



NEWSLETTER

President's Letter



*Flo Turcotte at the Banner Elk, North Carolina, cabin where Rawlings completed her first draft of *The Yearling*.*

Announcements

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held at the Riverside Grill House, 10 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: (727) 937-2000. The meeting will start at noon. The locale is at the same location as the former Pappas Restaurant, near the sponge docks.

Once again our campus is bustling with activity and a new academic year has begun. The UF students have returned in droves, along with a new crop of fresh (and frightened) faces. This inevitable rite of autumn never fails to bring to mind memories of my own back-to-school experiences. Even though it was many, many years ago and my own children are both now in college, I still remember the annual writing prompt of "What I did on my Summer Vacation." It was a dreaded ritual of autumn which I now embrace, since I have a wonderful tale to relate to you, my friends.

I had the good fortune of being invited to spend some time in July at the mountain home of some friends near Burnsville, NC. Besides my delight in having an excuse to escape the stifling heat of Gainesville, I hoped to be able to arrange a trip to Banner Elk to visit the cabin where Marjorie lived and worked in the fall of 1936. After our annual meeting in Asheville in 2008, I vowed to return to Western North Carolina as soon as I could and was very grateful to be able to do so during my summer vacation.

When she arrived in Banner Elk in late September, MKR wrote to her editor Max Perkins:

"A hurried note to say that I am here for a month at least. I simply could not get going on the book, although it was clear as daylight in my mind. Things were on my nerves—mosquitoes bad, heat sticky and depressing, grove responsibilities wearing, and a drugged lassitude besides. Decided just to bolt to the mountains to see if I couldn't take the hurdle that way..."

Boy, could I relate to that! It turned out Marjorie was suffering from malaria, and the cooler air and some quinine set her right as rain after a couple of months. My trip did the same for me, although thank goodness, I wasn't suffering from any malady. I was able to again visit the cottage where Marjorie jumped the hurdle and finished the first draft of her Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, *The Yearling*. She also wrote a story called "A Mother in Mannville," based on her experiences there. In 2004, thanks mostly to the efforts of Ernest "Buddy" Bass, the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society erected a monument to MKR's productive and restorative stay in Banner Elk on the grounds of the nearby Grandfather Home for Children. Above is a photo of me beside the marker. My visit brought back fond memories of Buddy and of his generosity and love for the Society and for Marjorie and her work.

(cont'd on p. 2)

**MKR Officers****President****Florence Tuurcotte****Vice President****Anne Pierce****Secretary****Pam Davis****Treasurer****Janice Arianism****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****Lynn Jones****Claire and Martin Koshar****Shirley Lucas****Gloria and Philip May, Jr.****Spence Perry****Marsha and Michael Phelts****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****President's Letter (cont'd from page 1)**

I wasn't nearly as productive as Marjorie during my stay in North Carolina, but I did enjoy some hiking, apple-picking, shopping and some great mountain music and dancing. I apologize to our past president Brent Kinser and Society member Dudley Gilmer for failing to contact them while in the area. Again I vow to return as soon as I can.

I hope you all had a refreshing and productive summer, and are back in the swing of things again. I'm looking forward to another successful year with the Society as we ramp up our programming and annual meeting plans. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and concerns at turcotte.ufl.edu.

Affectionately,

The MKR Society would like to welcome Karen De Vos and her one-woman performance of "The Life and Times of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings" back to Florida in November and December.

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|-------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| November 10 | 2pm | W. St. Petersburg Community Library |
| November 11 | 2pm | Port Orange Public Library |
| November 12 | noon | St. Augustine Main Library |
| November 12 | 6pm | Ponte Vedra Public Library |
| November 17 | 10:30am | Main Library of Orlando |
| November 26 | 7pm | Gainesville Headquarters Library |
| November 27 | 7pm | Millhopper Branch Library |
| December 1 | 2pm | Clearwater East Public Library |
| December 2 | 2pm | Lakeland Public Library |

Contact libraries for verification of day and time closer to performance dates.

Dues Announcement: Memberships expired on June 30. Check newsletter label for your membership expiration date. To renew, send dues to Dr. Anne Pierce, 249 Herman Drive, Hawthorne, FL 32640.

The 26th Annual MKR Conference Amelia Island, April 26-67, 2013

The 26th Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference will take place on lovely Amelia Island, April 26—27, 2013. Amelia Island always makes the list of top beaches and vacation locales in the U.S. Most recently, it was voted #5 among Top 10 North American Islands by *Conde Nast Traveler's* 2010 Reader's Choice Awards. As the site of the popular Amelia Island Book Festival, it has a long tradition of celebrating writers and writing.

Conference hotel is the Hampton Inn, 2549 Sadler Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. Phone: (904) 321-1111 or (800) 426-7866. Hotel web site: www.ameliaislandhamptoninn.com Rates are \$119 on April 25 and \$129 on April 26 (be sure to mention that you are a member of the Rawlings group). Rates are \$10 less on expedia.com

Conference sessions will be held at the nearby Florida House Inn, 22 South Third Street, Amelia Island, FL 32034. Phone: (904) 491-3322 or (800) 258-3301. Web site: www.floridahouseinn.com The Florida Inn has a limited number of guest rooms, which are also available, beginning at \$150.

There will be a Friday afternoon excursion, followed by cocktails and a banquet dinner. Full details will be available in the next newsletter.

For more information about Amelia Island, please go to www.ameliaisland.com

Call for Papers

The Society invites conference papers on all topics related to Rawlings's life, works, and circle. Presentations should be 20 minutes in length. Please send proposals to Anna Lillios at Anna@ucf.edu Deadline is March 15, 2013.

Announcement of Rawlings Call for Papers

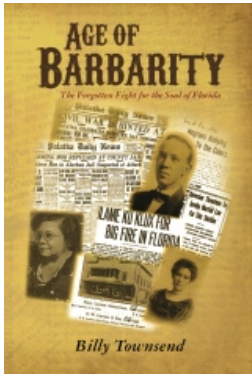


- *The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Journal of Florida Literature* publishes articles, creative fiction, poetry, book reviews, and notes in the spirit of or regarding the life and work of Rawlings, her circle, and other authors who use the state of Florida as a source of creativity. Send submissions to Dr. Anna Lillios at Anna@ucf.edu Deadline is 1 February 2013.
- Steve Brahlek, a professor at Palm Beach State College, is issuing a call for papers for the next College English Association conference in Savannah, GA, April 4-6, 2013. The topic is "Nature" ("By birth more noble than those creatures all, / Yet seems by nature and by custom curs'd." –Anne Bradstreet, "Contemplations"). Deadline is November 1. If you're interested in participating on this panel, please email Steve at brahleks@palmbeachstate.edu



Daniel Weinfeld's Review of Townsend's *Age of Barbarity*

(excerpt)



In this engaging debut book, journalist Billy Townsend presents the turbulent world of central Florida in the early twentieth century. Townsend defies traditional categories to fuse the genres of historical narrative, journalism, historical fiction, true crime, and family lore. The result is a page-turner that is compelling for its original approach, descriptive powers, and its deeply moral message.

The *Age of Barbarity* is grounded in thorough research. With the inside knowledge of a local with deep roots in the area, Townsend adeptly guides his reader through many intertwined plot lines involving characters with complex motivations. Several major figures are his family members.

But, instead of pretending omniscience, Townsend has the courage to confront the reader with the challenge facing anyone investigating the past: the gaps in information and the biases of those who created the surviving records. This honesty about the limits of primary sources is refreshing. Townsend turns a potential problem into one of the central strengths of the book as he opines on the credibility of the sources and enlists the reader as a co-investigator in assessing the evidence.

Billy Townsend's work may be found at
<https://www.createpace.com/3723681>

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