

## **Dark & Stormy Nights at Driftwood Public Library**

Driftwood Public Library is delighted to announce the schedule of authors for its annual Dark & Stormy Night series. This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> year in which the library invites authors of fiction from a range of genres to speak in Lincoln City. The series takes place at the library at 4:00 Thursday afternoons in October, beginning October 2nd.

Twenty-three years ago, Driftwood teamed with the late Marcy Taylor to bring Northwest mystery writers to the Oregon coast. That first year was so successful that the series has continued every October, with only one break while the library was closed for its renovation in the Autumn and early Winter of 2009. The series has expanded to include writers from other genres, including science fiction, fantasy, romance, westerns, and horror, sometimes all mashed together!

**Meg Shaffer** will open this year's series on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Meg is the USA Today bestselling author of *The Wishing Game*, which was a Goodreads Choice Awards finalist, a Book-of-the-Month finalist for Book of the Year, a #1 Barnes & Noble bestseller, and a Reader's Digest Best Book of the Year. Her second novel, was the instant national bestseller *The Lost Story* and her most recent book, *The Book Witch*, was released this Spring. Meg holds an MFA in TV and Screenwriting from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri and is also a part-time creative writing instructor. Shaffer lives in Kentucky with her husband and two cats. When not watching Hitchcock films, she's reading Star Trek novels. When she's not reading Star Trek novels, she's napping. Her cats are not writers. She spent her Summer here in Oregon in sight of the Goonies house in Astoria.

The series continues **October 1<sup>st</sup>** with a visit from **Jeff VanderMeer**. Jeff's bestselling, critically acclaimed novels include the Borne trilogy (*Borne*, *The Strange Bird*, and *Dead Astronauts*) and the Southern Reach series (*Annihilation*, *Authority*, *Acceptance*, *Absolution*, and the forthcoming *Abdication*). *Annihilation* won the Nebula Award and the Shirley Jackson Award and was adapted into a major motion picture by Alex Garland, starring Natalie Portman. The Southern Reach series has been translated into more than thirty languages and was a finalist for the Hugo Award. VanderMeer has given talks at MIT, Columbia, Yale, the Guggenheim, and Vanderbilt. He recently had the honor of delivering the John Hersey Memorial Address (Key West Literary Seminar) and the Walter Harding Lecture at SUNY Geneseo. Called "the weird Thoreau" by The New Yorker, VanderMeer has had major environmental nonfiction appear in Time, The Nation, the Los Angeles Times, and Esquire, among other publications. Jeff splits his time between Oregon and Florida.

On **October 8<sup>th</sup>**, we're delighted to welcome **Laura Cranchill**. Laura is an amalgamation of horrific faceless things living in the Pacific Northwest with their spouse and three children who they are raising to be amazing video game players. They were born in Michigan where they grew

up on a haunted peacock farm, studied writing and neuroscience at UCSD, and were a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. Their prose and poetry has been published in *Strange Horizons*, *Vastarien*, *ergot.*, *Uncanny*, and multiple award-winning anthologies. They are a graduate of *Viable Paradise* and the *Tin House Summer Workshop*. *Wife Shaped Bodies* is their debut novel and was published to wide acclaim this spring.

**Tammie Painter** will be joining us on **October 15th**. Many moons ago Tammie was a scientist in a neuroscience lab where she got to play with brains and illegal drugs. Now she takes wickedly strong tea and turns it into comic fantasy whodunits full of mythical misfits and magical mishaps that she hopes give you a giggle. Her tales run the gamut from the ever-expanding *Cassie Black Trilogy* with its wryly humorous paranormal mysteries to the comical fantasy whodunits in *The Circus of Unusual Creatures*, and from light-hearted novellas celebrating her love of books to short fiction in which she really flexes her myth-loving and humor-craving muscles! When she's not creating worlds or killing off characters, she can be found gardening, planning her next travel adventure, concocting some sort of mess in the kitchen, or working as an unpaid servant to a very spoiled cat and a garden full of nut-addicted squirrels. Her most recent book is *Death Takes a Holiday*, published in August, and the first in a series which features a very bored Grim Reaper and an elderly detective who has no time for his nonsense.

On **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** we welcome **Angela Sanders**. Before venturing into fiction, Angela was a congressional investigator focusing on nuclear waste and natural resource policies. Her interviewees ranged from fishermen off the Florida Keys to managers at chemical companies in the Czech Republic to workers at the heart of a nuclear reactor manufacturing weapons-grade tritium. Angela is the author of the bestselling *Witch Way Librarian* cozy mysteries and the *Joanna Hayworth* vintage clothing mysteries. As *Clover Tate*, she wrote the *Kite Shop* cozy mysteries. Angela's nonfiction writing includes features articles for *Culture*, *Portland Monthly*, *Portland*, and *Edible Portland* magazines, among others. Her love of perfume earned her a long-running column in the popular blog *Now Smell This* and led to articles for *Nez*, a perfume magazine based in Paris. Angela's newest series, the *Sixth Sense* mysteries, debuted this year with *A Whiff of Murder*. *Slay It by Ear* follows in February 2027. When Angela isn't at her laptop, she's often lounging with a vintage crime novel at home in Portland.

The series will conclude on **October 29<sup>th</sup>** with a visit from Lincoln City writer **Ken Pratt**. Ken is a husband, father, and grandfather, and in his spare time, he writes Christian-based novels and some children's stories too. Ken was raised in the small farming community of Dayton, where he learned the value of having a strong work ethic among other small-town values. Ken now lives in Lincoln City with his wife of twenty-nine years, Cathy. Together Ken and Cathy have raised five children and now have eight grandchildren. When it comes to Ken's philosophy about writing books, he says, "I don't think it takes a PhD or a doctorate degree to figure out life can be unfair." Simply put, Ken writes about real life issues in a western setting in the rough and wild Pacific Northwest. However, he never set out to be a writer. He worked full time and wrote

late at night for seven years to complete his first book, *Willow Falls*. When *Willow Falls* was completed, he began writing the follow-up book, *Sweethome*. Those two books started Ken on an unexpected journey toward being the full-time author of the best-selling Matt Bannister Series, which is now made up of eighteen titles. His most recent books are the Jessup County Chronicles, which includes *The Gypsum Creek Massacre*, *Caustic October*, and *The Jester's Magician*.

All events in the Dark & Stormy Night series are free to the public and made possible by ongoing generous support from The Driftwood Library Foundation and Looking Glass Inn, Pelican Shores Inn, and Shearwater Inn. Questions about the series may be directed to Ken Hobson at Driftwood Public Library: 541-996-1242 or [khobson@lincolncity.org](mailto:khobson@lincolncity.org). Driftwood Public Library is located at 801 SW HWY 101 in Lincoln City on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the City Hall building, across the street from Burger King and adjacent to McKay's Market.