

# Thistledown

## ☞ Monthly Photo ☛



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

## ☞ Blank Equals "No" ☛

**B**e informed about the **Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment:**

On Nov. 4th, Minnesotans will be asked to vote on the *Amendment for Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas*. This amendment would dedicate state funding to the support of Minnesota's natural resources and arts and culture. The funds will be raised via a sales tax of 3/8ths of one percent. This amendment could, among other things, *triple the funding* for the Minnesota State Arts Board and the regional arts councils, leading to more arts programming and more support for individual artists.

If you would like to learn more, you may visit the web page of the organization supporting

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## ☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

**W**hat is performance poetry? Just what you'd think: Poetry ...

- with an emphasis on *the performance*
- that goes beyond *reading from the page*
- that injects *something more*: a passion, a flourish, dramatization -- sometimes movement, music or visuals.

In the 50s, there were the Beats with their sly and laconic blasts of rebellion. Today, there's the rapid-fire, red-hot edginess of slam poetry, and the highly-produced, synthesizer-backed electronic poets. And at coffee houses everywhere, there are ear-dazzling, storytelling poets who reach out to their audiences.



Come to our October meeting for an introduction to poetry as performance. We'll watch & listen to recordings of master performers. We'll talk about what it means to "perform" poetry.

And bring one of your own poems -- one that lends itself to a bit of extra drama or flair. Don't worry -- you won't have to perform it. (But you might get to perform someone else's poem!)

"... at coffee houses everywhere, there are ear-dazzling, storytelling poets who reach out to their audiences."

By the way, did you catch our own version of performance poetry, at September's Third Thursday reading? If not, you missed an amazing evening of Sue Chamber's story-laden poems interlaced with Dan Butzer's masterful guitar and vocals. Your next chance is October 16, when poet Christina Flaughter will collaborate with Dan. You won't want to miss it!

Regards,  
Jana Bouma



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☘

SMPS - Specific Local Events

- ✓ **Luncheon Meeting**  
 October 11, 2008  
 12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat  
 1:00pm **Do You want Some Drama with That?** program  
 Emy Frenz Arts Guild  
 An introduction to Performance Poetry. Bring a poem that can be performed with a bit of flair!
- ✓ **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! ☺
- ✓ **Third Thursday Poetry Evening**  
 October 16, 2008 at 7:00pm  
 Emy Frenz Arts Guild  
 This evening will feature poet Christina Flaughter and musician Dan Butzer, plus a poetry open-mike.
- ✓ **Luncheon Meeting**  
 November 8, 2008  
 12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat  
 1:00pm **Inside the "What Light" Poetry Series** program  
 Emy Frenz Arts Guild  
 Guest Lightsey Darst, a poet and dance critic and curator of "What Light" at <http://mnartists.org>, will share her thoughts on the poetry series. And ask us for submissions!

☞ Blank Equals "No" ☘

*(Continued from page 1)*

the amendment, [www.yesformn.org](http://www.yesformn.org). Print materials are also available at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild. On Oct. 6, the Star Tribune published an article on the amendment. You can find it here: <http://www.startribune.com/politics/30495844.html>.

Please note that if you vote in the election on Nov. 4, you will be voting on this issue -- even if you leave the amendment question blank. (If you skip this question on the ballot, your vote will automatically count as a NO vote.) Let's all make an informed choice!

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☘

Regional Events

- ✓ **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
- ✓ **Call for entries: "What Light: This Week's Poem"**  
 October 18, 2008 deadline  
 Submit up to three previously unpublished, short (maximum 50 lines or 300 words each) poems as attachments by the deadline to [poems@mnartists.org](mailto:poems@mnartists.org). Winning poems will be featured on <http://mnartists.org> during November, December, and January. For more details, visit the website.
- ✓ **Big Deal Poetry Open Stage**  
 October 25, 2008 from 8:00pm - 10:00pm  
 Coffee Hag (on Riverfront in old-town Mankato)  
 Hosted by Esther Marcella.
- ✓ **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](mailto:karsten.piper@mnwest.edu).
- ✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**  
 October 30, 2008  
 3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Ostrander Auditorium)  
 7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)  
 This event in the series features fiction and non-fiction author Steve Almond.

The time to renew your SMPS membership is nearing as we approach the holidays. See the form at the end of the newsletter, and mail your 2009 renewal to Jana Bouma today -- don't miss the Thistledown newsletter (yea!) and all of SMPS's great programming. Thank you!

☪ Member News/Announcements ☪

- June Emanuel, 90, a longtime and faithful member of SMPS, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 25, at Pathstone Living in Mankato. Gail Malvin, a past member of SMPS, is June's daughter. June was a very active member of SMPS until her recent injury and subsequent illness. She delighted us all with her enthusiasm, her verses, and her songs, which she sang out with gusto. She will be greatly missed.
- Thank you, part 1: Ike Sarma has agreed to take on the role of Publicity Officer. We appreciate your efforts, sir!
- Thank you, part 2: Craig Groe has volunteered to create flyers for our Third Thursday events. Excellent!
- Call to action: SMPS needs a new treasurer -- not a difficult task, but an important one! If you can take on this role, please contact Jana by calling 243-4050 or emailing to [jbouma@hickorytech.net](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net). A **thank you** to Dorla Wachter for her long-time work in this role!

☪ 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>position currently open ... are you 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>
<b>Publicity</b>	Ikars Sarma <a href="mailto:icarusj@hickorytech.net">icarusj@hickorytech.net</a>
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Sandra Newbauer <a href="mailto:snewbauer0147@charter.net">snewbauer0147@charter.net</a>

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

**Let Us Hear Your Poems!**

Be part of our Third Thursday Poetry Evenings! If you have plenty to share, pick a "Poetry and Music" slot (each poet will share about 20 minutes of poetry). If you'd rather share just a few poems, sign up for our "Five Minutes of Fame" evening on January 15. At most meetings, we also still have time for a brief poetry "read-around." Don't keep all of that poetry to yourself -- share!

And ... if you have a flair for the dramatic, we're hosting two "Performance Poetry" evenings on Nov 20 and Apr 16. More about those events in the next newsletter.

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

Oct 16, 2008	Christina Flaughter
Nov 20, 2008	<i>more info coming</i>
Jan 15, 2009	<i>poets needed</i>
Feb 19, 2009	John Rezmerski & Jana Bouma
Mar 19, 2009	Derek Liebertz & <i>poet needed</i>
Apr 16, 2009	<i>more info coming</i>
May 21, 2009	Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

**Five Minutes of Fame Poetry Evening**

Jan 15, 2009	Chuck Van Buskirk Craig Groe Marilyn Frank <i>add your name to the list!</i>
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**Third Thursday Beverages & Saturday Meeting Desserts**

(SMD)	Oct 11, 2008	Derek & Yvonne
(TTB)	Oct 16, 2008	Marie Crawford
(SMD)	Nov 8, 2008	Dorla Wachter
(TTB)	Nov 20, 2008	<i>still open</i>
(SMD)	Dec 13, 2008	<i>still open</i>

The 2009 portion of the snack schedule will be listed as we move closer to the holidays. Lots of news in this issue!

☪ Editor's Corner ☪



'll miss your singing, June. Rhyme in peace.

The October newsletter image is by "Donnie Ray". He found a ladybug almost upside down in the 'down. To see his original photograph in higher resolution, go to:

[www.flickr.com/photos/donbrubacher/1351977008/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/donbrubacher/1351977008/)

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 Jana Bouma (until we get a new treasurer). Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The upcoming SMPS membership year will run 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> )