

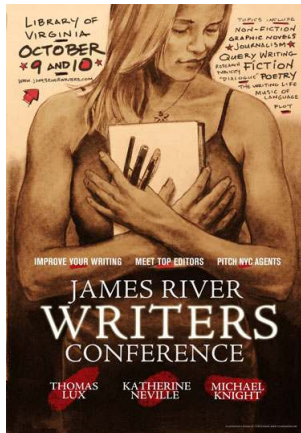


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Seventh Annual James River Writers' Conference
Will Highlight National Literary Speakers Oct. 9, 10***

RICHMOND, Va., July 7, 2009 -- "The biggest and the best," is the shorthand outlook for this fall's seventh annual James River Writers' Conference, according to its prime mover Jason Tesauro, Richmond-based author of *The Modern Gentleman*, and columnist who frequently writes on topics from manners/dating/relationships to wine & spirits.

Set for Oct. 9 and 10 at the Library of Virginia in downtown Richmond, JRW's signature event "has attracted not only top national talent, but will offer our region's fast-growing, vibrant literary community an experience that's sure to yield some new stars over the lettered landscape," Tesauro said.



Headliners will include:

- **Katherine Neville**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Eight* and other thrillers, including her most recent, *The Fire*;
- **Thomas Lux**, author of eleven full-length collections of poetry;
- **Michael Knight**, literary novelist;
- **Lee Boudreaux**, editor of HarperCollins' ECCO imprint; and
- **Karen Lotz**, president and publisher, Candlewick Press.

The conference will also feature one-on-one meetings with literary agents, as well as the popular first-page critique session. "These opportunities have been the spark for a number of successful publishing efforts by attendees in the past," Tesauro said.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to concentrate on the art and business of writing and to rub elbows with a wide variety of published authors and editors.

In addition to major presentations, break-out groups will examine a variety of genres as well as techniques for crafting dialogue and plot, effective research, writing query letters, and finding out how to get published.

Significant support for the conference comes from Dominion, a national energy company headquartered in Richmond, as well as the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Library of Virginia, which makes its lecture hall and break-out rooms available for the conference.

Early registration for the two-day event is \$150. After Sept. 1, registration will be \$175. Registration and further details, including information on hotel accommodations, are available on JRW's Web site – jamesriverwriters.org – and by calling 804-230-4575.

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EDITORIAL CONTACT:

Anne Westrick -- (804) 230-4575, fallconference@jamesriverwriters.org