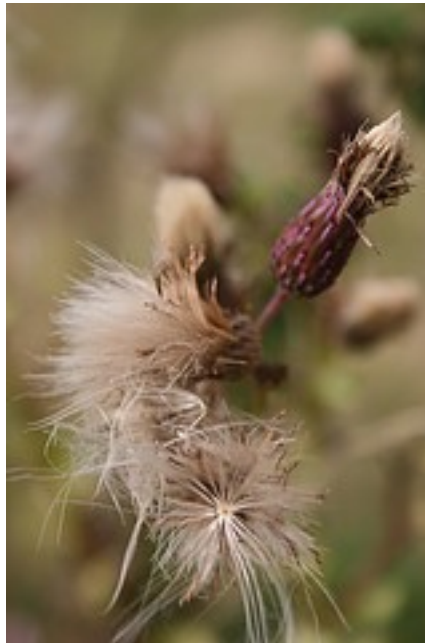


Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photos ☛



This month's photos (two!?) are by john_lincoln and kateharris (see page 3)

☞ Inside This Issue ☛

Poetry Events	2
SMPS Member News	3
Officer List	3
Editor's Corner	3
Snacks/Refreshments	3

☞ Prize Drawing: 2011 Membership Renewal ☛

Okay SMPS crew, have you renewed your membership for 2011? Anyone you know looking to join us as a new member? Here's a reason to follow through on your membership dues now:

If you join or renew with SMPS before March 12, you'll be eligible for our prize drawing! At the March 12, 2011 SMPS meeting, the drawing winner will receive John Rezmerski's terrific new book of poetry entitled "*Breaking the Rules: Starting with Ghazals*".

This book is more than one hundred poems that are by turns argumentative, autobio-

graphical, informative, erotic, witty-and always intelligent. I am sure John will only be too happy to autograph your copy.

So, please renew your membership today by sending \$15.00 to treasurer: Gerry Tostenson, 24070 577th Lane , Mankato , MN 56001 . Mail early to be sure it reaches her before the 12th, or pay at the March 12 meeting.

Please note: You do not need to be present to win the drawing.

Thank you very much everyone!
your SMPS board members



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Shirley Ensrud: "Yes, You Can!"**

March 12, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Our friend Shirley, author of *Small Town and Everyday Things*, will be the guest speak at the March luncheon event. Shirley's writing demonstrates that ordinary places are full of the stuff of poetry. To discover that poetry, we must pay attention to even the most familiar details of our lives.

✓ **Third Thursday Reading**

March 17, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

This month features Sandy Newbauer and Sue Chambers as headliner readers; open mike to follow as time allows.

✓ **Luncheon Program with Florence Dacey**

April 9, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Florence is the author of *Rock Worn by Water* and hails from Cottonwood, MN. Join us in welcoming her and listening to her presentation. More details to come.

✓ **Third Thursday: Poetry Slam 101**

April 14, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

An introductory slam for those new to the event style. Stretch those wings and see what a slam is like!

✓ **Luncheon Program with Doris Stengel**

May 14, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

The oh-so-rude blizzard earlier this winter caused a bump in the schedule, but Doris promises to return during fairer weather and give us the presentation we missed. Be there!

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

✓ **Third Thursday Reading**

May 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

This month features Ike Sarma and John Rezmerski as headliner readers; open mike to follow as time allows.

Regional Events

✓ **Craig Groe: Ink Drawings**

March 5, 2011 -- April 1, 2011

North Mankato Taylor Library

Craig has an art exhibit which just started a month-long run at the North Mankato library. He describes it as "small abstract drawings in ink from around 2006-2007". Support your fellow SMPS member and go check out the show!

✓ **Amy Korteum: "Songs of Ireland"**

March 12, 2011 at 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church

220 East Hickory Street, Mankato

Admission: \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children under 12

Amy and her Celtic Band will be performing music she learned while in Ireland last summer, PLUS new original music written by the harpist (and fellow SMPS poet) herself! Irish step dancer Megan Maloney will also take the stage.

A traditional Irish dinner will be served at the church before the concert from 5:00 -- 6:30pm. Call 507-387-2160 for your dinner reservations (a free will offering will be accepted for the dinner).

✓ **Call for Submissions: NFSPS Poetry Contests**

Deadline: **March 15, 2011**

The yearly National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Poetry Contest entry period started January 1, 2011.

Visit http://www.nfsp.com/poetry_contests.htm for details and good luck to all who enter!

☪ 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 newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

The newsletter gets TWO photos this month because I could not decide which I liked better. Now for a snack: almonds ... no, cranberries ... ooh wait, popcorn. Sigh. Well, happy reading and writing, everyone. ☺

The first is something different, an art print *entitled* "Thistledown" by Flickr user **john_lincoln**. It's an acrylic ink and fibre-tip pen on paper. For a higher resolution view, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/john_lincoln/5481668786/

The second, a photo by **kateharris**, is a close-up view taken in the countryside outside Kent, England. For a higher resolution view, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/kateharris/1149500586/

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

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

- ✓ **Strength & Order: Stories of Elizabeth Young and the Great Migration**
March 25, 2011 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
Intermedia Arts
2822 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408
Join Lori Young-Williams (one of our October 2010 workshop leaders) for the presentation of her MLS creative project.

The reading is based on research about the first waves of the Great Migration, between the World Wars, and the various reasons why Blacks moved north, also, from oral stories told by her family members. The focus is on black women and their viewpoint of the migration.
- ✓ **Upcoming MSU Writer's Conference**
When: May 2011
Details to follow later, stay posted on this event.

☪ I Signed Up For What!?!? ☪

Talk to Derek at a meeting if you are interested in helping, or email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org -- thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Mar 12, 2011	Ike Sarma
(TTB)	Mar 17, 2011	need a volunteer
(SMD)	Apr 9, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Apr 21, 2011	Ike Sarma
(SMD)	May 14, 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 18, 2011	Derek Liebertz

☪ SMPS Member News ☪

- **Gerry Tostenson** has been awarded an Emerging Artists Grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. She will use the grant to participate in a *plein air* painting (painting outdoors) workshop in Grand Marais this summer. Congratulations, Gerry!

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>)