



NEWSLETTER

President's Letter

Dear MKR Society Friends –

I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me into my new role as society president at the last conference. The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society is exemplary in its collegiality and diversity of membership. It is an honor to serve in this new role.

For my inaugural letter, I would like to stress the importance of societies like this one to our preservation of historical figures and continued support of literary works that are becoming lost in the noise of the digital age. Before I joined this society, I was a member of the Ellen Glasgow Society and watched as membership declined, along with the journal's publication until neither existed. I was crestfallen.

A while ago, I learned from Steve Brahlek and others of the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society in Kentucky and was able to meet with its president at the South Atlantic Modern Language Society. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was familiar with Roberts and even had her first novel *South Moon Under* compared with *The Time of Man* by Roberts in reviews. Her only published work about Roberts was a bit overly critical, as she found Roberts's prose style to be overly poeticized and felt she used dialect too extensively in her novels. Both writers were considered to be regionalists by many critics and that classification may be why each writer, and Glasgow for a time, has maintained such ardent support from the regional communities in their home states.

This year, our own Ginny Phillips was able to attend the Roberts Society Conference on behalf of our MKR Society and was impressed by our mutual love of conservationism, music, and historic regional attractions. If you are receiving this newsletter and have not attended our conference, please consider doing so. This year, we toured the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings on Florida Southern's campus. In years' past, we've gone on river tours and scrub walks. The panelists range from ferryboat culture to cast iron cooking and even included a nationally renowned architect, Richard Bergmann, who has restored the original Max Perkins homestead in Connecticut and listed Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings as one of his protégées on the home's plaque. A few lucky attendees walked away from the silent auction with cuttings of the inaugural Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings rose that was debuted at the conference.

What makes our society so important is that in celebrating Rawlings, we also celebrate all that she held dear, as do similar regional societies. In supporting this society, we keep alive a legacy worth sustaining.

Announcements

As a reminder, membership dues run July 1-June 30. Please check the address label and use the enclosed form if you need to renew.

MKR Officers

President
Steve Brahle

Vice President
Anne Pierce

Secretary
Pam Davis

Treasurer
Janice Arinson

Exec. Director
Anna Lillios

Lifetime Members

Mary Bridgman
Richard and Isabelle Brown
Patricia Ann Davis
Roy Hunt
William Jeter, Jr. and
Deanne M. Clark
Grady Johnson
Claire and Martin Koshar
Shirley Lucas
Gloria and Philip May, Jr.
Spence Perry
Marsha and Michael Phelts
Anne Pierce
Dana Preu
Victoria Register-Freeman
Shirley and Pierre Thompson
Lynn Weaver
Mrs. C.V. Whitney

Lifetime Honorary Trustees

J.T. "Jake" Glisson
Philip S. May, Jr.
Kevin McCarthy
Idella Parker
Rodger Tarr

Trustees Emeriti

Patricia Nassif Acton
Roy Hunt
Jake Jacoway
Claire Koshar
David Nolan

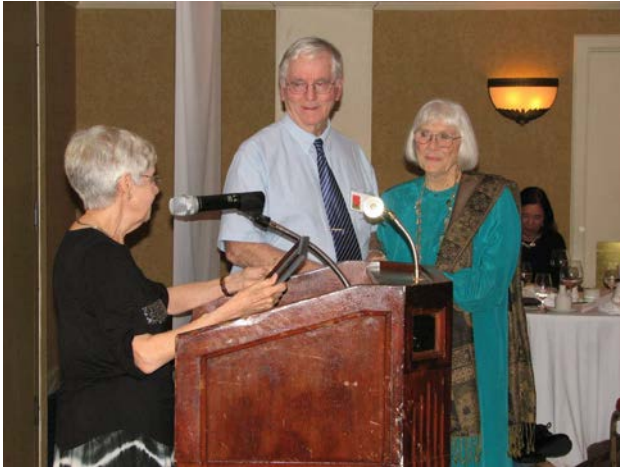
“A Boy Seeks Harmony”
Winning secondary school writing entry
by Abby Madan
Orangewood Christian School in Maitland, FL

Harmony is all I see in the world through my childish eyes.
The beams of sunlight streamed across my face,
while the breeze playfully whooshes through my hair keeping me cool.
The mighty creek provides cool, crisp water to quench my thirst.
I hear the crackling of the fallen leaves by the gentle giants of the woods.
My eyes are pleased with the vibrant colors of the plants,
and the sky as the day goes by.
I wish I could stay here forever in the comfort of the scrub,
as it is a peaceful place of tranquility.

On my return, the Harmony is gone.
The sunlight makes my face burn
and the breeze chills my body uncomfortably.
The creek now seems angry, unapproachable, and unwelcoming.
When I hear the crackling of leaves I am now startled instead of excited.
Not all creatures are gentle.
Instead of vibrant colors, now all I see is dead plants with putrid brown.
I long to go back home but I do not know where it is.
Home used to be here but now it seems like a mystery I have not solved.
The home I once knew has moved on.



Conference Awards



Janice Arinson was honored at this year's conference with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication and service to the society.

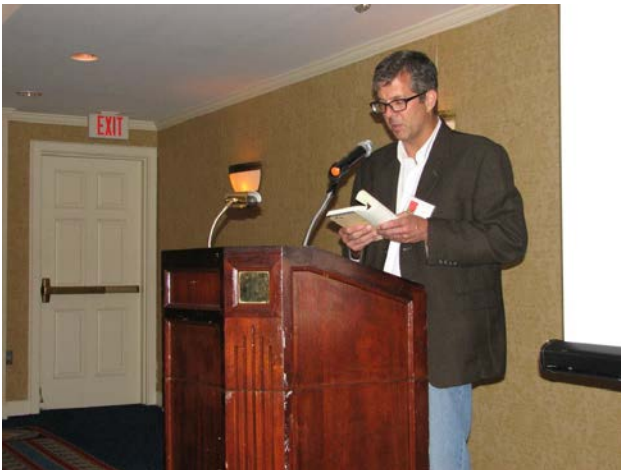
Winners of our secondary school writing competition with their teacher and our award organizer. Pictured left to right, Mrs. Carol Hansen, Megan Reed, Abby Madan, ?, and Ellen Giallonardo.



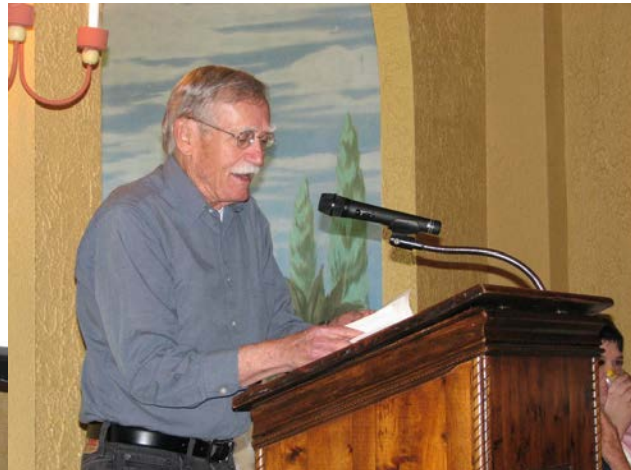


Winners of our graduate and undergraduate writing contests. Michael Stowe from the University of South Florida and Joshua Wilkey from Western Carolina University.

Featured Conference Speakers



John Fleming read selections from *Fearsome Creatures of Florida* and *The Legend of the Barefoot Mailman*.



Peter Meinke, named the first Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg, Florida, read a diverse selection of poetry relating to Florida life and ecology.

Keith Honeycutt and Malcolm Manners of Florida Southern University with the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Rose. Art Wade will growing and selling the rose at Rose Petals Nursery in Newberry. Contact the nursery for appointments: <http://www.rosepetalsnursery.com/>

Richard Bergmann gave a detailed presentation with photographs of his work toward restoring the Maxwell Perkins homestead in Connecticut.



For the Benefit of the FRIENDS OF MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS FARM, INC.

June 12, 2015, 6-8 p.m.

At the Matheson Museum, 513 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL

Admission: \$35 per person

The Friends invite you to be part of our collaboration with Santa Fe College in staging a benefit PREVIEW PARTY to honor the director and cast of the award-winning play, "The Invasion of Privacy," that tells the tale of the legal battle between Marjorie Rawlings and Zelma Cason and the 1945 trial held in Gainesville that had the town in an uproar. The PREVIEW PARTY will introduce our special guest, JUDITH CHAPMAN, the director of the play and members of the cast of "The Invasion of Privacy." The famous star of daytime TV is a fan of Marjorie Rawlings and will share her "behind the scenes" take on casting and directing this dramatic milestone, never before staged in Gainesville. A Silent Auction will feature items related to Rawlings like rare, signed copies and foreign editions of her works. A special display by the Matheson will focus on the legacy of *Cross Creek Cookery*, published the same year as *Cross Creek*. Tickets for the PREVIEW PARTY are \$35 per person. Send check by June 7, 2015, to Anne Pierce, Friends of MKR Farm, PO Box 337, Micanopy, FL 32667-0337, or pay at the door.

For more information, contact Elaine Spencer, (352) 283-0483 or elainespencer@gmail.com

Membership Renewal Form

Yes, I would like to become a member of The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society.

(Please check membership level)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$100 | | |

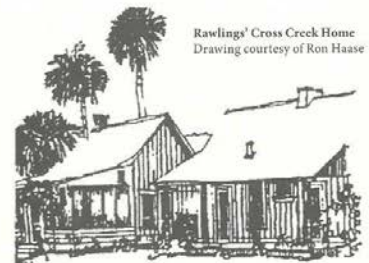
Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____



Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the RAWLINGS SOCIETY

Mail to: Rawlings Society
c/o Anne Pierce
249 Herman Drive
Hawthorne, FL 32640

www.rawlingsociety.org



Summer Events

***Invasion of Privacy*—7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20, 2015**
Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall
Northwest Campus, 3000 NW 83 Street, Gainesville, FL
Box Office: 352-395-4181

Judith Chapman directs this play about Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings by Larry Parr that focuses on the 1943 case against the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Yearling*.

Leave a Legacy

Ensure the future of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society by including the Society in your will. The following language may be used to name the Society as a beneficiary:

“I [your name], of [city, state, zip code], bequeath to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of real or personal property].

Rawlings Society
PO Box 117005
Gainesville, FL 32611-7005

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
Society *Newsletter*

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IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please check your address label. The date that you see on the label is the date your dues are due. If your membership is current, we thank you! Renewal card at:
<http://rawlingssociety.org/>

