



37th Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Conference
April 17-18, 2026 - DeLand, Florida

All sessions are at Northwest Square -238 N Clara Ave.

Friday, April 17

- 8-9 AM** **Registration, Silent Auction, Sales of Rawlings Society posters and merchandise**
- 9:00-9:30** **Welcome—Paul Dunn, MKR Society President**
Ashley Lear, MKR Society Executive Director
Robert Redd, local historian and author
- 9:30-10:00** **Ashley Reese, “Growing Up and Growing Down in Florida: Early Twentieth-Century Girls’ and Boys’ Coming-of-Age Stories”**
- 10-10:30** **Antoinette Libro, “Found Poetry in the Creative Works of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings”**
- 10:30–11** **Break. Visit the Silent Auction and Sales!**
- 11-11:30** **Kathlyne Sheppard, “Ora’s Deep Lament” (Short Film and Talk on the Lives of Pioneer Women, inspired by Ora Baxter from *The Yearling*)**
- 11:30-12** **Billy Townsend, “The Tragedy of Caleb Milne: How Marjorie Almost Added the Perfect Son to her Found Family”**
- 12:00-1 PM** **Barbecue lunch with discussion of *The Secret River* by Flo Turcotte and Kenneth Kidd, Visit the Silent Auction!**
- 1:00-2:00** **Geoff Gates, ““Oh! The Stories I’ve Heard!”: A Retrospective of 11 years as a Park Ranger”**
- 2:00-2:30** **Teri Sopp, “A Conversation with David Nolan”**
- 6:00-7:30** **Buffet dinner with trivia (bar opens at 5:30)**

8:00-9:00 Celebration of Literature and Music with Paul and Kay Garfinkel and Leslie Poole, a reprisal of their performance at the 2016 Word of the South festival in Tallahassee

Saturday, April 18

- 8:30-9 AM Registration, coffee available for purchase at Bernard's Market in Northwest Square
- 9-9:30 MKR Society Business Meeting: Election of Trustees, Announcements
- 9:30-10 MKR Awards Ceremony
- 10-10:30 Break. Last Chance for Silent Auction Bids!
- 10:30-11 Kenneth Kidd, "Patrick D. Smith's *A Land Remembered* and Florida Historical Fiction for Kids"
- 11-11:30 Charlie Cacioppo, "MKR Train Travel as Told by Mr. Charlie"
- 11:30-Noon Break. Pass out boxed lunches
- 12:00-1 PM Zach Zacharias, The Brown – Cici & Hyatt Brown Museum of Art, Science, & History, "*Rural Florida Landscapes: A Historical Study of the Cross Creek Region*"
- 1 PM Concluding Remarks - Ashley Lear
Silent Auction Pick-up
- 2:30 Boat ride at Blue Spring State Park. Board the boat at the pier **promptly at 2:15**

Activities you might enjoy in DeLand on your own:

For special activities and events in DeLand, visit the West Volusia tourism bureau's website at <https://www.visitwestvolusia.com/>.

See you next year in Gainesville! Mark your calendars NOW for May 7-8, 2027.