



SPARE MULE



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
Vol. 12, No. 3 www.nfsps.com/mo AUGUST 1, 2010

Strophes, the national newsletter is available online at
<http://www.nfsps.com/> Click Strophes online.



DAVID CLEWELL, Missouri State POET LAUREATE will speak **Saturday** evening.

There are to be four panel members, none of who will know the author of the poem. The author of the poem will be revealed at the convention.

The **Friday** speaker is being supplied by the foundation grant from Southwest.

(SEE THE LAST TWO PAGES FOR DETAILS)

LOCAL CHAPTERS of MSPS

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN –Bolivar
- CRAWFORD COUNTY BOMBADILS-- Cuba
- HOWELL COUNTY BARDS—West Plains
- KC METROPOLITAN VERSE—K C
- LEBANON POETS' SOCIETY--Lebanon
- ON THE EDGE--DeSoto
- POETS & FRIENDS--Springfield
- SECOND TUESDAY--Bolivar
- SWIP POETRY CHAPTER—St. Louis
- THE WRITE PLACE – Independence

(Chapter Presidents are asked to send in meeting times and places to the Spare Mule for publication. Add this also to the state website is also recommended.)

Anyone interested in further information about THE MISSOURI STATE POETRY SOCIETY may contact PRES. BILLY ADAMS at badams0523@esagelink.com or phone 636-337-0523.

Contact with Spare Mule editor should be via mopoetry@mchsi.com with Subject: Spare Mule

MO STATE POETRY SOCIETY STATE CONVENTION SEPT. 24-25 CUBA, MO

The convention will be held at the Wallace House in Cuba, 605 W. Washington St.

There are only two motels that were willing to block rooms and give a rate, and those are:

Motel 6--- [573-885-0100](tel:573-885-0100) at \$63.00/night with mention of the Group Name

Best Western --- [573-885-7707](tel:573-885-7707) \$69.95/night with full breakfast

The other local hotel/motels are:

Wagon Wheel--- [573-885-3411](tel:573-885-3411)

Super 8 --- [573-885-2087](tel:573-885-2087)

There is a car show going on that weekend and the motels are filling up very quickly, so prompt reservations with a credit card are very important.

THE CONVENTION SPEAKERS are as follows;

PAUL WILLIAMS from Santa Barbara, CA, for **Friday** evening.

Saturday morning, panel discussing the critique of a poem.

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LEE ANN RUSSELL who received 3rd honorable mention for "Sweet Thing." in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Iowa Award,

ALSO for LEE ANN RUSSELL in Professional Photography at the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield, MO:

2nd place in special "Transportation" category
3rd place in Animals, Insects
3rd place in Country
3rd place in Nature, Sky
HM in Nature, Closeup

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM JUDY YOUNG
Hello!

I have LOTS of great news! My ninth book *The Missouri Reader* (Sleeping Bear Press) just released! *The Missouri Reader* has something for kids K-4: a rebus fable about a stubborn mule, poems, a short story about a school bully, biographies, and nonfiction. It even has a chapter book called "Dogwood" and a play in which the characters travel back in time! Don't stop reading yet! I have more great news:

The Lucky Star is a 2010/2011 MO Show Me Award Nominee!

- *Minnow and Rose* is a 2010/2011 PA Keystone to Reading Book Award Nominee!
- *Minnow and Rose* is also a 2010/2011 AL Camillia Book Award Nominee!
- *Minnow and Rose* also won the 2010 Storytelling World Award!

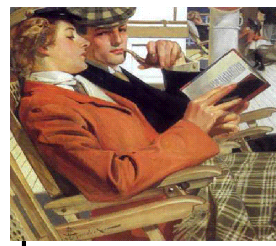
I've just opened up a Judy Young Books Fanpage on Facebook where you can get updates about my books, awards, speaking events, etc. Just go to my website or the facebook page link

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below my signature in this email and sign up to be a fan! Please forward this to all the teachers at your school so they can all keep up with author updates through facebook!

As you know, I travel all over the country speaking at schools and educational conferences. If you are involved with having author events for schools, lit fests or with professional conference planning, please keep me in mind as a guest speaker.

Happy Reading!
Judy Young

POEMS BY MSPS MEMBERS**On the Road**

(Senryu By John J. Han (OE)
impatient driver
zooms by me
then gets stuck at the red light

rush hour
one red light
red lights all the way

speeding driver caught
other drivers pass by
sighing in relief

police—
we hire them so that
they can police us

a blonde tailgater
leaves me with a honk
not with a smile

*

*

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SPARE MULE**Going to Wichita**

(By Claudia Mundell, recent new member-at-large from Carthage, MO)

Wheels rolling to Wichita
 We pass fields of thumb-sized corn.
 Two leaves, like moth wings on each plant,
 Flutter in hot breeze, begging for moisture.
 As we cross the state line,
 Fields become green, vibrant as funeral grass.
 Spring wheat of Kansas promises good yield-
 If rain comes soon.

The ribbon of road pulls us into the Flint Hills;
 We face a sherbet sunset, apricot and raspberry,
 While traversing land undulating like a rocking
 sea.

Brown stalks of prairie grass, stiff as goat hairs,
 Winterized and dry stand on the shoulders.
 Small fires intermittently smudge the horizon,
 Ranchers burn off winter, making way for
 spring.
 Barbed wired fences, tightened like braces on
 teeth,
 Stretch between Osage Orange fence posts
 Or limestone pillars dug out of the plains.

Ponds are half normal size, look thirsty for rain.
 Creeks barely flow, exposing flat rocks in their
 banks
 Precision-layered like artichoke leaves.
 A few wildflowers interrupt the harmonious hues
 With neon shades of Oz yellows and blues,

While hills and washes lift and fall,
 Working Midwestern soil same as centuries ago,
 New highways move through the landscape,
 Skipping business districts and neighborhoods,
 Now making some ghost towns.

Eternal land leans out effortlessly
 To meet the edge of sky.
 A drive across this ground comforts.
 Wipes away stress, calms heart beats,
 Synchronizes our inner rhythms with nurturing
 prairie.

AUGUST 1, 2010**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MO Poetry Slam Springfield Presents:
 The 2010 Individual World Poetry Slam
 Qualifier

Featuring Poet Matthew Mercer
 and Special Musical Guest Devlin Pierce

August 19th at Nathan P. Murphy's
218 South Campbell Avenue
Springfield, MO 65806-2048
[**\(417\) 863-1909**](tel:4178631909)

Tickets Only \$5
(non-smoking, 18+ or accompanied by parent)

Audience participation is encouraged.
JUDGE - WATCH - COMPETE

***Doors @ 7pm**
***Feature Poet Showcase**
***Individual World Poetry Slam Qualifier**
***Special Musical Guests!**

This event is a qualifier for the 2010 Individual
 World Poetry Slam (iWPS) that will be held
 October 13 - 15th, in Philadelphia, PA.

Rules for iWPS Qualifier:
**Any poet that has participated in three or more
 MO Poetry Slam Springfield Slams since August
 2009 are eligible to qualify.**

**Round 1 - All poets may read a poem of 1 minute
 in length**
**Round 2 - All poets may read a poem of 4
 minutes in length**
**Round 3 - All poets may read a poem of 2
 minutes in length**
**Round 4 - All poets may read a poem of 3
 minutes in length**

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- * Scores are cumulative.
- * First round order is by random draw.
- * In subsequent rounds the order is highest scoring poet goes first and then down the list.
- * Ties for first place will be settled by a tie-breaker additional round determined by the bout manager
- * The first 10 poets to sign up at the door **may** compete. (Poet sign up starts at 6:30pm)
- * All participants will also be required to pay the \$5 cover fee
- * Each poem must be of the poet's own construction.
- * If the poet goes over time (plus a ten-second grace period), points will be deducted from the total score.
- * The poet **may** not use props, costumes or musical instruments.
- * If winning poet is unable to attend iWPS, the runner up will move into the representative slot.

MOPoetry Slam Springfield will pay the winners iWPS application fee and try to help the winning poet with trip expenses.

Winning poet will still be subject to some financial obligations toward travel costs, boarding and food.

Winning poet MUST become a Poetry Slam Incorporated (PSi) member to participate at iWPS.

Please visit PSi at

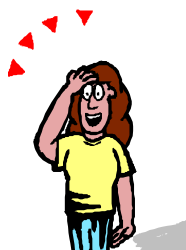
http://www.poetryslam.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106&Itemid=53 for more information about membership.

Email MOPoetry for more information at

mopoetry.slam@gmail.com

* * *

Summer's
Dog Days are
here



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POETS AND FRIENDS 2010 POETRY CONTEST

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1 2010

CATEGORIES:

1. FREE VERSE POEMS Any Subject 40 lines/fewer
 2. FORMAL STRUCTURED POEMS Any Subject 40 lines/fewer
Any classical form such as sonnet, triolet, rhyming couplets, etc. Form must be named.
 3. CONTEMPORARY FORM POETRY Poet's Choice 40 lines/fewer
Modern form or theme poetry.
 4. HUMOROUS POEMS Poet's Choice 40 lines/fewer
 5. HAIKU or SENRYU 5-7-5 syllables
Haiku-Nature
Senryu-Man & Nature
 6. P & F MEMBERS ONLY! Poet's Choice 120 lines/fewer
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Missouri State Poetry Society
Summer Contest 2010

Deadline: Postmarked September 1, 2010

Format: Submit two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left hand corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right hand corner of one copy. If you are a member put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address. Put "Non-member" if you are not.

Limits: Poems may be 40 or fewer lines. They may be unpublished or previously published if the poet retains the rights to the poem. Poets may enter each category as many times as they wish. No poems will be returned.

Categories:

1. Rhymed verse or blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter), any subject, serious or humorous.
2. Free verse, any subject, serious or humorous.
3. Humorous verse, any subject.

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4. Any form, summer subject, serious or humorous.
5. MSPS members only. Poet's choice any form (including open-field, shaped, or concrete poetry), any subject, serious or humorous.

Fees: Non-members pay \$1.00 per entry. Members pay \$1.00 for two entries except for Category 5 in which they pay \$1.00 per entry. Make money order or check payable to MSPS and mail to

Michelle Martin
P. O. Box 1776
West Plains, MO 65775

Include an SASE or your e-mail address on a 3X5 index card for a list of the winners.

Prizes: \$25, \$15, \$10, and three honorable mentions in each category.

Membership: Those who do not belong to one of our local chapters who wish to join Missouri State Poetry Society, pay the \$13 annual member-at-large fee and enter the contests by paying a member have reduced contest fees. See Membership Application at www.nfsps.com/mo

2010 MSPS Convention Schedule

September 24-25, 2010

Friday schedule

6:00 p.m. – registration

7 p.m. – welcome by MSPS president Billy Adams and host chapter president Dawn Harmon

7:10 p.m. – Introduce guest speaker Paul Willis, Mark Tappmeyer

8:15 p.m. – break, Book signing by Paul Willis

8:30 p.m. – door prizes and read-around

Saturday schedule

8:00 a.m. – Board Meeting, Registration

9:00 a.m. – welcome by MSPS VP Michelle Martin

9:05 a.m. – workshop, Critique and edit of poem

10:05 a.m. - break

10:20 a.m. – door prizes, read-around

12:30 p.m. – lunch, MSPS secretary Nancy LaChance presiding, VP Michelle Martin announces Summer Contest winners.

Honorary Lifetime Member presentation by Velvet Fackeldey

2 p.m. – welcome by MSPS treasurer Bill Lower

2:05 p.m. – Business Matters: reports

2:20 p.m. – Introduction of guest speaker by MSPS President Billy Adams

2:22 p.m. – Comments and reading by David Clewell, Missouri Poet laureate.

3:20 p.m. – break, book signing by David Clewell

3:35 p.m. – door prizes, read-around

4:30 p.m. – adjournment

Registration Fee \$20.00, includes lunch. Make checks payable to Dawn Harmon, Last date to register September 1, 2010.

Hotels with special rates for MSPS

Motel 6 with \$63.00/night for MSPS group, 573-885-0100. Best Western \$69.95/night with full breakfast 573-885-7707.

No special rates

Wagon Wheel 573-885-3411, Super 8, 573-885-2087

Reservations must be made by September 1. There is a car show that same weekend so hotels may be sold out if you delay making a reservation.

Convention speakers



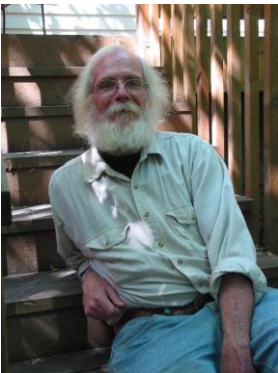
Paul Willis
Professor of English, Westmont
College, Santa Barbra CA

Paul Willis grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, where his father taught biology at Oregon State University. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois, worked as a mountain guide in the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, and earned his graduate degrees in English at Washington State University. For over twenty years now, he has been a professor of English at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, where his wife, Sharon, is employed as a registered nurse. They have two grown children.

Paul is the author of two books of poetry, *Rising from the Dead* (WordFarm, 2009) and *Visiting Home* (Pecan Grove Press, 2008), and one book of creative nonfiction, *Bright Shoots of Everlastingness: Essays on Faith and the American Wild* (WordFarm, 2005). With David Starkey, he is co-editor of *In a Fine Frenzy: Poets Respond to Shakespeare* (University of Iowa Press, 2005).

His poems and essays have appeared in *The Best American Poetry 1996* (Scribner's), *The Best Spiritual Writing 1999* (HarperSanFrancisco), *The Best American Spiritual Writing 2004* (Houghton Mifflin), *The Best Christian Writing 2006* (Jossey Bass), *Verse Daily*, and *The Writer's Almanac*.

Forthcoming from WordFarm in 2010 is his four-part eco-fantasy novel, *The Alpine Tales*.



David Clewell,
Missouri Poet laureate

DAVID CLEWELL is the author of eight collections of poetry—most recently, *The Low End of Higher Things*—and two booklength poems. His work regularly appears in a wide variety of national magazines and journals and has been represented in over sixty anthologies. His honors include several book awards: The Felix Pollak Poetry Prize (for *Now We're Getting Somewhere*), National Poetry Series selection (for *Blessings in Disguise*), and the inaugural Four Lakes Poetry Prize for *Taken Somehow By Surprise*, his new collection forthcoming in Spring 2011 from the University of Wisconsin Press. He is currently the Poet Laureate of Missouri.

Clewell teaches writing and literature at Webster University in St. Louis, where he also directs the English Department's creative writing program.