



Western Writers of America

THE SPUR AWARDS



The Spur Awards, given annually for distinguished writing about the American West, are among the oldest and most prestigious in American literature. In 1953, when the awards were established by WWA, western fiction was a staple of American publishing. At the time awards were given to the best western novel, best historical novel, best juvenile, and best short story.

Since then the awards have been broadened to include other types of writing about the West. Today, Spurs are offered for the best western novel (short novel), best novel of the west (long novel), best original paperback novel, best short story, best short nonfiction. Also, best contemporary nonfiction, best biography, best history, best juvenile fiction and nonfiction, best TV or motion picture drama, best TV or motion picture documentary, and best first novel (called The Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award).

Winners of the Spur Awards in previous years include Larry McMurtry for *Lonesome Dove*, Michael Blake for *Dances With Wolves*, Glendon Swarthout for *The Shootist*, and Tony Hillerman for *Skinwalker*.

WWA also gives the Owen Wister Award each year for lifelong contributions to the field of western literature. Recent winners include Douglas C. Jones, David Lavender, and Max Evans.

2006 Awards Official List

Novel of the West

Spur Winner: *High Country: A Novel* by Willard Wyman (University of Oklahoma Press)

Finalists:

People of the Moon by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear (Forge Books)

A Land of Sheltered Promise by Jane Kirkpatrick (Water Brook/Random House)

Best First Novel

Spur Winner: *High Country: A Novel* by Willard Wyman (University of Oklahoma Press)

Finalists:

***Hombrecito's War* by W. Michael Farmer (Llumina Press)**

A Sudden Country by Karen Fisher (Random House)