

## **Workshop Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...***

**Jeffrey Penn May**



Fiction Writer, Writing Coach, Adventurer, Creative Writing Teacher  
SWLG member since 2005, Member of Distinction 2005, 2006 and 2008

### **Workshop: "Writing Literary and Commercial Fiction - Rejection and Publication"**

**Saturday, January 9, 2010  
10 AM until noon**

**at Kirkwood Community Center, 2nd floor  
111 S. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122**

Get [map and directions](#)

All are welcome.

This event is FREE to SLWG members and \$5 for non-members  
(may be fully credited toward dues within 30 days).

#### **Please register in advance**

(Pre-registrants' names will be entered  
into a drawing for an attendance prize.  
Must be present to win.)

**Workshop Details:** Can your fiction be both literary and commercial? Jeffrey Penn May advocates writing that attends to both and sacrifices neither. In this interactive workshop, he will explore how to accept rejection and manage acceptance while maintaining your sanity and resolve. Hone your writing skills, clarify your voice and take another step toward writing salable fiction. Bring your questions and join Jeff for lively presentation, discussion and activities.

## **About Jeffrey Penn May:**

Jeffrey Penn May has won several short fiction awards. His story "The Wells Creek Route" received a Pushcart Prize nomination and his novel *Where the River Splits*, received an excellent review in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Merging his outdoor interests with his writing, he has published articles on mountain climbing as well as short stories and poems. The author of articles on education and technical writing guides, he has also written and performed a short story for Washington University Radio and served as a consultant to a St. Louis theater company. His work has appeared in publications based in North America and the United Kingdom.

Born at Fort Ord near Monterey, California and raised in St. Louis, Jeff comes from a family of boys. After earning Bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology, a Master's degree in Secondary Education and a Writer's Certificate from the University of Missouri, Jeff worked as a waiter, hotel security officer, credit manager, deck hand, technical data engineer, creative writing instructor, English teacher and principal of a small alternative school.

Always compelled to explore the outdoors, Jeff has been on many questionable "vacations," including floating a home-built wood and barrel raft from St. Louis to Memphis, navigating a john boat to New Orleans, driving an old Volkswagen 8,000 miles around the west, spending a month in a dirt floor shack in west-central Mexico digging for Pre-Colombian artifacts, climbing mountains from Alaska to South America, and spending several days in the Amazon jungle. He currently teaches writing and fly-fishing and has survived more than twenty years of marriage and two teenagers. Visit Jeff's website at [www.askwritefish.com](http://www.askwritefish.com).

## **Selected Publications**

### **Books**

*Where the River Splits* (August 15, 2008)

*Cynthia and the Blue Cat's Last Meow* (2004, 2009)

### **Magazines**

Poetry - Lindenwood University's *Untamed Ink*

"The Wells Creek Route" *The Rambler* (Nominated for a Pushcart Prize) "The Deaf Woman's TV"

*Libbon* "Hazards of Bat Guano" *The Written Word*

"Hiking in Colombia" *Great Expeditions Adventure and Travel Magazine*

"Missouri Bluffs" *Summit*

### **Newspapers**

"Vouchers May Bring More State Control" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

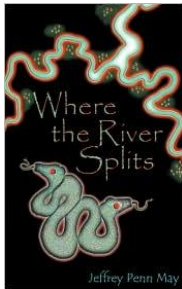
"Dysgraphic Disenchantment" *Education Saint Louis*

### **Synopsis of *Where the River Splits*:**

A St. Louis couple, David and Susan Brooks, go on a canoe trip in the Canadian wilderness in a last-ditch effort to evaluate their marriage. The trip turns into disaster as their canoe capsizes, leaving the couple stranded on opposite sides of the river with each believing the other is dead.

David soon discovers that his wife survived and decides not to reveal himself to her. While Susan returns to St. Louis to cope with the loss of her husband, David begins his new life in the Wyoming mountains. But can anyone really start over?

Available through Amazon, Left Bank Books in the Central West End and Main Street Books in St. Charles. For more information, visit <http://www.askwritefish.com/>.



### **[Where the River Splits](#)**

Publisher: Libros International

ISBN-10: 1905988710

ISBN-13: 978-1905988716

272 pp

### **Praise for *Where the River Splits*:**

"The journey to the end of the novel is never boring. May is a writer who has dreamed of publishing a full-length novel for decades and persevered through careers as a schoolteacher, compiler of manuals for fighter jets, consultant for a theater company, outdoor guide and fly fisherman. The scenes set in rural Wyoming feature the geography as much as the characters. Locales in Canada and Mexico also figure into the plot. Still, the story keeps coming back to St. Louis, which should add to its appeal for local readers."

-- Steve Weinberg, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"*Where the River Splits* is the perfect read for a quiet vacation on the beach or a winter weekend curled up next to a roaring fire. As an experienced broadcast producer, I think this book would make an excellent movie script!"

-- Dan Dillon, KMOV/Channel 4 St. Louis Broadcast Producer, Author of *So, Where Did You Go To High School?*

"A captivating debut, May takes marital posturing to a new level in this highly believable tale of deception and intrigue that carries the reader every step of the way through the foothills and mountains of the American West to the highlands in central Mexico."

-- Elizabeth Ketcher, Founder and Director, StudioSTL

"The river is both the opening setting and a fitting metaphor in Jeffrey Penn May's wonderful novel, *Where the River Splits*. As a river meanders and changes course in surprising and unpredictable ways, so, too, does this novel's story line. Through alternating points of view, the reader follows David and Susan as they face grief, surprise, betrayal and tough choices, culminating in a satisfying ending that will leave you wanting to go back and reread all over again."

-- Denise Pattiz Bogard, Author, Founder and Coordinator St. Louis Writers Workshop

"*Where the River Splits* is an account of the unexpected vagaries, dangers and promise of adventure, whether in the wilderness, in marriage or in career. These most major of our decisions are taken with optimistic expectations, but no sure knowledge as to what really will unfold, when, where or why. Mr. May addresses the struggle confronting someone who has come face to face with the unexpected, the traumatic and the disillusioning, and who such a person will discover himself to be. Events in the wilderness are compellingly and faithfully rendered and will excite the back-country enthusiast and casual day-hiker alike. The question of what might have been had a different path been followed will surely appeal to a wide audience. The book drew me in and challenged me to think.

-- P L Wakefield, M.D., Rafter, Backpacker and Retired Mountaineer

**Read more from Jeffrey Penn May ...**

Sample pages and full downloads of Jeffrey Penn May's novella, *Cynthia and the Blue Cat's Last Meow*, are available now at <http://www.scribd.com/>.