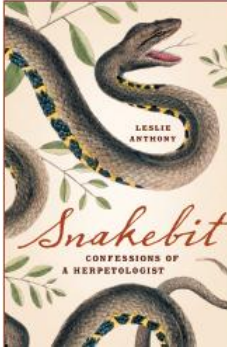


**Leslie Anthony expounds on the five reasons we think his  
BREAKING INTO MAGAZINES  
seminar at the Whistler Readers and Writers Festival,  
Saturday, Sept 13, 4pm, \$25, is too compelling to miss...**



**1. His new book *Snakebit* started as a magazine article, and is best described as *The Far Side* meets *The Orchid Thief*.**

“When I look at the *Far Side*, I see myself, or at least, I see everyone I know. I was aware that I spent my career lockstep with these pith-helmet-clad nerds in the jungle, but I never considered myself one, which admittedly is a weird optic.”

**2. He wanted to be a butterfly scientist, but in the end, snakes won out.**

“I was way into butterflies as a kid. My grandfather had a coffee-serving tray he’d made with monarch butterflies and sulphurs and a sprig of vegetation pressed between glass in his basement, and I think that got me fascinated. I was immediately lobbying my parents to get me the gear to pin up my own butterflies, which they didn’t, so I improvised. Somehow, I found that you could make a jury-rigged pinning-board out of cardboard. You’re supposed to kill them in a jar with mothballs in the bottom. But I hated the smell of naphthalene, so I figured out a way to spray them with deodorant, and they died. Whenever I went on vacation, I’d have these pin-boards spread all over the hotel room, covered in butterflies that had been killed with my deodorant. Eventually I got over the need to display organic life forms.”

**3. He’s on the run from a 5 pound fish.**

“The first time I caught what I thought was a big fish, I was 12. It was a 5 pound bass and it was the biggest thing I’d ever caught. I chased that fish all summer, caught it and lost it three times. It was a big battle. So I made my dad get it stuffed. And it’s the most garish, god-awful looking thing. My youngest brother now owns the family cottage and is renovating it. He just asked me to get rid of the fish. I was so hurt. No matter how horrific it might be, it’s part of the iconography of the cottage. What do they want me to do? Bring it here? And by the way, it looks tiny now.”

**4. He’s bringing pictures to a Reading.**

Anthony will share the stage with Whistler’s 2008 Writer in Residence, Candace Jane Dorsey and award-winning crime writer William Deverell on Saturday, September 13, at Millennium Place, from 8pm. He may or may not bring snakes, a taxidermied fish, or his deodorant stick as part of his presentation. He will not be bringing copies of his new book, which is not released until October. He will be bringing pictures for those who prefer their stories to be illustrated.

**5. He reckons travel writing is a good racket.**

“I had spent every spare cent I ever had traveling, and I always returned to work broker than shit. I started keeping journals and wanting to write about what I was doing, and through convoluted circumstances, I ended up in some magazines. By the time I was in grad school, I was making

more money on the side from writing than I was from teaching. And I'd found a way for someone else to pay for my traveling and skiing. Don't let any travel writer tell you that they're not happy about that advent."

With discussion, examples and hands-on writing exercises, Anthony will lead a seminar on **Breaking Into Magazines**, on Saturday September 13, at 4pm, Millennium Place. On the pinning board: what to keep in mind as you try to sell your work in the busy periodical market, how to write queries and get an editor's attention, understanding newsstand philosophy and the kind of stories that sell, and building working relationships.

Whistler-based **Leslie Anthony** is a former Managing Editor of *POWDER* magazine, Creative Director of *SKIER* magazine, and current Editor of award-winning *Peak Performance* magazine. He claims to have bribed his way onto the masthead of a number of North American magazines and blames Canada's lax copyright laws for the appearance of his ski writing in a dozen publications in nine countries and seven languages every year. He also writes broadly on other travel, adventure and science subjects ranging from imaginary monsters to fossil smuggling. He is the author of *Snakebit: Confessions of a Herpetologist*.

To book tickets for this session, visit [www.theviciouscircle.ca](http://www.theviciouscircle.ca).

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The author is available for interviews. Contact Leslie Anthony at [docleslie@telus.net](mailto:docleslie@telus.net) or phone (604.906.0234)

For more information about *Snakebit: Confessions of a Herpetologist*, visit

<http://www.douglas-mcintyre.com/book/9781553652366>