



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 word-smith who is willing to share her expertise in researching and storytelling with us.



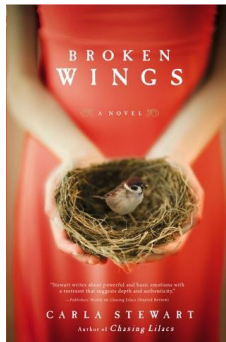
The Prez sez:

Yesterday, I spent a carefree hour searching the word files on my computer for ideas for the upcoming OWFI contest. I found a number of things that I thought were once terrific ideas that now had the “ick” factor. But I also found some cherished beginnings of short stories and one in particular that I think could be fleshed out into one of those “special edition” Christmas novellas. My mind is churning.

Just as we sort the plastic from the glass bottles and bundle newspapers for recycling, shouldn't we recycle our once-inspired ideas into new articles, short stories, or even blog posts? Can you steal a character from one story and tweak him into the protagonist in another? Or take a blog post and turn it into a how-to article for OWFI?

With 30+ categories, you're sure to find something that's a fit. So, my question for this month is – What's on your hard drive? Happy writing!

Our members have brags



Carla Stewart will be participating in the Pulpwood Queens' BOOKS ALIVE! event in Jefferson, TX on Nov. 12-14. Signings: Canyon Public Library Open House, Canyon, TX, Nov. 20 from 10 am-2 pm. Barnes & Noble in Amarillo, Nov. 20 from 4 pm-6pm. It's official: The cover of my next book and release date: June 3, 2011.



Barbara Howell will be featured on OK Horizons, a television show broadcast nationally via satellite & locally on OETA. Howell was interviewed at the studio immediately following speaking to the Rotary Club in Stillwater, OK. The show's host, Rob McClendon and his staff cover stories showcasing people & businesses that contributes to the state's economic success and quality of life. Her episode should air around January.



Carolyn Steele went from semi-finalist in the Moonlight Mesa Cowboy-Up contest to finalist, winning First Place with a short story titled, "Waitin' for a Friend." A beautiful \$250 check came with the win!



Radine Trees Nehring says, "I'll be speaking at the Schusterman-Benson Library in Tulsa, 3333 E. 32 Place, 2:00 on Thurs, Nov. 4 beginning at 2:00. Speaking only a short time, this is mostly a discussion and Q & A event. I'll be handing out info sheets about a new discovery. (Yes, I know "new discovery" is redundant, but just saying "discovery" sounds so flat.) Title of info sheet is: "BOOK ANNOUNCED."



Mike Koch has had a busy month. He signed books at the Ozark Creative Writers Conference in Eureka Springs, AR., and the Eastern Oklahoma Author Festival on October 30, at Tahlequah, OK. He's had short stories published in Static Movement's anthology called *Thriller*, and in the Ozark Writers League book *Echoes of the Ozarks, Volume VI*.

Cindy Downes tells us, "Bad News: I received a rejection from Highlights Magazine for a children's story I wrote. Good News: My article, Best iPad Cases, has been published by iPhone Life Magazine and is on the newsstands."



Carol Lavelle Snow's

poems have won top honors in the "2010 National Poetry Day Contest" sponsored by the Poetry Society of Oklahoma. "The Snow Globe" received the Joseph V. Hickey Memorial Award and "Autumn Years" received the Ramsey-Stewart National Poetry Day Award.



Chuck Sasser will be doing a

book signing at Steve's on Nov. 13, Saturday, from 1-3p.m. on next book, PREDATOR: THE REMOTE-CONTROL AIR WAR OVER IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN (Zenith, 2010).



Dale Whisman had a

signing for the Carl Jacobs Mysteries, at Steve's Bookstore in Tulsa, and then another one at Hastings.



Gloria Teague had a

short story about a hit man published in WritingRaw.com e-zine titled "Love and Marriage."

And Another Thing...

Sure have missed seeing you all. I've told several people that going to our monthly meetings is, for me, like going to church. I sure hope I can be at the next one because I think I'm having withdrawal. I wanted to say that after putting out a plea for someone to take the newsletter for next year, I got a couple of valuable members to relieve me of duty. Letting go of the newsletter is exactly that—letting go. Handing over the databases will be bittersweet for me. Unless they take possession before next month, I'll putting together one more after this one—the Christmas newsletter. So when you see **Carol Johnson and Jane Green** at the meeting, thank them for being dedicated enough to take over a job that few people seem to want to do. Carol, Jane, thank you!

YOUR OFFICERS

The 2010 TNW officers are: President **Carla Stewart**, VP **Valerie Gawthrop**, Treasurer **Brad Smith**, Greeter **Joyce Ross** and Editor **Gloria Teague Shirley**.



Allow me to introduce you to TNW member



JANEY WATERS

I am one of the newest members to TNW thanks to Nelson Wolfe, a member, who paid my dues for this year as a way of encouraging me in my writing endeavors.

The ironic thing is that, before five years ago, I had no desire to write. My husband, Chris, had asked many times to write with him, but I had always refused.

The story of my transformation is quite incredible. I've been a psychotherapist for twenty-five years and have been blessed with a successful practice, in Tulsa and Owasso. Through a series of events, I felt that God had nudged me (strongly!) to close my office and write. After many arguments with Him, I agreed. I am now writing on my fifth book. I have self-published four of them through AuthorHouse so that I could quickly get them into the hands of my clients - young, pregnant women facing the decision of whether to parent or make open adoption plans. I continue to write diligently, research constantly, and read voraciously, especially Francine Rivers and Max Lucado books.

In my spare time, I write poetry and songs, enjoy time with my family (children ages 20 to 28), and first grandchild, Sarina (four months old). I love our dogs, Abbey, a chocolate lab, and Charles, a mixed breed. I also play flute and sing in our church, St. Paul's Anglican in Owasso, of which my husband is the priest. And, I have my motorcycle's license! Not bad for a preacher's wife!

Born and raised in Oklahoma, I am the youngest of four siblings. My mother lives in Miami, and my siblings are scattered across both coasts. The Colorado Mountains keep bidding me come, but for now, I'm writing and working in Oklahoma.