



Author Craig Lesley

Cannon Beach Book Company. Working closely with Terry and Judine Brooks and the Tolovana Arts Colony, Ryan created the original event with funding from a Tourism and Arts grant from the City of Cannon Beach.

Though Ryan passed away in 2014, organizer Tracy Abel said she “continues to be a guiding spirit of the current event.” Abel first attended the event in 2012 and enjoyed it so much, she decided to become involved as an organizer herself.

“I think what makes this event so special is how intimate it is,” Abel said. “I have been to numerous author talks and book signings where I have waited in long lines for maybe a minute with the author. Sometimes I never even get to meet the author. Our event offers several opportunities to meet and talk one on one with the authors.”

A look at the authors

Keynote speaker Craig Lesley is an award-winning author of contemporary Western literature. Though this is his first time attending Get Lit, Lesley has many connections to the area. He has given several readings at Cannon Beach Bookstore and taught fiction for Portland State University’s Haystack program. His novel “The Sky Fisherman” was the first book chosen by Seaside High School students for their



Author R.A. Salvatore

PHOTOS COURTESY TOLOVANA ARTS COLONY

Coastal Literature Program.

Lesley’s novels have been praised for their honest look at the rugged, hardscrabble characters that once inhabited the American West. Lesley does not restrain himself to the white perspective. The New York Times praised the way Lesley’s novel “River Song” “illuminates the plight of the American Indians.”

Lesley is currently writing a series of essays about the Northwest focused on working-class people, a group he feels is under-represented in literary fiction.

“I was raised working class (My mother was a single parent and a secretary), and both my essays and novels stress working class people,” Lesley said in an email.

One of his primary motivations for writing is to give a voice to working people, whether they are fishermen — as in “River Song” — or children with fetal alcohol syndrome — as in “Storm Riders.”

Lesley is looking forward to the weekend, in part, because “attendees will have a chance to hear a variety of excellent writers read from their works and participate in a panel discussion.”

Stewart is originally from Eureka, California, but recently relocated to Portland, and is thrilled to have the



Author Amy Stewart

opportunity to spend time at the coast.

She describes her current series of novels, based on one of America’s first female deputy sheriffs, as lighthearted and entertaining looks at characters who played central roles in the history of women in law enforcement. The five books in the Kopp Sisters series are slated to be made into a television series.

A book lover’s event

Award-winning fantasy novelist and Get Lit “Master of Ceremonies” Terry Brooks, who lives in Cannon Beach, has been involved with the event since the beginning.

He described the weekend as a “unique event in that book lovers are able, and encouraged, to talk to the authors in a small, intimate environment, unlike most of the bigger book festivals. We also have the beauty and availability of the beach and the charm of our delightful small town.”

Full pass tickets are \$85; the Friday evening reception is \$30; and the Saturday night dinner and keynote speaker presentation is \$65. Tickets may still be available at the door or at getlitatthebeach.com. The Sunday morning Q-and-A with the authors is free and open to the public. 



Author Terry Brooks

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Tracy Abel, organizer



Author Gina Ochsner