



## Mendocino Coast Writers Conference News & Updates

**November 2008**

**Connecting Writers to Community for 20 Years**

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**20th ANNIVERSARY 2009 MENDOCINO COAST WRITERS CONFERENCE**

Will be held from July 30 – August 2, 2009 on the College of the Redwoods Fort Bragg Campus. Confirmed faculty include: poet Ellen Bass (*The Human Line*), young adult novelist Gennifer Choldenko (*Al Capone Does My Shirts*), picture book author/artist Ian Schoenherr (*Pip & Squeak*), novelist and short-story author Benjamin Percy (*Refresh, Refresh*), novelist Micheline Aharonian Marcom (*Three Apples Fell from Heaven*), poet Robert McDowell (*Poetry as Spiritual Practice*) along with editor Kathy Dawson (Harcourt) and literary agent Dena Fischer (Manus & Associates). For latest updates check the web at <http://www.mcwc.org>.

**ARTS COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

**The Arts Council of Mendocino County** has honored MCWC with an **Arts Champion Award** in the category of Education, during a ceremony held with the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors on October 28. The Writers Conference is cited for “contributing to the sustained vibrancy of the literary arts in Mendocino County by hosting an annual conference that provides excellent instruction, fosters creative expression, and recognizes literary excellence through a variety of awards and scholarships.”

**MCWC Community Literary News**

Writers Conference Committee member **Katherine Brown** has an essay called “Pearl of a Moment” upcoming November 16 in the St. Petersburg Times <http://www.tampabay.com>.

**Ben Percy** (fiction faculty for Summer 2009 conference) has just won the Whiting Award for writers of exceptional promise. His new novel *The Wilding* is due out from Graywolf in 2009. The title story *Refresh, Refresh* from his second short story collection—about adolescent boys of a small Oregon town whose fathers have gone off to the Iraq War—won the Pushcart Prize and the Plimpton Prize when it appeared in *The Paris Review*.

**Ginny Rorby**, author of *Hurt Go Happy* is back on the Mendocino Coast after a whirlwind book tour, capping it off with a presentation at LitteraLund, the largest children's book festival in Sweden. Ginny is former co-director of the MCWC.

**Young Writers at MCWC**

Allegra Fisher, now a senior at Mendocino Community HS reports that the high school novelists are fully engaged in **November National Novel Writing Month**, also known as **NaNoWriMo**. They will hold a write-a-thon during the weekend of November 15. For more info contact [allegrapof@gmail.com](mailto:allegrapof@gmail.com).