

BOOK BEAT

Fantasy yarn was 20 years in the making

BY CINDY SCHAEFER
Correspondent

“Vrenessbith: Awakening” (Speurach Press) is the story of a faerie born to protect the Highlands before Scotland came to be. She teaches men and women how to preserve the hills and when these same men and women are drawn into a war they are told they cannot win, Vrenessbith fights by their side for four generations and ultimate victory.

The saga is the creation of author **E. Gale Buck**, who says it is more than fantasy. “It is a story of passion, romance, struggles to survive, small victories, big defeats ... ‘Vrenessbith’ is a story of life.”

Buck has played the Great Highland bagpipes for more nearly 50 years, beginning with the N.C. State University Pipes and Drums. “In 1998, I suffered a frozen shoulder and went to physical therapy at Duke University,” he says. “This was a painful and tedious process. I found relief from the agony of therapy by developing the story that later became ‘Vrenessbith.’” The story was re-awakened in 2010 when he joined a writers’ group and he spent six years developing “Vrenessbith.”

Buck, who lives in Raleigh, is a founder of Raleigh’s Village Storytellers and Front Porch Stories. “Vrenessbith” will be released this month.