

## Meet the Author of The Firebug of Balrog County

Enter Search Words Search

### About the Event

About the Book

About the Author

Reviews of the Book

Format of the Event

### Event Details

Date: Monday, February 15th, 2016

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Mankato East High School, Library Media Center

Live Stream:

<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

Admission: FREE

### Event Sponsorship

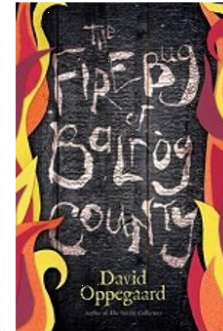


Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English in partnership with Mankato East High, School Library Media Services.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

### Meet the Author David Oppegaard



Come and delve into David Oppegaard's most recent young adult book entitled *The Firebug of Balrog County*. Although his previous novels have been described as "a blend of science fiction, literary fiction, horror, and fantasy," the themes in this book are more true to life -- death, grief, love, and legends as explored from the perspective of an adolescent boy growing up in a small town.

Whether or not you have read the book, don't miss this opportunity to meet the author. The event is scheduled for **Monday, February 15th at 3:30 p.m. to be held at Mankato East High School in the Library Media Center.**

Live streaming of the event can be accessed here -- <http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

At the end of the event, a drawings will be held to give away a copy of David Oppegaard's book.

Hope to see you there!

### Directions

Mankato East High School

2600 Hoffman Road

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-387-5671

Use MapQuest to get directions.

Last Updated: Feb 8, 2016 1:35 PM | URL: <http://libguides.mnsu.edu/firebugofbalrogcounty> | Print Page

Login to LibApps



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

## Meet the Author of The Firebug of Balrog County

Enter Search Words

Search

### About the Event

### About the Book

### About the Author

### Reviews of the Book

### Format of the Event

### Event Details

**Date:** Monday, February 15th, 2016

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mankato East High School, Library Media Center

**Live Stream:**

<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

**Admission:** FREE

### Event Sponsorship



Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English in partnership with Mankato East High, School Library Media Services.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

### The Firebug of Balrog County



[The Firebug of Balrog County Homepage](#)

[Read an excerpt of the book](#)

[Minnesota Public Radio \(MPR\) Books Thread Interview](#)

[Firebug Mixtape by Mack D. \(main character of the book\)](#)

[Recipe for Firebug Pie](#)

### Check Out the Book



**The Firebug of Balrog County** by David Oppegard

Call Number: MSU,M Memorial Library--ERC Juvenile Collection--Lower Level PZ7.1.O67 Fi 2015

ISBN: 9780738745435

Publication Date: 2015

A firebug has woken inside my heart. Dark times have fallen on remote Balrog County, and Mack Druneswald, a high school senior with a love of arson, is doing his best to deal. While his family is haunted by his mother's recent death, Mack spends his nights roaming the countryside, looking for something new to burn. When he encounters Katrina, a college girl with her own baggage, Mack sets out on a path of pyromania the likes of which sleepy Balrog County has never seen before.

Also available for check out at the following libraries:

Mankato East High School Library Media Center -- [call number]

Mankato West High School Library Media Center -- [call number]

Last Updated: Feb 8, 2016 1:35 PM | URL: <http://libguides.mnsu.edu/firebugofbalrogcounty> | [Print Page](#)

[Login to LibApps](#)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

## Meet the Author of The Firebug of Balrog County

Enter Search Words

Search

[About the Event](#)

[About the Book](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Reviews of the Book](#)

[Format of the Event](#)

### Event Details

**Date:** Monday, February 15th, 2016

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mankato East High School, Library Media Center

**Live Stream:**

<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

**Admission:** FREE

### Event Sponsorship



Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English in partnership with Mankato East High, School Library Media Services.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

### Biographical Sketch



**David Oppegaard**

David Oppegaard's academic credentials include a B.A. in English Literature from St. Olaf College and a M.F.A. in Writing from Hamline University. When not writing novels, which he has been doing since the age of fifteen, he has worked as an optician, editorial assistant, trash picker, library circulation assistant, creative writing teacher, and a child minder on a British cruise ship. Currently he works at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities as a Principal Office and Administrative Specialist.

#### Interviews with the Author--Discussing *The Firebug of Balrog County*

David Oppegaard, Author of *The Firebug of Balrog County*, on Naps and Playing With His Cat (Adventures in YA Publishing, 9/13/2015)

St. Paul author takes on burning grief in "Firebug of Balrog County" (Minnesota Public Radio, *The Thread*, 10/1/2015)

#### Other Interviews with the Author

David Oppegaard on Getting Published (OnceWritten.com, 6/10/2010)

Horror Author Interview: David Oppegaard (Ginger Nuts of Horror, 3/18/2014)

Interview and Giveaway with David Oppegaard (The Book Smugglers, 2/19/2009)

Interview with David Oppegaard (Eric Beetner, 4/3/2014)

Interview with David Oppegaard (T.J. Redig, 7/9/2014)

Meet the Writer Interview: David Oppegaard (This Is Horror, 3/18/2014)

Too Good to Bury: An Interview with David Oppegaard (BlueInk Review, 6/19/2013)

Last Updated: Feb 8, 2016 1:35 PM | URL: <http://libguides.mnsu.edu/firebugofbalrogcounty> | [Print Page](#)

[Login to LibApps](#)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

## Meet the Author of The Firebug of Balrog County

About the Event

About the Book

About the Author

Reviews of the Book

Format of the Event

### Event Details

**Date:** Monday, February 15th, 2016

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mankato East High School, Library Media Center

**Live Stream:**

<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

**Admission:** FREE

### Event Sponsorship

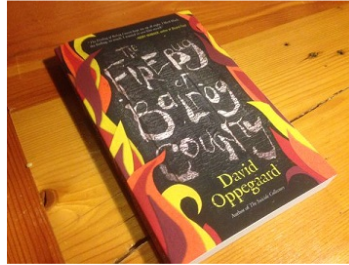


Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English in partnership with Mankato East High, School Library Media Services.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

### Book Reviews



Book Reviews

#### Online Reviews from Readers

[Amazon](#)

[Goodreads](#)

[Handheld Dream](#)

[San Francisco Book Review](#)

#### Reviews from Professional Journals

Feriano, Patricia. "The Firebug Of Balrog County." *School Library Journal* 61.7 (2015): 96-97. *Education Source*. Web. 8 Dec. 2015.

"The Firebug Of Balrog County." *Kirkus Reviews* 83.1 (2015): 64. *Library & Information Science Source*. Web. 8 Dec. 2015.

"The Firebug Of Balrog County." *Publishers Weekly* 262.25 (2015): 142. *Library & Information Science Source*. Web. 8 Dec. 2015.

Rapacki, Sean. "Oppegaard, David. The Firebug of Balrog County." *Voice of Youth Advocates* Aug. 2015: 66. *Educators Reference Complete*. Web. 8 Dec. 2015.

- APA and MLA Citation Formats for Book Reviews

Last Updated: Feb 8, 2016 1:35 PM | URL: <http://libguides.mnsu.edu/firebugofbalrogcounty> | Print Page

[Login to LibApps](#)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

## Meet the Author of The Firebug of Balrog County

Enter Search Words

Search

### About the Event

### About the Book

### About the Author

### Reviews of the Book

### Format of the Event

### Event Details

**Date:** Monday, February 15th, 2016

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Mankato East High School, Library Media Center

**Live Stream:**

<http://portal.stretchinternet.com/mnsuadmin/>

**Admission:** FREE

### Event Sponsorship



Sponsored by Library Services and the Department of English in partnership with Mankato East High, School Library Media Services.



Live streaming of the event funded by Maverick Visual Productions and Library Services.

### Overview



After welcoming attendees and introductions, the author will read a passage of his choosing from the book. A few questions will be asked about the author's writing process, followed by questions about the book. Questions about future books and activities will conclude the discussion with the author. Throughout the question and answer period, attendees are encouraged to ask their own questions of the author. The event will end with a drawing for a copy of David Oppegaard's book.

### Questions About the Writing Process

1. How long did it take you to write the book and then how much longer did it take to get it published?
2. What is your preferred routine for writing?
  - Do you sit down at a desk for a period of time or do you wait until the mood strikes you?
  - Do you have a designated area for writing?
  - Do you write in longhand or use a computer or laptop?
  - What research do you usually conduct either before or during the writing process?
3. You have previously written books for adults in such genres as science fiction, horror, fantasy, as well as a blending of all three. What inspired you to write young adult fiction?
4. What aspect of writing is the most challenging for you?

### Questions About the Book

1. Is the storyline of the book based on real events that happened in your life? If so, how have those experiences colored your life and in turn your writing?
2. How did you go about developing the various characters in the story?
  - What did you take from your personal experiences and using creative license incorporate it into a character's persona?
  - What other types of inspiration did you draw upon to develop characters in the story?
  - Grandpa Hedley is a fascinating character. He seems to know more than he let's on and in some ways he is an archetype. In other words, he's peculiar. Could you tell us a bit about the construction of that character and his importance in Mac's life?
3. Fire is an integral component of the story. Why use fire as opposed to something else?
4. In the midst of all that's going on in the story, there's a romantic story line. How do you see Katrina fitting into Mac's character trajectory? How did she occur to you?
5. If you could go back and change anything, would you do so? If so, what would you change? (If possible, no spoiler)
6. Did you ever consider a different ending to the story? (If possible, no spoiler)
7. After readers have finished the book, what questions would you like them to ponder?

### Questions About Future Books

1. Do you have another book that will be published in the near future?
2. What are you working on now?

