



NEWSLETTER

President's Letter

Dear MKR Society Friends –

It is with a heavy heart that I relay to you the passing of David Grantges, longtime member and Trustee of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society. David and his wife Carol celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at The Yearling Restaurant in Cross Creek in 2009 and exemplify the spirit of MKR with a love for the outdoors and literature. He will be missed.

<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Trustees Meeting, September 23 at 11am, Lakeside Inn, 100 Alexander St., Mt. Dora. Contact: 352-383-4101.
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This summer, I found myself thinking a great deal about *The Yearling* and *The Sojourner* in southern Peru. Looking up at the Southern Cross and so many other stars and constellations not visible from

Florida, I was reminded of how interested Rawlings was in conveying what she called a “cosmic consciousness.” Intensely aware of the connections between the shifting cosmos and the seasons, the Incans and their predecessors developed elaborate agricultural terraces throughout the Andes that have survived all conquests and shifting political climates, the basis for a rich tradition of farming corn, quinoa, and potatoes, which originated in Peru. (Don’t tell the Irish!) Given an inhospitable environment with elevations of over 12,000 feet, they were able to produce enough food to satisfy the needs of an empire that stretched from Chile to Ecuador, and east into the Amazon. I imagined the experiences of Rawlings, traveling to the primitive homestead at Cross Creek for the first time with the determination to live on that land and the harvests it produced. Her love for the Florida Crackers came from a deep understanding of their same connection to that land as their life’s blood. *The Yearling* follows a full calendar year with each season intensely detailed. Her research for *The Sojourner* included the discovery of a book on cosmology that belonged to her grandfather, the Michigan farmer on whom the book was loosely based.

Who owns Cross Creek? The red-birds, I think, more than I, for they will have their nests even in the face of delinquent mortgages. And after I am dead, who am childless, the human ownership of grove and field and hammock is hypothetical. But a long line of red-birds and whippoorwills and blue-jays and ground doves will descend from the present owners of nests in the orange trees, and their claims will be less subject to dispute than that of any human heirs...Cross Creek belongs to the wind and the rain, to the sun and the seasons, to the cosmic secrecy of seed, and beyond all, to time.

This summer, take some time for stargazing wherever you happen to be and think of Rawlings and her legacy, which, like the Creek, transcends time.

Cheers,
Ashley Lear

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Ashley Lear

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Withlacoochee River Lodge – 1945

Dessie Smith Prescott, friend of MKR, most notably made the trip up the St. Johns River that became the subject of "Hyacinth Drift" in *Cross Creek*
Thank you Margaret Harris for the 1945 advertisement excerpted here

We have five open and closed jeeps for all hunting. You walk or ride as you choose. On quail trips, the hunters may ride from point to point. Hunters are driven to turkey and deer blinds. Hounds are used to drive deer and boar by the blinds. The pace of all the hunting is set at the convenience of the parties. We also have bobcat, coon and fox hunting.

Withlacoochee has a large kennel of bird dogs and hounds — all well-trained in their specialties. Owner Dessie Smith has hunted in Florida for forty years and in most of the North American continent.

Rates: Native hunting: Guide, jeep, dogs: \$25.00 per day per person. Licenses at lodge: season, \$26.50; ten-days, \$11.50.

On a specially-licensed preserve of 1,000 acres, we offer unlimited chukar partridge shooting from October 1st - April 1st, and quail hunting from November 15th - April 1st. Rates: 8 quail or 6 chukar on one-half day hunt: \$25.00; extra quail \$3.00 each; extra chukar, \$4.00 each. If hunter shoots only on preserve, he needs only special preserve license at \$5.25.



SPORTSMEN LIKE OUR WELL-EQUIPPED JEEPS



**Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of
Cross Creek & Cross Creek Cookery**
(1942-2017)

Upcoming Events in 2017

- July 9 **Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social**
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park,
Cross Creek,
Cooking 10 AM-2 PM, Program 2:30 PM
- July 21 and **A Tea with Zora and Marjorie**
July 22 A play by Barbara Speisman
Matheson History Museum, Gainesville, 7 PM
Purchase tickets (\$10) at zora-marjorie.eventbrite.com
(Note: 2 performances)
- August 5 **Happy 121st Birthday, Marjorie!**
Fish Fry at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
Historic State Park, Cross Creek, 5-7 PM
Purchase tickets (\$8) at mkrfishfry.eventbrite.com
- September 7 **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and St. Augustine,**
Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, 6 PM
- September 29 **Cross Creek Rising: The Consciousness**
-January 6 **of Land and Water**
Art Exhibition at Historic Thomas Center, Gainesville
For more information, visit website:
www.gviculturalaffairs.org
- September 29 **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Food Truck Rally,**
Historic Thomas Center, Gainesville, 6 - 9 PM
(Note: change of location)
- October 21 **Remembering Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Her**
Friends, Antioch Cemetery tour, 12 noon
(Call 352-466-3672 for information)

Alachua and Marion County Library Talks

All talks are on "Cross Creek" and "Cross Creek Cookery" unless otherwise noted.

- June 20 Year of Cross Creek -- *The Secret River*,
Waldo Branch, ACLD, Community Center, 2 PM
- August 1 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and *The Secret River*,
Alachua Branch, ACLD, 2 PM
- September 10 Waldo Branch, ACLD at the Yerkes Center, 2 PM
- September 17 Headquarters Library, Marion County Public Library,
2 PM

For more information on these and other events, visit our website:

www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

www.floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings

or call 352-466-3672



Renew Membership and Invite a Friend

Please remember that the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society membership year runs from July-June. The address label should indicate the date by which you need to renew. This year, consider giving a membership as a gift to a friend or relative who shares your interest in Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Florida culture and literature. Organizations like this one help to support historical landmarks and archives while promoting them to the general public through our annual events. The society has elected to hold our annual conference for 2018 in Mt. Dora. Information will be forthcoming.



1896-1953

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

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/>



