



Paul Colt Navajo Fry Bread by Melissa Elsmo. Courtesy of Melissa Elsmo

WWA members cook up recipes for fund-raising book

By Johnny D. Boggs

Anyone who has attended a WWA convention will likely understand Erin Turner's reservations about publishing a cookbook of recipes from WWA members.

"I was concerned at first that the recipes submitted would all be for cocktails," says the editorial director of TwoDot Books, "or banquet-style rubber chicken or Pop Tarts."

Yet TwoDot, an imprint of Globe Pequot, still teamed with WWA to bring *The Western Writers of America Cookbook: Favorite Recipes, Cooking Tips, and Writing Wisdom* to kitchens across the globe, with royalties going to WWA fund-raising efforts.

A national launch is scheduled June 22 at the Homestead Dinner and Auction during the WWA convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Turner, by the way, was pleasantly surprised to learn that WWA's "talented authors are also talented cooks."

Or, she quips, "at least they're talented at getting other people to cook for them and then those nice folks allowed them to submit their recipes for this cookbook."

Sherry Monahan, WWA's immediate past president who co-edited the cookbook with WWA vice president Nancy Plain, calls the book a great introduction to WWA and its members.

"We've shared recipes, stories and writing tips that show just how diverse we really are," Monahan says. "Some are more diverse than others. Only Bill Groneman would come up with recipes that use the term 'OTI (Other Than Italians),' where the cook gets more liquor than the recipe does, and one that calls for a golf ball."

Which explains why Turner might have been a bit worried.

"Seriously," Turner says, "there are some great cooks and enthusiastic foodies among the members of Western Writers."

The Western Writers of America Cookbook (\$19.95) contains 150 recipes, anecdotes and stories from WWA's contributing writers/chefs.

"Their suggestions for dinner and for writing make this a great cookbook," Turner says, "for book clubs and book lovers."