Pocono Writers’ Conference

Sunday, October 27, 2013
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

With Special Guest Keith DeCandido,
author of dozens of best-selling novels
Also featuring published authors and editors
DANIELLE ACKLEY-McPHAIL,
KATHRYN CRAFT, MIKE McPHAIL,
BERNIE MOJZES and
MICHAEL A. VENTRELLA

The First Annual Pocono Writer’s Conference is primarily geared toward those writing fiction. Professional writers, editors and agents will host panels and take questions on the following topics:

YOUR OPENING PAGE
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
KEEPING THE ACTION MOVING
COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY WRITERS
GETTING PUBLISHED

Eastern Monroe Public Library,
1002 North 9th Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Free admission but space is limited.
Register and reserve your space: 570-421-0800 x 316
or email reference@monroepl.org

Lunch is on your own. Beverages will be provided.

If you wish to have your first page of your novel or short story evaluated in the “Opening Page” panel, email it to PoconoWriters@gmail.com.
Join the “Pocono Writers” Group on Facebook for more details
SCHEDULE

9:00 – 9:15: Opening Remarks and Introductions

9:15 – 10:30: YOUR OPENING PAGE: Grabbing a reader right from the start is imperative. As a new writer, that is the first impression they will get from you and you have to make it count. Our panel will discuss what you need to do and what you need to avoid in order to make that sale to the reader.

10:45 – 12:00: IT’S THE CHARACTERS, STUPID: A story isn’t about what it’s about – it’s about the characters. The plot is there to move your characters and change them in some way. A character that is exactly the same by the end of the book is not a well-developed one. The panelists will discuss techniques they use to make their stories about the characters, and not just the plot, and how to turn those characters into real, three-dimensional, believable people.

12:00 – 12:30: Lunch

12:30 – 1:45: JUST KEEP SWIMMING, JUST KEEP SWIMMING: Keeping tension on every page is a way to make sure readers stay glued to your pages. The dreaded middle dump haunts many writers, and in this session, the panel will discuss the most common story stalling mistakes authors make and how you can keep your readers turning the pages.

2:00 – 3:15: THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY WRITERS: Editors see the same mistakes over and over again from new writers – shifts in Point of View, telling and not showing, cliches and poor dialogue, and much more. Most of these are just beginner’s mistakes, but you can avoid them if you know what to look out for. Our panel discusses the mistakes that are most commonly made by new authors that will keep your work from being sold (or read!).

3:30 – 4:45: GETTING PUBLISHED: Once your book is done, what’s next? Hiring an editor? Self-publishing? Looking for an agent? The panel will discuss the choices available, whether self-publishing is an option, and the scams to look out for.

GUEST BIOS

Danielle Ackley-McPhail has worked both sides of the publishing industry for over seventeen years. Her works include the urban fantasies YESTERDAY’S DREAMS, TOMORROW’S MEMORIES, and THE HALFLING’S COURT. Her writer’s guide THE LITERARY HANDYMAN is a great work for new writers. She edits the Bad-Ass Faeries anthologies and DRAGON’S LURE, and has contributed to numerous other anthologies. Her web page is www.sidhenadaire.com

Kathryn Craft is the author of THE ART OF FALLING, and lectures and teaches on the art of writing. She has helped run the Philadelphia Writer’s Conference, contributes to writers’ blogs, and is a developmental editor. She is a proud member of the Liar’s Club, a group of prominent authors. http://www.kathyncraft.com/

Keith DeCandido is the noted author of numerous novels, short stories, and essays. He’s best known for his Star Trek fiction, but has written tie-ins for other popular sci-fi and fantasy series as well, such as Doctor Who, Supernatural, Andromeda and Farscape, as well as comic books (Spider-Man) and videogames (World of Warcraft, Starcraft, Command & Conquer). He has also edited various anthologies, including OTHERWERE, URBAN NIGHTMARES, IMAGININGS, and the Doctor Who collection SHORT TRIPS. His web page is www.sff.net/people/krad.

Mike McPhail is best known as the editor of the award-winning Defending the Future (DTF) series of military science fiction anthologies. He is the administrator for the Dark Quest Books’ imprints DTF Publications (MilSciFi) and Starsong Press (SciFi). He is the creator of the science fiction universe the Alliance Archives (All’Arc), which serves as the backdrop to his (and other authors’) stories. http://www.mcp-concepts.com/

Bernie Mojzes is the author of THE EVIL GAZEBO. He has had numerous short stories published in various anthologies, including DEAD SOULS, CROSSED GENRES, and BARBARIANS AT THE JUMP GATE. He is also the co-editor of The Journal of Unlikely Entomology. His web page is www.kappamaki.com.

Michael A. Ventrella’s novels include ARCH ENEMIES and THE AXES OF EVIL. He edits the TALES OF FORTANNIS anthologies, and his short stories have appeared in various anthologies, including DREAMERS IN HELL, RUM AND RUNESTONES, and TWISTED TAILS. His blog interviews authors, agents, and editors and provides advice for the starting author. His web page is www.MichaelAVentrella.com