

NEWSLETTER

President's Letter

Dear MKR Society Friends –

On January 21, the Trustees of the Rawlings Society met at The Yearling Restaurant in Hawthorne, Florida, just down the road from the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park at Cross Creek. After enjoying the fellowship and friendship of these men and women who volunteer their time and energy to maintaining the memory of the author and Floridian we love so much, I returned to Cross Creek. I walked through the rusty gate, picked oranges from the grove, toured the house and servants' home, and took a walk through the hammock. Filled with fried catfish and sour orange pie, I was reminded once

again of why Rawlings inspires me so much as a Florida transplant and book lover. She captures so eloquently what the Florida wilderness offers each of us – the mystic loveliness of childhood. Home. I hope each of you have the opportunity to revisit the Creek this year and rediscover that feeling for yourselves.

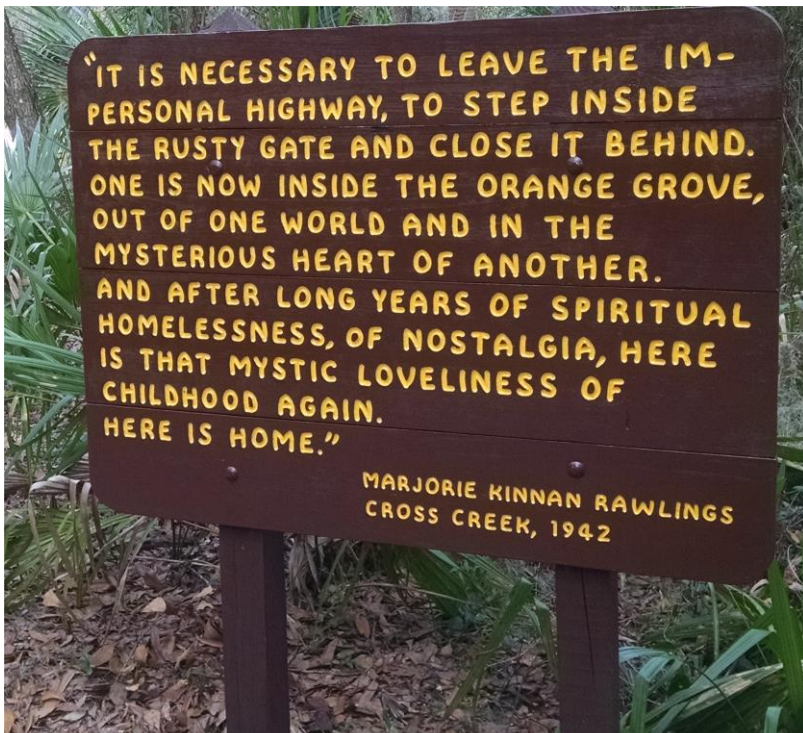
Announcements

- Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:15pm, March 30, Stonewood Grill, Ormond Beach, FL.
- 30th Annual MKR Conference, March 31-April 1, Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center

Sincerely,



*Entrance to Cross Creek
at Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings State Park*



*Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Scholarship in Memory of
Idella Parker*

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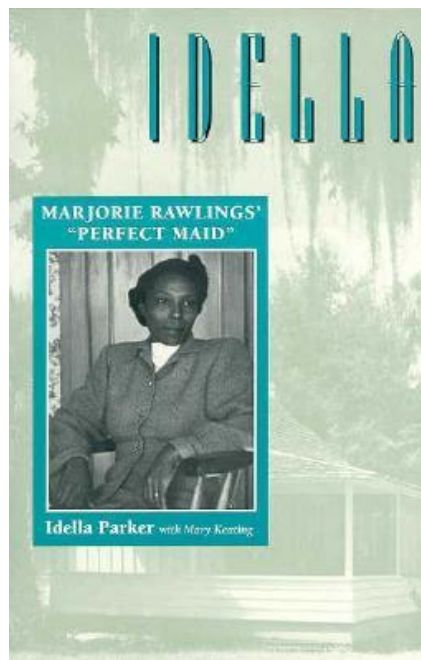
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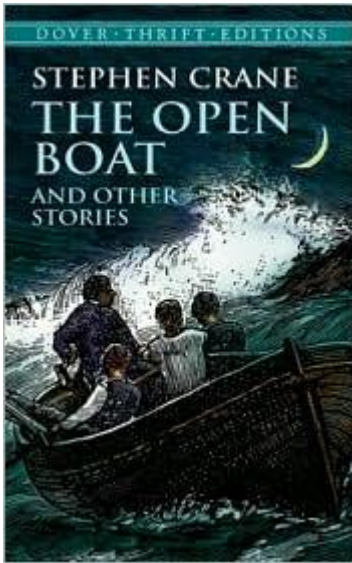
The Trustees of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society have approved a named scholarship in memory of Idella Parker to be given to one student per year for five years at Bethune-Cookman University. This need-based, annual scholarship of \$1000 will recognize a student in American Studies or English Literature. The scholarship will be called the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Scholarship in Memory of Idella Parker.

We will be honoring the first recipient of this award at our conference, along with a representative from Bethune-Cookman's Scholarship Committee. The Trustees chose Bethune-Cookman because of Idella Parker's love and admiration for the university and its work for the African American community in Florida.

Mary McLeod Bethune originally opened the Daytona Literacy and Industrial Training School for Negro girls in 1904. It developed into the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute in 1919 and merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville in 1923. The school's name was officially changed to Bethune-Cookman College in 1931.

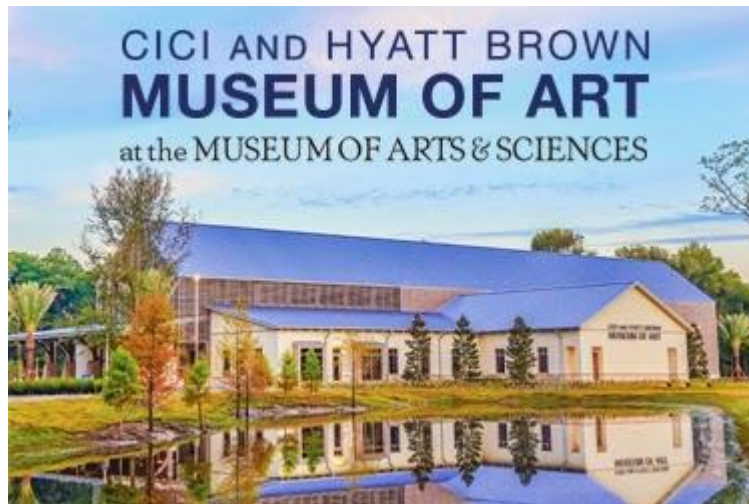


30th Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference
Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center
March 31-April 1, 2017



Our Saturday luncheon will feature Elizabeth “Peggy” Friedmann describing her work on Stephen Crane, in particular her dive in the mid-1980s off the coast of Daytona Beach to explore the *Commodore* wreck. Crane wrote about this experience in his short story, “The Open Boat.”

Clay Henderson, former President of the Florida Audubon Society and Director of Stetson’s Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience, will be our banquet speaker on Friday Evening.



This year’s excursion will be a tour of the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art at the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Conference Homework

Brent Kinser and Rodger Tarr would like to announce this year's conference homework, a study of "Cracker Chidlings." This was the first short story by Rawlings to be published by Scribner's after she moved to Cross Creek and helped launch her career. There will be a quiz, so do your homework! (You may also want to brush up on Crane's "The Open Boat" for Elizabeth "Peggy" Friedmann's talk.)

Call for Papers

The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Journal of Florida Literature seeks articles, creative fiction and poetry, book reviews, and notes in the spirit of or regarding the life and work of Rawlings, her circle, and other authors who use the state of Florida as a source of creativity. The *JFL* is a peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Rawlings Society. Contact Editor Anna Lillios at Anna@ucf.edu.

The Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc. would like to remind everyone to visit their website for a complete list of events related to their celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the publication of *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery*. You can learn more at marjoriekinnanrawlings.org.

To learn more about the society, visit our website, <http://rawlingssociety.org>, or check us out on Facebook and Yahoo Groups.

Rawlings Society
PO Box 117005
Gainesville, FL 32611-7005

**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/>

