



# 9th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference



September 21-22, 2024

Decatur Library





# Saturday, September 21, 2024

## ROOM A

## ROOM B

## ROOM C

9:00-9:25	Introduction & Welcome		
9:30-10:30	Method to the Madness	Being Heard	Pitch Sessions
10:45-11:45	A Discernable Pulse	Workshop: A Novel in Stories	Pitch Sessions
12:00-1:00	Rough First Drafts	Workshop: It's a Character Thing	
1:00-2:15	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:15-3:15	Cultural References	Write Time, Write Place	Pitch Sessions
3:30-4:45	First Pages Critique		



# Sunday, September 22, 2024

## ROOM A

## ROOM B

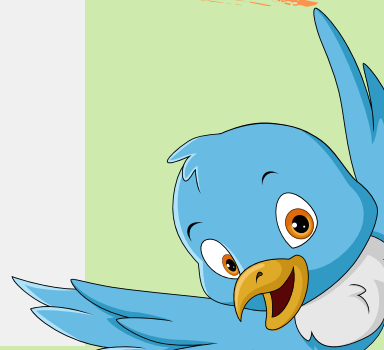
## ROOM C

9:00-9:10	Welcome Back		
9:15-10:15	Q&A on the Publishing Industry	Writing From Real Life	
10:30-11:30	Wait, I Thought This Was a Mystery?	Workshop: Which Publishing Option is Right For You?	Mentoring Sessions (10:20-11:30)
11:45-12:45	From Good to Great	Getting Your Story Out There	Mentoring Sessions
12:45-2:00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:00-3:00	After Care		Mentoring Sessions
3:15-4:30	The Art of Writing		

# Bird's Eye View



All Sessions Are Recorded



# A Note from Broadleaf Founder, Zachary Steele

We're back for another year and beyond excited to be here with each and every one of you. You've taken the step, invested in you and your dreams, and we'll do everything in our power to help you get where you want to be

A conference experience can be such a tremendous opportunity for a writer. Between gaining from the knowledge and experience of speakers, to meeting and connecting with writers who know and share in your struggle and passion, this is your chance to be a part of a writing community working toward a common goal: to help turn manuscripts into published books!

So be active today! Say hello, ask others what they're working on, talk about your writing journey, chat with our speakers. Use some of the quiet space available to chat. Not only are you amongst your peers as a writer, you're here with writers who want to publish and discuss the writing journey!

Have some fun. Be inspired. Learn as much as you can. Then get home and get to work! This is your time. We're glad you've chosen to spend it with us, and we're eager to help you in any way that we can.

To learn more about Broadleaf Writers and all the programming we offer throughout the year, please visit us at [www.broadleafwriters.com](http://www.broadleafwriters.com).

Keep writing. Never quit.

~~Zach



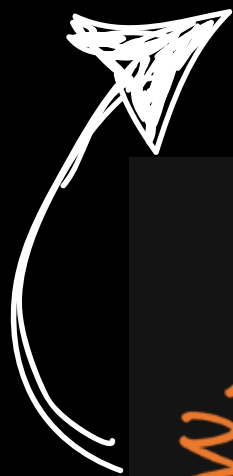
[broadleafwriters.com](http://broadleafwriters.com)

Want to learn more?

Subscribe to and follow our Write Now podcast!

Featuring authors, editors, and agents,  
offering deep dives into the topics you ask for!

Available on all podcast platforms or  
for free on our website!



Write. Now.



Stream our episode  
featuring Ron Rash now!

21 episodes so far in 2024!

[broadleafwriters.com](http://broadleafwriters.com)



# SATURDAY

September 21, 2024



## Registration and Check-in

8:00am - 9:00am

- Attendees register and receive conference materials

## Introduction and Welcome

9:00 - 9:25

- Broadleaf Founder and Executive Director Zachary Steele and Conference Chair Maryann Lozano

## Method to the Madness: Writers on Writing

9:30-10:30

Room A

- Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, Andy Davidson, Ann Hite  
Moderator: Crystal O'Leary-Davidson

There is no absolute correct way to write, but some approaches are more successful than others. Hear about the processes, rituals, tools, and techniques that have made our talented panelists better at their craft.

## Being Heard: Finding Your Voice in Fiction

Room B

- Panelists: L.D. Lewis, DL Mitchell, Eliot Parker  
Moderator: Dawn Major

Point of view, vocabulary, tone, syntax, sentences, paragraph spacing - these and more are what make the "voice" of your fiction, be it short stories, novels, or other mediums. But how do you find your characters' voices and develop and make them authentic? Listen to our panel of writers discuss the process and machinations they use to find their characters' voices. Glean from them tips and techniques to help make your characters heard.

## One-on-One Pitch Sessions

Room C

- This block is for sessions with Zachary Steele, on behalf of The Story Plant.

Check out our list of agents and editors [here](#).

Want to share what you've learned at the conference with the world? We'd love that, and we'd love it if you'd tagged us in it on social media, too!

@broadleafwriters | #Broadleaf9



# SATURDAY

September 21, 2024



## A Discernible Pulse: Creating Flesh and Blood Characters Room A

10:45 - 11:45

- Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, James Tuck, Zachary Steele  
Moderator: Jessica Bowers

To engage a reader, your characters have to be real – physically, mentally, and humanly flawed; no one's perfect, right? Listen to our panel of authors discuss how they create characters that go beyond the one-dimensional to ones so vividly imagined that you could see a pulse under their skin. Whether it's starting with an archetype and adding backstory or beginning with a physical trait and adding quirks, hear the techniques used by those seated on our dais to create "flesh and blood" characters.

## Workshop: Writing a Novel in Stories Room B

- Presenter: Dawn Major

The novel-in-stories has several different names such as composite novel, linked narrative collection, linked narratives, a novel told through stories a/k/a novel-in-stories, or a story cycle. Whatever term the author decides to use for this particular novel structure, the primary difference is that a novel-in-stories is a collection of short stories that are connected by a common thread as opposed to standalone, unrelated story collections. Learn about authors who write within this structure, the different techniques, and how to recycle your short stories to create a novel-in-stories manuscript.

## One-on-One Pitch Sessions Room C

- One-on-one pitch sessions, located on the 4th floor.

Check out our list of agents and editors [here](#).

---



# SATURDAY

September 21, 2024



## Getting Dirty: From Rough First Drafts to Publication Room A

12:00-1:00

- Panelists: Andy Davidson, DL Mitchell, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann  
Moderator: Ann Hite

Your first draft might not be Pulitzer-Prize-winning prose, but you have to start somewhere. Don't let the fear of perfectionism scare you from getting those first words written; everything begins somewhere. God particle or acorn – you must simply start writing. Hear our panelists discuss how they get from first thoughts to paper to published book.

## Workshop: It's a Character Thing: Connecting Your Reader to the People That Matter Most Room B

- Presenter: Zachary Steele

Snape. Gatsby. Katniss. Sydney Carton. Characters are the most vital piece of a story. Good or evil, they drive the plot, draw in the reader, and can leave a lasting imprint. Author, Editor, and Founder of Broadleaf Writers Zachary Steele breaks down the process of building characters with depth that will resonate with your reader long after they've finished the last page.

---

## Lunch

1:00-2:15

- It's time for a break! But you don't have to go alone. Sit and enjoy your meal with our speakers or fellow attendees. Make friends, find mentors, form writing groups, and embrace the power and importance of a writing community!





# SATURDAY

September 21, 2024



## Can I Borrow That?: Using Cultural References in Your Writing

Room A

2:15-3:15

- Panelists: L.D. Lewis, Gray Stewart, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann  
Moderator: Benji Carr

It's hard to tell a story without using cultural references. We don't want every character in our stories to be just like us, but how do you decide what is appropriate and what is appropriation? Our panel will discuss how to build a rich, interesting story while being respectful and sensitive to the world around us.

## Write Time, Write Place: The Importance of Setting

Room B

- Panelists: Marlena Frank, Julia Franks, James Tuck  
Moderator: Eliot Parker

Your setting is as vital as the characters that populate it or the events that happen within it. The best world-building immerses your readers rather than drowning them in specifics or leaving them lost in a hazy backdrop. Pulling in the right details, showing instead of telling, and bringing the world to life are vital. Learn from our panelists how you can craft a setting to enhance your reader's experience.

## One-on-One Pitch Sessions

Room C



- One-on-one pitch sessions, located on the 4th floor.  
Check out our list of agents and editors [here](#).
-





# SATURDAY

September 21, 2024



## First Pages Critique Room A

3:30-4:45

- Panelists: Stephanie Hollifield, Rebecca Rodd, Chad Rhoad  
Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

The first page is an introduction to your story and to your writing. To catch the eye of an agent or an editor, your first page needs to be on point. Join our literary agents and editors as they listen to and critique your first pages. Which pages will tantalize and intrigue? Gain invaluable insights from their gentle feedback.

---

Don't forget to fill out your conference survey!

---

10th Annual Broadleaf  
Writers Conference

September 20-21, 2025

Decatur Library  
Decatur, Georgia

Kimberly Brock  
Paul Jenkins  
Kimberly Jones  
Jeffrey Dale Lofton  
Colleen Oakley  
Patti Callahan Henry  
Piper Huguley

Be the writer you want to be.  
Write. Now  
www.broadleafwriters.com

---

Pre-Register for our 10 year celebration!

---

Want to share what you've learned at the conference with the world?  
We'd love that, and we'd love it if you'd tagged us in it on social media, too!

@broadleafwriters | #Broadleaf9



# SUNDAY

September 22, 2024



## Welcome Back

9:00 - 9:15

- Conference Chair, Maryann Lozano

---

## You've Got Questions: A Q&A on the Publishing Industry

Room A

9:15-10:15

- Panelists: Stephanie Hollifield, Zachary Steele  
Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

From query letters to the sale of a manuscript, the role of the literary agent and the editor, and so much more, the publishing industry can be overwhelming to any writer, at any stage. You have questions to be answered. Come early, be ready, ask away. Our esteemed panelists are ready to answer!

## Writing From Real Life: Drawing Inspiration Without Drawing Ire

Room B

- Panelists: Bernette Sherman, Gray Stewart, Andrew Diaz Winkelmann  
Moderator: Robert Gwaltney

We write what we know. Sometimes what we know can make our friends and family uncomfortable. Whether you're tackling a memoir or pulling inspiration into a fictional manuscript, some details will need to be handled delicately. Our panelists will discuss how you can change the story or characters without changing them into something you no longer recognize. Can you write the story you want to write without making the people in your life angry?

---

Want to share what you've learned at the conference with the world? We'd love that, and we'd love it if you'd tagged us in it on social media, too!  
@broadleafwriters | #Broadleaf9



# SUNDAY

September 22, 2024



## Wait, I Thought This was a Mystery: What Genre Is It, Anyway? Room A

10:30 - 11:30

- > Panelists: Mary Kay Andrews, Marlena Frank, James Wade  
Moderator: Eliot Parker

You're a mystery writer who likes a touch of romance. Or you thought you were writing a romance, but maybe it's really horror! Maybe your story fits multiple genres. We will explore how to determine what genre (or genres) you are writing and how to make it work.

## Workshop: Which Publishing Option is Right for You? Room B

- > Presenter: Angela DeCaires, BookLogix CEO

The publishing industry continues to change, creating a growing number of options for today's writers looking to publish their work. It can be overwhelming! With so many options, how is a writer to know which path makes the most sense for their unique situation? This session breaks down the options and gives the pros and cons of each potential publishing path to help writers get a clearer idea of the direction they should pursue.

## One-on-One Mentoring Sessions Room C



- > One-on-one mentoring sessions, located on the 4th floor.  
Check out our list of mentors [here](#).
-



# SUNDAY

September 22, 2024



## From Good to Great: Editing Your Work Room A

11:45 - 12:45

- Panelists: Andy Davidson, Julia Franks, L.D. Lewis  
Moderator: Benji Carr

Congratulations on completing that first draft ... Now what? Without the right polishing, a lackluster manuscript won't get the attention of agents or readers. In this panel you will learn how to peel back the layers of the editing process, where to find quality critique partners, and how to incorporate feedback into your work.

## Getting Your Story Out There: Sorting Through Your Options Room B

- Panelists: Marlena Frank, Bernette Sherman, James Tuck  
Moderator: Bill Bridges

How do you get your stories in front of readers? There's more to publication than going the traditional route with a literary agent. From indie publishing to magazines to contests, you have options. Let's discuss which one is right for you.

## One-on-One Mentoring Sessions Room C

- One-on-one mentoring sessions, located on the 4th floor.  
Check out our list of mentors [here](#).



---

Don't forget to fill out your [conference survey!](#)



# SUNDAY

September 22, 2024



## Lunch

12:45 - 2:00

- It's time for a break! But you don't have to go alone. Sit and enjoy your meal with our speakers or fellow attendees. Make friends, find mentors, form writing groups, and embrace the power and importance of a writing community!
- 

## After Care: How to Keep the Momentum Going

Room A

2:00 - 3:00

- Panelists: Andy Davidson, DL Mitchell, Robert Gwaltney  
Moderator: Crystal O'Leary-Davidson

You've gone to the conference. You've learned some neat things, met some great people, and are vibrating with the possibilities. Now how do you harness all that energy? Let's discuss how to make the most of your conference experience, how to keep in touch with friends new and old, and what next steps you can take to further your writing.

---

## The Art of Writing: Resistance is Not Futile

Room A

3:15 - 4:30

- Panelists: Julia Franks, Gray Stewart, James Wade  
Moderator: Jeff Clemmons

Dorothy Parker once quipped, "the art of writing is about applying the ass to the seat." While its sage advice, is it the only counsel to heed? What keeps you from writing, from doing the art? Is it research, life, feeling the "imposter syndrome"? Hear our panelists discuss how they overcome their resistance to writing and get to the work at hand.

---





**SUNDAY**

September 22, 2024



**Farewell**

**4:30**

➤ Founder & Executive Director, Zachary Steele

Don't forget to fill out your conference survey!

# 10 Years Strong. Join us in 2025!

Featuring an all-star list of authors

10th Annual Broadleaf  
Writers Conference

September 20-21, 2025

Decatur Library  
Decatur, Georgia

Kimberly Brock

Paul Jenkins

Kimberly Jones

Jeffrey Dale Lofton

Colleen Oakley

Patti Callahan Henry

Piper Huguley

Clay McLeod Chapman

Shaun Hamill

Be the writer you want to be.  
Write. Now.  
[www.broadleafwriters.com](http://www.broadleafwriters.com)

Pre-Register for our 10 year celebration!



## A Very Special Thank You to Our Panel Moderators!

Our conference would be nothing without the moderators who lead the conversations. Each year, our moderators excel in drawing the most out of every topic, fielding your questions, and ensuring every speaker has their say. Though it may seem organic, these dedicated folks spend hours prior to the conference working with the speakers, writing up questions, and coordinating a conversation that best benefits our attendees. They deserve high praise for their work, and we greatly appreciate all they do!

- Jessica Bowers
- Bill Bridges
- Benji Carr
- Jeff Clemmons
- Crystal O’Leary–Davidson
- Robert Gwaltney
- Ann Hite
- Dawn Major
- Eliot Parker
- Carmen Slaughter

---

Don’t forget to fill out your conference survey!



## Guest Speakers



Mary Kay Andrews is the New York Times bestselling author of 30 novels (including The Homewreckers; The Santa Suit; The Newcomer; Hello, Summer; Sunset Beach; The High Tide Club; The Weekenders; Beach Town; Save the Date; Ladies' Night; Christmas Bliss; Spring Fever; Summer Rental; The Fixer Upper; Deep Dish; Blue Christmas; Savannah Breeze; Hissy Fit; Little Bitty Lies; and Savannah Blues), and one cookbook, The Beach House Cookbook.

A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, she earned a B.A. in journalism from The University of Georgia. After a 14-year career working as a reporter at newspapers including The Savannah Morning News, The Marietta Journal, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where she spent the final ten years of her career, she left journalism in 1991 to write fiction.

---




Andy Davidson is the Bram Stoker Award-nominated author of The Hollow Kind, The Boatman's Daughter, and In the Valley of the Sun. His work has been listed among NPR's Best Books of the year, the New York Public Library's Best Adult Books of the Year, and Library Journal's Best Horror. Born and raised in Arkansas, Andy makes his home in Georgia with his wife, Crystal, and a bunch of cats.

---



Marlena Frank has always been fascinated by monsters, and now gets to write about them. She is the author of young adult fantasy and horror novels, short stories, novellas, and series. Many of her books have hit the Amazon bestseller charts, including her debut novel, Stolen, and her latest book release, The Impostor and Other Dark Tales. In 2022, she kicked off her young adult dark fantasy series The Wolves of Kanta featuring mad scientists, hunters, and werewolves.







Julia Franks is the author of two critically acclaimed novels, The Say So and Over the Plain Houses, a debut that was included in many “best of” lists, including NPR’s Notable Books of 2016. Her work has received a half dozen prestigious literary prizes (The Townsend Prize, The Thomas Wolfe Award, The Southern Book Prize, Georgia Author of the Year, The IPPY Gold, and An Earbuds Award from Library Journal’s Audiofiles Magazine). She has also published stories in The New York Times, Ms. Magazine, Lit Hub, and The Bitter Southerner. Her family roots are in the Southeast, though she was raised as an army “brat” and has lived in many places. For years she taught high school in the US and abroad. She and her husband live in Decatur, Georgia.



Stephanie Hollifield (Corvisiero Literary Agency) was born and raised in Locust Grove, Georgia. Growing up in a large family, she was surrounded by love, laughter, and creativity. Her love for reading began in Kindergarten and hasn’t slowed down since.

Over the past decade, she has dedicated her life to education, teaching students from age one to thirteen while self-publishing eight romance novels in the last eight years. Her weekends often consist of sitting at some sporting activity with her children while passing the time with a good book. It’s been a lifelong dream to pursue a career in the literary world to help underrepresented voices be heard.



L.D. Lewis (she/her) is an editor, publisher, and Shirley Jackson award-nominated writer of speculative fiction. She serves as a founding creator and Project Manager for the World Fantasy and Hugo Award-winning FIYAH Literary Magazine. She also serves as the founding Director of (Hugo-nominated) FIYAHCON, Researcher for the LeVar Burton Reads podcast, and pays the bills as the Director of Programs and Operations for Lambda Literary. She frequently bothers the publishing industry by authoring studies about the treatment and experiences of racially, ethnically, marginalized authors in speculative literature. She is the author of A Ruin of Shadows, and her published short fiction and poetry includes appearances in FIYAH, PodCastle, Strange Horizons, Anathema: Spec from the Margins, Lightspeed, Fireside, Neon Hemlock, and Jordan Peele’s Out There Screaming, among others. She lives in Georgia, on perpetual deadline, with her coffee habit, two cats, and an impressive LEGO build collection.





DL Mitchell is the author of Trust the Terrier: A Coral Shores Veterinary Mystery and a practicing small animal veterinarian. Her motto—It's never too late! Leaving a successful marketing career to attend vet school in her thirties was an easy decision. Life as a small animal veterinarian was a dream come true, but after years spent working in busy hospitals in Miami and Northern Virginia, it was time for a change. She opened a veterinary house call practice offering concierge care, including acupuncture services, for her feline and canine patients in the Atlanta area. On a daily basis, she is inspired by the bond between her clients and their furry family members. Combining amusing and heartwarming true-life cases with a love of mystery novels became the inspiration for Trust the Terrier. Remember, it's never too late.



Chad Rhoad is an acquisitions editor for The History Press in Charleston, SC, where he has been for 12 years. During that time, he has edited and published more than 400 titles. Chad earned an MFA in creative writing from the University of South Carolina, taught writing at the university level for 11 years, and was a managing editor of The Hartsville Messenger newspaper for 2 years. He also owns Books, Rhymes & Life, an editorial service where he has helped countless writers of all skill levels polish and publish their work.



Rebecca Rodd joined the Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency in August of 2020 and currently assists Danielle Svetcov, Kerry Sparks, and Sarah Bedingfield, while building her own list. Rebecca received her Bachelor's degree in English from (the illustrious) Spelman College and holds a Master's degree in Library Science from CUNY Queens College. Before joining the agency, she was a Library Information Supervisor at Brooklyn Public Library, where she specialized in children's literature and programming.



Bernette Sherman is a playwright and author of eleven books. However, in September 2023 she began writing a new story filled with joy, adventure, and love. Over three months, Bernette dropped more than 30 pounds, lowering her BMI, body fat levels, metabolic age, and blood pressure.

Bernette fell in love with the process of transforming herself, inside and out, and realized it was very similar to the heroes (or sheroes) journey of transformation. As a former community and public health professional, Bernette was familiar with the importance of nutrition and physical activity. Her journey showed her the power of nutrition and movement to support physical health, and she became a certified nutrition coach and a certified personal trainer. Bernette's focus is to continue seeking and sharing an epic life with more wellness, joy and love.

---



Broadleaf Writers Association Founder & Executive Director Zachary Steele is the author of four novels, including The Weight of Ashes, nominated for Georgia Author of the Year in 2021, and Perfectly Normal. He has been featured in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Publisher's Weekly, Writer's Magazine, Shelf Awareness and City Lights with Lois Reitzes on NPR. Currently, he is hard at work on The Fallen Hero, the first in a series of fantasy novels. You can follow his ramblings on writing and life at <http://zacharysteele.com/>.

---



Gray Stewart is a novelist, editor, and educator. A fifth-generation in-town Atlantan, his fiction explores Atlanta and its environs across the twentieth century. He has taught fiction writing at Louisiana State University, Morehouse College, and is currently on core faculty with the Etowah Valley MFA Program at Reinhardt University. He was a fiction editor for The Chattahoochee Review (RIP! –A loss for us all), a Fulbright beneficiary, and his work has been honored with Yaddo and Hambidge fellowships. His novel Haylow won the Georgia Author of the Year award.



Born and raised in Georgia, James Tuck grew up drawing and reading from a wee lad. A steady helping of Robert E. Howard stories, Golden Age comics, and books he was far too young to have been reading, combined with a very Southern involvement in church and watching horror movies, became the bedrock of his creativity. He grew up, became a tattoo artist, and now a writer of dark fantasy.



James Wade is the award-winning author of Beasts of the Earth, All Things Left Wild, and River, Sing Out. He is the youngest novelist to win two Spur Awards from the Western Writers of America, and the recipient of the MPIBA's prestigious Reading the West Award. James's work has appeared in Southern Literary Magazine, The Bitter Oleander, Writers' Digest, and numerous additional publications. James lives and writes in the Texas Hill Country with his wife and children.



Andrew Diaz Winkelmann is a Cuban-American novelist born, raised in Atlanta, GA. Growing up in a multi-cultural family where cuentos of the glory years in Cuba abounded, his love for storytelling flourished. Andrew was writing and selling short stories to the employees at his grandfather's business (and to his classmates at school) since he was six years old, realizing early on that writing was his favorite form of expression.

One of the cuentos shared with him by his Abuelo Rene and Abuela Ines, the story of the day his family left Cuba, is what first became the short-story, The Cuban Dream, and eventually inspired his debut novel, The Guava Tree.

Andrew continues to write fiction (with a second novel in-progress) and is passionate about uplifting the Latino community in the United States, having served at the board or committee level of multiple non-profits, and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of HoPe (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education), the largest Latino/Hispanic educational leadership program in the US. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, and their two young children.



# Broadleaf Writers Association Code of Conduct

## Overview

Broadleaf Writers Association envisions a community enriched by the literary arts. This community aims to be welcoming, inclusive, respectful, and safe for all. To that end, Broadleaf Writers has adopted the following Code of Conduct and terms and conditions.

All Broadleaf Writers Association (“BWA”) program participants are subject to and must abide by the BWA Code of Conduct. By registering for or attending a Broadleaf Writers Association (“BWA”) program, participants acknowledge and agree they have read and understood the Code of Conduct. Any person, guest, student, media representative, speaker, or exhibitor who is present at a BWA program is considered a participant.

BWA encourages participant discussion and engagement during its programs, and on its social media channels and online platforms because we believe diversity of opinion and thought is critical to creative engagement. When engaging with one another, participants are expected to act in a civil and collegial manner at all times. BWA will not tolerate harassment or intimidation of its participants or anyone connected to any program sponsored by BWA, regardless of format or forum. Examples of impermissible behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Offensive or abusive physical contact;
- Repeated or persistent unwanted physical contact;
- Use of slurs or offensive nicknames or terms of endearment;
- Unwelcome comments about a person’s clothing, body, or personal life; or
- Offensive jokes or unwelcome innuendo.

Participants who engage in inappropriate conduct may be removed from BWA programs, whether online or in-person, or from BWA social media channels or interactive platforms without further warning. The decision to remove a participant from some or all of BWA’s programs, channels, or platforms shall be made in BWA’s sole discretion. Participants removed from a paid program because they are in violation of the code of conduct will not be eligible for a refund of program or membership costs. Do not use BWA’s website or BWA’s social media accounts for any unauthorized purpose.





## Reporting an Issue

Participants finding themselves in a situation where they feel their safety or comfort are at risk or who become aware of a participant not in compliance with this code of conduct should contact a BWA staff person or director so that the matter can be resolved. Staff and directors are identifiable by a name badge and ribbon or by a nametag. For virtual events, the program host may be contacted via private message, or the participant may choose to email the BWA Executive Director, Zachary Steele, at zach@broadleafwriters.com. At the annual conference, reports of misconduct may be made at the registration desk, with the conference chairperson, or via email to the Executive Director. Reports can be made at any time. BWA requests that a report be filed as soon as possible, so that concerns can be resolved immediately. Reports will be taken seriously and handled appropriately regardless of when they are made.

Retaliation in response to asking a question, raising a concern in good faith, or participating in an investigation will not be tolerated. Knowingly making a false report or reporting with malice or disregard for the truth is also prohibited and may result in removal from BWA programs, channels, or platforms.

---

## Terms and Conditions

Participants in violation of rules and/or who behave in an unsafe or careless manner may be asked to leave and will be held responsible for their actions. Participants acknowledge that such violations may result in the attendee being removed from the event or forum and barred from returning without refund of the participant's registration fee.

Participants likewise acknowledge and agree that all participants have the right to enjoy BWA programs equally. Disruptive behavior that interferes with the conduct of reasonable business, or any other attendee's safety or comfort, may result in the participant being removed from the event/forum (in-person or virtual) and barred from returning/rejoining without refund of the participant's registration fee.

---

## Indemnity

To the extent permitted by law, the participant agrees to protect, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless BWA, its directors, Board members, and volunteers against all claims, losses, damages, costs, third party claims, settlements, liabilities and/or the like, including, but not limited to attorneys' fees or other professionals' fees, costs, or expenses, arising from or relating to the actions or failure to act of the BWA, its directors, Board members, or volunteers.



## Access Guidelines

BWA is committed to making all reasonable arrangements that will allow participants to participate in all in-person events. In order to help BWA better prepare, please submit requests for special services, equipment, or accommodations in advance of the event so they can be timely evaluated. Please submit your request to zach@broadleafwriters.com. Participants who require special onsite assistance during events should request it from personnel at the registration desk or the event host.

---

## Lost Registration Badge

Participant's registration badge must be worn at all times during the annual in-person conference. Access to the conference facilities will not be granted to those without a proper badge. If a participant loses, misplaces, or forgets his or her name badge, a replacement badge can be obtained from the registration desk. A small fee may be required for the creation of a new registration badge. Once the new registration badge is released to the participant, the lost badge will become invalid.

---

## Photography & Filming

Professional photographs, audio, and video will be captured during the events. Participants hereby grant BWA and its representatives permission to photograph and/or record them at the event, and distribute (both now and in the future) the participant's image and/or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions, and sound recordings of such events and activities.

---



## Indemnity

While BWA will make every effort to present its programs as described, sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise which require modification or cancellation of its programming. BWA reserves the right to modify or cancel its programming, including, but not limited to, the substitution of speakers, panelists, or topics; rescheduling the day or time of its programming; or relocating an event to another physical address or to an online forum.

In the event programming cannot be held or is postponed due to events beyond BWA's control, BWA shall not be liable to participant for any damages, costs, or losses incurred, such as transportation costs, accommodations costs, or financial losses.



Paid participants may request a refund for any event (refund terms defined within event descriptions). Otherwise, BWA will only offer refunds in the event that a paid program is canceled, relocated to a physical location more than 10 miles from the original programming site, or relocated from an in-person to online forum. Paid participants who are unable to attend in-person or online events due to last minute personal considerations or internet disruption will not be eligible for a refund.

Thank you for making BWA a safe, enriching, inspiring community.

---

## A Special Thanks to our Partners & Sponsors



GEORGIA CENTER  
FOR THE BOOK



**BOOKLOGIX**