 am

Agent Panel Two (all levels)

Agents Eddie Schneider, Christine Whittohn, Kate Schafer Testerman, and Cheryl Pientka answer writers' questions about the submission and acquisition process. (one hour)

Guest Agents**Lights, Camera, Interview (marketing)**

A hands-on (or should we say face-on) workshop for writers who would like to use video interviews in television, YouTube, FaceBook, and Blog environments to promote themselves and their work. (one hour)

Ron Heimbecher

He Said, She Said: Writing the Opposite Sex (basic craft)**Bonnie Ramthun, Mark Stevens**

You have a brilliant idea for a new character—but the voice that won't be stilled is a member of the opposite sex. Don't despair we've called in the experts. Join these two award-winning authors as they give us the inside track on writing the opposite sex. (one hour)

Writing Winning Fiction (basic & advanced craft, marketing)**Linda Berry**

Offering your work to a publisher or agent is much like entering a contest. We'll discuss some of the most common failings in submissions/entries, share information about some different contests, and offer insights into ways to improve your odds with an editor or judge. (one hour)

12:00 – 1:30**Lunch (On your own, table-mate coordination at restaurant entrance if desired)****1:30 pm****Want to Turn Your Novel into a Screenplay? (basic & advanced craft)****Karen Lin Albright**

Novelists often dream of selling a screenplay to Hollywood. Delve into this very different approach to storytelling and the unique challenges to breaking in. Explore how this collaborative industry works: coverage, finding representation, define options vs. sales, story expectations, and the unique format of the film script. (two hours)

Emotion: the Heart of the Novel (basic & advanced craft)**Brenda Novak**

Brenda Novak shows writers how to connect with his/her reader on a deeper level by combining the elements of good novel writing in just the right measure. She also takes a look at the "icebergs" that can easily creep in and sink a story's emotional impact. (two hours)

Writing Worlds that Work (advanced craft, special interest)**Carol Berg**

Whether your story is set in Victorian Britain, contemporary Chicago, or a medieval kingdom that wars with dragons, your characters will be interacting with a world you create. What must you consider when setting your epic or romantic adventure in a world that is not quite the one we know? And how do you share the world with your readers without long passages of description? (two hours)

Surviving Rejection and Other Detours on the Writer's Path to Success (basic craft)**Amanda Cabot**

Rejection hurts, but you must survive it. Join Amanda Cabot for a discussion of techniques to ease the pain. Hint: chocolate plays a key role. (one hour)

Pet Peeves in Romance (and Other) Novels and How to Avoid Them, or, What Makes Me Throw a Book Across the Room (basic craft)**Jessica Wulf**

Most writers are voracious readers before they decide to become writers, and all that reading counts as valuable research. You know what you like and what you don't like, but do you understand why? Learn to identify your own pet peeves as well as techniques for getting around them in your own writing. Put all of that research to good use in developing your characters and structuring your stories in ways that will make you love what you write. (one hour)

2:30 pm**Forget Your Screen Saver—You Need a SCENE SAVER! (basic & advanced craft)****Janet Lane**

Can this scene be saved? This workshop relies on audience participation. Examples of flat and failed scenes will challenge those brave enough to jump into the churning waters of chaotic scenes, wobbling plots, tortured dialogue, blurry characterization, reader-numbing apathy and premature "before-gasm." (one hour)

The Future of Technology and Publishing (special interest)**Eric Sidle, Janet Fogg, Kristin Nelson**

A technologist, agent, and e-pubbed novelist discuss advancements in technology, eBooks, and eCommerce, and how they will alter the publishing industry. Learn what is coming to publishing and how many companies that have no current involvement in publishing will soon join the fray. When they do, the landscape will continue to drastically re-invent itself. (one hour)

3:30 pm**Sharpening the Saw (advanced craft)****Sharon Mignerey**

This workshop is geared toward writers who have been writing for several years and who are seeking a way to feel satisfaction and joy in the process—the way they did when they first started writing. Drawing from Stephen Covey's 7th habit in "Seven Habits of Highly Successful People", this is a workshop on the principles of self-renewal. (one hour)

Busted: A Hands-on Workshop on Real Police Arrest Tactics (special interest)**Laura Manuel**

Want to write realist arrest scenes? In this workshop, you will experience how police equipment feels, trying on duty belts, actual size/weight artificial weapons, concealed holsters, bullet proof vests, and a tyvek lab suit. You will be handcuffed and frisked in a standard low-risk procedure. We will also address dressing your detective or officer to conceal a weapon and where/how suspects conceal weapons. Legal issues surrounding arrests may be addressed as well as any questions on the "real deal" where police work is concerned. (two hours).

Say Goodbye to the Slush Pile: Writing the Perfect Query Letter Pitch for Your Novel (advanced craft)**Kristin Nelson**

Writing a good query letter is almost as difficult as writing the whole manuscript. Wondering how to boil 300-plus pages of a novel into one pithy pitch paragraph? Agent Kristin Nelson will reveal the secrets of how to create a terrific and short pitch blurb that will have agents requesting sample pages. (two hours)

Using Social Media to Promote Your Writing Career (marketing, career dev't) **Lizzy Scully**
Learn the basics of how to set up, utilize, and analyze social media sites. A journalist and communications specialist reveals how social media trends have changed the nature of personal marketing. All writers now need a blog and they need to build a community of fans. With her tips and tricks, learn how to reduce time involved and build a solid social media marketing plan to promote their products and inspire greater readership. (two hours)

First Sale Panel (special interest) **First Time RMFW Authors**
Authors who have made their first sale during the past year will share insights and answer questions. (one hour)

4:30 pm **Against the Clock (basic & advanced craft)** **Jax Bubis (Jaxine Daniels)**
In this workshop, Jax will share some tips for getting the work done and even upping your productivity. (one hour)

PAL Meeting (special interest)
Annual meeting of RMFW's published authors. (one hour)

5:30 **Cash Bar**
6:00 **Awards Banquet**
Keynote Speaker: Brenda Novak

SUNDAY

7:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 am **The A, B, C's of Romantic Heroes (basic craft)** **Jax Bubis (Jaxine Daniels)**
While Alpha makes are fabulous, there's an entire world of romance hero types from which to choose. In this workshop, Jax will present a variety of hero types and the women that are right for each. (one hour)

Editor Panel (general interest) **Guest Editors**
Editors Ben LeRoy, Peter Sentfleben, Deni Deitz, Terri Bischoff, and Amanda Bergeron answer writers' questions about the submission and acquisition process. (one hour)

Building Your Writing Arsenal (basic craft) **Peggy Waide**
You have an idea for the next best seller but where do you begin? Synopsis or outline? Character grid or pages? Every writer has a different process for their writing life. This workshop will look at various tools that help with the process in three focus areas: the story concept, character development, and plotting. Your job will be to find one that works for you. (one hour)

The Pointy End Goes in the Other Man (special interest) **Terry Kroenung**
This workshop gives writers the opportunity to safely handle daggers, swords, war hammers, and other delightful objects of mayhem. Using blunted stage blades, choreographer and author Terry Kroenung will demonstrate the difference between a film fight and a real one. By workshop's end, your descriptions of battle and its tools will be more realistic. (two hours)

Planning and Conducting a Virtual Book Tour (marketing) **Beth Groundwater**
This workshop will discuss all aspects of planning and conducting a virtual book tour in the blogosphere to promote a new book release. (one hour)

9:00 am **How is E-Publishing Affecting Your Book Deal? (special interest)** **Dave Jackson**
Ask anyone under 30 how they buy music, and they'll more than likely say "download." When you consider the cost of producing books is in printing, transportation, and storage and that E-publishing negates all of that overhead, of course the large publishing houses are paying attention to the cyber option. See the future of publishing and learn how it can be a brave new world of opportunity for your manuscript. (one hour)

Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness (basic & advanced craft) **Kirt Hickman**
How does a writer make sense of all the advice on self-editing? How do you catch it all? How do you know when you've got it right? Where do you even start? Learn an organized and practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel, to first draft, through self-editing to final submission-quality manuscript. (three hours)

Why We Write (general interest) **Ben LeRoy**
Editor Ben LeRoy offers guidance and encouragement on how to write *your* book and how to tap into the part of your brain that helps us create worlds and write them down. (two hours)

Focus on Short Fiction (special interest) **Betsy Dornbusch, David Hughes, Lesley Smith**
We'll focus on crafting short stories, why some stories make the cut and why some don't, short fiction markets, the growing electronic fiction market, and how to build a career by writing short stories. (one hour)

