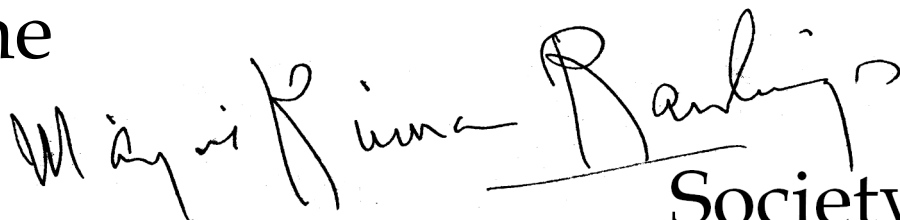


The



Society Newsletter

Volume XXVI, Number 4

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Newsletter

August 2022

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President's Letter

It was a GRAND gathering – the joint meeting of the 33rd Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference and the Florida Historical Society. Thanks to our Executive Director Flo Turcotte and the Florida Historical Society's Executive Director Ben Brotemarkle, the conference even included a pre-banquet rock out to Little Jake and the Soul Searchers. Who knew we had so many good dancers among us!

The conference also featured a new contribution to Rawlings scholarship--the wonderfully titled *Marge and Julia* edited by Rodger Tarr, Brent Kinser and Flo Turcotte. This collection of letters follows the friendship between Rawlings and her publisher's daughter, Julia Scribner. At 500 pages, the book is a beautiful testament to Rawlings' productively with just one of her many correspondents. Rodger Tarr narrates the story of the letters' provenance – a detective tale complicated by a lawsuit. *Marge and Julia* is still available to MKRS members at half price (see inside) as a result of the society having helped with the publication costs.

The debut of *Marge and Julia* is perfectly timed, following Ann McCutchan's 2021 award-winning biography of Marjorie, *The Life She Wished to Live*. Ann was the conference's marvelous keynote speaker, delivering her eloquent remarks to some 200 dinner guests.

The conference concluded with an exquisite oral history featuring Sally Baskin Hooker interviewed by historian David Nolan. (See inside for link.) Sally is the niece of Norton Baskin and she had a first-hand relationship with Aunt Marjorie, our Society's namesake. Sally is a star for us!

One of the highlights of the conference was having so many members come forward to serve: longtime members and trustees Paul Dunn and Anne Bellissimo have taken positions as our Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. Jennifer Campbell, daughter of trustee Claire Koshar, offered to work on a MKRS logo and Outreach, and Sandi Dunnavant offered to serve as Publicity Chair. These members succeed the many years given to us by devoted trustees Ellen Giallonardo, who headed Outreach, and Secretary Pam Davis.

These conference moments and more were absolutely golden. And across the street from the Hilton, in a pocket of woods behind the Phillips Center for Performing Arts, was the rare Gainesville yellow cardinal – a news sensation. The cheeky bird is a flash of gold in the green foliage, flitting from pine tree branch, to marsh grass, to boardwalk. He sings his sunny song to delineate his postage stamp of woods. He was a marvel among many others during the Rawlings conference weekend.

My Summer Best,
Darien Andreu



CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Flo Turcotte, Executive Director, presenting Ann McCutchan with a MKR stamp pin. Later, Ann surprised Flo with a 1950 signed copy of *The Yearling* with N.C. Wyeth illustrations to be held in the UF Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings archives.

At Friday's MKR/FHS banquet, Flo was recognized with the 2022 Dorothy Dodd Outstanding Archivist Award from the Florida Historical Society

Ashley Lear, former MKR President, receiving The Executive Director's Award for an Unsung Hero from Kevin McCarthy, former MKRS Executive Director for 18 years. Kevin had had this award ready to present for over the two Covid years that we did not have an annual conference. How fitting since Ashley has been incredibly active throughout this time, assisting with the MKRS website and so much more.

Immediately after presenting this, Kevin received the 2022 Marinus Latour Presidential Citation awarded by the Florida Historical Society. How fitting that Rawlings Society members could be present to applaud these Society's stalwarts!





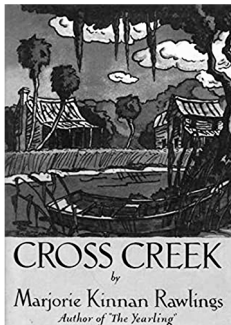
FAMILY MEMORIES

Ashley Lear wrote to say that Sally Baskin Hooker's talk from our conference has been released as part of the *Florida Frontiers* Radio Program. Ashley, the keeper of our website, provides this information with a direct link: <https://rawlingssociety.org/news-current>. It is episode 474.

Among the topics Sally discusses are growing up at Marineland of Florida, The Dolphin Restaurant (run by her uncle Norton Baskin), and his wife and Sally's aunt, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

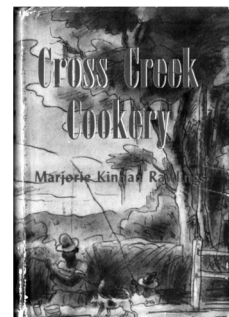


Historian David Nolan interviewing Sally Baskin Hooker (photo by Anne Pierce)



LITERARY ANNIVERSARY

Leslie Poole, of Rollins College and our former Executive Director, reminds us that this is the 80th anniversary of *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery*, both published in 1942.





WE GIVE THANKS



The recent joint annual meeting of the Rawlings Society and the Florida Historical Society was the culmination of a long-held dream of Sandra Parks, St. Augustine civic leader, and author, who has been active in both groups for many years.

Shown here with the Florida Historical Society's energetic executive director Ben Brotemarkle – whose ear she bent (and whose arm she may have twisted . . .), Parks was honored with the 2022 Caroline P. Rosseter Award for Outstanding Woman in Florida History at the conference banquet. The next day she proceeded to give an extraordinary talk on her late husband, Stetson Kennedy (1916-2011), who attended Marjorie Rawlings' writing class at the University of Florida in the 1930s. He then worked on the Florida Writers Project of the New Deal, where he was nominal supervisor of Zora Neale Hurston, though he said in later years, she had made it clear that she did not take to any supervisors. Stetson's first book, *Palmetto Country*, was published in 1942 and is considered a Florida classic. Nearly half a century later, he spoke at the second annual conference of the Rawlings Society in St. Augustine, and continued to attend meetings into his 90s along with his wife.

Work is proceeding on what he planned as an autobiography called *Dissident-At-Large* from manuscripts he left behind at his death in 2011.

The Stetson Kennedy Papers have become a great addition to the literary collections at the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries, and selections from these were on exhibit for attendees at the recent Rawlings Society Conference.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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. Please send submissions to the editor, Dr. Anna Lillios, at Anna@ucf.edu.



Marge and Julia

The Correspondence between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Julia Scribner Bigham

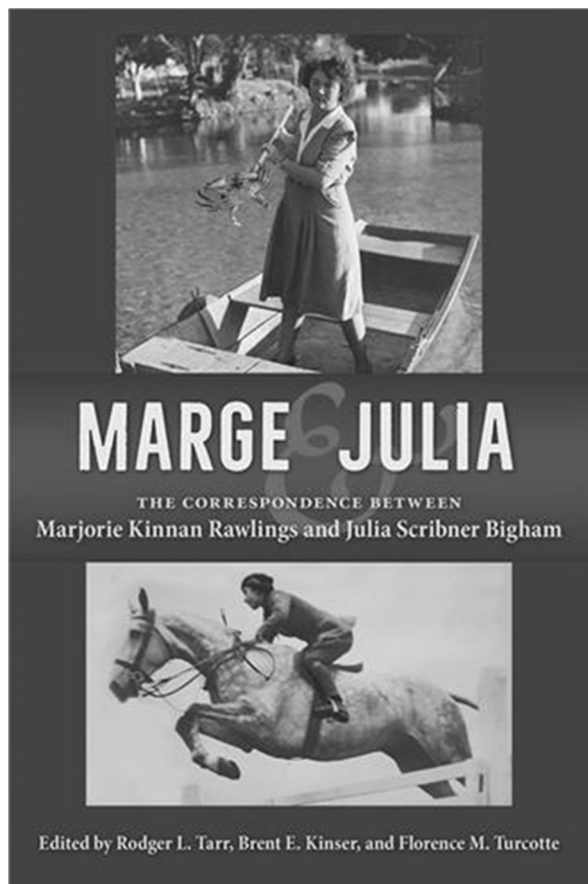
Edited by Rodger L. Tarr, Brent E. Kinser,
and Florence M. Turcotte

Hardcover ~~\$100.00~~ \$50.00

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"This brilliant epistolary conversation reveals the deep, forthright bond between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and her publisher's daughter, Julia Scribner Bigham — two remarkable women who sought to create and live meaningful lives, even in the shadow of a world war. *Marge and Julia* is a most welcome contribution to both American literary history and the literature of women's friendships." — **Ann McCutchan**, author of *The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*, author of "The Yearling"

"These letters plumb depths of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's inner life that her public writing, including her memoir *Cross Creek*, do not, in large part because Julia Scribner Bigham's intelligence and insight make her the perfect correspondent for Rawlings. Scholars will find this new edition of great value, particularly the editors' excellent introduction and copious footnotes, but these letters, engaging as a superb novel, should delight general readers as well." — **Ronald Rash**, author of *In the Valley*

"A treasure trove of intimate, revealing letters. It is a joy to discover new facets of Rawlings's life and re-enter her wondrous *Cross Creek* world." — **Anna Lillios**, author of *Crossing the Creek: The Literary Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*

Exploring the rich, enduring companionship shared by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Julia Scribner Bigham through never-before-published letters, *Marge and Julia: The Correspondence between Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Julia Scribner Bigham* provides a revelatory depiction of these two literary women's experiences in mid-twentieth-century America.

WE LOVE A PARTY!

Happy Birthday, Marjorie. Monday, August 8, 2022 is her 126th! Our sister organization, the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, will celebrate on Sunday, August 6, with music, cake, and mango ice cream.



MARJORIE IN THE BLOGOSPHERE

The Marjorie is Florida's first—and currently only—reporting outlet dedicated to social justice and environmental issues across the state. We are an independent nonprofit named after Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Marjorie Harris Carr, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, whose legacies serve as powerful inspirations for the work we do. *The Marjorie's* mission is to report on Florida's deeper human story in a way that embraces nuance and complexity, and since our inception our work has garnered us support and awards from distinguished organizations like the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Pulitzer Center, the Knight Foundation, and the Society of Professional Journalists. Acclaimed science journalist Cynthia Barnett describes us as an “excellent, independent environmental outlet [that] breaks the stories that national outlets rush to follow.”



From now through August 31st, we are working to match a \$10k grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. That's why we're asking for your help: for every \$30 donation we receive from your membership, we will send you one of our limited edition t-shirts as a thank-you, while supplies last! Learn more about our summer fundraiser and donate here: <https://themarjorie.org/summer-fundraiser/>.

--Anna Hamilton

NOTE: THE NEXT DATE OF OUR TRUSTEES MEETING: Saturday, Oct 22, 2022,
at The Yearling Restaurant in Cross Creek, FL, 11 a.m.
Check their website for an advance look at their menu!

WILL YOU SERVE?

If you're interested in serving as a MKRS Trustee, please let us know. Trustees serve a three-year term. The duties include, ideally, attendance at the Trustees' meeting in the fall and winter seasons, and at the annual spring Conference. Our meeting sites are a moveable feast. Trustees meet for lunch at Cross Creek's Yearling Restaurant, and other wonderful Florida locales. Trustees bring valued new energy, ideas, talents, and more.



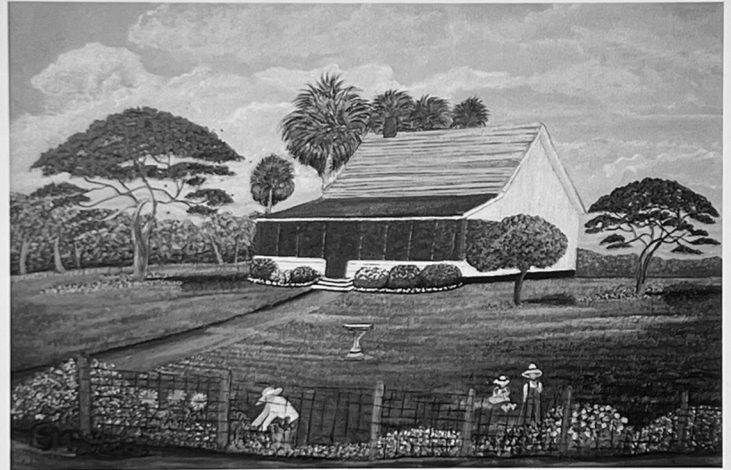
CROSS CREEK IN FOLK ART

One of the eye-catching exhibits at the recent Rawlings Society/Florida Historical Society conference featured the work of the late Florida folk artist Ernest M. Lee.

Inspired by the legendary Highwaymen painters, and recipient of the 2013 “Fellow Man, Mother Earth Award” given by the Stetson Kennedy Foundation, Lee became known for his robust style and vibrant colors. He loved to paint Florida landscapes, including Marjorie’s Cross Creek home. He passed away in 2021 at the age of 59.

His widow Gloria (a member of the Rawlings Society) put together an exhibit of his works that included three pictures of Marjorie’s house. They are available on notecards – which many Society members took home with them. (Appropriately for our Covid times, some are also available as facemasks!)

The website www.ernestleeart.com shows much of his work in color (see the Prints tab) and offers ordering information.



#049 Marjorie K. Rawlings House 1 with Red Trees



#137 Marjorie K. Rawlings House 3 with Metal Gate

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED RAWLINGS SOCIETY WEBSITE!

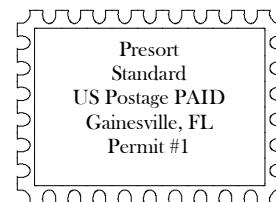
<https://rawlingssociety.org/>

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!

Please send website information to Ashley Lear: 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 signs up the most **new** members wins a FREE Registration for our next conference.

Here are some ideas to solicit members:

- Encourage friends and relatives 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

Name: _____	Student	\$15	Sponsor	\$100
	Individual	\$30	Patron	\$250
Address: _____	Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
	Sustaining	\$50	Life	\$1,000
City/State/Zip: _____	(Please circle membership level)			
E-mail address: _____	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.rawlingssociety.org**