

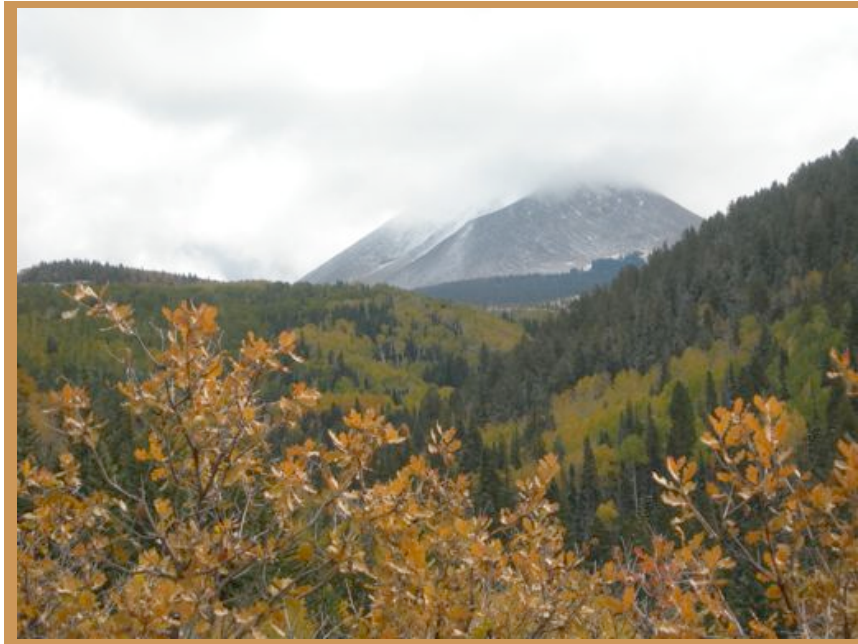


NEWSLETTER

"A MAN TRAVELS THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF WHAT HE NEEDS AND RETURNS HOME TO FIND IT." —GEORGE MOORE

A Parting Haiku from Tom

Traveling light:
arms empty
heart brimming.



Little Owl - Big Surprise

By Marcia Hafner

It had been so quiet. Then the sudden commotion grabbed my attention. To my amazement I discovered dozens of excitable, busybody birds mobbing a pygmy owl. No wonder bird sightings had been scarce until now. Every bird in the preserve had flown over here to harass this owl. When he tried to escape they followed along like a pack of hyenas.

The pygmy owl is comparable in size to a bluebird, but it fearlessly attacks prey bigger than itself. Common in the western states, it is seldom seen because of its nocturnal habits. Even when active during the day, this owl darts in and out of the bushes so fast it gives the fleeting appearance of a small bird. When roosting in an evergreen tree it blends in with the foliage and is very difficult to pick out. How many owls have I walked by and never seen?

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From The Newsroom

The Board would like to announce the departure of its treasurer, Tom Savage. While serving in this role, Tom has simplified the bookkeeping, helped Moab Poets & Writers focus on serving and expanding membership, and acted as a voice of pragmatism. He will be sorely missed. With all our best wishes, we send him on his journey to a new home in Washington State.

Because the treasurer position is newly open, we are searching for an additional Board member. If you are interested in helping pilot MP&W and/or maintaining our simple balance sheet, please contact the board president, Marcy Hafner, at 259-6197.

Please review the calendar on the reverse side of this newsletter. Gary Duncan's April workshop will be formatted as four 50-minute sessions with 10-minute breaks. They will deal with performance technique, trial presentations (which are videoed), and review of each writer's presentation. Hands on work will focus on microphones, staging, body language, emotional text loading, fear abatement, stage presence, eye contact, energy changes created by audiences and how to handle them, spontaneous error correction, and being able to accept suggestions and perceptions from audiences in a growing manner.

Have a wonderful spring. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon.

—The MP&W Board

Visit: www.moabpoetsandwriters.org

Submissions:

To submit a maximum 300-word prose piece or maximum 40-line poem to the Moab Poets & Writers Newsletter Editor, send an email to:

mcneild@grandschools.org

If your piece is chosen, you will be asked for a digital photo and short bio.



(Continued from front)

Gradually the alarmists moved on, leaving him in peace. But this little owl was not in a peaceful frame of mind. What happened to be on his mind was his next meal.

Turning his head back and forth, he watched and listened. In agitation he repeatedly cocked his tail upward at an angle. Sometimes I'd catch a glimpse of the black spots with white margins on the back of his neck that give the deceptive appearance of an extra pair of eyes. It is probably a tactic to avoid an attack from behind.

An hour went by before he pounced, but this unlucky owl came up empty and flew away hungry. If he'd been successful he'd have likely remained on the ground to rip his victim to pieces.

It is a rare privilege to observe a pygmy owl. I've waited over thirty years for it to happen.

Some Online Resources

by Ann Gordon

Writers Helping Writers – www.rateyourwriting.com

Free to join, free to participate. This site allows you to enter some of your writing and see how members rate it.

Creative Writing Prompts – www.creativewritingprompts.com

Free use of prompts designed to ignite your creativity. The home page lists numbers from 1 to 302. Hover over any number to read a journal or story prompt. Most of these are surprisingly good.

10 Tips for Novice Creative Writers –

<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/creative/shortstory/index.html>

Free writing tips. Created by writers at Seton Hill University, this site offers useful short story tips, procedures and explanations. Among these writing tips are steps for writing a catchy first paragraph and how to build to a crisis.

Free Podio Books – www.podiobooks.com

Free to register and listen. The audio books available on this site are downloadable as MP3 files (hence the name "podio"). Listen to them on any MP3 player (like an iPod). Most of the writers who wrote these books have not been published anywhere except on this site. They read their own works and upload the chapters for us to enjoy! Readers rate the stories and some win awards. You can download these books into iTunes, podcastready or Zune1Click. I LOVE this site. It is wonderful to see what other unpublished writers are doing!

BlogTalkRadio – www.blogtalkradio.com

Free to browse and listen. This site, composed of current and archived interviews, would take ages to thoroughly explore, but thank goodness, it is searchable. Search for "writing," "write," or "writer" (or all three like I did) to filter for interviews about writing. Click Archive List. When you find a topic that interests you, click Play to automatically start playing the file. Note that all of these radio shows are rated with stars, from 1 to 5.

Calendar

April

Writer's Performing Workshop: 1-5pm Saturday, **April 26, 2008** - Grand County Library Conference Room. How to deliver your writing and have it felt; Audiences, stage presence, sound systems, dealing with fear... Admission is free. *No cell phones, fragrances or aromatherapy products.* Please bring 40-60 words of your choice memorized. Group size is limited to 12 persons. Place reservations with Marcy Hafner (phone: 259-6197) Instructor: Gary Duncan - poet/short story writer, novelist, songwriter. Founder: Telluride Writer's Guild, Smart Shelter Network, Telluride Bluegrass Academy. Biography/background is found at the Smart Shelter Web Site: www.smartshelter.com

Open Mic: **April 25th** Gary will be the Featured Reader for the April Final Friday event at Seekhaven. The Open Mic session follows the break.

May

May 30: Final Friday open mic reading will take place at the Rotary Park Amphitheater on the East end of the green, past "Free Notes." Bring food and beverages of your choice.

June

June 27: Final Friday open mic reading will take place at the Rotary Park Amphitheater on the East end of the green, past "Free Notes." Bring food and beverages of your choice.

Visit the MP&W website
for more dates & details:
www.moabpoetsandwriters.org

Contributors

Marcia Hafner
*is an avid bird-watcher and
a freelance nature writer.*



Ann Gordon
*Ann is a technical writer and
instructional designer, and she is
struggling to complete two non-
fiction book proposals.*

Tom Savage—
*"I am following my lights
inward, seeking the path as
I travel it, and the journey
is everything. I cannot
imagine how life could be
better than it is today".*

