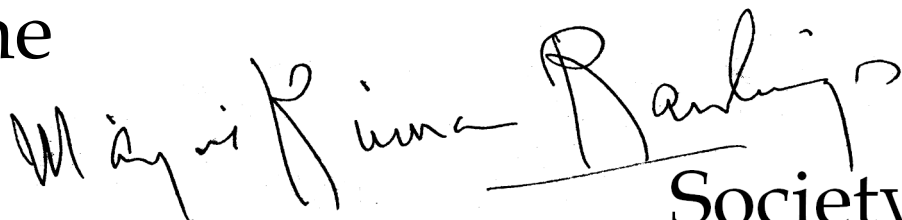


# The



# Society Newsletter

Volume XXVI, Number 3

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Newsletter

May 2022

## Officers

President Darien Andreu  
Vice President Gayle Prevatt  
Secretary Pam Davis  
Treasurer Anne Pierce  
Exec. Director Florence Turcotte  
Newsletter Editor Darien Andreu

## Lifetime Members

Elaine and David Bradbury  
Mary Bridgman  
Richard and Isabelle Brown  
Patricia Ann Davis  
David C. Drysdale  
Roy Hunt  
D. Clarke and William Jeter  
Grady Johnson  
Claire and Martin Koshar  
Shirley Lucas  
Spence Perry  
Syd Perry  
Marsha and Michael Phelts  
Anne Pierce  
Victoria Register-Freeman  
Angela Territo  
Shirley Thompson  
Lynn Weaver  
Peter and Leonor Zies

## Lifetime Honorary Trustees

J.T. "Jake" Glisson\*  
Clifford Lyons\*  
Philip S. May, Jr.\*  
Beatrice Humiston McNeill\*  
Kevin McCarthy  
Idella Parker\*  
Dessie Prescott\*  
Rodger Tarr  
\*deceased

## Trustees Emeriti

Patricia Nassif Acton  
Roy Hunt  
Claire Koshar  
David Nolan



## President's Letter

Dear Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Members,

This year, for the first time ever, the Rawlings Society will hold its annual meeting in collaboration with the Florida Historical Society. The precedent for our shared interests can be traced back to our Society's beginnings!

Like the Florida Historical Society, the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society has become a venerable institution of the state's history and culture since its founding in 1987 by Phil May, Jr., the son of Marjorie's lawyer in the famous *Cross Creek* trial.

In 1945, it was Phil May, Jr.'s father, Philip S. May, President of the Florida Historical Society, along with our beloved Marjorie Rawlings, who proposed that a Florida history class be taught in all Florida colleges. Recognizing that this might be an over-reach, May amended the resolution to recommend that "the University of Florida . . . establish and offer a course in Florida history to [its] students." Marjorie seconded the resolution, and this became the origin of Dr. Samuel Proctor's popular Florida history classes at the university. (Later Dr. Proctor became one of the early members of the Rawlings Society.)

In 1950, the donation of Marjorie's papers began the outstanding University of Florida literary history archive that now includes the papers of Zora Neale Hurston, Stetson Kennedy, Lillian Smith, and many others.

I could go on, but more immediately, a robust celebration of Rawlings and Florida history will happen at the joint Florida Historical Society 2022 Public History Forum and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference in Gainesville, May 19-21. Register now at <https://myfloridahistory.org/conference/forum/2022>.

For this partnership, we have another visionary to thank: Sandra Parks of St. Augustine. Sandra is a life-long Florida literary activist, and wife of the late Stetson Kennedy, Florida civil rights icon, author and folklorist.

Last year, as we were all climbing our way out of Covid, Sandra, well-versed in the benefits of collaboration, urged the Rawlings Society and the Florida Historical Society to hold a joint annual conference. Now thanks to Sandra, and the joyful hard work of Flo Turcotte, our Executive Director; Anne Pierce, our Treasurer; Ben Brotemarkle, Executive Director of the Florida Historical Society; Tracy Moore, FHS Past President; and their team . . . *we're BACK!*

The experience is going to be GRAND. Take a look at the Conference program within these pages, then rush to sign up—in time to take advantage of the discounted rate through May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in all things Rawlings,  
Darien Andreu



## WE LOOK FORWARD

In May you should receive your 2021-2022 issue of *The Journal of Literature*, edited by Dr. Anna Lillios. The Society's annual Journal, first appearing as *The Rawlings Journal*, dates back to its inaugural issue in 1988.

## CONSIDER THE ARCHIVES

Trustee Margaret Harris notes this point of interest:

The State Archives of Florida is looking for donations of materials relating to the history and culture of Florida. Of the 50,000 cubic feet of records in the State Archives, a significant portion have been donated over the years by private citizens, organizations, businesses, and families. Donating historical records to the State Archives helps ensure their long-term preservation and makes them available to historians, teachers, students and the general public for research and enjoyment.

Contact the State Archives at 850-245-6719 or archives @[dos.myflorida.com](http://dos.myflorida.com) to learn more about making a donation. Examples of historically materials include letters, diaries, photographs, business and financial records, maps and land records and meeting minutes and records from organizations.

Maybe members of MKR Society have photos of our meetings or activities that could be added to the State Archives.

## BOOK NOTE

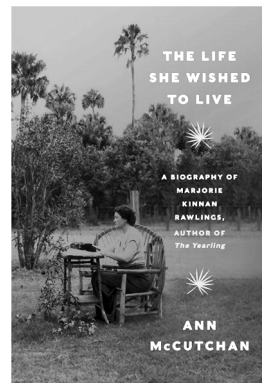
Ann McCutchan, author of the new Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings biography, writes to let us know that *The Life She Wished to Live* will be issued in paperback June 7.

On August 22 and 23, the book and Ann will appear on The Mount's Summer Lecture Series in Lenox, MA, at the elegant Gilded Age home of Edith Wharton, the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

Ann will be the Keynote Speaker for the Florida Historical Society/Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference, May 19-21.

Photo of Ann McCutchan taken by Bob O'Lary at Word of [South] Festival of Literature and Music in Tallahassee, FL, April 8-10, 2022.

Ann says "it was a great event, and many books were signed and sold!"





**THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 PUBLIC HISTORY FORUM  
AND  
THE 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

**HILTON CONFERENCE CENTER, 1714 SW 34<sup>th</sup> St,**

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE**

**MAY 19-21, 2022**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 6:00 pm:

FHS Board of Director's Meeting: Dogwood Room (Private event)

MKR Society Board of Trustees Meeting: Live Oak Room (Private event)

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 8:00 am – 9:00 am: Pre-Conference Area

Registration

FHS Book Store open until 2:00pm

MKR Society Silent Auction open

Coffee and Conversation

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 9:00am – 9:30am: Ballroom B/C

Welcome!

Executive Directors Ben Brotemarkle and Flo Turcotte

Presidents Maurice J. O'Sullivan and Darien Andreu

Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 9:30am – 10:15am: Ballroom B/C

Opening Presentation: "A Brief History of Alachua County, Including the Origins of Cross Creek"

Presenter: Peggy Macdonald, Public Historian

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 10:15am – 10:30am

Break

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 10:30am – 11:30am: Ballroom B/C

Panel Discussion: "Marge and Julia: The Correspondence Between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Julia Scribner Bigham"

Facilitator/Participant: Florence M. Turcotte, Literary Manuscripts Archivist, George A. Smathers Library

Participant: Brent E. Kinser, Professor of English, Western Carolina University

Participant: Rodger L. Tarr, Distinguished Professor of English, Emeritus, Illinois State University

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 11:30am – 11:45am

Break

*(Continued on page 4)*



# MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVI, Number 3 May 2022

---

*(Continued from page 3)*

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 11:45am – 12:45pm: Ballroom B/C

Presentation/Discussion: “Ditch of Dreams: The Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Struggle for Florida’s Future”

Presenter: Steven Noll, Associate Professor of History, University of Florida

Presenter: David Tegeder, Associate Professor of History and Department Chair, Santa Fe College

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 12:45pm – 1:00pm

Break

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1:00pm – 2:15pm: Ballroom A

FHS and MKR Society Awards Luncheon

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2:15pm – 2:30pm

Break

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Board Candies Luxury Motorcoach at Hilton entrance for departure at 2:30pm

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park (half hour on bus, 90 minutes on site, back on bus at 4:30pm)

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

George A. Smathers Library Archive Visit and Reception

(Heavy Hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine)

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Hippodrome State Theatre

Screening of the Opera Orlando production of the new Stella Sung, Mark Campbell one-act opera “The Secret River” based on a short story by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Post-screening Q&A with Opera Orlando’s Gabriel Preisser, and composer Stella Sung

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 8:00am – 8:45am: Pre-Conference Area

Registration

FHS Book Store open until 2:00pm

MKR Society Silent Auction open

Coffee and Conversation

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 8:45am – 9:00am

Recognition of Emancipation Day in Florida

Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, FHS Board Members

*(Continued on page 5)*



(Continued from page 4)

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 9:00am – 10:00am: Ballroom B/C

Panel Discussion: “Oral History, Genealogy, and Researching Underrepresented Populations”

Facilitator/Participant: Paul Ortiz, Director, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, University of Florida

Participant: Alonzo Felder, CEO and Founder, My Roots Foundation

Participant: Connie Lester, Director, RICHES Digital Archiving Project, University of Central Florida

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 10:00am – 10:15am

Break

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 10:15am – 11:15am: Ballroom B/C

Panel Discussion: “Florida Literature: Historical Perspectives in Fiction and Non-Fiction”

Facilitator: Holly Baker, Public History Coordinator and Archivist, Florida Historical Society

Participant: Maurice J. O’Sullivan, Professor Emeritus of Literature, Rollins College

Participant: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack E. Davis, University of Florida

Participant: Keith Huneycutt, Professor of English, Florida Southern College

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 11:15am – 11:30am

Break

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 11:30am – 12:30pm: Ballroom B/C

Panel Discussion: “Public History, Historic Preservation, and Building for the Future: The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (P.E.C.) and the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities”

Facilitator: Ben Brotemarkle, Executive Director, Florida Historical Society

Participant: N. Y. Nathiri, Executive Director of P.E.C. and the ZORA! Festival

Participant: Vivian Geary, Senior Event Manager, Universal Orlando Resort

Participant: Trent Tomengo, Professor of Humanities, Seminole State College

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch on your own

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Candies Luxury Motorcoach running in a loop from the Hilton to

Harn Museum of Art: “Florida Impressions: Gift of Samuel H. and Roberta T. Vickers” and the Florida Museum of Natural History

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 6:00pm – 7:00pm: Pre-Conference Area

Pre-Banquet Reception with live music from Little Jake and the Soul Searchers, cash bar

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 7:00pm – 9:00pm: Ballroom A

Banquet Dinner with Jillian Prescott Memorial Lecture from Ann McCutchan, author of *The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Author of The Yearling*

(Continued on page 6)



# MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVI, Number 3 May 2022

---

*(Continued from page 5)*

MKR Society Silent Auction bidding ends following the Banquet

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 8:00am – 9:00am: Pre-Conference Area

Registration

FHS Book Store open until 1:00pm

MKR Society Silent Auction items distributed

Coffee and Conversation

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 9:00am – 10:30am: Ballroom B

Florida History Day Student Presentations, coordinated by KC Smith

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Student Presentations, coordinated by Ellen Giallonardo and Pam Davis

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 10:30am – 10:45am

Break

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 10:45am – 11:45am: Ballroom C

Presentation/Discussion: “Stetson Kennedy: Living a Life of Purpose”

Musical Performance by The Jackson Family and Friends

“Orange Lake Sings,” “Orange Lake, Goodnight,” and “Paynes Prairie” composed by Sara Nussel based on poems by Stetson Kennedy

Facilitator/Presenter: Paul Ortiz, Director, Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, University of Florida

Presenter: Sandra Parks, Chair, Stetson Kennedy Foundation

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 11:45am – 12:00pm

Break

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 12:00pm – 12:45pm: Ballroom C

“A Conversation Remembering Aunt Marjorie and Uncle Norton”

Facilitator/Discussant: David Nolan, Past President of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society

Discussant: Sally Baskin Hooker, niece of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 12:45pm – 1:00pm

Break

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1:00pm

Arrive on your own to the Matheson History Museum for a tour and box lunch picnic in the park

VENDORS: PRE-CONFERENCE AREA

Florida Historical Society Bookstore/ Author Signing Area

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Silent Auction

University Press of Florida

Gloria Lee with work by the late artist Ernest Lee

NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

---



## U.S. POET LAUREATE PRAISES *THE YEARLING*

Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2001-2003, was a recent guest on Alan Alda's podcast *Clear + Vivid*. Alda, of M\*A\*S\*H\* fame, asked Collins what book had changed his life. Without hesitation, Collins said "it goes way back to *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings." He added, "It was the first time I had a more adult emotion than you'd get out of a children's book."

You can listen to Alda's full interview with Collins by googling Alan Alda, *Clear + Vivid*. "Billy Collins: When Words Have a Mind of their Own." April 5, 2022, Season 16, Episode 6. The Rawlings tribute comes of the 35:00 minute mark.

## WILL YOU STEP UP?

As the Rawlings Society marks its 35th birthday as a venerable Florida cultural institution, we give thanks to those who have served over the years as Trustees and Officers, voluntarily giving their efforts and energy to preserving the Rawlings legacy.

Some of our original Trustees continue to serve, but time has inevitably taken its toll and we are conscious of the need for new blood, to see that this worthy organization continues into future generations.

So we pose a question to our membership. Will you be willing to serve? Will you become part of the long line of teachers, environmentalists, historians, librarians, booklovers, scholars, readers, and authors who have continued the efforts Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings began in her own time to preserve the history, memory, folklore, and literature of our beloved Florida?

We have a few openings coming up on our Board of Trustees. Please consider helping us know of your interest. Feel free to contact me (or any of the Officers or Trustees), Darien Andreu, at [andreude@flagler.edu](mailto:andreude@flagler.edu).

## CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED RAWLINGS SOCIETY WEBSITE!

<https://rawlingssociety.org/>

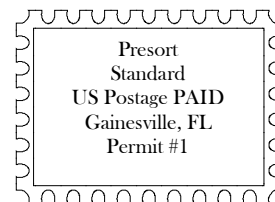
You can now renew your membership either by form/check or electronically on the site.

You can also find copies of the classic newsletters, and more resources will be coming to the website each month!

A schedule for the upcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference will be posted there soon.

Please send website information to Ashley Lear: [andrewsa@erau.edu](mailto:andrewsa@erau.edu)

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!

**Membership and Conference Registration Prize**

The Membership Year for the MKR Society is *July through June* corresponding with our programming, conference and publication cycle. ***Please take a good look at your mailing label to see if your renewal date has passed.*** If so, please consider renewing today using the membership form below or you can now renew on our website.

The person who registers the most **new** members wins a FREE Conference Registration for our next conference.

Here are some ideas to solicit members:

- Encourage friends and adult children to join;
- Give a gift of a student membership (\$15) to children, grandchildren, or other students;
- Speak to neighbors and those at your local library or historical society about joining.

**Membership Application for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society**

<i>Name:</i> _____	Student	\$15	Sponsor	\$100
<i>Address:</i> _____	Individual	\$30	Patron	\$250
<i>City/State/Zip:</i> _____	Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
<i>E-mail address:</i> _____	Sustaining	\$50	Life	\$1,000

*(Please circle membership level)*  
Mail to: Rawlings Society  
c/o Anne Pierce  
249 Herman Drive  
Hawthorne, FL 32640

To learn more about the society and information on the annual conference, visit our website, [www.rawlingsociety.org](http://www.rawlingsociety.org)