

Thistledown

❧ Monthly Photo (see page 3 for details) ❧



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❧ IW3 Update ❧

Our selected 12 photographs are online at our website and will be on hand again for SMPS member review at the Third Thursday January meeting. If you have trouble viewing online and cannot make the event but find yourself around town another day, the photos will be in stored at the Emy Frenz Guild for viewing as well (ask the front desk to see them).

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!



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

❧ Member Poetry Sample ❧

Instead of a note from our President Jana this month, I am including a poem by Alixa Doom from her new chapbook entitled "Cedar Crossings", which recently won the San Francisco Blue Light Press Chapbook Competition.

Cedar Kin

I move slowly, happy
with just a bird song in my ear
and a breeze blowing through me.
I no longer buy tickets to anywhere.
Turning off on Deer Run Trail I climb the hill
through the sun and mist of cedars.
The slower I go the more time there is

to wear seed in my hair
and starlight on my skin. I sway
and bow to a truer time the earth
pushes up through cedar trunk.
I become filled with this place,
the broad green arms,
the quiet affection of cedar sisters.

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

Jana Bouma



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Third Thursday Poetry**

January 21, 2010 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Five Minutes of Fame is back! If you would like a chance to share "just a few" of your poems, this is your chance! Sign up to be a reader at Five Minutes of Fame. Or just come for the evening, and enjoy readings by a sampling of Mankato-area poets. To sign up to read, drop a line to Jana at jbouma@hickorytech.net, or call her at 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.

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.

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☛

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

☞ Editor's Corner ☛

This month's newsletter image is by a Flickr artist named "myriorama". The colors are terrific and the scene depicts a season that I truly long for as winter clamps down its teeth. You can see the original photograph at this address:

www.flickr.com/photos/myriorama/202358859/

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

☞ SMPS Member News ☛

- **Karsten Piper's** poem "The Flute of All Your Sorrows" has been nominated by the editors of Ruminare journal for a Pushcart Prize (honoring the best work appearing in the year's literary magazines). Congratulations, Karsten!
- **Alixia Doom's** manuscript, Cedar Crossings, won the 2009 Blue Light Press chapbook competition. Spring, 2010 is the expected publication date. Congratulations, Alixa!

☞ 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."

☞ 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

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

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>)