



SPARE MULE

Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter

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



**New president,
DAWN HARMON,
presides at board
meeting.**

Note from your President:

It is with a sense of awe and wonder that I accept the position as President of the Missouri State Poetry Society. I want to thank each of you for your expression of confidence in me. I hope to serve you well and see our society grow and strengthen in the upcoming year.

Our convention was hosted this past weekend by the Lebanon Poets' Society and I want to take a moment to applaud that group of diligent workers for the wonderful weekend they provided for us. The atmosphere was welcoming, the venue entertaining, and the food superb. A lot of work goes into these annual conventions and once again, Lebanon has done us proud. It was such a joy to see familiar faces and to meet new members and visitors. The convention offers us a great opportunity to get to know one another and spend time with old and new friends alike. I look forward every year to seeing friends I only get to visit with once a year. This year was no different. It was a great time had by all.

In addition to our camaraderie was the wonderful opportunity to hear Thom Satterlee share with us from his collection titled Burning Wycliffe. We also enjoyed a couple of workshops, one lead by Mr. Satterlee and another by Carla Kirchner, assistant professor at SBU in Bolivar, MO. If you were not able to join us you missed some great exercises in writing and some fun times sharing our own masterpieces with our short read-around session.

Though I have no intention of re-inventing the wheel, I do want to take a moment to remind all our members of the important role each of us play in the life and success of our society. It is through our promotion of the society that the world at large, or at least the state of Missouri, is reminded that we exist. I'm sure many of you have had the experience of hearing of a group and realizing that once a long, long time ago you had heard of them and simply forgotten until someone mentioned them to you again. I don't want to see our group become the forgotten society. We are a great group, and there are some great thinkers and writers out there that deserve the opportunity to join with us and be a part of something so wonderful. It is our responsibility to make sure we do more than just attend our monthly meetings and occasional poetry readings. It is up to each and every one of us to let it be known that we are proud members of a fabulous group of people who would welcome new members at any time. A great way to do this is to take the initiative to print off the contest rules when they are published on our website and hang those up in our local communities. How will non-members ever know about these if we are not taking the steps to tell them? And our youth....let's not forget our youth!!! So many of us began our writing in our early years when as young adolescents we were looking for ways to express ourselves.

(Continued on page 2)

(President's Note continued ☺)

We cannot neglect our youth and ever hope to have a younger generation to pass our society's baton to. I hope you will each take part in making your communities and your local schools aware of the great opportunities we offer our youth through the Youth Poetry Contest offered each year. If you do not feel like you know enough about this, I welcome you to read up on it on our website. There is great potential in every fledgling poet and I hope you will help me promote these contests to your schools and local organizations and extend these great opportunities to the kids who will fill our seats in the future.

The National Convention is coming up so mark your calendars now. The dates will be June 13-16, 2013, in Albuquerque, NM. Watch for more information in our upcoming Spare Mule publication in January.

Again, I want to thank you all for the awesome opportunity to serve as your President. I hope to serve you well. Dawn Harmon

CHAPTER REPORTS

Kansas City Metropolitan Verse Chapter Report 9/12/12

KC Metro Verse awarded its' first annual scholarship to Edward Pendleton. He attended *Writing for Love, Money, and Immortality*" at UMKC. We received a wonderful letter of thanks for providing this opportunity.

KC Metro Verse has published Volume 6, 2012, Anthology. It is available through Pres. Brenda Conley at brendaconley12@aol.com for \$12.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

Two members, Kay Klinkenborg and Deanna DeLong have published their first book of poetry, *Crumb Quilt Poems*. This book is available through Kay at kayklink@yahoo.com for \$15.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

Our group submitted an entry to the *Save The Frogs* poetry contest. It was a mini quilt with the poem stitched onto the fabric. An interesting discussion followed regarding the correlation between art and creative writing.

Crawford County Bombadil Chapter Report:

This past year has brought many opportunities for us to practice our writing skills with the many and varied writing exercises our President provides us with. Though we cannot meet with all our members on a regular basis, we are able to receive these exercises via email and share our outcomes the same way. We have a few members from out of state and are so proud to have them as a part of our group.

This year the Crawford County Bombadils were represented at our state convention by our President, Dawn Harmon, who was then named the new MSPS President. We are so proud of her! She has returned with new exercises for us to try at our next meeting.

One of our members, Kayla Harmon, has taken up the practice of writing Flash Fiction. She has enjoyed doing this and we are all very excited to see where she goes with it. Also, Morgan Stiller-Harmon is still plugging away at her novel, with well wishes from all of us. They continue refining the fine art of writing poetry even while expanding their horizons.

The Bombadils would like to extend a welcome to anyone who wishes to join us to take part in our monthly writing exercises. These are done via email so it does not matter where you live, you will still be able to take a part in our group. There are just a couple of months while our president is making the magic of GRIST come to life that she is not able to send out exercises to us. If you are looking for a way to keep your feet in the water even during your dry periods, consider joining us. If you have any questions, you may contact our President, Dawn Harmon at inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com or by writing to her via snail mail at: PO Box 693, Cuba, MO 65453.

Poets and Friends Chapter Report:

For the past few years we have had members present a monthly challenge to the group. These are presented at the meeting in 5 minutes and usually challenge the members to write a poem in some new poetic form. It helps us all grow and be familiar with a number of different forms that perhaps we have not tried. Sometimes these forms have opened up a whole new avenue for our poetry. At any rate it has definitely added a lot of fun to our meetings.

KUDOS:

From the Missouri State Poetry Society Summer Contest:

Lee Ann Russell

3rd place for "Awakening,"	in MSPS Members Only
1st HM for "Old Books,"	in Rhymed Verse
1st HM for "Time Off"	in Humor
1st HM for "Tranquility"	in Summer Subject
3rd HM for "Finish Line"	in MSPS only
3rd HM for "Bone Weary"	in Free Verse

John Han,	2nd: "To My Daughters"	in Free Verse
John Han,	2nd: "Aging"	in Humor
John Han,	2nd H M "Homecoming: Sijo"	in MSPS only
Velvet Fackeldey,	1st: "Dead Battery"	in MSPS only
Velvet Fackeldey,	2 nd : "The End of The Rope"	in MSPS only
Billy Adams,	1st H M: "Above The Clag"	in MSPS only

**VELVET FACKADAY
presents Lifetime
Honorary Membership to
DON DePRIEST**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GRIST

Letter from the Editor:

I want to congratulate everyone who took part in making our anthology a success again this year! GRIST 2012 had a little over 80 submissions. As always, each poem was a joy to read.

Our greatest difficulty was getting the word out that submissions were being accepted and the due date for those submissions. In an effort to reach everyone, every year, I want to remind you all that when you pay your dues it is imperative that you provide your email address as well as your mailing address to our Secretary. Some

chapters have their presidents submit the dues for the group as a whole. If your group chooses this avenue, please make sure your president knows what email to submit on your behalf. This will ensure my ability to reach you when the call for submissions goes out.

A good rule of thumb is that I will begin accepting submissions for the next issue of GRIST anytime after the turn of the year. So beginning January 1, 2013, if you have a poem you would like to see printed in our next publication, you do not have to wait to send it to me at any particular time. You are welcome to send your submissions, as well as your checks for your copies of the Anthology, anytime after January 1. Checks generally get sent to our Treasurer on a quarterly basis, so keep that in mind when you are balancing your checkbooks as well.

The email address for your GRIST editor is: inafielddaisies@hotmail.com. Any and all GRIST communication should come through that email or my mailing address. I am available all year to answer questions or to look up past submissions so you know you are not repeating yourself from one year to the next. It is only through good communication that we can hope to continue to publish such great anthologies. I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you with a submission next year. Let's make 2013 our best publication ever!

Don't forget, if you purchase your copy of the upcoming GRIST publication prior to the submission deadline, the cost of each book is \$8.75. If you choose to wait to place your order until after the deadline has passed, the copies then become \$10.00 a piece. Past publication copies are always available for purchase as well at the \$10.00 cost. I have copies going back as far as 2006.

I am so proud to be a part of such a great group of creative minds and want to say GOOD JOB, ONE AND ALL for our GRIST 2012 collection. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your editor.

Sincerely, Dawn Harmon, Editor

CORRECTION:

The title of Lee Ann Russell's poem, "Writers' Conferences," was inadvertently left off of her poem on page 65 of the 2012 MSPS publication, *Grist*.



Speaker, THOM SATTERLY, leads Friday evening and Saturday.



ROBERTA PAGE shares poem during read-around

CONTESTS:

Lebanon Poets' Society 6th Annual Poetry Contest

Deadline: Postmarked by Dec 7, 2012

Format: send two copies of each poem, include category and name of poem on both copies in left corner; on one copy include name and address in right corner.

Limits: poems should be 36 or fewer lines. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish in any category. Poems will not be returned. Poets retain the rights to their poems.

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Categories:

1. Rhymed or blank verse, any subject
2. Free verse, any subject
3. Poet's choice: any form, serious or humorous

Fees: \$3.00 per poem. Make checks payable to Lebanon Poets' Society

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

Mail entries to: Nancy LaChance 14940 Hwy 64 Lebanon, MO. 65536



**CARLA KIRCHNER
leads Saturday
afternoon's workshop
at the MSPS Annual
Convention.**

MSPS SUMMER POETRY CONTEST RESULTS:

Category one Rhymed Verse:

- 1st: John F. Foster, "The Course To Stay"
2nd: John F. Foster, "Imprint"
3rd: John W. Crawford, "The One Less Traveled By"
1st H M: Lee Ann Russell, "Old Books"
2nd H M: Jim Barton, "The Ballad Of Barefoot Bill"
3rd H M: Von S. Bourland, "An Old Brown Bottle Delivers A Message" Happy, TX

Sun City Center, FL
Sun City Center, FL
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
Springfield, MO 65802
Huttig, AR 71747

Category two, Free Verse:

- 1st: Vera Ogden Bakker, "Earth Song"
2nd: John Han, "To My Daughters"
3rd: Von S. Bourland, "No Law For Peace"
1st H M: Jerri Hardesty, "Bipolar"
2nd H M: Ellaraine Lockie, "Inheritance"
3rd H M: Lee Ann Russell, "Bone Weary"

West Bountiful, UT
Manchester, MO
Happy, TX
Brierfield, AL
Sunnyvale, CA
Springfield, MO

Category three, Humor:

- 1st: Lee Pelham Cotton, "The Kittikat"
2nd: John Han, "Aging"
3rd: John F. Foster, "Foreplay"
1st H M: Lee Ann Russell, "Time off"
2nd H M: Judith Krum, "On The Tip Of My Tongue"
3rd H M: John F. Foster, "Male Attachment"

Locust Hill, VA
Manchester, MO
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Springfield, MO
Deland, FL
Sun City Center, FL

Category four, Summer:

- 1st: Jim Barton, "Summer on The Ouachita"
2nd: John McBride, "Last Day Of Summer Camp"
3rd: Catherine Moran, "Emperor Of Summer"
1st H M: Lee Ann Russell, "Tranquility"
2nd H M: Jeani M. Picklesimer, "Summer Softness"
3rd H M: Doreen Joy Graham, "Backyard Starlight Show" Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Huttig, AR
Bettendorf, IA
Little Rock, AR
Springfield, MO
Ashland, KY
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Category five, MSPS only:

- 1st: Velvet Fackeldey, "Dead Battery"
2nd: Velvet Fackeldey, "The End of The Rope"
3rd: Lee Ann Russell, "Awakening"
1st H M: Billy Adams, "Above The Clag"
2nd H M: John Han, "Homecoming: Sijo"
3rd H M: Lee Ann Russell, "Finish Line"

Lebanon, MO
Lebanon, MO
Springfield, MO
DeSoto, MO
Manchester, MO
Springfield, MO

Before it was Halloween, October 31st was the Pagan holiday of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), the official end of summer and the harvest season



POEMS

Rainmakers

My sister & I
singlehandedly

brought down
the drought of 2012

After months & months
of 100 plus

No rain in sight
She hired a painter

and I, even better
found a willing volunteer

and government money
to paint my house

and the rain began
mostly mist

but just enough to
stop the wheels of progress

By Brenda Conley
KC Metro Verse

Extra Credit

both sat on
the front row
center seats
backpacks at
their feet

one wearing
tiny headphones
head slightly bent
bobbing in motion
keeping rhythm

the other
with true intent
gazes at the

platform
fixed, drifting

while at the
podium
a proud poet
speed reads
through her

latest publication of
non-accessible poetry.

By Bernita Pettit
KC Metro Verse

Following by Russell Key

KC Metro Verse
I would re-write our last scene.
But I might not be here

I wanted to be there
But a different path was clear

Troubles, angst, pain
I didn't, and don't want to face those again

As the dust settles
I want to scream "WHY?!?!?!"
And then once more with feeling,
My re-write to try

Autumn (cherita)

cold dew touching unwary feet

an empty bird's nest up the bare tree
leaves turning red, orange, and yellow

autumn deepens
as days
shorten

John J. Han
On the Edge

Following by Russell Key

KC Metro Verse

I would be a bicycle

Symbiant relationship

Rhythms and whirring

Chain gr-grrring

Wheels tacking to the hot asphalt

Corn and grass

Cooking in the hot summer sun

Delightful sweat

Evaporating in the created wind

Yeah, this is a level stretch of road

Un-interrupted by curves and bluffs

Those will lie in wait,

And I will let them

Happiness is a Warm Cuppa Cocoa

Winter is a-comin' in –
 it numbs my ears and nose;
 Ice frosts my hair
 and derrière –
 And my poor toes are froze.
 Winter comes a-whippin' in –
 flays skin like one demented.
 Ch-chatter teeth,
 sh-shiver, sneeze –
 Oh, brr-r-r! I'm discontented.
 Winter rams a-howlin' in –
 so bitter, hoary, glacial;
 My chilly cheeks
 won't thaw for weeks –
 Not nether ones nor facial.

Barbara Blanks

(This one won 3rd place in an MSPS contest a year or so ago.)

I'VE SURELY GOT TEN OLD

I've had surgeries on my knees and hips

Two bypasses on the heart

I've fought prostate cancer for 3 years

My blood pressure is off the chart

My diabetes makes me half blind

Poor circulation makes me cold

I can hardly feel my hands and feet

I've surely gotten old

I take 40 different medications

They make me dizzy and cause blackouts

My occasional bouts with dementia

Leaves the memory of my age in doubt

My friends have up and left me

My family's of no consequence

But thanks to God and the USA

I've still got my driver's license

Don DePriest, P & F



Oct. HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Nov. Happy Thanksgiving

Dec. Merry Christmas

Jan. Happy New Year

Next Spare Mule January 1, 2013