

Literature: Seth Muller

Website: <http://sethmuller.com/>

About:

“My name is Seth Muller, and I am a Southwest author based in Flagstaff, Arizona. I have written a young-reader fiction series called Keepers of the Windclaw Chronicles, published by the multicultural press Salina Bookshelf. The first book, The Mockingbird's Manual, follows a Navajo girl named Ellie Tsosie as she learns to communicate with birds and finds adventure along the way. As the series unfolds, Ellie meets other young Native Americans with gifts, and all find themselves on a crucial mission to unite the Human and Animal worlds. Book Two, The Day of Storms, also has been released while The Great Gathering is scheduled for a spring 2012 release.

“I also wrote a creative nonfiction book about the Grand Canyon called Canyon Crossing: Experiencing the Grand Canyon From Rim to Rim(Grand Canyon Association, March 2011). The book is a narrative exploration of the canyon's corridor trails and their rich history. I signed on to write a second book for the Grand Canyon Association. It is a walking companion to the national park that has a planned 2013 release. Recently, I also won a short playwriting contest with the Northern Arizona Playwriting Showcase. The play, about a mentally unstable girl, hummingbirds, and Brian Wilson, among other things, is called The Completely Nonsensical Sky.”

I wish to nominate Seth Muller for consideration of the 2012 Viola Literature Award. I believe Seth is most deserving of this honor, given the power of his writing and the diversity of the subject and form of his work.

During 2011, Seth experienced a banner year as a local writer and author. In the spring, the Grand Canyon Association released his creative nonfiction book, Canyon Crossing: Experiencing Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim. The release of this work led Seth to represent Flagstaff at the Tucson Festival of Books both as a reader and panel moderator in March. He organized and created the panel “Writing the Grand Canyon” for the festival. He also gave lectures as part of the Canyon Country Lecture Series in Flagstaff, Prescott and at the Grand Canyon.

Seth continued to promote and share with young readers his Keepers of the Windclaw Chronicles fiction series, set on the Navajo Nation and published by Salina Bookshelf. As part of this, he participated in the Northern Arizona Book Festival at its children's program at the Arboretum in Flagstaff in April. He held a special reading at Bookman's Entertainment Exchange in August. He also served on a panel at the special documentary screening of Library of the Early Mind at the Orpheum Theater in October and participated in the event Corvid Crrrazy! at Willow Bend Environmental Education Center in November.

As a journalist, his creative and thoughtful approach to telling a compelling story earned recognition as he collected two first place awards from the Arizona Press Club, one for an article about the Whale Foundation that appeared in the Arizona Daily Sun and the other for a story about Star Wars costume troupe for Flagstaff Live. Those awards were presented in May.

To demonstrate his versatility with the written word, Seth's short play, "The Completely Nonsensical Sky" was one of seven winners out of 38 entries in the Northern Arizona Playwriting Showcase contest. The play was performed on Aug. 27 at the Doris Harper White Community Playhouse as part of the showcase. This versatility is further demonstrated with a series of poems Seth wrote about the Grand Canyon called Between the Stone and the Sky. He recited the poems at special events at Sundara and Bookmans Entertainment Exchange in November, a special presentation in partnership with poet Ann Weiler Walka and guitarist Bill Burke. A limited edition, handmade chapbook presented the 20 Grand Canyon poems in print. In constant awe of the natural world, Muller also recently penned the non-fiction guide "Canyon Crossing: Experiencing the Grand Canyon from Rim to Rim" for the grand Canyon Association, with a second book on the way.

Seth Muller may be best known to the Flagstaff community as the editor of Northern Arizona's Mountain Living Magazine, where his writing frequently appears on every topic from local history and artist profiles to outdoor excursions and home tours. Each story (many of which have won him Arizona Press Club Awards) is written with his signature charm and reverence for the community he calls home.

As the editor of Northern Arizona's Mountain Living Magazine since 2004, Muller is constantly shining a spotlight on Flagstaff's cultural scene, featuring local artists, authors, musicians, academics and public figures, as well as highlighting local grassroots movements such as environmental causes and local food movements. He also frequently covers the rich Native American culture of our region. Muller has also served as a journalism professor at NAU since 2007.

From his writing in Mountain Living serving as a monthly reminder of what makes Flagstaff such a beautiful place to live, to his wonderfully imaginative works of fiction, to his poetic musings on sense of place, Seth Muller is truly an asset to Northern Arizona's literary community.