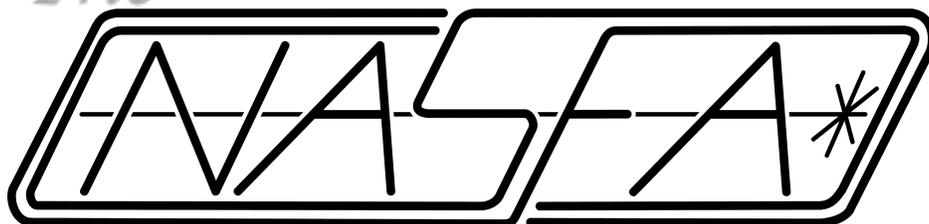


The



Shuttle
October 2015

The Next NASFA Meeting is 3P Sunday 18 October 2015 during Con†Stellation

Concom: all day Thursday 15 October 2015, load-in at the hotel

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be held during Con†Stellation XXXIII, at the con hotel. At press time, the meeting is scheduled for **3P Sunday 18 October 2015** in the **Heritage Salon** of the **Four Points by Sheraton Huntsville Airport**. That room is on the second floor, to the left of and behind the hotel bar. All convention attendees will be welcome at this meeting.

OCTOBER PROGRAM & ATMM

The October program will be a “convention postmortem” conducted at the time and location above. The October After-The-Meeting Meeting will be subsumed by the convention Dead Dog party.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The final Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting will be the setup day for the convention—**Thursday 15 October 2015**. Pickup of all the con “stuff” (for the Art Show, Con Suite, etc.) will take place at their various storage locations, with move-in to the hotel taking place a bit later in the day. There will presumably be setup of the Art Show display setup that afternoon and evening.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- November—A presentation by Jamie Marchant, a new au-

thor, about her books. She may also do a reading.

- December—Christmas Party at Sue Thorn’s house. The gathering will start at **2P**. Please bring food to share and your favorite drink. If you wish to participate, please bring a *single gift* (**\$10–15 range**) for the gift exchange.

FUTURE ATMMs & PARTIES

Mike Kennedy is tentatively hosting the November After-the-Meeting Meeting. In December, the ATMM will be subsumed in the Christmas Party.

Stay tuned for possible info on a New Year’s Eve party.

We need volunteers for 2016 ATMMs (especially the first few months).

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

After October, all remaining 2015 NASFA meetings are currently scheduled on the normal 3rd Saturday. The December meeting will be incorporated in the Christmas Party at Sue Thorn’s house (see above).

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the *usual* repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

Continuing Our 35th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

News & Info	2	DeepSouthCon News	4
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Deadline for the November 2015 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 2 November 2015

JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFANs who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANs are both *encouraged* and *welcomed* to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

LARRY SMITH FUNDRAISER

Larry Smith (of Larry Smith Books) and Joni Dashoff were involved in a pretty serious automobile accident while returning from Dragoncon in early September 2015. Dashoff was apparently unhurt, but Smith has been in and out of the hospital (in, as of this writing) since the accident—in addition to totaling the van he uses to transport books for his business and losing some amount of merchandise.

Marcia Kelly Illingworth set up a GoFundMe campaign <www.gofundme.com/7f4cq7p8> to help Smith with medical expenses as well as helping with business losses not covered by insurance. The initial goal of \$10,000 was reached easily, but has been incrementally increased to \$30,000 as the medical issues have lingered and the difference between the insurance settlement on the van and the actual cost of replacing it became apparent. At this writing, the drive was about \$5000 short of its latest goal.

SPECIAL VIDEOS FROM SASQUAN

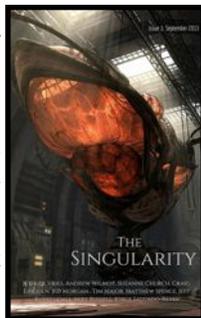
Sasquan, the immediate past Worldcon, had NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren as a Special Guest while he was aboard the International Space Station. Lindgren made several videos there, to be used during the Opening Ceremony, Hugo Awards Ceremony, and Closing Ceremony. Sasquan has made those available online at <sasquan.org/2015/10/kjell-lindgren-videos>.

CARTOON ART MUSEUM SHUTTERED

San Francisco's Cartoon Art Museum <www.cartoonart.org> closed its doors—at their then-current location—in early September 2015. According to *The Guardian* <tinyurl.com/GdnCtnMusClo>, the sharply rising rent for commercial space in downtown San Francisco was the killing blow. The museum website reports they are looking for new space.

NEW SF/F MAGAZINE

The first issue of a new British sf/f magazine—*The Singularity* <www.thesingularitimemagazine.com>—has hit virtual bookstands. Issue 1 is now available from Amazon UK and Create Space <www.create-space.com/5693286>. The latter prices the trade paperback version at \$7.49. Via Amazon UK, the paperback version is £4.99 (no tax) and the ebook (Kindle) version is £1.99 (plus VAT). A bonus short story—“Everything Old,” Andrew Wilmot—can be read free at the magazine's website.



EXPANSION COMING IN SHORT FICTION MARKET

Book Smugglers Publishing <thebooksmugglers.com> has announced that they will begin publishing four speculative fiction novellas annually, in addition to the genre short stores they already publish. The first novellas should see print (or the electronic equivalent) in 2017. Submission guidelines can be found at <tinyurl.com/BkSmgNvla>.

CLARION, BY ANON

The Clarion Foundation <www.theclarionfoundation.org>—which governs the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshops at UC San Diego—“has received a \$100,000 donation from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous.” The donation will help establish an endowment fund to support the workshop.

ROYAL MAIL TO ISSUE STAR WARS STAMPS

The UK's Royal Mail is releasing a new Star Wars themed stamp collection on 20 October 2015. Quite a few options are available for pre-order at <shop.royalmail.com/issue-by-issue/star-wars/icat/starwars>. A dozen different character (from both the light and dark sides of the Force) are represented on various stamps as well as a half-dozen spaceships and other vehicles. Some of the characters are available in sheets while others are apparently only included collectively.



Is the Dark Side sticky?

NASFA Calendar

OCTOBER

- 01–04 Atlanta Game Fest 26—Atlanta GA.
 - 02–03 Handmade & Bound—Nashville TN.
 - 02–04 Contraflow V/DeepSouthCon 53—New Orleans LA.
 - 02–04 Monsterama—Atlanta GA.
 - 04 Last Day of Sukkot.
 - 09–11 SIEGE—Atlanta GA.
 - 10 Cleveland Geekster—Cleveland TN.
 - 10–11 Rocket City Lit Fest—Huntsville AL.
 - 12 Columbus Day/Native Americans' Day/Indigenous People's Day/Día de la Raza.
 - 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
 - 15 Muharram.
 - 15* Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—load in and setup at the hotel.
 - 16–18 Con†Stellation XXXIII: Coma Berenices.
 - 16 Boss's Day.
 - 18* NASFA Meeting—3P, at Con†Stellation.
 - 24 Marble City Mini-Con—Knoxville TN.
 - 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
 - 30–01 Fangcon—Knoxville TN.
 - 30–01 Geek Media Expo—Nashville TN.
 - 30–01 HallowCon—Dalton GA.
 - 30–01 Walker Stalker—Atlanta GA.
 - 31 Halloween.
- ### NOVEMBER
- 01 Daylight Saving Time ends.
 - 02 Día de Muertos.
 - 06–07 PhreakNic 19—Nashville TN.

oftrust.org> as its charity. Matter of Trust creates hair-based products for soaking up oil spills. Shelly was planning to auction off her hair at the con.

Mike S. suggested that Con†Stellation could run a blood drive, although it might not really be practical at the airport hotel.

Con†Stellation 2016’s constellation will be Mensa the table. (Specifically the card table.) Doug announced Con†Stellation guests for 2016: Jody Lynn Nye, Bill Fawcett, and Howard Tayler.

Sam moved to adjourn at 7:02:25P.

The September program was a presentation by Nick Wyck-off, author of *The KaliSun Initiative* and an upcoming sequel. The After the Meeting Meeting was held at the meeting location.

DeepSouthCon News

DeepSouthCon 53 was held in conjunction with CONtraflow V on 2–4 October 2015 at the New Orleans Airport Hilton in Kenner (New Orleans area) LA. Invited guests were Robert Sawyer (Author Guest of Honor), Les Johnson (Author/Science GoH), Julie Dillon (Artist GoH), John Guidry (Fan GoH), and Mark Van Name (Toastmaster). Additionally, Robert Asprin was named as the Memorial Guest of Honor.

With the recent collapse of the previously selected DSC 54 host (2016) there was a bit more business to conduct at New Orleans than would have normally been the case.

DEEPSOUTHCON 54 SITE SELECTION

The former ABC DSC had been chosen to host DSC next year. When this Atlanta-area standalone convention had to cancel, an ongoing Atlanta-area con (JordanCon <www.jordancon.org>) stepped in with what they termed an “emergency bid.” [Full disclosure—Con†Stellation briefly considered doing a similar thing, but we were happy to decide against it when JordanCon’s bid became known. -ED]

Their bid prevailed. DSC 54 will be held in conjunction with JordanCon 8 on 22–24 April 2016 at the Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center in Atlanta GA—just north of the I-285 loop road. Guests include Catherine Asaro (Author GoH), John Picacio (Artist GoH), and John F. Strangeway (Toastmaster).

JordanCon ably hosted DSC 51 just a few years ago; there’s every reason to believe they will do a good job next year.

DSC (AND OTHER) AWARDS

The Phoenix and Rebel Awards are traditionally awarded by DeepSouthCon, given respectively to one or more pros and fans who have done much for Southern Fandom. The Ruble Award is awarded at DSC by Gary Robe (or his designee), *et al.*, to a person who has done much to Souther Fandom. [It should be noted that the Ruble is often, but not always, done in the spirit of good fun—though this year’s award is heavily tinged by sadness. -ED] Additionally, CONtraflow initiated their own Fleur de Fan Awards this year, in pro and fan categories. The winners are:

- Phoenix Award****Diana Rowland** and **Robert Asprin** (posthumous)
- Rebel Award****Frank Sciotta**, and **Michael Scott**
- Rubble Award**.....**The Force of Gravity** for **taking away Ned Brooks so recently** [Ned died recently after falling while making roof repairs. -ED]
- Pro Fleur de Fan**.....**Toni Weisskopf**
- Fan Fleur de Fan****Area 51** and **Walter M. Scott**

DEEPSOUTHCON 55 SITE SELECTION

The site for DeepSouthCon is selected 2 years in advance, so in addition to the “emergency” selection of DSC 54 (see above) there was a bid for DSC 55, to be held in 2017. There were two bids; the winner was a bid to hold the con in conjunction with ConGregarate 4. Information for ConGregarate 3 is available at <www.congregate.com>. The DSC is expected to be held in July 2017 in High Point NC though the exact date has not been announced.

The losing bid—to hold the con in conjunction with Concave (<concaveky.org> Bowling Green KY, late February)—has reportedly announced that they will be bidding for the 2018 DSC.

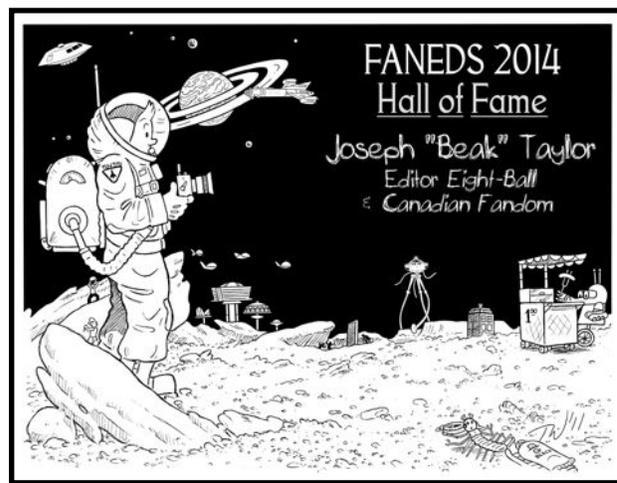
Awards Roundup

FANED AWARDS

Winners of the 2015 Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (aka the Faned Awards) were announced at VCON 40 <www.vcon.ca>, held 2–4 October 2015 at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond (Vancouver area) BC.

Anyone is eligible, as long as they contribute to Canadian fanzines. Winners receive a certificate; organizer R. Graeme Cameron is also working on creating a trophy—based on a sculpture by Eric Chu (designer) and Lawrence Prime (sculptor). This year’s winners and runners up are:

- Fan Artist****Taral Wayne**
- 1st runner-upJean-Pierre Normand
- 2nd runner-upTeddy Harvia
- Fan Writer****Dale Speirs**
- 1st runner-upR. Graeme Cameron
- 2nd runner-upFelicity Walker
- LoC Writer**.....**Lloyd Penney**
- 1st runner-up.....Sheryl Birkhead
- 2nd runner-upMurray Moore
- Canadian Fanzine****BCSFazine**
- 1st Runner-up.....*Space Cadet*
- 2nd runner-up*Opuntia*
- Hall of Fame**.....**Joseph “Beak” Taylor**,
Eight-Ball/Canadian Fandom



Certificate art by Taral Wayne

GAME OF THRONES WINS BIG AT EMMYS

The Emmy Awards were recently announced at both a televised primetime ceremony and a previously held non-televised “Creative Arts” presentation. Genre works, in general, did not do well, but *Game of Thrones* (HBO) tore up the place taking home 12 trophies (8 in the creative arts categories). The prime-

time wins were in the **Drama Series, Supporting Actor in a Drama Series** (Peter Dinklage), **Directing in a Drama Series** (David Nutter), and **Writing in a Drama Series** (David Benioff and D. B. Weiss) categories.

Creative Arts wins were in the **Make-Up for a Single-Camera Series** (Non-Prosthetic), **Single-Camera Picture Editing for a Drama Series**, **Production Design for a Narrative Contemporary or Fantasy Program** (One Hour or More), **Sound Editing for a Series**, **Sound Mixing for a Scripted Series**, **Special Visual Effects**, **Stunt Coordination for a Drama Series**, and **Casting for a Drama Series** categories.

ELGIN & DWARF STAR AWARDS

The Science Fiction Poetry Association <www.sfpoetry.com> has announced the winners of the 2015 Elgin Awards (for speculative fiction poetry publications). Categories are Chapbook (10–39 pages of poetry) and Book (40+ pages of poetry). The books/chapbooks must have been published in either 2013 or 2014. The winners and runners up are:

Elgin Book Award*Sweet Poison*, Marge Simon and Mary Turzillo (Dark Renaissance Books, 2014)

2nd place*Dark Roads: Selected Long Poems 1971–2012*, Bruce Boston (Dark Renaissance Books, 2013)

3rd place*Mourning Jewelry*, Stephanie Wytovich (Raw Dog Screaming Press, 2014)

Elgin Chapbook Award*Wolf Skin*, Mary McMyne (Dancing Girl Press, 2014)

2nd place*Seti Hits Paydirt*, David C. Kopaska-Merkel (Popcorn Press, 2014)

3rd place*If the World Were to Stop Spinning*, David Clink (Piquant Press, 2014)

The winner and runners up for the Dwarf Stars Award (for a speculative poem of 1–10 lines) have also been announced by the SFPA. They are:

Dwarf Star Winner“abandoned nursing home,” Greg Schwartz (*Tales of the Talisman* volume 9, #3)

2nd place“Princess: A Life,” Jane Yolen (*Mythic Delirium* April–June 2014)

3rd place“The Square Root of Doppelgängers,” Robert Borski (*Star*Line* volume 37, # 2)

COPPER CYLINDER & SUNBURST AWARDS

The Sunburst Award Society <www.sunburstaward.org> has announced the winners of the 2015 Copper Cylinder Awards <coppercylinderaward.ca> and the Sunburst Awards. The former are members’ choice awards “for Canadian literature of the fantastic, selected by members of the Sunburst Award Society.” The latter are juried awards “for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic.” Sunburst winners receive a cash prize of \$CDN1,000. The winners of the 4 awards are:

Adult Copper Cylinder*The Back of the Turtle*, Thomas King (HarperCollins Publishers, 2014)

Young Adult Copper Cylinder*The Door in the Mountain*, Caitlin Sweet (ChiZine Publications, 2014)

Adult Sunburst Award*The Back of the Turtle*, Thomas King (HarperCollins)

Young Adult Sunburst Award*Tin Star*, Cecil Castellucci (Roaring Brook)



Copper Cylinder Award (Peter Halasz and Rebecca Simkin) and Sunburst Award Medal

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD

The Washington Science Fiction Association <www.wsfa.org> has announced that the 2015 **WSFA Small Press Award** was won by “**Jackalope Wives**,” Ursula Vernon, (*Apex Magazine* #56, January 2014). The ceremony was at Capclave 2015 <www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave15>, held 9–11 October 2015 at the Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg in Gaithersburg (DC area) MD.



GWC CONTEST WINNERS

Amazing Stories <amazingstoriesmag.com> has announced the winners and runners up in their inaugural Gernsback Writing Contest (for sf short stories). The full process is described on their website at <tinyurl.com/ASGWC1>, but in the end they ended up with 3 winners and 7 runners up. Each of this top 10 will receive 6¢/word on publication in a forthcoming anthology while the top 3 will receive a bonus 6¢/work (limit \$120) prize money. The 3 winners are:

- “**Lost Phoenixes**,” Stuart Barton
 - “**Size of the Fight**,” Matthew Downer
 - “**Penny of Tharsis Montes**,” Sean Monaghan
- The 7 runners up are:
- “A Clean Start,” James Harper
 - “Parental Guidance Recommended,” Vince Liberato
 - “Bob the Hipster Knight,” Jeremy Lichtman
 - “The Sounding Cataract,” Stephen Power
 - “How Gaia and the Guardian Saved the World,” Alex Shvartsman
 - “The Mesmerist,” Karen Skovmand
 - “Awake the Snorting Citizens With the Bell,” Trent Walters



CÓYOTL AWARDS

The Furry Writers’ Guild <furrywritersguild.com> has announced the winners of the 2014 Coyoatl Awards <coyotl awards.org> (styled as “Recognizing Excellence in Anthropomorphic Literature”) during RainFurthest 2015 <www.rainfurthest.org/2015>, held 24–27 September 2015 at the Seattle Airport Hilton in Seattle WA. The winners are:

Novel*Off the Beaten Path*, Rukis

Novella*Huntress*, Renee Carter Hall

Short Story*Jackalope Wives*, Ursula Vernon

Anthology*Abandoned Places*, TarlHoch, ed.

HARVEY AWARDS

Winners of the 2015 Harvey Awards <www.harveyawards.org>—sponsored by the Baltimore Comic-Con <baltimore comiccon.com> and voted on by comics creators—were announced at the 2015 Baltimore Comic-Con, held 25–27 September 2015 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore MD. The winners are:

Writer**Mark Waid**, *Daredevil*, Marvel Comics

Artist**Fiona Staples**, *Saga*, Image Comics

Cartoonist**Terry Moore**, *Rachel Rising*, Abstract Studios

Letterer**Jack Morelli**, *Afterlife With Archie*, Archie Comic Publications

Inker**Danny Miki**, *Batman*, DC Comics

Colorist**Dave Stewart**, *Hellboy In Hell*, Dark Horse Comics

Cover Artist**Fiona Staples**, *Saga*, Image Comics

New Talent**Chad Lambert**, *Kill Me* from *Dark Horse Presents*, Dark Horse Comics

New Series*Southern Bastards*, Image Comics

Continuing or Limited Series.....*Saga*, Image Comics
Syndicated Strip or Panel.....*Dick Tracy*, Joe Staton and Mike Curtis, Tribune Media Services
Anthology.....*Dark Horse Presents*, Dark Horse Comics
Graphic Album, Original.....*Jim Henson's The Musical Monsters of Turkey Hollow*, Archaia/BOOM! Studios
Graphic Album, Previously Published.....*Mouse Guard: Baldwin The Brave and Other Tales*, Archaia/BOOM! Studios
Single Issue or Story.....“*Breaking Out*,” *Dark Horse Presents* #35, Dark Horse Comics
Domestic Reprint.....*Steranko Nick Fury Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. Artist's Edition*, IDW
American Edition of Foreign Material.....*Blacksad: Amarillo*, Dark Horse
Online Comics.....*The Private Eye*, Brian K. Vaughan, Marcos Martin, and Muntsa Vicente
Special Award for Humor in Comics.....*Chip Zdarsky, Sex Criminals*, Image Comics
Biographical, Historical, or Journalistic Presentation..*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Ultimate Visual History*, Andrew Farago, Insight Editions
Original Graphic Publication for Young Readers.....*Lumberjanes, BOOM! Box* (BOOM! Studios)
Special Award for Excellence in Presentation.....*Little Nemo: Dream Another Dream*, Andrew Carl, Josh O'Neill, and Chris Stevens, Locust Moon Press

NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS NOMS

The longlists for several categories of National Book Awards have been announced <www.nationalbook.org/nba2015.html>. In the Fiction category, there was one book of genre interest—*A Cure for Suicide*, Jesse Ball (Pantheon Books) In the Young People's Literature, books of genre interest include: *Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*, M.T. Anderson (Candlewick Press)
Walk on Earth a Stranger, Rae Carson (Greenwillow/HarperCollins Children's Books)
Bone Gap, Laura Ruby (Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books)
Challenger Deep, Neal Shusterman (HarperCollins Children's Books)
Nimona, Noelle Stevenson (HarperTeen/HarperCollins Children's Books)

CANOPUS AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the inaugural Canopus Awards for Excellence in Interstellar Writing—sponsored by the 100 Year Starship organization <100yss.org>—have been announced. Winners will be announced during the 100 Year Starship Public Symposium, to be held 29 October–1 November 2015 at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara CA. By category, the finalists are:

Canopus Previously Published Long-Form Fiction Noms (>40,000 word)

The Creative Fire, Brenda Cooper (Pyr)
Other Systems, Elizabeth Guizzetti (48fourteen)
InterstellarNet: Enigma, Ed Lerner (FoxAcre)
Coming Home, Jack McDevitt (Ace)
Slow Bullets, Alastair Reynolds (Tachyon)
Aurora, Kim Stanley Robinson (Orbit)

Canopus Previously Published Short-Form Fiction Noms (1,000–40,000 words)

“Twenty Lights to the Land of Snow,” Michael Bishop (*Going Interstellar*)
“Dreamboat,” Robin Wyatt Dunn (*Perihelion* 7/12/2015)
“The Waves,” Ken Liu (*Asimov's* December 2012)

“Stars that Make Dark Heaven Light,” Sharon Roest (*L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future*, Volume 31)
“Race for Arcadia,” Alex Shvartsman (*Mission: Tomorrow*)
“Homesick,” Debbie Urbanski (*Motherboard* 9/24/2015)
“Planet Lion,” Catherine M. Valente (*Uncanny* May–June 2015)

Canopus Original Fiction Noms (1,000–5,000 words)

“His Holiness John XXIV about Father Angelo Baymasecchi's Diary,” Óscar Garrido González
“Groundwork,” G. M. Nair
“The Disease of Time,” Joseph Schmidt
“Project Fermi,” Michael Turgeon
“Everett's Awakening,” Yelcho
“Landfall,” Jon F. Ziegler

Canopus Original Non-Fiction Noms (1,000–5,000 words)

“Why Interstellar Travel?,” Jeffrey Nosanov
“Finding Earth 2.0 from the Focus of the Solar Gravitational Lens,” Louis Friedman and Slava Turyshev

Feeding Time

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 17

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: PieEyedDragon's adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends somewhat less time “on camera” in this adventure, but still plays a major part.]

The young photographer gets up and dusts himself off. He grabs a couple of folding chairs and walks over to the witches.

Peter Ap Hugh: Ladies, I suspect you would like to sit down.

Ginny: Oh, bless you! My feet are killing me!

Hermione: Mine, too (sitting down).

Ginny: You look vaguely familiar.

Peter: I started working for the *Daily Prophet* a month before you took leave. I've got three older sisters, and each has two small children.

Ginny: *Charlie!* Are you all right?

Charlie: Just bumped, Ginny. That little bugger is *strong*. Why didn't the spells work on him?

PED: Because his kind are somewhat magic-resistant. If you folks will excuse me, I must go and relieve myself. I'm having to eat a lot just now because of all these healing injuries. I've already taken fish from the lake, here. I don't want to starve out the resident predators when other options are available.

Charlie: What... do you mean, Other Options?

PED: You are in no danger. I will slide into the lake and transfer to other waters. The Azores, probably, or maybe the Canary Islands. After stuffing myself with fish, I'll be back in about an hour. Stay with these ladies, Petty. I will not abandon you.

Petty: Thank you!

The dragon goes up the hill on three legs, dragging her tail. Reaching the familiar shed, she deposits another few hundred-weight of granulated dung. Then, she crawls over to the lakeshore and disappears into the dark waters.

A figure of a robed young man appears; running toward the shed from up-hill. He is carrying a bucket and a scoop. He stops and begins taking samples of the fresh fertilizer.

Luna: Oh, there's Neville. Would you like to see him? I can go bring him down.

Hermione and Ginny: Yes, please!

After taking the bucket back up to the greenhouses, Neville Longbottom accompanies Luna back. As he gets closer, he

seems to notice what the ladies are doing. He stops and his face gets very red.

Neville: H...hello, Hermione. Hi, Ginny.

Hermione: Come on over here, Neville! Let us see you! We won't bite. (Ouch! Somebody does.) How are you, and how's your grandmother?

Neville: All fine, thanks. But I think Gran nearly burst herself when I told her I got this job!

Ginny: *Professor* Longbottom! That has a nice ring to it. Congratulations.

Neville: Associate, please. Professor Sprout wanted me here but they were having to cut back her department. Then, this dragon showed up and dumped a lot of reasons for them to recalculate all their financial decisions. I've missed the professors, here... some more than others. (Rubbing the scars on his face) Some not at all. It seems that some fertilizers can promote growth in business as well as plants. I'd like to thank Luna's new friend.

Hermione: Some fertilizers have long been used by Muggles to blast rocks for mining and road-building. PED says she will be back in a little while, after feeding. I'm done here, Ginny. Please excuse us a moment, Neville.

Neville: S...s...sure thing. (He turns around. Hermione and Ginny discretely adjust themselves and settle their quiet infants back into their perambulators.)

James Potter: Bikkee?

Luna: I'll feed him, Ginny.

Other people have started cautiously trickling back in through the gates. A few wizards come down from the castle. One, carrying a large carpet bag that clanks and rattles like plumber's tools, approaches.

Mr. Hobson (The Unspeakable): Mister Weasley, may I have a moment?

Charlie: Of course, Hobson. What's in the bag?

Hobson: Experimental results. I tried performing a series of Geller tests to "read" the visitor. (He releases the bag, which floats where it is. Opening it, he proceeds to pull out several metallic objects) I started with this baby food spoon, then progressed through copper deflagrating spoon, tea spoon, soup spoon, serving spoon, soup ladle, a *wooden* jelly maker's stirring spoon, and finally this forty-four inch long tool-steel molten metal ladle. Each one now resembles a fist on a stick. The last two would not normally be expected to curl, they would shatter if enough twisting force were applied.

Charlie: They do look quite a mess.

Hobson: This particular beast... or being... seems more properly to be designated not a dragon, but a *drakon* or *wyrm*! Therefore, I think you'll be going back to Romania. This should be a job for my department. Hopefully, without having to call in the Department of Magical Catastrophes!

Charlie: Her droppings are quite non-standard for any dragon. The scent is not very strong, and seems to dissipate rapidly. The remainder bears a very strong resemblance to the product of healthy earthworms in a rich bed of mulch. No muggle gardener would notice anything peculiar; unless he tried to plant something in it. Without it's strong magical signature, I certainly can't tell it from common garden soil.

Neville: Professor Sprout says much the same; when she isn't exclaiming over its possibilities.

Celestina Warbeck: Excuse me. Is my photo shoot finished?

Luna: If you wait until PED gets back, you might get an even better set of poses.

(An older woman, with a cane; has been making her way down from the castle.)

Celestina Warbeck: Professor McGonagall, hello!

Professor McGonagall: Hello Celestina, girls. I've finally finished this years letters to the students. The poor owls! Now, I want to see these babies. Hello, James.

James Potter: (Offers her half a chewed cookie.) Bikkee?

Professor McGonagall: No, thank you.

Luna: Professor, how is professor Trelawney?

Professor McGonagall: She's fine, now. Saint Mungos is releasing her tomorrow. I see that the resident monster has awakened and wandered off. Hello, Petty. I remember you brought me oat cakes at night my first years at school here. How are you?

Petty: Hello, mistress. PED says some of my people have survived, and are looking for me.

Professor McGonagall: Oh? What is this about?

(Hermione and Ginny relate what went on at the rousing of the dragon. As they finish, there is a squeak and a bang from Hobson's bag.)

Hobson: I think she is returning.

— O — O — O —

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.K. Rowling. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letters of Comment

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15 August 2015

I've been bad, and have given myself a lengthy vacation from writing, and instead attended three conventions in three weekends. Time to get off my sitting parts, and get moving. I have with me the July and August issues of the *Shuttle*.

July... winning a walk-on role in a movie or television show is a big event. Some years ago, I won a walk-on role on a show some of you may know as *The Artful Detective*, known here as *Murdoch Mysteries*. I gave that walk-on to Yvonne, and we had the best of days. I can imagine how great a walk-on on the next *Star Trek* movie would be. However, based on the promotional videos, even having a slim chance at the walk-on would be quite expensive.

The local... the Yuck! comment about my job. Well, Sheryl, it's far from the best, but far better than unemployment. And, I have to get up at 5am every day to go to work, and that's worth a Yuck! all by itself. *Murdoch Mysteries* is proving to be one of the more popular television shows on the planet, and it is now shooting its 9th season.

August... Given that the Worldcon in Spokane is due to start in about a week or so, is anyone from Huntsville and area going, and will there be a con post-mortem? With the mess the Sad and Rabid Puppies have made of the Hugos, it's definitely worth a look. This controversy is just downgrading the Hugos in many eyes. There may be records set as to Hugo participation, but I get the feeling this won't be all good.

A shame to see the 2016 DSC cancelled. It's getting tough to find enough people willing to help run local conventions, so getting experienced people to work a regional overlay convention is really tough.

Greetings to PieEyedDragon! You were missed in the July

issue, but here you are in the August issue. I am certain you'd be fine with children. A picture of you with some (well-behaved) children would be a wonder to see. Petty's story goes back to the originators of the four houses of Hogwarts, and it will be interesting to read.

Best I can do right now is sign off and fire it out. Hope everyone's having a great summer, and we are now preparing for a huge steampunk event at Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario September 25 to 27. Should be a complete blast, especially with steampunk bands like Abney Park and Steam-Powered Giraffe there. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

[Well, I took a mini vacation last issue myself, Lloyd—holding over this LoC. Though I didn't have a Worldcon trip report to write or even edit, I did have a lot of info covering that con to pull together. I've never particularly coveted a walk-on role (much less anything more serious) in a movie or on TV. The closest I came was some decades ago at a time I was working backstage on a local production of *Annie*. On closing night, all the crew more-or-less spontaneously decided to take a curtain call alongside the cast members. I strongly doubt the latter (or the director) were pleased, but many of us had put in more time than the cast had, between building sets and working the performances. As you can see elsewhere in this issue, a bid to host the 2016 DSC was put in by JordanCon, so it will be in the Atlanta area as had been planned—albeit not as a standalone con. It was probably the best possible outcome. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead 29 August–11 September 2015
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Despite the best of intentions... 'nuf said. (July and August...)

Sasquan Hugo results—not going *there* either. I expect to see some thoughts about them in the *Shuttle*, but am not going to comment, especially since I was not there. I will say congratulations to the Helsinki win for the Worldcon site—but, while I had intended to get a supposing membership and try to get back on the cycle so I can nominate and vote most years, when I found I would have to pay an extra \$12 just to get paper copies, *that* idea went down in flames. I tried, fruitlessly, to locate a mailing address so I could ask about this but cannot locate one. I'll continue to hunt, but will no longer faunch after the membership (just as I wanted a Sasquan membership—as the first Worldcon out that way—and that didn't happen) and this may be the way it is simply going to be. Ah well, it was a nice long run.

Thank you for running the various lists of award nominations and award winners. I need to figure out a way to get back to reading but cannot afford the time to wade through *drek*—that is what I (used to) had the short list Hugo nominations for. As long as I could, I simply made a copy of the nominations and slowly sloughed my way through them. It looks as if I need to find another strategy!

Hmm—Biloxi Shuckers—without looking both clams and corn come to mind, but I may have that wrong. In either case you are right—what would the mascot look like?

I can, safely, congratulate all the winners of the non-Hugo awards—and even actually as familiar with many of the names.

Does the DSC information mean the convention is canceled or so far, only the one to have been held in May 2016? I don't

believe I have ever been to one, but I do recall reading many reports/comments about various incarnations and it sounded as if many fen had many ghoud times!

I believe Sasquan ended up over 11,000 in membership. I also believe that many (most?) were supporting memberships. It would be interesting to see if it is possible to determine (no wait—I am not going there)... I still have not gotten much from LonCon for my supporting membership, but I keep hoping the program book will eventually arrive. Sigh. It would seem that (can't *really* speak for Sasquan, but in case the trend from recent cons continues) pretty much all the revenue from the supporting membership is net since there is to be minimal to nothing in mailed information. Hmm 5,000 (guess) x \$40 = \$200,000 and no need to have convention facilities to handle the non-attending. I am not at all informed about the financial ins and outs of budgeting, but it seems as if that bodes well for the coffers.

Oh yeah—if I am going to creeb, I ought to compliment when due—this year's live feed for the Hugos was very nice—other than starting at about 11:40pm here and I fell asleep before any of the actual Hugos were awarded. Every year before this has been disjointed and fragmented, so need to say thank you even if I could not manage to stay awake.

I also tried to watch the complete videos of the business meetings—but pretty much nodded off about less than a half an hour of the first installment—but, they were there if you wanted to see what happened.

I look forward to reading more about Petty Officer Bosun. It would appear another branch of the story has begun to unfold!

—have some computer issues that involve both this laptop and my desktop. With any luck (ha!) the next follow-up call from the Apple supervisor tomorrow will check everything and start putting *back* my peripherals and see if everything continues to work fine. In the meantime, I'll take what I can get and see if I can finish this up.

I was toying with getting a supporting membership with Kansas City since Finland seems less likely, until I took a look at the cost there—\$50. Then I went to the WSFS constitution and read what is to be given to supporting members—it says all generally available publications. It does not say *printed* publications. Also, right below it—in a different color (so I'm guessing it was either turned down or removed) is the comment:

1.5.2 The rights of supporting members of a Worldcon include the right to receive all of its generally distributed publications.

1.5.3 Electronic distribution of publication, if offered, shall be opt-in.

It would appear that there is no requirement for a committee to let you know... and no need to opt in to get the electronic version (reading between the lines—let the buyer beware—ask before you join to find out exactly what you will be getting). So, I guess I need to contact KC to see if they will be sending paper-copies. If not, I would be “better” off with the guaranteed paper versions offered by Finland for that extra \$12 (which is only \$2 more than the KC fee). This makes it a lot easier for me to let yet another membership slip away. Ah well, have survived without one for a few years now... and other bills can use the \$20 I had saved up since that is no longer half the fee I need.

Okay... done and... done!

[You have a lot that calls for reply this time around, Sheryl; I'll try to address as much as I can. In two places you address the paper/electronic publications question for Worldcons, as it applies to Supporting members. Yes, a couple of years ago the

prior requirement that electronic pubs be opt-in only was removed from the WSFS Constitution—which leaves it up to each individual Worldcon committee to handle the issue in whatever way it feels best. I think the Helsinki con is the first to explicitly charge for paper pubs (€10), which in theory should allow them to keep down membership costs a bit. It will be quite a few years, in my opinion, before any Worldcon tries to get rid of paper pubs entirely (though perhaps keeping things like braille, or low-vision specially copies). I do expect that very quickly the large majority of committees will make members opt in to paper pubs, whether or not there's any extra fee associated. As for the Biloxi Shuckers, I'm sure that's *oyster* shuckers in this neck of the woods. Their logo makes that quite clear—I just can't imagine either a walking oyster or someone wearing an apron and carrying the knife appropriate to be the shucker. (The short blade of a typical oyster shucking knife doesn't make it much of a weapon against anything larger than an oyster, but having a mascot carrying a weapon would be *uncool* in these risk-averse times.) As I mentioned in the reply to Lloyd's first letter RE the 2016 DSC, another host has taken over. Even if that hadn't happened, the host for 2017 was decided at this year's DeepSouthCon so there would have been at most a single gap year. I ran membership stats for Sasquan in last month's issue, though it's possible they've been refined slightly since then. The divide between Supporting and Attending members was almost exactly 50/50, totaling 11,648 as of the con report last month. (The "Long List" <www.smofinfo.com/LL/TheLongList.html> reports 11,742, but that probably comes down to counting one-day memberships differently.) So yes, there's a reasonably big income associated when Supporting member numbers explode, but the total budget of a Worldcon is around \$1,000,000 or more (LonCon 3 was more like £1,000,000) so even a pretty big bump in Supporting memberships is perhaps not as big a percentage of the budget as you might think. And, that smooth steaming of the Hugo ceremony is an example of costs that have become the norm in part because of many more Supporting members wanting access to aspects of the con. The equipment and hosting costs to do that are non-negligible. -ED]



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4 October 2015

Thank you for the September *Shuttle*. I know I am past the deadline, but I have been busy with a huge steampunk convention in southern Ontario (the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition in Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario), and there are times you've just got to let the grey cells coalesce back into a semi-functional brain again.

Always good to hear about the CanSmof scholarships. Wish they were around when I was going to SMOFcon. They sure would have helped, but now, I am no longer on any convention committees. It was very seldom that I was able to see copies of *On Spec* at conventions or at our local SF bookstore. Now, thanks to that lack of funding from an organization who has supported it in the past, now it's an e-magazine alone. That doesn't usually help with circulation.

I really have nothing to say about the Spokane Worldcon... I doubt we will ever go to another one. However, given that storm over the Puppies, I hope fandom will be ready to deal with them should they try their creative nonsense again in 2016.

Time to wrap it up...when the next issue arrives, just plaster what I might write beneath it. Take care, see you with the next one.

[I hope you enjoyed the Exposition; apparently so if it was taxing on your gray cells. I'm trying to squeeze this issue out less than a week before Con+Stellation XXXIII here in town, for which I am webmaster and on a couple of program items. Magazines come and go, though there're some gloom-and-doomers who currently insist there's a large shakeout coming in mags that carry short sf/f/h/whatever. There is a lot of churn—perhaps more than many folks currently alive are used to—but it seems there are quite a few more short fiction markets (albeit not all paying very well, if at all) than there were a decade or two ago. So, it seems to me that overall things are looking up. -ED]



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