

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☛



This month's thistledown photo is by Eva the Weaver (see the Editor's Note for more info)

☞ SMPS Impresses ☛

We have a winner!

Susan Chambers' poem, "I Sleep a Crow Dream", received a First Place award in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies 2008 annual poetry contests. Susan's poems also received two Second Place awards and six honorable mentions!

Meredith Cook received Second Place and Third Place awards. Shirley Ensrud received an honorable mention. What a showing for SMPS!

Congratulations, all!

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☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

Dear members and friends: get ready for some excitement in 2008 – 2009!

We'll kick off the year at our first luncheon meeting on Saturday, September 13, where we'll be celebrating *County Lines*, a poetry anthology just released by the League of Minnesota Poets. This collection, assembled in celebration of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial anniversary (and edited by, among others, our own John Rezmer-ski), includes poems from each of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties, including a number of poems by SMPS poets.

And there's a lot more to come! We kick off Third Thursdays on September 18, with poetry readings by SMPS members and music from Dan Butzer. And don't miss one of our premier events: the annual RiverCrossings exhibit and reading, Oct 4 at the Guild. This collaborative art and poetry event is always a hit.



One more thing: SMPS, along with the Twin Rivers Center for the Arts and the city of Mankato, is part of a proposed effort to put poetry

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permanently "underfoot" for all Mankato residents. Come to the September meeting to find out more about this event, before it's "set in concrete" . . .

Many more exciting and mysterious plans are underway for 2008 – 2009, so be a part of it! Hope to see you on the 13th!

Regards,
Jana Bouma



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events

- ✓ **Season Kickoff Luncheon Meeting**
September 13, 2008
12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat
1:00pm **County Lines Celebration** program
Emy Frentz Arts Guild

- ✓ **Third Thursday**
September 18, 2008 at 7:00pm
Emy Frentz Arts Guild
Come listen and/or participate in the poetry and music with your SMPS poets and musician Dan Butzer.

- ✓ **Prairie Stories and River Rhymes**
September 27, 2008 at 2:00pm
Morgan Creek Vineyards
Explore **Welsh Poetry and the Eisteddfodd Tradition** with us as we enjoy the beautiful vineyard setting and liquid inspiration by the glass!

- ✓ **3rd Annual RiverCrossings Art/Poetry Collaboration**
October 4, 2008 at 7:00pm
Emy Frentz Arts Guild
This will be terrific, make plans to attend! Seven pieces of art were the basis for poems by SMPS members. There's **much** more this weekend as part of the overall R/C event, too.

- ✓ **Luncheon Meeting**
October 11, 2008
12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat
1:00pm **Writing that Saves Lives** program
Emy Frentz Arts Guild
This program will be led by Sherry Quan Lee, who titles herself a writer/teacher/mentor ... a true balancing act.

- ✓ **Gallery Opening for Craig Groe w/ Reading**
October 11, 2008 at 7:00pm
Carnegie Art Center, 120 S Broad St, Mankato
Craig asked SMPS members for their inspirations, and he's received many exciting entries. He'll be taking those works, adding his own flair, and creating a multimedia presentation not to be missed. So don't ... be there! ☺

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

Regional Events

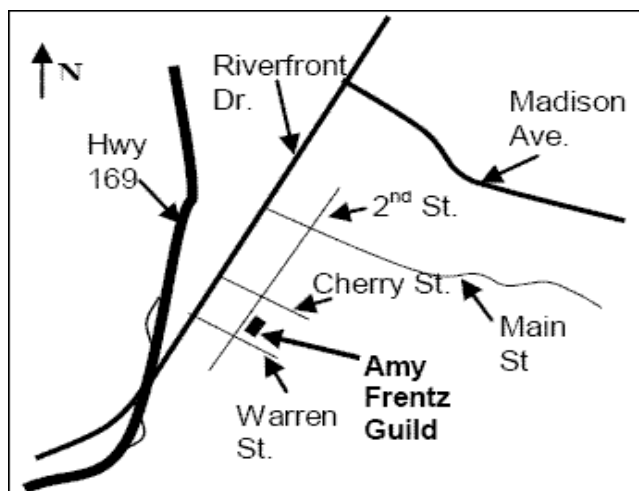
- ✓ **Loft Literary Center Poetry Festival**
September 12 - 13, 2008
The Loft Literary Center
1011 Washington Ave South, Suite 200, Minneapolis 55415
This event features two themes: **The Business of Poetry** and **The Role of the Poet in Society**.

- ✓ **An Evening with the Sutter Brothers**
October 10 at 7:30pm
Arts Center of St. Peter
Storytelling, poetry, commentary, and music. Barton Sutter is a poet, author, and teacher who has won the Minnesota Book Award in three categories, including poetry. Tickets available at the door: \$12 adults / \$10 AC members / \$6 students

- ✓ **Two Day Poetry Celebration**
October 27 - 28, 2008
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
1450 College Way, Worthington, MN
Featuring poets included in LOMP's **County Lines** anthology. For more information, contact [Karsten Piper](mailto:karsten.piper@mnwest.edu) at 507-372-3444 or karsten.piper@mnwest.edu.

☞ Emy Frentz Guild ☛

The guild is located at **523 South 2nd Street** in Mankato, between Cherry and Warren, next to the Cray Mansion.



If you haven't renewed your SMPS membership yet you are **very** naughty. Send your renewal form to Dorla Wachter today!

Don't miss out on the Thistledown newsletter and all of SMPS's great programming. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st, 2008.

See the membership form on the outside of this newsletter mailing. Thank you!

☞ Member News ☛

- Loraine Schwanke Mueller has published a book of poems: *Petals of Roses Falling*. The book of 329 poems is available in Mankato at Barnes and Noble and at The Lighthouse, or online at xlibris.com or Amazon.com. You can also find it at her website, www.petalsofrosesfalling.com.
- Charlotte Seward, a founding member of SMPS and a member of LOMP, passed away on July 27, 2008 at the age of 97. Charlotte, who published many of her poems and won numerous poetry prizes, was a very active member and enthusiastic supporter of SMPS. She will be greatly missed. Our gratitude to Monica Toohey Haack, who sent a gift to SMPS in memory of Charlotte Seward.
- An article featuring Monica Toohey Haack and her poetry appeared in the March 26 edition of the Fulda Free Press.
- A poem by Susan Chambers, "The Way of Crickets," was featured in the *What Light Poetry Series* at mnartists.org for the week of June 16.
- Poems by the following SMPS poets appear in the League of Minnesota Poets' anthology, *County Lines*: Jana Bouma, Sue Chambers, Meredith Cook, Loraine Schwanke Mueller, and John Rezmerski.
- Jana Bouma's review of *The Blue Road Reader: Stardust and Fate* appears in the fall issue of *Whistling Shade*.

☞ SMPS Officers ☛

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
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Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Publicity	<i>position currently open ... are you interested?</i>
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☞ Editor's Note ☛

Over the summer, our frumpy newsletter smashed its piggy bank, dug through all the couch cushions, and went to **the salon** for a facelift. The printed copies don't quite have that "new document smell" since they're still black and white, but the PDF's should make your eyes happier. ☺

As part of this spiffy new look, each front page will include a thistledown picture (all the photos can be found on the social photo website Flickr). Kicking things off is a great photo by "Eva the Weaver" - that's her website name, anyway. To see her original photograph in higher resolution, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/evaekblad/859820793/

As Jana said, this year's set of poetry events & programs should keep our pen ink flowing. Happy writing to us all!

Your editor, **D E R E K**

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 treasurer Dorla Wachter. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The current SMPS membership year runs from **January 1st, 2008 through December 31st, 2008**

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 **Dorla Wachter, SMPS Treasurer, 224 W. 5th Street, Mankato, MN 56001**

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