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**Contact:**

Co-Chairs Paul Wiesner <paulwiesner@hotmail.com> or Janet E. Lewis <jelewis1@wisc.edu>  
Odyssey Con • PO Box 7114 • Madison WI 53707  
608-772-4455 • oddcon9@oddcon.com • <http://www.oddcon.com>

## **Year of the Cow at Local Science-Fiction Convention**

Bovine themes will be much in evidence at Odyssey Con 9, a science-fiction convention set to occupy the Radisson West Hotel the weekend of April 24-26.

“As a Wisconsin con, we’ve always traded on cow imagery,” explained Co-Chair Janet Lewis. “We’ve featured holstein spots on all our publicity and Spotted Cow brew at our parties. Since this is the Chinese Year of the Ox and one of our guests of honor is Emma Bull, it seemed only natural to go with ‘Galactic Year of the Cow’ as this year’s theme.”

OddCon, as it’s known informally, is a general-interest SF and fantasy convention, which features discussions of literary and media forms of the genre, as well as the science in science fiction. It will also include an art show; a dealer’s room; role-playing, board, and LAN gaming; a costume contest; a charity auction; and general socializing. It will have an entire track of programming, provided by FilmCon’s Eric Larson, devoted to the craft of movie and television production, emphasizing the CW series *Supernatural*.

Guests of honor are Bull, author of the acclaimed urban fantasy *War for the Oaks* and many other works; and Wisconsin writer Patrick Rothfuss, author of the hugely praised *The Name of the Wind*. Both *Wind* and Bull’s Western pastiche *Territory*, a fantasy set in Wyatt Earp’s Tombstone, Arizona, were finalists for the 2009 Nebula Award for Best Novel.

Fan Guest of Honor is artist Georgie Schnobrich, whose whimsical pointillist works have been the visual trademarks for all nine OddCons to date, including this year’s Cowager Empress. But flat art is subsidiary to her main claim to fame as a confectionary artist in her preferred medium of ephemeral but delicious cake frosting.

Also participating in OddCon will be a number of other writers, including Alex Bledsoe, Richard Chwedyk, Matt Forbeck, Sarah Monette, Will Shetterly, Joan D. Vinge, and Chris Welch; editors, such as James Frenkel; artists; scholars like Tolkien expert Richard C. West; and game designers.

The Radisson is at 517 Grand Canyon Drive near West Towne. Full-weekend memberships are available at the door for \$45 (adults), \$35 (students), or \$25 (youth). A one-day membership is \$25 (anyone). More information is available at [www.oddcon.com](http://www.oddcon.com).

Both honored writers have local ties. Bull is a graduate of Beloit College. Her 1991 post-apocalyptic novel *Bone Dance* was nominated for the Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy Awards. Rothfuss, a Madison native, won the Writers of the Future competition in 2002.

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The following published authors will be appearing at Odyssey Con 9. Their writing is in a variety of types, including short story, novel, poetry, comics, non-fiction, criticism, games, and gaming fiction. Those with an asterisk \* next to the name will be doing a reading of some kind during the convention.

F. J. (Jeannie) Bergman \*  
Alex Bledsoe  
Bill Bodden  
Richard Chwedyk \*  
Lori Devoti \*  
Moondancer Drake \*  
Adrian Drake  
Matt Forbeck  
Roland Green \*  
Sarah Monette \*  
Ruth Nichols \*  
Jeff Preston  
Mark Rich \*  
James Roberts \*  
Fred Schepartz \*  
Will Shetterly \*  
Kathryn Sullivan \*  
Joan D. Vinge  
Jason Waltz  
Chris Welch

The convention will also include musical performances by Guest of Honor Emma Bull and Madison's own Art Paul Schlosser on Friday evening. Saturday evening will feature the local band Salaam Shalom and Chicago's Brian Miskelley with his "Thee Bluebeard" talk and variety show.

More info about Emma Bull:

<http://emmabull.blogspot.com/>  
<http://emmabull.wordpress.com/about/>

More info about Pat Rothfuss:

<http://www.patrickrothfuss.com/>

Downloadable images of Bull, Rothfuss, and the Cowager Empress are available at:

<http://www.oddcon.com/press.php>

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