



NightScripts

April 2011

Carol Johnson and  
Jane Green, Co-Editors

## A Breath of Fresh Mountain Air: Velda Brotherton



By Valerie Gawthrop

Born in a log cabin in the Ozark Mountains, except for a few short stints in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and New York, Velda Brotherton has never strayed far from home. She draws from her passion for regional history to create the rich narration that fills her twelve published books. The bright hues of her palette blend with expert research and storytelling as Brotherton paints memorable pictures with words as well as the traditional canvas and brush.

Her historical works include *The Boston Mountains: Lost in the Ozarks* and the historical fiction work *Images in Scarlet*, along with the turn of the century memoirs *Fly With the Mourning Dove* and *Springdale: The Courage of Shiloh*. She also just added a cookbook to her long list of credits, *Arkansas Meals and Memories: Lift Your Eyes to the Mountains*, 150 authentic recipes from the Boston Mountains of the Ozarks.

Brotherton is a WILLA Finalist for creative nonfiction, a literary award given by Women Writing the West. She was also named A Distinguished Citizen of 2010 by the Washington County Historical Society.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from an artist and wordsmith who is willing to share her expertise in researching and storytelling with us.

## The Prez Sez by Bob Avey



### The Changing Face of Publishing

Since 1971, when Michael Hart began Project Gutenberg with an electronic version of the Declaration of Independence, the e-book has loomed on the horizon as the future of publishing and the possible demise of paper books.

Years later, when electronic literary dispensers failed to make much of a splash, that promise began to sound like so much doomsday prophecy. Even as late as 1998, when the Rocket—the first e-book reading device—was introduced and Kim Blagg's company Books Onscreen received the first ISBN issued for an e-book, publishing industry leaders didn't seem to give it much thought.

Not until 2010, three years after Amazon introduced the Kindle and e-book sales began to grow at an astounding rate, did the publishing world take notice. However, even after recognizing that e-books were here to stay and that their exponential growth would continue, traditional publishers still don't seem to know what to do about it. They have released electronic versions of popular authors' books, but they've priced them at hardback cost and sometimes even higher. It's as if they are trying to compete with themselves.

This isn't sitting well with the reading public. Today's readers are sophisticated and very much aware that production costs for e-books must be drastically less than their paper counterparts.

My feelings are mixed on the subject. While I see e-books opening new avenues for authors, I'm happy for the writer but saddened by bookstore closings that have already begun. I love books, bookstores, and libraries. I hope that in some form or another they will always exist.

## Our members have great news!



**Gloria Teague** received good news from two sources in one hour. An article she submitted four days earlier was bought by *You and Me Magazine* and her publisher sent an email saying that last weekend her book, *Beyond the Surgeon's Touch*, passed the century mark in sales.



**Carla Stewart** has signed a new two-book contract with FaithWords (Hachette). *Stardust* (the first book) will be released in Summer 2012. It is the story of an east Texas widow who sets her dreams on running the Stardust Tourist Court, but when her dead husband's mistress arrives with a child in tow and polio strikes, she finds her dreams are crippled.



**Mike Koch** recently signed a contract with Wicked East Press for a short story titled "Emily's Shadow" to be included in their anthology, *Short Sips: Coffee House Flash Fiction*. He also has signed two contracts with Static Movement for stories to be included in two of its anthologies: *Evolutionary Blueprint* for his story, "A Most Unusual Discovery," and *Carnival*, for his story "Titus."



**J. Houston-Emerson** has several speaking /book-signing engagements in April. On April 15 at 1:00 pm, she'll be signing copies of *The Myth Makers* at the Riverhawk bookstore on the NSU campus in Tahlequah for the

Native American Symposium. On April 17, she's the featured writer at the Festival of the Oaks at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, and on April 19, she'll discuss "the Native American Storytelling Voice" for Carolyn Steele's American Indian Art Association in Tulsa. She ends her busy month of April at Hastings Books in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

## Classes and Seminars

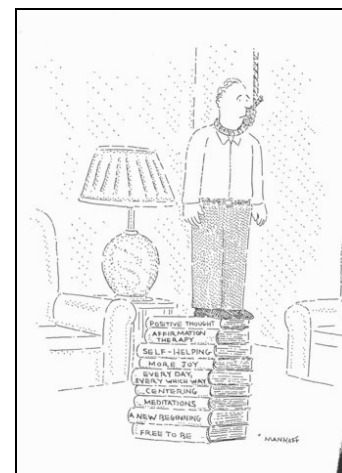
**Peggy Fielding** announced at the last TNW meeting that the topic for her next free class is nonfiction writing. The class will meet the Monday after the meeting this month and next month at 3332 E. 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

## Two TNW members in the News

**Dale Whisman** recently appeared in the production of Tracy Letts' "Man From Nebraska" at the Tulsa PAC. Reviewing the play in the Tulsa World, James Watts wrote, "... Dale Whisman as a potential suitor is most convincing." Way to go, Dale!

**Judith Houston-Emerson's** book signing and reading of *The Myth Makers* at the Fort Smith Museum of History on March 19 was covered by Ruby Dean in Fort Smith's *The City Wire*. You can read the full article here:

< <http://www.thecitywire.com/index.php?q=node/15079> >



## April is National Poetry Month

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is held every April to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture.

On Saturday, April 30, 2:00- 4:30 pm, join *Nimrod International Journal* and the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden for Tulsa's first **Botanical Garden Poetry Walk**. During the 1-1/2 mile walk through the Osage forest, walkers can listen to poems, read the poems on our "haiku" tree, and stop to write their own. A mini-walk is also available. A reception will follow the Poetry Walk at 4:00, with a performance from *Nimrod's* 2011 Spring Issue: "Growing Season." The entire event is free and open to the public.

## Contests, Contests, Contests

**Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize.** A \$5,000 prize and publication by University of Pittsburgh Press is given annually for a first poetry collection. Poets who have not published a book-length collection of poems may submit a manuscript of 48-100 pages with a \$25 entry fee between March 1 and April 30. Send an SASE or visit the web site for complete guidelines.  
< <http://www.upress.pitt.edu/upressIndex.aspx> >

**First/Second Book Award.** A prize of \$3,000 and publication by Tupelo Press is given annually for a first or second poetry collection. All entries are considered for publication. The editors will judge. Submit a manuscript of 48 to 80 pages with a \$25 entry fee by April 15. Send an SASE or visit the web site for complete guidelines.  
< <http://www.tupelopress.org/> >



## 2011 OWFI Writer's Conference

Going to OWFI? It's May 5-7, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Oklahoma City. Have you registered? If not, you'd better hurry up! Plan to stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel during the conference? If so, your reservations must be made *before* April 21. To reserve your room at the OWFI rate, either go online to the Embassy Suite web site and use the code "OWF" for the Group/Convention Code, or call Embassy Suites at 405-682-6000 and ask for the OWFI rate.

## Book Festival in Ponca City

Here's an opportunity to recover from OWFI in the company of other writers, books, and your adoring public at the Northern Oklahoma Literary Arts Book Festival! It will be Saturday, May 14th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Marland Grand Home in Ponca City, OK. They offer live music, author readings, Oklahoma publishers, and Stagecoach BBQ for lunch! For more information go to:  
< <http://www.eyvonnarains.com/book-festival.php> >

## 2011 TNW Officers

President **Bob Avey** (bob@bobavey.com)  
VP **Valerie Gawthrop**  
(VicePresident@nightwriters.org)  
Treasurer **Brad Smith** (Treas@nightwriters.org)  
Greeter **Joyce Ross**  
Co-Editors **Carol Johnson** and **Jane Green**

The deadline to send your brags and/or announcements to be placed in *NightScripts* is the first Sunday of each month. Please limit your brags to 25-30 words. Send **time-sensitive** announcements to nightwritersed2@gmail.com.

## Meet TNW Member Lottie Wilds



By Carol Johnson

Lottie Wilds doesn't seem to be all that wild. In fact, she seems fairly ordinary. However, I do know that as a kid she'd climb a tree to tell a lie when she could stay on the ground and tell the truth. She told me so. Not in those words, exactly (I've been up a few trees myself, and I'll bet most of us have). Before long she figured out that writing fiction was a lot more productive than lying, and hurt less, too. She's been scribbling ever since.

Lottie is friendly to a fault and very self-effacing for someone so accomplished. As a petty officer in the Navy, she wrote copy for the Navy Reservist while working in the Public Affairs Office. Later, her work was published in a juried collection of stories from writers on the Florida coast. She's written essays that won actual money, a couple of plays, one of which she produced and directed, and scads of interviews, articles, and columns for her company newsletter. She especially loves writing short stories, and if you don't watch her, she'll do just that. I am not making this up.

At present she's working on a novel tentatively titled Hurricane Bradley, the story of dysfunctional families, friends, and dead bodies attending a funeral in a hurricane. Talk about your universality. Who hasn't been there, done that? She's president of Sapulpa's Route 66 Night Writers' group, a fun bunch who will let just about anybody come and speak to them. Seriously. Ask her. She let me come in February, and not one person got up and left. If you'd just like to show up and be part of this unofficial club, it meets twice a month and Lottie will even give you one of her "Grammar 101" lessons—short, basic grammar lessons, and you don't have to diagram anything.

Between writing and working, Lottie gardens, quilts, and swims. As if she doesn't have enough to keep her busy, she recently married columnist and speaker Hap Lowry. I hope he's got a crow bar, because he's going to have to hit her with it to get her to slow down and be married. And who of us hasn't been there, done that? Okay. I might have made that one up.

Say "Hi" to Lottie anyway.