



Virginia Highlands Festival
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the
website or requested via email

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

71st ANNUAL VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL

TEN DAYS OF ARTS AND CULTURE

FESTIVAL DATES: July 26 - August 4

“CREATING IN APPALACHIA”

YOUR NEW STORY AT WRITERS’ DAY ON FRIDAY, JULY 26

ABINGDON, Va./June 17, 2019/Writers’ Day celebrates writers of all genres and skill levels as they unite to create, collaborate, and appreciate literature. Writers’ Day workshop topics are as varied as genres of literature—from fantasy to historical fiction to songs.

This year’s Writers’ Day is a unique opportunity to learn from regional authors writing about Appalachia. While much of the work is inspired by Appalachia and the South, all types of stories will be presented.

These workshops will also appeal to avid readers and those who are simply curious about the methods and processes authors use to create their works and get them published. Workshop details are below, and you can register at VaHighlandsFestival.org.

“Like to write? Read? Curious? Get a ‘behind the scenes’ look at how writers create their poems and stories, and get them published, at the ‘not just for Writers’ Day.”

Friday, July 26, 2019 - 8 AM - 4:30 PM at the Virginia Highlands Community College LRC Building, Keyser-Aday Theatre. Registration \$40; students admitted free.

Workshop schedule:

- 9:00-9:50 AM; Opening session
- 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. Stevens
- 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 Mitchell
- 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 with Bekah Harris and Mary Knight featuring three additional local authors—Victoria Fletcher, Greg Lilly, and Kathy Shearer

For a complete listing of the 200-plus Festival activities happening from July 26-August 4, including registration requirements, advance ticket purchases, parking and trolley info, and more, visit www.vahighlandsfestival.org or pick up a program guide at Food City locations near you.

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About the Virginia Highlands Festival: Founded in 1948, the Virginia Highlands Festival is an annual, ten-day event devoted to the celebration of Southwest Virginia heritage and rich Appalachian tradition. Held in historic Abingdon, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Festival was selected as the “Best Art Event” by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine in 2019, recognized as a Top 20 Event by the Southeastern Tourism Society and was named as Blue Ridge Country’s Best Non-Music Festival in 2018. The 71st Virginia Highlands Festival will run from July 26-August 4 (Antiques Market July 27- August 4) and feature live concerts, a juried arts and crafts show, and an antique market, as well as workshops, lectures and tours. To learn more about the Virginia Highlands Festival and this year’s events, please visit <http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org>