



Thistledown

Vol. 28, Issue 8

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

June 2008

The Fabulous SMPS June Picnic

Don't miss this SMPS tradition at the beautiful home of Susan Chambers. A forested river ravine provides a beautiful backdrop for poetry sharing and discussion.

When Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 12:30p – 3:00p

Where Home of Susan Chambers
57310 166th Lane
Good Thunder, Minnesota
(507) 278-4200

What to bring

1. Poems to share (yours, or a favorite poet's).
2. A dish to share (see below). Beverages and table service will be provided.

Last name begins with / Please bring

A – C	Main dish
D – L	Salad or side dish
M – P	Dessert
R – Z	Bread or chips

Directions from Mankato via Highway 22

Travel south on Hwy. 22 approximately 7 or 8 miles. Watch for a small white church on the right. About ½ mile past the church, turn west (right) onto County Rd. 16 (also called 169th Street). Continue to the second gravel road on your left -- 574th Avenue. Turn south (left) onto 574th Avenue, follow it for about two-thirds of a mile to 166th Lane. Turn right onto 166th Lane. You will note a "dead end" sign. The Chambers house is the first house on the right. It is a large brown house with separate garage. (The dogs are friendly!) If you go down the hill on the minimum maintenance road, you have gone too far.

Directions from Mankato via County Road 16

Travel south on County Rd. 16 for 7 to 8 miles, crossing two rivers (LeSueur and Big Cobb). Continue on County Rd. 16 until it becomes 169th Street. Turn south (right) onto 574th Avenue (a gravel road), and follow it for about two-thirds of a mile to 166th Lane. Turn right onto 166th Lane. You will note a "dead end" sign. The Chambers house is the first house on the right. It is a large brown house with separate garage. (The dogs are friendly!) If you go down the hill on the minimum maintenance road, you have gone too far.

Transportation

To arrange a ride to Susan's house, please call Jana at (507) 243 - 4050.

Note from the President



Looking back, looking ahead:

As we finish up this SMPS season, I would like to thank all of our SMPS members for a great year! SMPS has grown in membership. (There are 49 of us!) We've enjoyed a variety of programming, and SMPS members have participated in several exciting poetry and arts events throughout the community, including the recent "Image and the Word" reading and exhibit.

We look forward to the final event of our programming year — the SMPS June Picnic, to be held on June 28 at the home of Susan Chambers. Check out all the details on the left. Don't miss out on this chance to share poetry in a beautiful country setting.

After the picnic, we'll take a couple of months off from our regular meetings. Our first fall meeting will be on Saturday, September 14. More details in August!

However, while you're enjoying the warmth of summer, don't forget about poetry! In particular, remember the Woodtick Poetry Retreat, coming up July 17 – July 20, near Brainerd, and Craig Groe's multi-media poetry project. (Submission deadline: August 15.) Look for details on page 2.

Another fall event to put on your calendar: The RiverCrossings art/poetry collaboration. For the third year, SMPS poets will write poems in response to artwork and present a reading during the RiverCrossings event. We'll be viewing and responding to artwork in August, with the show/reading to take place on Saturday, October 5.

Have a great summer, and I hope to see all of you at the picnic!

Regards,
Jana Bouma

SMPS Events

- ✓ **June Picnic (details on first page)**
Saturday, **June 28th at 12:30pm**
Home of Susan Chambers
57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, Minnesota
Please join us for food, poetry sharing, and a fun last event of 2008 before our summer break! For more information, call (507) 278 - 4200.

- ✓ **Board Meeting (following the picnic)**
Saturday, **June 28th at 3:00pm**
Home of Susan Chambers

- ✓ **Woodtick Poetry Retreat**
Thursday, **July 17th** -- Sunday, **July 20th**
Chambers' family cabin near Brainerd, MN
Please read the detailed listing for this event on the right side of this page.

- ✓ **Saturday Fall Kick-off Luncheon Meeting**
Saturday, **September 13th at 12:30pm**
Amy Frenz Arts Guild
Lunch will begin at 12:30pm. Our meeting and program will follow, starting around 1:00pm.

- ✓ **Multi-media Poetry Project (curated by SMPS member Craig Groe)**
Saturday, **October 11th**
Carnegie Art Center, Mankato
Please read the detailed listing for this event on the right side of this page.
Poetry submission deadline: Friday, **August 15th**

- ✓ **RiverCrossings art/poetry Collaboration**
Art viewing opportunity in **August**, date TBD
Poetry reading on Saturday, **October 4th**
For information about participation, contact Jana Bouma at (507) 243 – 4050.

Member Concerns

June Emmanuel has suffered a broken shoulder and is recovering at Pathstone Living Nursing Home (formerly Mankato Lutheran Home), 718 Mound Ave., Mankato, MN 56001.

George Rezmerski, of Michigan City, Michigan, died Sunday, May 25, 2008. He was the brother of John Rezmerski. If you would like to send condolences, John and Lorna's address is 210 Woodhaven Lane, Mankato, MN 56001.

Our kind wishes and prayers go out to June and John as they move through this difficult time.

Specific Event Details

- ✓ **Call for poems!**
All SMPS members are invited to submit up to **four original poems** for possible inclusion in a multi-media poetry event curated by poet, artist, and SMPS member Craig Groe. Poems may be on any theme or topic and in any style.

Craig is an experienced multi-media producer who has previously assembled successful multi-media poetry readings. The event will be held at the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato. Craig will combine each poem with appropriate staging, projected artwork and/or music to create a fluid, dynamic show that is more than just a "poetry reading". Poets may read their own work as a part of the show, or they may choose to have someone else perform it. Those who do read in the show will need to be available for a rehearsal sometime during the week preceding the show. The show will take place at the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato on Saturday, October 11.

Please submit your poems **by August 15th** to Craig Groe at cgproductions@hotmail.com, or mail poems to 214 Center St., Mankato, MN 56001. If you submit more than one poem, Craig may select the poem or poems that provide the "best fit" for the show. For more info, e-mail Craig or call him at 507-387-2589.

- ✓ **Woodtick Poetry Retreat**
All poets welcome! Join your hostess, Susan Chambers, at her family's cabin near Brainerd, MN for a weekend of poetic inspiration. These retreats provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere in which to write poems, share poems, and learn about poetry. Overnight accommodations are provided. "Drop-in" guests are also welcome.

Meals are "pot luck." There is **NO CHARGE** to attend the retreats, but guests are asked to "pitch in" to provide food for one meal, and to assist with meal prep and cleanup. Each guest will also give a presentation on some aspect of poetry.

If you would like to attend the retreat, please contact Susan Chambers at (507) 278-4200, or at chambersmediator@yahoo.com, to sign up and to get directions and other details.

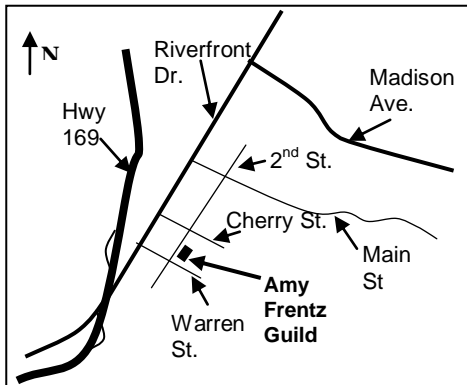
If you haven't renewed your SMPS membership for 2008 yet you are very, **very** naughty. Send your renewal form to Dorla Wachter today!

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!

The Emy Frenz Arts Guild

523 So. 2nd St., Mankato, MN
(East side of 2nd St., between Cherry and Warren Streets, next to the YWCA)



Proud Member of



SMPS Officers

- President: [Jana Bouma \(507\) 243-4050](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net)
- Vice President: [John Rezmerski](mailto:rez@gac.edu)
- Regional VP: [Susan Chambers](mailto:poetsue@aol.com)
- Treasurer: [Dorla Wachter](mailto:cwacht1@hickorytech.net)
- Recording Secretary: [Yvonne Cariveau](mailto:ycariveau@gmail.com)
- Newsletter Editor: [Derek Liebertz](mailto:bajanorthwest@yahoo.com)
- Publicity: [Geraldine Tostenson](mailto:gerrytos@hickorytech.net)
- Correspondence Sec.: [Sandra Newbauer](mailto:snewbauer0147@charter.net)

Editor's Note

Summer, summer, summer ... just like the 80's song by the Cars says, it's "like a merry-go-round". Hmm, I guess. You know, that's not right at all actually! On a merry-go-round you move really fast, don't actually go anywhere, and sometimes get sick. That sounds like everyday life for too many people!

Instead, try to make the summer more like a trip to the day spa, museum, walking trail, concert, library, old friend's house ... all those places will entice poems out of you, sometimes from around a sneaky corner you didn't expect.

Reach out to the hidden part of yourself over the next couple of months and try writing a different kind of poem. Strrrrrretch that brain! ☺ You never know, it might even "turn you upside down".

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

*Southern Minnesota Poets Society
Jana Bouma, President
935 Melwood Ct.
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 SMPS!

SMPS Membership year: January 1 to December 31, 2008

SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Other Phone:** _____

New member: _____ **Renewing member:** _____

Dues enclosed: Regular (\$15.00) ____ Student (\$7.50) ____

Mail application and check to Dorla Wachter , SMPS Treasurer, 224 W. 5th St. , Mankato , MN 56001 .

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