

# Thistledown

## ☞ Monthly Photo ☜



This month's photo is by nsca (see page 3 for more info)

## ☞ Tricky April Calendar ☜

Don't let the quirky April calendar interfere with your plans to get together with SMPS:

To avoid a conflict with the Easter holiday, the April Saturday Luncheon Meeting will take place on the **third** Saturday, April 18, instead of our standard second Saturday.

Because of this scheduling shift, the Third Thursday Poetry Evening (on April 16) will take place two days **before** our Saturday luncheon meeting. Hope to see you at the events!

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## ☞ WordWalk Poetry Project Judging Underway ☜

**T**he entries are in for the WordWalk Poetry Project. Poems submitted by area residents have been forwarded to Doris Stengel, past president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Stengel will select eight poems to permanently enhance sidewalk squares throughout the downtown area of Mankato.

The Southern Minnesota Poets Society is pleased to be a part of this project, along with the Twin Rivers Center for the Arts, the City Center Business Association, and the City of Mankato. Stay tuned for more, and look for poems coming soon to a sidewalk near you!



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato

## ☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☜

**T**his month you can be a part of two SMPS poetry adventures! The first, at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 16, is our second WordStage event -- an evening of performance poetry. This is a chance to bring out poems that lend themselves to more than a "reading." It's a time for drama, humor, and flair. Don't miss it!



Our second adventure takes place on Saturday, April 18. We'll gather as usual at 12:30pm at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild for lunch and a business meeting. Then we'll caravan to Barnes and Noble Bookstore at the River Hills

Mall for the Great Poetry Scavenger Hunt. You've never experienced anything like it!

By the way, April is National Poetry Month. Want a challenge? Resolve to write a poem a day for the month of April. Just want to relax and enjoy some poetry? Support poetry by purchasing a poetry mag, or go online to [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) for more ideas. Share a poem with someone you love (or with someone who loves poetry).

Regards,  
Jana Bouma



☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Third Thursday – WordStage Performance Poetry**

April 16, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Show up. Sign up. Bring your best. A night of high-octane open mike entertainment -- Performance Poetry!

✓ **Luncheon Meeting – Special date!**

April 18, 2009 (*third* Saturday)

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **The Great Poetry Scavenger Hunt**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

We'll have our lunch and business meeting at the guild, then caravan to Barnes and Noble for some poetry fun. Come with us and share in the adventure! All you need to bring is a small notepad/journal and a pen to carry with you down the aisles.

Regional Events

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series - MSU Faculty Reading**

April 16, 2009

3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Ostrander Auditorium)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event in the series features Terry Davis (fiction & creative nonfiction), Diana Joseph (creative nonfiction & poetry), and Richard Terrill (creative nonfiction & poetry).

✓ **Superior Convention (Golden Anniversary of NFSPS)**

June 11 - 15, 2009 (Thu – Mon)

The League of Minnesota Poets invites you for an exciting convention on the shores of Lake Superior. We will be staying at The Inn On Lake Superior, which offers some unique rooming options. They have twelve two-bedroom suites which can sleep up to 7 people. One room has a king sized bed, there are town queens in other room, a sleeper sofa in the living room.

Price is \$158.00 per night. For those who like roommates, if you put 6 in a suite, it comes out to \$26.33 per night for luxury accommodations! Standard room are also available at \$128.00 per night (option of king or queen). Room rates are good for three days before convention to three days after, allowing you to take advantage of this incredible vacation destination. Room rates include a full breakfast.

Call for reservations toll free 888-668-4352 or reserve online at [www.theinnonlakesuperior.com](http://www.theinnonlakesuperior.com). You must mention our Group ID 1596. Our password is 37000613.

☯ SMPS Member News ☯

- Shirley Ensrud's poem, "Time to Compose", was a winner in the Redrock National Poetry Competition. Join me in congratulating Shirley!
- Jana Bouma has received an Emerging Artist's Grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. She will use the grant to attend a summer writers' conference. Go Jana!

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☯

We're nearing the final events of the spring season. If you haven't joined us for a Saturday meeting or Thursday evening in a while, we sure hope you can make the April and/or May events. Happily, warmth has finally begun to sneak back into the world, which should make travel a bit easier for some.

Please note that we still have to find a volunteer who can bring some beverages to the May 21 Thursday reading. If you want to take charge, please let either Jana or Derek know.

**Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)**

Apr 16, 2009

*WordStage - Performance Poetry night #2*

May 21, 2009

Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

**Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages**

(SMD) Apr 18

Janet Fisch

(TTB) Apr 16

Craig Groe

(SMD) May 9

Meredith Cook

(TTB) May 21

*volunteer needed*

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

<b>President</b>	Jana Bouma <a href="mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net">jbouma@hickorytech.net</a> (507) 243 - 4050
<b>Vice President</b>	John Rezmerski <a href="mailto:rez@gac.edu">rez@gac.edu</a>
<b>Regional VP</b>	Susan Chambers <a href="mailto:poetsue@aol.com">poetsue@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Dorla is hanging on for now, but the position's open ... interested?</i>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Yvonne Cariveau <a href="mailto:ycariveau@gmail.com">ycariveau@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Derek Liebertz <a href="mailto:bajanorthwest@yahoo.com">bajanorthwest@yahoo.com</a>
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☪ Editor's Corner ☪

**A** lot of “real estate” was needed last month to cover all the announcements, so my Editor’s Corner shrunk to the size of a comma. A tiny, poetic comma.

This month though, I must use a bit of space to thank all the photographers and poets who provided us with great imagery, description, storytelling, and inspiration for the second annual “Image and the Word” exhibit. The reception evening was a big success, and next year should be even better. Great job everyone, and thanks again!

The April newsletter’s Flickr image is by a photographer from Nova Scotia with the nickname **nsca**. You can see her original in higher resolution at:

[www.flickr.com/photos/nsca/301237060/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nsca/301237060/)

and read about her other “adventures” on her blog:

[www.aliceinparislovesartandtea.blogspot.com](http://www.aliceinparislovesartandtea.blogspot.com)

The “Extreme Sheep Herding” video is a **must-see**. Yes, you read that right ... extreme sheep herding. There has got to be a poem in there somewhere. Check it out!

☪ Tributes & Memorial Services for Bill Holm ☪

**B**elow are details for three memorial services for poet Bill Holm. He was an award-winning author, a guest on MPR’s radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, and a great friend to many poets in the region. Bill passed away on Feb 25, 2009 at age 65.

- Minnesota Public Radio presents “Friends of Bill Holm” with Robert Bly and Jim Harrison at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul. This event celebrating the life and work of beloved author Bill Holm will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday April 14, 2009. Hosted by Fred Child, the evening will be filled with memories, selections from Bill’s work, performances of Bill’s favorite music, and a toast with his favorite Icelandic spirit. Join us as we gather with an impressive list of talented writers, artists, and musicians to give Bill a raucous, unforgettable sendoff. Tickets are \$25.00 available from Minnesota Public Radio or Ticketmaster, with all proceeds going to the Bill Holm Memorial Fund. Minnesota-native Bill Holm passed away on February 25th. He was the author of many captivating books including *Coming Home Crazy*, *The Heart Can Be Filled Anywhere on Earth*, *Eccentric Islands*, *Playing the Black Piano*, and, most recently, *The Windows of Brimnes*.
- Southwest State University – Marshall will host a memorial service for Bill Holm on Monday April 20, 2009 at 7:30pm. The event will include music and various speakers.
- Gustavus Adolphus College will have a memorial from 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Thursday May 7 in the Alumni Hall. The evening will include music, speakers, and opportunities for friends of Bill Holm to say words of remembrance.

Southern Minnesota Poets Society  
Jana Bouma, President  
935 Melwood Court  
Madison Lake, MN 56063

Be sure to keep SMPS as a part of your life! Just fill out the form below and send it with your membership fee to Jana Bouma. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs from **January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009**

SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? Yes No (circle one)

Dues Enclosed: Regular (\$15.00) \_\_\_ Student (\$7.50) \_\_\_

Mail application and check to **Jana Bouma SMPS President, 935 Melwood Court, Madison Lake, MN 56063**

All SMPS members are encouraged to also become members of the League of Minnesota Poets ( <http://www.mnpoets.org> )