

# Thistledown

## ☪ Thistledown Photo ☪



The newsletter photo this month is by Flickr user Pettygroves. You can see the original photo in higher resolution at: [www.flickr.com/photos/pettygroves/3912883119/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/pettygroves/3912883119/)

## ☪ May Meeting ☪

The May meeting will be a pot luck supper and poetry reading at the home of Susan Stevens Chambers.

Come out and enjoy spring time in the countryside—the view out to the birdfeeders is always lovely.

57310 166th Lane  
Good Thunder, MN

**May 12, 2012 12:30pm for lunch  
1:00pm meeting start**

RSVP to [schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com)

## ☪ Inside This Issue ☪

Calls for Poets	2
Blast from the Past	2
Poetry Events	3
Editor's Corner	3
Snacks/Refreshments	3

### Regular Meetings

2nd Saturdays at 12:30 pm  
3rd Thursdays at 7:30 pm



[Facebook.com/southernmnpoets](https://www.facebook.com/southernmnpoets)

## ☪ 25th Annual LOMP Woodtick Poetry Weekend ☪

Retreat to Susan Stevens Chambers "cabin" on Horseshoe Lake

13362 SW Horseshoe Lake Road  
Merrifield, Minnesota

Cabin Phone number 218-765-3364

**Thursday July 19th through Sunday July 23, 2012**

Each poet brings food and a thirty minute program. This can be a writing workshop, talk on writing forms, a reading from a famous poet. Let your imagination run wild! Bring your own poems for many sessions of "read-arounds".

Everyone pitches in for clean-up, there is time for swimming and boating on the lake. Many poets have said they write more during Woodtick than any other time of the year. Come be a part of it!

Contact Sue Chambers: [poetsue@aol.com](mailto:poetsue@aol.com) or [schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com) (507) 278-4200



## ☪ May Third Thursday, May 17th ☪

Our last Third Thursday of the season will be May 17th at 7:30pm at the Emy Frentz Guild. This is your last opportunity for an evening of wine, poetry and friends before the long summer break.

The theme for the night is Upheaval and Natural Disasters—since May 17th is the day before Mount St. Helens Day (the anniversary of the eruption). Guess who's idea this was? (Derek is from Portland, OR and remembers that day well).



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato

TWIN RIVERS  
COUNCIL FOR THE



☞ Our Poets ☛

**Roadside Poetry—Janelle Hawkrige**

Like the Burma Shave signs from the 1950s, Roadside Poetry is a set of 4 billboards with one line of a poem on each billboard.



The Spring poem is by Janelle Hawkrige. Janelle is a member of the Scribblers Club, SMPS and LOMP.

The complete poem and a profile of Janelle is online at

<http://roadsidepoetry.org/>

**The Talking Stick—Shirley Ensrud**

Shirley Ensrud's poem "Remembering Duluth" will be published in "The Talking Stick—Volume 2" a publication of the Jackpine Writers' Block, due out in the fall of 2012.

**Readings & Awards—John C. Rezmerski**

John did two readings in April. One, a team reading at Gustavus in honor of Joyce Sutphen, the Minnesota Poet Laureate. The other, a team reading in Luverne, honoring the 100th anniversary of Frederick Manfred's birth.

John also won two cash awards and five citations in the Utah State Poetry Society's 2012 contests.

**Photographers and Artists—Kay Helms and Gerry Tostenson**

Kay Helms had two photography pieces and Gerry Tostenson had two paintings selected for the Prairie Lakes Regional Art Show. One of Gerry's paintings received a Merit Award. Congratulations!

☞ Blast from the Past ☛

<http://www.southernmnpoets.org/newsletter/> now has issues from this one back to 1980. We are still missing a few issues, but thanks to Meredith Cook and others the collection is pretty complete. If you have an issue that is not on the page, we'd love to scan it for the web site and return it to you.



**From the Thistledown, Volume 6, September, 1985**

Meeting was at Mr. Rene's and the assignment was to write a concrete poem—one were the shape of the poem reflects it's meaning. Forms like haiku were suggested.

☞ Arts by the River ☛



**Arts by the River**

**Fine Art & Music Festival**

Saturday, June 9  
& Sunday, June 10

Riverfront Park,  
Mankato

Come to the Festival to enjoy people, music, smells of delicious food and ART—paintings, photography, pottery, fabrics, wire, books, glass and poetry.

Southern MN Poets will have a table at the festival both days and we will be reading poetry on the main stage between musical acts! We will give out poems to kids and engage kids and adults in writing poems.

**We need lively performance pieces for reading and helpers at the table.**

**Contact Sue Chambers or Derek to sign up.**

More information: [www.artsbytheriver.com](http://www.artsbytheriver.com)

=====

Also in the 1985 Thistledown issue was a wonderful poem - reproduced below for your enjoyment.

**Happening** by Edwin Honig

Behind me the house was asleep  
I could hear it relax and breathe  
Tied to its summer thick hill  
A bird or a chipmunk scraped  
Through the eaves or a hollow hand  
Roamed in its paintless hide  
Tinkled a pane in the upper storey  
While I walked and the house  
Slept on. And it breathed,  
I know, because it was then  
The highest perturbable trees  
Shook down a wind like a lash,  
The road fell down a ravine  
And all that wide blue summer  
Grew narrow and turned on itself  
Like a fan. When I turned, the house  
Had opened it's face, gray as a man's.

☪ Poetry Events ☪

**25th Annual LOMP Woodtick Poetry Weekend**

July 19-23, 2012

13362 SW Horseshoe Lake Road

Merrifield, Minnesota

More information on Page 1.

**Do you know of any Poetry Events coming up?**

Be sure to post them to our Facebook page or email to [newsletter@southernmnpoets.org](mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org)

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

**T**hanks to everyone that have promised to provide refreshments for meetings!

**Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages**

(SMD)	May 2012	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 2012	Derek Liebertz

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

<b>President</b>	Derek Liebertz <a href="mailto:bajanothwest@yahoo.com">bajanothwest@yahoo.com</a> (507) 344-8709
<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>	Gerry Tostensen <a href="mailto:gerrytos@hickorytech.net">gerrytos@hickorytech.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jana Bouma <a href="mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net">jbouma@hickorytech.net</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Yvonne Cariveau <a href="mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org">newsletter@southernmnpoets.org</a>
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Sandra Newbauer <a href="mailto:snewbauer0147@charter.net">snewbauer0147@charter.net</a>

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

**I**t's been a great year of meetings and events for SMPS. I've enjoyed doing the newsletter each month. As we start to plan for next year, please send your suggestions for programs and for the newsletter. Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

We are thinking about speakers for next fall and winter—if you know a poet that you'd like to invite to speak at a future SMPS meeting, let us know!

News to share? [newsletter@southernmnpoets.org](mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org) or post at <http://facebook.com/southernmnpoets>

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **YVONNE**

☪ From the Prez ☪

It's been an exciting year for the SMPS crew. People won awards and grants, published, performed, read, written, listened and laughed. Craig Groe provided multimedia entertainment, the annual Blizzard Retreat hosted by Sue Chambers was a grand success, as was the Welsh poetry contest at the vineyard!

I want to thank everyone who joined us for those Saturdays and Thursdays through the wonderfully mild winter. My personal highlight was watching Phil Bryant slip deep into professor mode as he weaved in and out of multiple poetry books. Think back on 2011-12 ... what was yours?

Next year is already looking solid too. We are scheduling some poetry therapy, reaching out to authors and contest winners for great speakers, and moving forward with an ambitious project to install poetry around the downtown area! We'll have new CityArt sculptures to be inspired by, featured readers on Thursday nights starting with our terrific performer Meredith Cook in September, and more words to soothe our souls. Please let myself or the other officers know if you have someone to suggest for a guest speaker, or an idea for something fun to try on a Thursday evening.

Have a terrific summer, my fellow poets!  
Derek Liebertz, Grand Poobah and SMPS President

☪ Membership Renewal ☪

**T**hanks to those that have renewed their SMPS memberships.

A reminder to renew your SMPS and LOMP (League of Mn Poets) membership. The outer page of this newsletter has a form to complete for SMPS, and on the LOMP website — [www.mnpoets.org](http://www.mnpoets.org) — you can find their renewal form.

*We urge you to join our state organization, the League of MN Poets .*

Southern Minnesota Poets Society  
c/o Yvonne Cariveau, Newsletter Editor  
1131 E Main St  
Mankato, MN 56001

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 our Treasurer Gerry Tostensen. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs from **January 1st** - **December 31st** of each calendar year

**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: **Gerry Tostensen SMPS Treasurer, 24070 577th Lane, Mankato, MN 56001**

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