



# NEWSLETTER

"TAKE CARE OF THE SENSE AND THE SOUNDS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES." – LEWIS CARROLL



## Backyard Entertainment

By Marcia Hafner

The black-chinned hummingbirds zoom into our yard in early April, back from their winter retreat in Mexico. The feeders are ready and the entertainment begins. Hummingbirds are remarkable flying machines to see in action. With wings accelerating up to 200 times per second, they can easily hover just like various other species of birds, but their unique talent of flying backwards is a skill known only to them.

The males show up first to stake out their territory. Then they anxiously wait for the females' arrival. When the ladies make their appearance, the super-charged males are ready to pour it on with an incredible courtship display. We watch in awe at the dizzying speed of the pendulum pattern that is done over and over again, as the vibrating wings buzz in the rushing air. If the flirtation of a suitor meets a female's approval, she will excitedly chatter like a giddy teenager.

After breeding, the duties of the swaggering, polygamous male are over. It is the female who builds the cup-shaped nest. Then she lays two white, jellybean-sized eggs, which she stoically incubates for approximately two weeks. About twenty days after hatching, the babies fledge to face a brand new world

In mid-June, a steady chirp draws... [Continued on reverse.]

## From The Newsroom

To have your prose, poetry, and photos featured in this newsletter, email Dan ([mcneild@grandschools.org](mailto:mcneild@grandschools.org)) or send snailmail to Daniel McNeil, 164 S 300 E #3, Moab, UT 84532. Digital photos only, please.

A unique opportunity: We are searching for an additional Board member. If you are interested in helping pilot MP&W, please contact the board president, Marcy Hafner, at 259-6197. Board Members enjoy the benefits of optionally free workshops and supporting the Utah's literary community.

Membership dues notices will be sent out in January with the next newsletter. The annual payment of \$18 provides MP&W members with a reduced rate at workshops, the quarterly newsletter in hard copy, and access to literary projects and events such as Glyphs, Open Mics and the upcoming reading by Terry Tempest Williams.

—The MP&W Board

Visit: [www.moabpoetsandwriters.org](http://www.moabpoetsandwriters.org)

## [Two plastic bottles]

by Joan Gough

Two plastic bottles  
Three hundred bits of wood  
Good odds, old river

## Submissions:

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

[mcneild@grandschools.org](mailto:mcneild@grandschools.org)

Please include a personal digital photo and short bio.





[Continued from front page.]

my attention to a hungry, juvenile hummingbird. Mom eventually comes around to feed him, but for some unknown reason, the male roughly interferes and chases her off. Left behind, Junior cries piteously for some nourishment.

Later Mom returns and takes her child to the feeder to demonstrate how it is done. This fast learner quickly understands the lesson. Then gluttony takes over. Gulp by gulp his belly swells up ready to burst. Not taking any chances of losing his fresh discovery of food, he refuses to budge, tenaciously fighting off any intruder. At bedtime our valiant little warrior is still guarding the feeder!

### Some Online Motivation for Procrastinating Writers

by Ann Gordon

#1: Thou Shalt Finish Your Manuscript, by Richard Ridley

Ridley's article about writing is posted on the BookSurge.com website (BookSurge is owned by Amazon.com). In this article, Ridley lists his ten commandments for snapping out of your procrastination and getting your book-length manuscript *finished!* Here are three of his commandments:

Thou shalt set a writing schedule. This is your "other job" now. Treat it like you are getting paid.

Thou shalt set a daily word count goal. Know when your writing day ends before you sit down at the computer. Giving yourself permission to stop writing at a certain point is almost as important as sitting down to write (in the first place). Personally, I set a word count goal of 1,000 everyday. I've heard Stephen King does 1,500.

Thou shalt read what you've written out loud every day. There is nothing like hearing what you've written. You will discover both brilliant words and embarrassing mistakes when you hear the words you've written. It will more than likely spur you to make changes or advance the story in ways you never thought of. It's a great visualization tool.

Look for the rest of the article at:

<http://www.booksurge.com/category/2123615761/1/Tips-for-Finishing-Your-Manuscript.htm>


Happy Writing!

## Calendar

### October

October 19, 9AM, Moab Arts and Recreation Center: Open Mic. As part of *Confluence, a Celebration of Reading and Writing in Moab*, this is a casual open reading opportunity for those of you that want to try your work aloud. Poets, storytellers, nonfiction writers... it doesn't matter. Just come share your work with those who appreciate the literary arts.

### October

October 30, 7PM, Terry Tempest Williams Reading: "Finding Beauty in a Broken World." This event will also be a fundraiser for the Genocide Survivors Village in the western province of Rwanda, with the prizes of two "African Bikes" made by the Kona Bicycle Company. **Volunteers are needed. Please contact Monette at 259-1510. Special gift incentive!** 

### December

December 5, 6:30PM: Final Friday Open Mic reading will take place at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center, downstairs in the kitchen room at the west end of the hallway. Bring food and beverages of your choice.

Directions to:

**...the Moab Arts and Recreation Center (MARC):** From Main Street, turn onto 100 North, headed East. Drive to 111 East 100 North (northeast corner of the intersection). The open mic crowd meets downstairs in the kitchen room. Look for a flyer on the door or inside in the foyer.

Visit the MP&W website for more dates & details:

[www.moabpoetsandwriters.org](http://www.moabpoetsandwriters.org)

## Contributors

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



**Ann Gordon's**  
*vocation is technical writing and instructional design, while her avocation is creative writing. If those roles were reversed, she could spend more time in the desert!*

**Joan Gough**  
*is a board member of Moab Poets & Writers and Confluence, a Celebration of Reading and Writing in Moab.*

