



NEWSLETTER

President's Letter

Dear MKR Society Friends –

This will be my last letter from Maine for 2018. But as much as I love Maine, I love Florida too. I am getting very excited for our return. We plan to arrive in Florida in time to prepare for the October MKR Trustees meeting. Claire Koshar and I are having a luncheon for the Trustees at her home in Montverde. I live right next door making it very convenient. We use the MKR *Cross Creek Cookery* as our guide. Homemade biscuits, orange cake, baked ham, and lots of salads, Florida veggies, and surprises will be on the menu.

We also love to serve Roselle punch and jam. Roselle, also called Florida Cranberry, is one of my favorite Florida plants. It is in the Hibiscus family. Most Florida Cracker homesteads grew it and Marjorie was familiar with it. It was growing on her Florida homestead. Roselle has big deep dark green leaves with bright crimson calyx. The white flowers with dark red centers at the base are always on the stems too. It can grow up to seven feet tall. Hope to have some stems with seeds to hand out to anyone who wants them. It is truly a beautiful and attractive plant.

Fall is my favorite time of year in Maine. The sun is lower in the sky bringing lovely long shadowing on the fields and woods. The air is crisp and clear, making for spectacular night star gazing. There is a distinct nutty smell in the air as I walk our trails along the water. The trees and shrubbery are turning and putting on that beautiful colored display of reds, oranges, and yellows. The greens of the pines, firs, and spruce make a lovely background setting for the fall color display. The yellow Goldenrod and all the wild Astors add more color to the ground.

Most of the unpleasant insects have disappeared. This is good for humans. Not so good for the birds who use insects as their primary food source. But the male cricket's mating call is loud each evening. It starts in the outdoors, but as colder weather begins, they try to move inside. A cricket on the hearth was considered good luck in times past.

The deer are always in the meadow and around the apple trees now. The spring fawns are so active in the fall. We have a set of twins and several singles. It is such joy to watch them jumping and playing. They chase each other as if they were playing tag. The mothers are more relaxed and not as attentive to their young now. The bucks are watching and feeding on the side. They will soon become more aggressive with each other as mating season looms.

Many birds are starting to assemble in groups as they prepare to head south with us. We have a 120-foot line from the house to the tall pine by the pond. It is 15 feet high and strictly for the birds to perch in safety. They are able to watch for food, to sing, socialize, and survey their surroundings. I recently saw 14 male bluebirds all in a line there prior to their start south. So lovely! It is also a favorite bluebird perch all summer. But you only see this quantity in the fall. Other species sharing this perch are the cardinals, finches, wrens, jays, chickadees, and grosbeaks. I know I have forgotten many others. We enjoy them all from the big bay windows in the rear of the farm.

(cont'd on page 2)

President's Letter (cont'd)

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The honks of the Canada geese as they fly south are loud and tell you the cold is coming. The ducks quack as they fly to the open water of the salt marshes and inland bays. Loons are very loud as they move to the deep ocean waters. Crows gather in large noisy groups in the meadow and heath. Smaller birds can fill trees and the air with their quieter cheeps and chittering. But their sheer quantity can make for quite a din. Meanwhile the far Northern birds are moving in to take their place. All the bird sounds make up for the silence of the frogs who have retreated underground.

The Squirrels and chipmunks are busy gathering the falling acorns. The bears are just chowing down on as much as they can before hibernation. Sadly, we have already lost over two hours of daylight. Time to head south.

Sincerely,
Elaine Bradbury



Roselle calyces. Photo by Roy Cui (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0).
University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS)

32nd Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Tarpon Springs
March 29-30

Please join us this year in historic Tarpon Springs, Florida, for our annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference. This year's conference is being held in the majestic St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located in downtown Tarpon Springs. Established in 1907, the current architecture was completed in 1943 and serves as an example of Neo-Byzantine architecture. It was modeled after Saint Sophia Cathedral (*Hagia Sophia*) in modern day Istanbul. All meetings and the conference banquet will be held in the cathedral's meeting hall.

There are many hotel options in the area and lots of parking at the church. A group rate has not yet been confirmed for a hotel, but that information will be communicated on the MKR website once it is available.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Christopher Still for Friday night and Anna Hamilton for the Saturday luncheon. Christopher Still is an accomplished artist and native Floridian whose paintings can be found in the Governor's Mansion of Florida and the Smithsonian Institution. He is a resident of Tarpon Springs. Anna Hamilton is the co-creator of "The Marjories," a new blog and website that celebrates Florida's environmental women. The conference excursion this year will be a boat ride on Friday afternoon following the morning presentations.

Downtown Tarpon Springs and the nearby waterfront have many quaint shops to explore. The Pinellas Trail bike path runs through the center of town. Please save the dates for this year's conference and plan on joining us in Tarpon Springs.

Silent Fundraiser – Elaine Bradbury is collecting items for the 2019 Silent Auction Fundraiser. Any MKR books or memorabilia you are willing to donate will be appreciated. The auction also includes books, crafts, foods, or memorabilia with a Florida theme. If you have published a book, please consider contributing a signed copy to the auction. All contributions must be in good, like-new condition. Contact Elaine at hhsouth@embarqmail.com with questions or to donate.



Interior view of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs

Here is Home: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Cross Creek

Documentary Premier with Sonya Doctorian and Ann McCutchan

Short-form documentary filmmaker Sonya Doctorian will premiere *Here is Home: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Cross Creek*, produced as part of a Florida Humanities Council Grant in cooperation with the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm. The event will include a viewing of the documentary, a discussion by the director of her methods, as well as highlights of video interviews with Cross Creek residents who share their 1930s and '40s memories of their neighbor, Mrs. Rawlings. The program will also feature readings by Ann McCutchan from her soon-to-be published biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. A reception will follow with Rawlings' Cross Creek Themed refreshments. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc., and the Florida Humanities Council in cooperation with the Matheson History Museum.

When: 6:30 PM, Friday, October, 12, 2018

Where: Matheson History Museum, 513 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601



Sonya Doctorian at MKR's gravesite during the filming of her documentary on MKR and Cross Creek



Annual MKR Society Membership Prize

We are starting a campaign to double our current membership. To win, please have your name written on the bottom of the new members' registration forms or let Anne Pierce know the names of your referrals.

The winner who registers the most new members will receive FREE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION for 2019.

Here are some ideas to solicit members:

- **Encourage adult children to join**
- **Give a gift of a reduced price student membership to children, grandchildren, or other students you know**
- **Speak to neighbors and members of your community library or historical societies about joining**

Be creative! Claire Koshar and Elaine Bradbury recruited 12 new members by hosting an MKR Breakfast party with gifts and prizes one year. Help keep our society strong!

**Note: MKR Society Membership Year is from July-June. Consult the mailing label for your renewal date.*

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/>

