

**July 2019 AAG Newsletter**

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
P. O. Box 803  
Abingdon, VA 24212  
A 501c3 organization

<http://www.appalachianauthors.com/>

<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

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<http://appalachianauthors.wordpress.com>

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## **AAG Mission Statement**

The mission of the Appalachian Authors Guild, a Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, is to support and promote literary art throughout the Appalachian region, to encourage writers and authors to both preserve and build upon the literary history and heritage of the Appalachian region and to provide opportunities for readers to experience the joy of meeting our people, visiting our beautiful region and understanding the wealth of our culture through literary art.

**Appalachian Authors Guild**  
**General Meeting**  
**July 9, 2019**  
**Shoney's Restaurant**  
**480 Cummings St.**  
**Abingdon, VA**

**Speaker**  
**Damean Mathews**



Damean was born in Tazewell, Virginia and almost immediately fell in love with literature. The only thing that matches his love of the written word is his fascination with the paranormal. From an early age he preferred to be in the company of books than most anyone else, taking books with him everywhere he went.

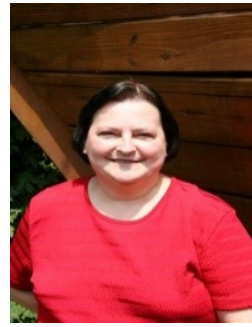
It only made sense that, at some point, Damean began to write.

He has been published in several local publications and has written several novels. Specializing in the paranormal, the self-proclaimed vampirologist, attended symposiums, learning more about the craft and eventually teaching lessons about how to relate worldwide legends to local lore in the Southwest Virginia region in particular.

Damean continues to write while living near the Tennessee border with his loving wife and their mischievous cats.



## From President Vicki



Hello AAG,

### All for AAG and AAG for all!

Members, please send Vicki your brief bio and picture for the AAG website. She would also like pictures of your books and links where potential readers may find them.

Contact Vicki via text/voicemail at [vfletcher56@gmail.com](mailto:vfletcher56@gmail.com) or text/voicemail to 276-492-8314.

### Next Board/Workshop

All members are welcome to attend the AAG Board Meetings as well as General Meetings. Member input is very valuable in scheduling guild activities.

The next scheduled board meeting will be August 13, 2019.

Several members have attended and received valuable pointers at the informative workshop presentations after the board meetings.

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1. The Golden NIB entries are due to me by July 13th. Be sure to go to the VWC website to get the guidelines for entries. The website is [virginiawritersclub.org](http://virginiawritersclub.org).

2. Our next meeting is July 9th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Abingdon Shoney's. Damean Mathews will be our guest speaker. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can confirm with the restaurant.

3. If you would like to take part in a Summer Reading of 10 books, please send a list of those books to JC. He will put them on our website blog for all to take part that wants to. This sounds like lots of fun so we hope you will take part. Contact him at [vafinancial@gmail.com](mailto:vafinancial@gmail.com).

4. I am getting ready to add a resources page to our website. If you know of publishers, editors, illustrators, or any other services for authors, please send those to me to contact for permission to be included on the page. This page will be open only for AAG members. When it is finished, it will be locked and you will receive the code to open it. I hope to have this done by August.

5. If you haven't sent your bio/pic for the website, please do so as soon as possible.

6. If you plan to attend the VWC symposium on August 3rd in Charlottesville, please let me know. They have asked for a basket to be prepared for their silent auction. but we cannot do that unless we have a way to get it there. None of the board members will be able to attend.

Until next time,  
Victoria Fletcher, your AAG 2019 president





We have a store at Cafe Press to help us raise money for our AAG store and support us.

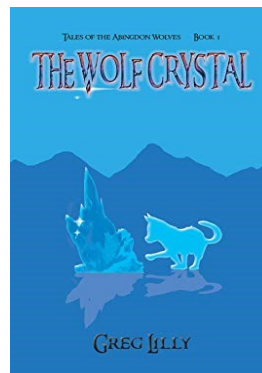
**[AAGStuff](#)** at Cafe Press

Members who would like to have their new works announced in Tidings should send the info and cover thumbnail, if desired, to the editor's email address ([Mscribe@aol.com](mailto:Mscribe@aol.com)).

Greg Lilly has released two new books: *Stray* and *The Wolf Crystal*. He will sign books on Saturday, July 13 at the Arts Depot from 11 - 2.

In *Stray*, Taliesin MacGuire promises his grandmother he will find out why his father left home, never to return, but few people have fond memories of his father and fewer want to talk. Echoes from Irish lore, the Lost Colony, and the Virginia witch trials weave strains of an ancient melody as Tal discovers that time silences the past and nonconformity is a howl in the night.

*The Wolf Crystal* is the story that inspired the Virginia Highlands Festival's new immersive theater. It is rooted in Abingdon's traditions and legends about the wolf caves and Daniel Boone's explorations through our region. The story unfolds over the course of the Festival dates, with new elements being introduced each day. The illustrated book is now available.



2019 Writers' Day at the Virginia Highlands Festival

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE LRC  
BUILDING, KEYSER-ADAY THEATRE  
EXIT 14, ABINGDON, VA

This year's Writers' Day is a unique opportunity to learn from regional authors writing about Appalachia. Not just for writers or those aspiring to write, this event will also appeal to avid readers as well as those who are simply curious about the methods and processes authors use to create their works and get them published.

REGISTRATION \$40; students admitted free

<https://vahighlandsfestival.com/event/writers-day/>

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Appalachian Fantasy? Using Local Lore and Historical Research to Enrich Fantasy Novels—Bekah Harris

Writing with Empathy—Mary Knight

How Growing Up in the Appalachian Mountains Shapes One's Writing—Mark A. Steven

1:15 – 2:45 PM

A Balancing Act: Merging Detail with Dialogue to Create Appalachian Characters that Don't Give Readers a Headache—Bekah Harris

Writing through Mine Fields: How to Write About Social Issues Without Blowing Up Your Story—Mary Knight

Embroidering on the Family Tree—Felicia Mitchel

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Woodworking a Rough Poem—Felicia Mitchell

From History on the Rails to an Amazon Top Seller: Writing History and Non-Fiction—Mark A. Stevens

Publishing Panel

Bekah Harris and Mary Knight will be joined by three additional local authors (Victoria Fletcher, Greg Lilly, and Kathy Shearer) on a panel where they will discuss how they became published, offering tips to those wishing to do the same as well as those who are just simply curious about the process. Each of these five authors publishes using different pathways, ranging from self-publishing to small local publishers to a large national publishing house.