



Bookmarks

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WINNERS OF BOOKMARKS' 2018 AWARDS ANNOUNCED

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (September 26, 2018)—At the Opening Welcome Celebration for Authors, Sponsors, and Volunteers at the fourteenth Bookmarks Festival of Books and Authors on September 6, 2018, Bookmarks announced the winners of their three annual awards:

Lauren Davis-Fossa is the 2018 winner of the Bookmarks Authors in Schools Educator Award, which is given to an advocate for reading who inspires students to make life-changing discoveries through books. A media coordinator at Reagan High School, Davis-Fossa has been pivotal in creating a Reagan Book Club for students to gather and discuss books regularly. She also offers a wealth of information about books that students want to read. A longtime volunteer for Bookmarks, she helped create and lead the Teen Advisory Council, which meets monthly and helps Bookmarks in a variety of ways with teen events, young adult authors, and outreach.

John Ehle is the winner of the 2018 Bookmarks Literary Achievement Award, which is given to someone whose writings and/or service represent artistic achievement and meritorious contributions to community and humanity. Ehle was a great gift to the community and the entire state of North Carolina until his death earlier this year. He was instrumental in founding both the NC School of the Arts and the NC School of Science and Mathematics and is credited with the idea for the statewide initiative North Carolina Fund, a nonprofit established to fight poverty in our state. He is well-known for his 1965 non-fiction work *The Free Men*, which was a first-hand account of desegregation in Chapel Hill. Other books include *The Land Breakers*, which was re-released by Press 53 and chosen as the 2006 On the Same Page selection by Forsyth County Public Library. Kevin Watson, Publisher of Press 53, accepted the award as Ehle's widow, Rosemary Harris, was unable to attend.

Mike Stewart is the winner of the 2018 Debora D. and Victor F. Harlee, Jr. Volunteer Award, which is given to an exceptional volunteer annually. A volunteer for nearly a decade, Stewart has served in every capacity possible at Bookmarks—showing up early and staying late—even taking off a week from his work with the United States Postal Service prior to the Festival to be available to volunteer his time. After Bookmarks moved in 2017, he helped build every staff member's desk, measured and planned for additional shelves and proper storage, hung

pictures, and helped with event after event. He has connected Bookmarks with many new partners and even arranged for a Fun Run, 5K, and 10K that Bookmarks sponsored in late August. He is finishing his fifth year on the Bookmarks' Board of Directors this year.

About Bookmarks

Bookmarks is a literary arts nonprofit organization that fosters a love of reading and writing in the community. The programming connects readers with authors and books and is achieved through the largest annual book festival in the Carolinas to be held September 5–8, 2019; an Authors in Schools program, which reaches 9,000 students annually; and year-round events in their gathering space and nonprofit independent bookstore that opened July 8, 2017. Visit bookmarksnc.org for more information.

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