

The Berry Pickers

By Amanda Peters

Thursday, April 17

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A four-year-old indigenous girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a community, and remains unsolved for nearly 50 years. The story follows both the child's Mi'kmaq family and the white family which kidnapped her. The book, which was Peters' debut novel, won the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. **Amanda Peters will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

Meet Amanda Peters

In her own words: "I am a woman, a daughter, a sister, an Auntie, a cat mom, a dog mom, a friend, a descendent of a revolutionary war sailor, of accused witches and Mi'kmaq ancestors. A Canadian, a traveler, a wine drinker, an admirer of stained glass, a listener of jazz and old country, a reader of books, and a teller of stories."

She is an associate professor in the Department of English and Theatre at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. She received a 2024 King Charles III Coronation Medal given to those who have made "a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada."

Peters has degrees in political science and public administration and worked for many years in health policy and public administration. She earned a certificate in creative writing from the University of Toronto and is a graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Her most recent book is **Waiting for the Long Night Moon**, a short story collection.

Barnes & Noble Blog Posting

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/amanda-peters-the-berry-pickers/>

Barnes and Noble Interview

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=au_mZR-wKfl&ab_channel=Barnes%26Noble
(40:07)

The Book Report Network Interview

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDDpUmWZEkY&ab_channel=TheBookReportNetwork

(48:55)

Who are the Mi'kmaq?

Mi'kmaq are the largest of the Native American (First Nations) peoples traditionally occupying what are now Canada's eastern Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island) and parts of the present U.S. states of Maine and Massachusetts. Usually pronounced Mig-maw.

In the 2021 Canadian census, 70,640 people claimed M'kmaq ancestry. With the Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot and [Abenaki](#) peoples, the Mi'kmaq make up the Wabanaki Confederacy, a confederation of nations politically active at least from contact with Europeans to the present. You can read more about their history and culture in the Canadian Encyclopedia:

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/micmac-mikmaq>

Coming Up Next

Thursday, May 15

11 a.m.-12:30 pm.

The Secret Lives of Bats: My Adventures with the World's Most Misunderstood Mammals

By Merlin Tuttle

Menacing moonshiners, charging elephants and man-eating tigers couldn't stop Merlin Tuttle from finding and protecting bats on every continent they inhabit. Enamored of bats ever since discovering a colony in a cave as a boy, Tuttle saw how effective photos could be in persuading people not to fear bats, and he has spent his career traveling the world to photograph them. **Author Merlin Tuttle will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

Thursday, June 19

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Westering Women

By Sandra Dallas

Join a wagon train of 44 women fleeing difficult lives, hoping to find husbands in the gold mines of California in 1852. Facing hardships and tragedies, they find unexpected strength

and develop bonds of sisterhood . When their pasts catch up with them, the women protect their own. **Author Sandra Dallas will appear by Zoom to answer questions.**

Thursday, July 17
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Gator Country

By Rebecca Renner

Go inside an undercover operation aimed at catching thieves who raid alligator nests for eggs in this fascinating true crime story. Alligator poaching is a tradition in the wild and wooly Everglades, where trappers have long eluded the law. But is it poachers or real estate developers we need to worry about damaging the environment?

Thursday, August 21
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Shelterwood

By Lisa Wingate

They were called “elf children,” native children forced to flee abusive guardians and live in the Oklahoma woods in order to survive. **Shelterwood** is historical fiction based on a true story, which has echoes of **Killers of the Flower Moon**. In the early 1900s, women’s clubs in Oklahoma stepped up to protect these children and bring public attention to the men trying to grab their land.