

Thistledown

❧ Monthly Photo (see page 3 for details) ❧



❧ Inside This Issue ❧

Poetry Events	2
Membership Reminder	3
SMPS Member News	3
Officer List	3
Editor's Corner	3
Sign-Up Reminder	3

❧ IW3 Update ❧

All photographs I have received will be printed and on hand for SMPS member review during the next couple of events, starting with the holiday celebration. Thank you for your poetry submissions as well, I hope the photographers will have fun with them and be inspired!

Within a few days our website will also have the photos on display too, in case you are unable to attend the winter events. Email response poems to Derek at bajanorthwest@yahoo.com or mail them to 1131 E Main St, Mankato MN 56001. Thanks and happy writing everyone!

❧ From the Poetic Oval Office ❧

Thanksgiving is past (I just polished off the last of the leftovers), but the mood of the holiday is still with me. I am, indeed, thankful for the many friends I've made through SMPS. Thanks to each of you for the enthusiasm and creativity you bring to our meetings and events.



These days, the internet is one of my favorite places to go for a quick poetry fix. YouTube is a great place to find poetry performances. A couple of examples: www.youtube.com/user/SpokenVerse will take you

to Tom O'Bedlam's delightful readings of classic poems, and www.youtube.com/user/inkteagunn will take you to performances from the Minneapolis spoken word scene, posted by Minnesota Microphone. (Expect to hear some raunchy material and language.) Another spot to browse your favorite poets is the Academy of American Poets website at www.poets.org.

Enjoy poetry wherever you can find it! And bring your favorites to share at SMPS. See you soon!

Regards,
Jana Bouma



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



❧ Poetry Events, Near and Far ❧

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Annual Holiday Celebration**

December 12, 2009

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Our yearly holiday gathering will feature harpist and singer **Amy Korteum** as we celebrate the season. No brown bag lunches either, **Matt's Catering** will take care of the food! If you only make one Saturday meeting a year, **this** is the one.

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

January 9, 2010

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **Author Presentation**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Poet Connie Colwell Miller, author of *Bodywearers*, will speak to the group before we have a reading session.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry**

January 21, 2010 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Due to a scheduling change, this Third Thursday Poetry event will be a "5 Minutes of Fame" open mike reading. This is your opportunity to share your creativity without worrying that you need lots of material. Advance sign-up is not required, though it is encouraged for smooth planning. Contact Jana at jbouma@hickorytech.net or 507-243-4050.

✓ **Blizzard Poetry Retreat**

January 28 -- 31, 2010

Home of Sue Chambers (see directions below)

57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN

All poets welcome! **Accommodations provided; drop-ins are also welcome.** There is **NO CHARGE to attend** the retreat, but guests are asked to "pitch in" to provide food and assist with meal prep and cleanup. Each guest will also give a presentation on some aspect of poetry. To sign up, contact Susan Chambers, schambersmediator@yahoo.com, or 507-278-4200.

Directions to Sue Chambers' house**From Highway 22 south out of Mankato**

Take Highway 22 south approximately 7 - 8 miles (about ½ mile past the small white church) to County 16 (169th St.). Turn west (right) onto 16. Look for the second gravel road on your left -- 574th Avenue. Turn south (left) onto 574th Avenue. Follow 574th Ave for about 2/3 of a mile to 166th Lane. Turn right onto 166th Lane. Note the "dead end" sign. The Chambers house is the first house on the right, a large brown house and separate garage. (The dogs are friendly!) If you go down the hill on the minimum maintenance road, you have gone too far.

❧ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ❧

From County Road 16 south out of Mankato

Take County 16 approximately 7 -- 8 miles, over two rivers, the LeSueur and Big Cobb. County 16 will become "169th St.". Shortly thereafter, turn right (south) onto 574th Avenue (a gravel road). Follow 574th Ave. for about 2/3 of a mile to 166th Lane. Turn right onto 166th Lane. Note the "dead end" sign. The Chambers house is the first house on the right, a large brown house and separate garage. (The dogs are friendly!) If you go down the hill on the minimum maintenance road, you have gone too far.

From Mapleton

Head north on Highway 22, approximately 6 miles, through Beauford, to County Road 16. Turn west (left) on County Road 16. Look for the second gravel road on your left -- 574th Avenue. Turn south (left) onto 574th Ave. Follow 574th Ave. for about 2/3 of a mile to 166th Lane. Turn right onto 166th Lane. Note the "dead end" sign. The Chambers house is the first house on the right, a large brown house and separate garage. (The dogs are friendly!) If you go down the hill on the minimum maintenance road, you have gone too far.

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

January 28, 2010

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

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event in the series features poet and creative nonfiction writer Candace Black, poet Richard Robbins and fiction writer Roger Sheffer.

✓ **RATTLE: Call for poetry submissions**

Deadline: February 1, 2010

The Summer 2010 issue of RATTLE has a humor theme; puns, parodies, you name it. See <http://www.rattle.com/> for more details on submission guidelines.

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series - Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Residency**

February 16 - 19, 2010

This event in the series features fiction writer Aryn Kyle.

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

March 25, 2010

This event in the series features poets Lucille Clifton and Jorge Evans.

❧ SMPS Officers ❧

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers schambersmediator@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Gerry Tostensen gerrytos@hickorytech.net
Recording Secretary	Yvonne Cariveau ycariveau@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

❧ SMPS Member News ❧

- **Jana Bouma's** poem "Color Shift" (a.k.a. "Put away the pictures") appears in the Fall 2009 issue of *Natural Bridge*.
- *Do you know of other SMPS member news items that I missed? Let me know and it'll go in the next issue.*

❧ It's Renewal Time! ❧

Keep SMPS vital and growing by renewing your membership! The new membership year begins on January 1. The back page of this newsletter has a renewal form. Do it now!

We also encourage all SMPS members to join our parent organization, the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP). Joining LOMP gives you the opportunity to enter state and national poetry contests, to be published in the Moccasin literary journal, to receive the LOMP newsletter, and to get to know poets from around the state. For a LOMP membership form, go to www.mnpoets.org and click on "Join."

❧ Editor's Corner ❧

Got my first taste of winter the past couple days as snow grew out of my driveway. Shoveling in the sub-zero air this morning was ... shall we say, "brisk"? Maybe I will write a poem based on the title of a song that I sung a few years back named "In the Bleak Midwinter". When life gives you freezing cold lemons, blend with some ice and your favorite adult beverage right? heh heh ...

This month's newsletter image is by a Flickr artist named "**Hydragenic**". I usually pick a smaller one, but that is just amazing — a coat made from thistledown seeds! This work of art is on display in the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, England. You can see the original photograph in higher resolution at this address:

www.flickr.com/photos/hydragenic/1905947802/

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

❧ I Signed Up For What?!? ❧

Thank you to the members who have already signed up. Everyone else - as you can see below, several slots are still open. Talk to Jana or Derek if you see us at a meeting, or email us if you are interested in helping.

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Jan 9	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Jan 21	Marlys Neufeld
(SMD)	Feb 13	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Feb 18	Yvonne & Derek
(SMD)	Mar 13	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Mar 18	Jill Niebuhr
(SMD)	Apr 10	Judy Mosca
(TTB)	Apr 15	need a volunteer
(SMD)	May 8	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 20	need a volunteer

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

Jan 21, 2010	5 Minutes of Fame (open mike)
May 20, 2010	Meredith Cook & Karsten Piper

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Derek Liebertz, 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>)