

## **“BILL BUSHNELL’S SHORT LIST OF SOME MAINE AUTHORS WORTH NOTING”**

This is a deliberate short list of Maine authors worth reading, prepared by book reviewer Bill Bushnell who has read and reviewed some, all, or just one of the books by these folks.

### **Mystery – Amateur Sleuths (by author – sleuth)**

#### **Gritty amateur sleuths** (expect some violence and blood spatter)

Paul Doiron – game warden  
Julia Spencer-Fleming – Episcopal priest  
Gerry Boyle – newspaper reporter  
David Rosenfelt – lazy lawyer  
Sarah Graves – home repair maven  
D.A. Keeley – Border Patrol agent  
Darcy Scott – botanist

#### **“Cozy” mysteries** (with little violence, no gore)

Vicki Doudera – real estate agent  
Karen McInerney – innkeeper  
B.B. Haywood (husband/wife team, Beth and Robert Freeman) – blueberry farmer  
Jennie Bentley – home renovator  
Katherine Page Hall – caterer

### **Mystery – Professional Detectives**

Kate Flora – Portland homicide detective Joe Burgess  
Al Lamanda – doughnut-eating ex-cop John Bekker  
Tess Gerritsen – Rizzoli and Isles series  
James Hayman – homicide detective team

### **Funny Authors** (Humor is underrated and underappreciated, deserving of recognition)

Cathie Pelletier – one of America’s premier “comic novelists”  
Van Reid – Moose Path League series of 1890s bumbling gentlemen who solve thorny problems armed only with good manners and naïve enthusiasm  
Earl Smith – the dam committee series (there’s a pun there)

### **Science Writers** (folks who write lucidly about science subjects in narrative the rest of us can understand and enjoy)

Hannah Holmes  
Bernd Heinrich  
Dana Wilde

### **Contemporary Fiction Authors**

Miriam Colwell – wrote “Contentment Cove,” one of the best novels about Maine’s class conflict  
Jim Nichols – “Hull Creek”  
K. Stephens – “The Ghost Trap”

Elizabeth Strout – 2008 Pulitzer Prize for “Olive Kitteridge”  
Courtney Sullivan – “Maine”  
Christina Baker Kline – “The Orphan Train”  
Douglas Kennedy – “Five Days”  
Bill Roorback – “Life Among Giants”  
Richard Ford – “Canada”

**Contemporary Non-Fiction Authors**

Susan Conley – “The Foremost Good Fortune”  
Colin Woodard – “American Nations”

**History, Non-Fiction Authors**

George Daughan – American naval history  
Lincoln Paine – maritime history  
James L. Nelson – pirates, naval history, American Revolution  
Tilar Mazzeo – World War II Paris, the Hotel Ritz