

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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## **“Writing Nonfiction for Publication” Seminar with NCES Writer-in-Residence Scott Lax 6-Session Writing Seminar Beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Join Scott Lax, award-winning *Northern Ohio Live* Senior Writer, and front-page columnist for *The Sun News*, is presenting a unique course on the art of the publishable essay, column or feature. Scott will teach some of the tricks of the trade that have enabled him to have more than a 95% submission-to-publication rate for the hundreds of essays, columns and features he’s written during his seventeen years as a professional writer.

Scott will work with seminar students on these questions: What makes a compelling nonfiction piece? What do editors look for from essayists, columnists and feature writers? What kinds of topics interest readers? How do you combine your interests with good writing in order to create content that editors want and for which publications are willing to pay?

The answers to these questions are neither random nor based on connections and luck. Students should walk away from this six-week seminar with greater nonfiction skills and an understanding of what it takes to get professionally published.

This seminar series, for adults 18 and older, called “Writing Nonfiction for Publication,” will take place on 6 consecutive Saturday mornings, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, February 28<sup>th</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at NCES’s Solon facility.

The cost for Lax’s six-session series seminar is \$395. Please call or e-mail the office to make payment arrangements by check or credit card. Phone: 440-914-0200; fax: 440-542-1504; e-mail: laurak@northcoasted.com. please make checks payable to North Coast Education Services, Inc., 31300 Solon Road, Suite 1, Solon, OH 44139. Included in the seminar fee will be a hardcover version of Lax’s novel, *The Year That Trembled*, and a copy of Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style*.

NCES, which specializes in Adult Education and Academic Tutoring, among other educational fields, and is now adding creative writing to its curriculum. Founded in 1985, NCES was named one of the Weatherhead 100 fastest growing companies in N.E. Ohio in 2005, '06, '07 and '08. NCES is a 2006, '07 and '08 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Small Business. To learn more about NCES, visit: [www.northcoasted.com](http://www.northcoasted.com).

### **About Scott Lax**

A former professional drummer and businessman, Scott Lax became a professional writer 17 years ago. Since then the Northeast Ohio native has written a commercially-published novel, with a second novel on the way; written a produced stage play; source-written and produced a feature film, now in international distribution; and written hundreds of essays and feature stories for newspapers and magazines. He is currently senior writer for *Northern Ohio Live* magazine and front-page columnist for *The Sun News* (East Side).

Lax has served on the faculty or been a presenter, writer-in-residence or guest teacher at many institutions, including The Western Reserve Writers' Conference, Cleveland's Literary Center, University School, The Cleveland Institute of Art and The Wild Acres Writers Workshop in North Carolina, where he taught "The Novel" in 2007.

He is a recipient of a Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Scholarship in Nonfiction, a Sewanee Writers' Conference Fellowship in Fiction, a 2007 Ohio Excellence in Journalism Award (open essay), and four first-place film festival awards, including Midwest Filmmaker of the Year from the Cleveland International Film Festival in 2002.

"The Scott Lax Prize in Creative Writing," a full-ride scholarship to The Wild Acres Writers Workshop, was established in 2008 by the Hub City Writers Project in Spartanburg, South Carolina; the first year's award winner will be named in March 2009.

His first novel, *The Year That Trembled*, was called "powerful" and named one of 1998's best works of fiction by the *Denver Post*, and was called "articulate with passion, humor and heartbreak" by the *Midwest Book Review*.

To read more about Scott Lax's teaching, go to <http://scottlax.com> and click on the "Teaching" link.