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InFlow MAGAZINE

INSPIRE INFORM EMPOWER



PageTurner Author Interview

Meet:

Andrew Miller

Tell us about yourself in one short sentence. Also tell us three things we won't find in your Author bio.

I am a retired biologist with many interests: creative writing, stained glass, volunteering in prisons, cats, gardening, reading, and writing. I have a PhD in biology and have worked most of my career on endangered freshwater species. In 1994, I began working with stained glass and now teach introductory classes at the LeMoyne Art Gallery in Tallahassee, Florida. When I was five years old, my older brother was brain-damaged in an accident, so I have great empathy for the less fortunate.

What's some of the strongest influences you had while growing up?

My father was a plant physiologist and interested in hiking and camping, which is why I gravitated toward science and the outdoors. My mother was born in Michigan, and we spent many happy summers swimming, boating, and picnicking along northern lakes and rivers. Because my brother lived in our home for many years, I learned from both parents how to deal with difficult situations and that vulnerable people often need constant care.

What or who inspired you to start writing.

In the seventh grade, our English teacher asked us to write an essay about our summer vacation. I wrote about our family trip to Maine, visiting tide pools, eating seafood, and learning about coastal culture. He liked the essay and encouraged me to pursue writing. That stimulated my interest in reading good literature and writing. When I entered college in 1964, I planned to major in English and pursue a career in journalism.

Give us an overview of your writing journey.

I took botany as a freshman in college, taught by a charismatic professor from Coastal Maine. His lectures reminded me of my trip to Maine and my father's career. It was the nineteen sixties, and interest in environmental issues was growing, so I switched my major to biology. During my career, I wrote technical papers while maintaining an interest in literature, fascinated by the essays of Stephen Jay Gould, Annie Dillard, Bill McKibben, and many others. In retirement, I pursued creative writing. I audited classes at Florida State University, studied with a mentor, attended writing workshops, and took online courses. I began to publish my essays and short stories. In 2023, I started as a reader for Mud Season Review, and in 2024, I became their creative nonfiction editor.

Tell us about other interests/hobbies or creative pursuits you enjoy and how they influence your writing.

In 1994, I purchased a broken stained glass window from an antique dealer that needed repair. To learn about stained glass, I took classes, studied craft books, and worked on my own. As my skills improved, I began repairing stained glass windows and lamps for an antique dealer. In 2019, at the advice of a friend, I began volunteering in prison. I started by attending Gavel Club meetings (prison Toastmasters Clubs) and then moved into teaching creative writing. That activity, more than stained glass, influenced my writing.

Anything about this topic I haven't asked that you would like to tell our readers?

Although I loved working as a biologist and teaching, in retirement I pursued other interests.

Where can readers find you and your writing?

See AndrewCMiller.com for information about me and links to my publications.

About Andrew:

Andrew Miller retired from a career that included endangered species research and university teaching. He now lives in north-central Florida, has two children, four grandchildren, volunteers in prisons, works with stained glass, and writes. His wife is a retired psychotherapist and a writer. Andrew is the Creative Nonfiction Editor of Mud Season Review.

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