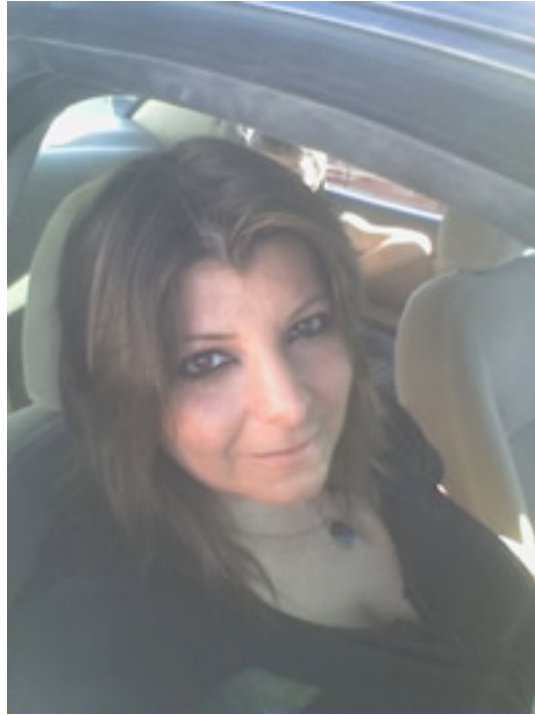


SLWG Spotlight...We're pleased to present...

Meg Bergmann



**Writer, Publicist, Animal Lover, SLWG Distinguished Member
SLWG Member since 2006**

Way back when...

As far back as she can remember (and perhaps more years ago than she would like to think,) she has always wanted to work with animals. At the same time however, Meg Bergmann found a love for story telling, often times combining her two passions by drafting a story in front of the television while watching *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* or *Jacques Cousteau's Under Sea Adventures* on any given evening. Hence, she began her veterinary medicine/literary career as a bubble gum snapping 10 year old that wrote on tiny bits of paper, which eventually became wadded up with chewing gum that had quickly lost its flavor and pitched.

Through the years...

Many things have come and gone, or at least shifted in priority status since those bubble-gum chewing days. However, Meg's affinity for animals and for the arts, particularly writing, has stayed the course and continues to be a prominent part of her life.

After finishing high school, Meg spent the next 2 years pursuing pretty much nothing at all while doing a stint in Los Angeles, where she worked in fast-food and mostly became a self-proclaimed California beach bum. Eventually though, Meg realized that fun in the sun and surfing all day wasn't actually a true career path. That's when she returned to her family and roots of St. Louis, traded her beach bag full of towels and tanning lotion for a book bag full of...well...books, and began studying Accounting and Economics at the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Her aspirations of becoming a financial wizard didn't last very long at all though, before a turtle fell in her pool. This in turn landed Meg at Missouri Wildlife Rescue Center, where she found her calling—one of them anyway. Meg accomplished three things while working there. Firstly, she had the unique opportunity to work with many species of wildlife including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds performing emergency medical care, rescue, rehabilitation and release. Secondly, Meg was eventually given the role of Avian Coordinator, working closely alongside the center's director and Federal Government agents to track incidents of illness, and injuries that occur in the wild. Thirdly, and best of all, Meg met her husband Jeff while seeking the services of a small animal and wildlife veterinarian. Funny how things work out...

They since went on to work with the Raptor Rehabilitation and Propagation Project, now known as World Bird Sanctuary, working in with many foreign and domestic birds.

Long story short...or perhaps not so short...

Even after Meg became fully entrenched in the world of veterinary and wildlife medicine, both the overt and prominent voices of encouragement from her husband Jeff, her mom and dad, and the quiet yet powerful voice lying deep inside continued to whisper until one day she heeded the call. It was then that she began taking college-writing courses while simultaneously working as an intern reporter for KPLR-TV News Channel 11 in St. Louis, covering stories for the evening news. Her nearly year-long internship offered an enormous education and opportunity that spurred her on to want to write even more. In February 2004, Meg joined the Heartland Women's Writers Guild, a gathering of exquisite writers and a group to which Meg is proud to belong. Two years later, The HWWG released their first book, *Orchids in the Cornfield: Collected Writings of the Heartland Women's Writers Guild* with Meg as a contributing author.



Since that day...

Meg has delved into many areas of the writing, publishing and marketing worlds, first joining the St. Louis Writers Guild in 2006. She attributes much of her on the job education to the support of SLWG, particularly Robin Theiss and Mary Menke, who have listened, advised, and supported Meg along her journey, not to mention webmaster Doreen Hulse, who has patiently answered the many questions Meg frequently has.

What's happening now and what's coming up next...

Although Meg still keeps one hand in veterinary medicine working for a local veterinary hospital, she has the other hand and both feet strongly planted in the world of creative arts. This past summer she worked as publicist for Columbia Summer Theatre's production of *The Music Man* and has recently been invited to join the team of Jest Entertainment working as a publicist. Jest entertainment is responsible for many of the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Shows both in town and nationwide.

In addition, Meg enjoys writing articles, essays, novellas, and short stories in the genres of humor, slice-of-life, and the supernatural. Her plans are to continue an attempt at being a good wife, a good mother to their two children, a good daughter and a proud member of both SLWG and the HWWG. She also plans to continue honing her skills while writing the *Getting to Know* interview column in the quarterly *Scribe Newsletter*, working with Randy Manning and Jest Entertainment to spread the word and bring laughter and good times to all who dare enter a show, and writing creatively on projects with her husband Jeff, who is also an award-winning published writer, and on her own projects perhaps with a second book in the near future. And hopefully one day with any luck, to be an acknowledged screenwriter, maybe even a director ...or at least a consultant on a set! That's all, nothing big!

"I don't particularly relish the limelight and choose to avoid the camera. Rather, I prefer to have my work performed by others who can help bring the heart and soul of my story to life; where an entire audience is not only entertained while watching, but is moved to another level by the words I have written; where they can identify with and feel right down to the core of their very being; that's what it's all about..."

You can visit the Heartland Women's Writers Guild website to find out more about Meg and their book at www.geocities.com/orchidsinthecornfield or contact Meg directly at either spakable@htc.net or meg@jestmurdermystery.com.