

## SLWG Member Spotlight: *We're pleased to present...*

### Doris L. Mueller



**SLWG Member Since 1995**  
**2008 SLWG Member of Distinction**

**Doris L. Mueller** (pronounced Miller) has been a teacher and professor at every level from kindergarten through graduate school. Among other courses, she has taught college-level writing courses and Children's Literature.

Doris has won many honors and awards including Parsons-Blewett Scholarship and a Dissertation grant. She's been listed in *Personalities of the West and Midwest*, *Who's Who of Women of the World*, and *Who's Who in Education*. Doris took second place in Missouri Writers' Guild Best Juvenile Book contest for *Small One's Adventure*, 2004; also for *M. Jeff Thompson: Missouri's Swamp Fox of the Confederacy* (Best Book about Missouri, 2008).

Along with being a member of St. Louis Writers Guild, Doris is a member of Missouri Writers' Guild, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and is affiliated with Phi Theta Kappa.

Doris has numerous articles and books published. Educational Articles: "Teacher Questioning Practices in Reading," *Reading World*, December 1972; "Flowcharting: An Aid to Instructional Planning," *Missouri Schools*, May 1983; "Seven Simple Steps to Storytelling," *Church Educator*, September 2002. Fiction: "Color Me Invisible," *Clubhouse*, Fall 1996; "Finders, Keepers?" *Evangelizing Today's Child*, January-February 1997; *Small One's Adventure* (picture book), All About Kids, 2003; *Marryin' Sam* (middle grade novel), Publish America, 2005; *The Best Nest*, (picture book), Sylvan-Dell, 2008. Nonfiction: "Watching the Polar Bears," *Nature Friend*, January 1996; "The Visit," *Today's Christian Woman*, September-October 1997; "A Puzzling Idea," *Once Upon a Time*, Fall 2007; *M. Jeff Thompson: Missouri's Swamp Fox of the Confederacy*, University of Missouri Press, 2007. Other: Poems; puzzles in *Partners*, *Guideposts for Kids*, *Discovery Trails*, *On the Line*, et al; meditations in *Devotions*, *The Secret Place*, *Upper Room*, et al.

Doris and her husband, Jack, live on a small lake outside of Fenton. They have one grown son and two grandsons.

## ABOUT DORIS' BOOK



*Small One's Adventure* is a picture book that tells the story of an elephant calf who wants to hurry and grow up. In a misadventure at the African waterhole, she gets into trouble that's a little bigger than she can handle by herself, and she learns that maybe she doesn't have to grow up quite so fast.

A review in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* stated that "the realistic pictures complement Mueller's down-to-earth fable, one that other independence-craving small ones will appreciate."



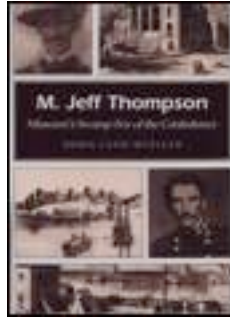
*The Best Nest* is a retelling of an old English folktale that relates how the magpie tried to teach the other birds to build good nests. But the birds tended not to want to listen to "the whole story" and, one after another, flew away without completing the lesson. While children are enjoying the story and the colorful illustrations, they will also be learning the importance of listening skills.

One reviewer said of this book, "To say I'm impressed is an understatement. Everything about this book and the online resource enhances its value for bird education, habitat awareness, and adaptations, as well as listening skills."



*Marryin' Sam* is targeted to middle-grade readers. It tells the story of twelve-year-old Samantha (Sam) who, with the help of her best friend, embarks on a campaign to find a wife for her father. Although her father rejects each of her candidates, eventually Sam's efforts are rewarded—but in an unanticipated way.

One young reader's honest reaction to the book was, "I especially liked it because it was nice and short."



*M. Jeff Thompson: Missouri's Swamp Fox of the Confederacy* is a biography of an irrepressible general who was a hero to his men and an ongoing source of frustration to the Union Army. A book for young adult as well as older reader, the story of Thompson's life is an exciting, action-based adventure tale.

The *Midwest Book Review* called it "an accessible and engaging biography of Southeastern Missouri's Jeff Thompson, who waged a guerrilla war materializing out of the countryside to attack Union forces and evade traps set for them by northern commanders."