

Journal of Tar Heel Tellers

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Fall 2010
NC Storytelling Guild
Official Newsletter

Puppets at Wildacres - Spring Retreat by Frankie Adkins



Lona Bartlett Professional Puppeteer introduces workshop participants to a puppet she created from a stuffed animal. Goodwill and Salvation Army are good places to look for stuffed animal toys ready for transformation.

Wildacres Conference Center, Little Switzerland, NC, was the site for the NCSG Spring Retreat April 30 - May 2. Wildacres and the weather

were glorious. The company was very good, and the puppets were wonderful, at times rambunctious, and fascinating. Lona Barret's workshop, "Using Puppets and Props in Your Storytelling," was inspiring, educational, and encouraging. Lona proved herself to be quite the puppet-master! In addition to being a fabulous puppeteer, she

all in attendance. In a nutshell, it was a fabulous weekend. Thank you, Lona, and Dianne Hackworth, Spring Retreat Chair.



Frankie Adkins learns that even letters have personalities as she listens intently to the Letter F. (Retreat photos with captions - courtesy of Sarah Larson)



Dianne Hackworth takes on the sun, a smiling puppet of affirmation. How can you not smile back?

demonstrated techniques for making puppets, exercises for hands, finding your puppet voices, different kinds of puppet shows, telling stories with puppets, and much more. Her "Little Tiger" absolutely stole the show and the hearts of

Those in attendance, in addition to Lona and Dianne, were: Robin Berkman, Janice Davin, Jane Hauser, Alisah Horne, Sarah Larson, Sherry Lovett, and myself, Frankie Adkins.

Frankie Adkins is NCSG's newly elected President-Elect, taking office on July 1, 2010. She was featured as a regional teller last fall at NCSG's Brevard Festival. You may contact her at fadkins@charter.net



Here's what's happening with your storytelling friends around the state!

JOURNAL OF TAR HEEL TELLERS

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Mission of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild:

- ☺ to celebrate the various cultures of NC,
- ☺ to promote excellence in oral tradition,
- ☺ to foster an appreciation and acceptance of the art of storytelling,
- ☺ to affirm the value of story and the importance of story listening,
- ☺ to nourish the development of emerging and established artists.

Correspondence should be addressed to the editor and will be considered available for publication, unless noted, "not for publication". The editor reserves the right to revise contributed articles for style and length.

Fall Cast of Characters

Sylvia Payne - Editor

Frankie Adkins, Robin Berkman, Steve Boyer,
Sandra Gudger, Michael Reno Harrell, Jane
Hauser, Sarah Larson, Gwenda LedBetter,
Sherry Lovett, Doyle Pace, Claire Ramsey, Jan
Schmidt, Jane Sims, and Wayne Sims -
Contributors

Glenn Bolick and Michael Reno Harrell performed at 'Song of the Mountains' this spring at the Lincoln Theater in Marion, Virginia . . . Hawk Hurst recently had a book signing and storytelling appearance at Blue Bicycle Books, Charleston, SC, featuring his newly released children's book, *The Story of the First Flute*. He also performed stories and music at the Piccolo Spoleto Children's Festival in Charleston, SC . . . Suzi Whaples recently appeared in the program *Humor From the Mountains*, October 16th at the West Virginia Book Festival in The Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV . . . Sherry Lovett was a recent teller at an American Indian Pow Wow in Spruce Pine, NC, and also told at the Carolina Mountain Literacy Festival in Burnsville, NC . . . Tim Lowry is happy to announce a brand new theme for his website, "Picture Yourself Making History." Check it out at www.storytellertimlowry.com.

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"It does not require many words to speak the truth."

— Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

Story Quality

from the editor's desk

I recently read a brief article by Chris King, editor, writer and storyteller. It reminded me that storytellers can help maintain the virtue or quality of a story by incorporating 'less' rather than 'more' words to get the story across to the audience. The first step is to narrow the story down to it's bare bones. I must keep reminding myself of this each time I work on a story.

You may have noticed this publication is the Fall Issue rather than the September 2010 issue. Hopefully most of you who are members received word that due to decreasing treasury funds the Board declared there would be a Fall 2010 issue, followed by a Spring 2011 issue. We hope that once we recover somewhat from this financial crunch, we can go back to four issues per year.

JTHT presents many excellent articles in this fall edition. I know that you will enjoy them and catch up on what's happening in the world of storytelling around the Carolinas. My thanks go to all who were so generous in giving of their time and talent to create and submit articles for this issue.

Submit to:

Sylvia Payne, JTHT Editor, 1621 Nathaniel Street, Newton, NC 28658. E-mail: sylpayne@bellsouth.net

Deadline for Spring 2011 Issue: March 15, 2011.

President's Message by Sandra Gudger

Dear Members,

I hope you have had a great summer with a lot of tellin' and listenin'. It's hard to believe that we are already in the second quarter of our fiscal year, and our Fall Festival is just a little more than a month away! On Friday, November 12, there will be a Board meeting at Hampton Inn at 2:30 PM, in the Meeting Room. NCSG Board meetings are always open to the membership. Then, at 5:00 PM, we will "pig out" at the Twin Dragons Grand Buffet before waddling off to the Evening Concert at the Library at 7:30 PM. Beth Horner and Willy Clafin will present workshops Saturday morning and the rest of the day will be filled with stories by Beth, Willy, and our own Janice Davin, Willa Brigham, and Lona Bartlett. Ron Jones will be the MC.

We're going to have a great time and I hope you can be there! Please remember to bring an item for the Silent Auction.

At our previous Board meeting on August 21 we discussed ways to promote NCSG. Each of us can encourage our friends to join. Also, we can introduce public libraries to NCSG by describing the benefits, such as being able to find a local teller, having the opportunity of sending a person to the Winter Workshop and the Spring Retreat at member's rate, and receiving an excellent JTHT of storytelling news throughout the state. Beginning with this year's Festival, we will have a sign up sheet at the NCSG Membership table for those who wish to be notified of next year's Fall Festival, as well as storytelling events in their area. The names on the list will then be given to



the members in that region so that they may add them to their own contact list.

If you have any ideas for promoting NCSG, please contact your representative, or me, and it will be presented at the following Board meeting.

Thank you for being a part of NCSG.

Sandra

Sandra may be contacted at gudgers@bellsouth.net.



Ex-Officio's Message by Claire Ramsey

It's the time again in NCSG when presidential letters logically begin "Wow, time has flown by..." and "Another year gone..." and, naturally, "It's that time again!" As a storyteller, who am I to buck tradition? Truthfully, it does seem a very short time since the 2009 - 2010 Board met in August of 2009 and began to plan out a sometimes rocky, but always exciting, path for the Guild.

The past couple years have been a rocky time for many arts organizations, including storytelling ones: NCSG is in good company. I am certain I am not the only person to hope for replenished coffers for Wake and Catawba County Storytelling Festivals, among others, that never again may we receive the sad letters describing curtailed festivals.

Nevertheless, despite setbacks like lower membership and occasional decreased attendance at annual events, North Carolina Storytelling Guild is alive, happy, and moving

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forward. We are financially solvent, able to continue the traditional Guild festivals and workshops across the state and support others like the Storyfest in Greensboro and Do-Tell in Hendersonville. We look forward to advances in our statewide presence and on the web as we redesign our website to include essential tools like an online calendar and searchable database. We have received warm messages of welcome for the coming year from both Fort Caswell and Transylvania County Library, our recent hosts for Winter Workshop and Fall Festival, and anticipate unforgettable events featuring Antonio Rocha (Workshop) and Beth Horner and Willy Clafin (Fall Festival.)

In anticipation, therefore, the Guild was happy to make many of these announcements at its Annual Meeting for the full membership which was held at the Greensboro Storyfest May 22. Best of all, we introduced the Board for the upcoming 2010 - 2011 year: many thanks to those generous and enterprising souls who gave their names for nomination, and even more thanks to the membership who voted

them in. Our newly elected and re-elected members are: President-elect **Frankie Adkins**, Secretary/Historian **Janice Davin**, Treasurer **Paul Stutts**, Piedmont Triangle Representative **Jane Hauser**, Piedmont Triad Representative **Charlotte Hamlin**, and Southern Mountains Representative **Karen-eve Bayne**. Returning members are: once president-elect, now President **Sandra Gudger**, President Ex Officio **Claire Ramsey**, Journal Editor and Membership Director **Sylvia Payne**, Coastal Representative **Terry Rollins**, Northern Mountains Representative **Doyle Pace**, and Southern Piedmont Representative **Lona Bartlett**. A bold NCSG welcome and thanks to all our Board members, those who have served over the years and those just joining us!

One of the things I have been happiest to include at the conclusion of every board meeting I chaired this year was the time set aside and entitled: NCSG Envisions. Thanks to these times of ideas and discussion, and thanks to the members who joined

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Storytelling to Adults

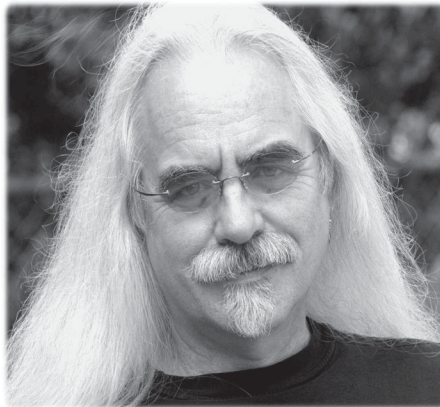
by Michael Reno Harrell

I make my living writing songs, singing them, banging on a guitar and telling stories and I consider myself one of the luckiest guys around. I'm blessed to be doing what I love to do. See, I meet an awful lot of folks who can't say that, so believe me, I'm most thankful every time I say it. It ain't exactly been a bed of roses getting to this point but, that's not why I'm here, so I'll get to the point of this article.

I travel all across the US and in Europe doing what I do mostly for adult audiences. As a matter of fact, once I got into the storytelling world (I slipped in through the back door from over there in the music world) I had to learn to perform for kids. Now, that was an interesting change in direction. But, 90% of my shows are still mostly for adults.

When most Americans hear that one is a "storyteller" the person automatically assumes that one works for a library and reads "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" to five year olds. I'm sure you've experienced that scenario a thousand and one times. But, in fact, most storytelling festivals are based around adult attendees. And when you become a storyteller for hire you try to get on as many festivals as possible. We'll take a closer look at that later.

I had lunch with Jimmy Neil Smith, founder of the National Storytelling Festival, a few weeks back and we speculated a good deal about the future of storytelling. A fair part of that conversation centered around the fact that the average age of an attendee at The National is around fifty-five years of age. There are several assumptions regarding that. A few being the cost of hauling a family of four or five across several states to attend, ticket prices, food, lodging, etc. etc. Others are the time away from sports, school, friends, etc. etc. And then there's the fact that once the kids are gone from the nest, the adults can



finally do a few of the things that they want to do together, like trying that storytelling thing down in Tennessee that they read about in "Southern Living Magazine".

When you start out trying to make money as a storyteller, you find yourself doing mainly schools because that's about the only place you'll find that pays anything. It's only natural to want to reach a larger audience, so festivals are the next step. You'll find most festivals, like the National, turn out to be telling to mostly adults.

I served as Teller In Residence at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough last October. During my week there I did eight concerts and I don't remember a single child in that theater. Again...adults.

When you work regionally you will find most of your work has to be in schools because festivals are few and pretty far between within a day's drive of your home base. However, if you get to the point that you travel nationally as a storyteller you will wind up doing mostly festivals out there simply because they are the events that pay enough for you to travel a thousand miles or more to do. And it's the adults at festivals who buy your CD's which are a very big piece of a traveling teller's income. It's not at all unusual for a teller to make from five to ten times the money from merchandise sales as from salary at Jonesborough. Really. And internet merchandise sales require a credit card. Adults.

Now, you will find that some festivals will ask you to do schools on, say the Friday that the festival kicks off. That usually involves doing several fifteen to thirty minute sets for everything from K thru 12. Some festivals will even haul the kids in during the day, but the evening concerts will be mostly for adults and your sets will usually be an hour. I have done festivals where I did the same fifteen minute story eleven times in schools during the day on Friday, then did two one hour sets for adults at the festival that evening followed by a fifteen minute olio. Then it was an olio, a workshop and two one hour sets for mostly adults on Saturday. What I'm getting at here is the fact that when you do festivals you'd better have a lot of adult material.

Let's take a moment here to define "adult material". Of course, we're not talking about blue material, but stories that interest adults. Stories about kids or being a kid are fine. I find that nostalgic stories have become a big part of my repertoire. We, as adults, love to reminisce about when life was simpler, i.e. when we were kids. The stories I tell which get the most attention from adult audiences are about bicycle wrecks, blowing things up with fireworks, piano lessons, roller rinks, swimming holes and dogs.

Storytelling has changed over the years since that first festival back in 1973. Stories then were mostly folk tales, but when you look at the material most of the big names in storytelling do today, it's personal experience stories. Donald Davis, Kathryn Windham, Shelia Kay Adams, even Bil Lepp and Andy Offutt Irwin are doing personal material aimed at adults. Why? Because it touches their audience. Now, I'm not saying that there isn't a place for folk tales in the storytelling world, I'm simply stating a fact.

You don't have to write your own material to tell personal experience stories. There are a gazillion great stories that fall into that category from all over the world. From F.D.R.

(Continued on page 6)

Accommodating Change by Jane Sims

It seems I've devoted the better part of the last 2—plus years trying to entice community audiences to attend a storytelling event - sometimes without great success. Why? Because in spite of all the efforts of people like me and Jimmy Neil Smith and thousands of other dedicated souls who organize and produce storytelling festivals and events across our wonderful land, many people still believe that Storytelling is for Cookie Crumblers who sit on a colorful rug at the feet of a librarian or media specialist.

When I was asked to be the guest editor of the StoryTimes "Storytelling to Adults" issue, I said to myself, "Oh, they think I have a particular skill set because I'm a gerontologist." Well, trust me, you don't want to know the things I learned doing research in graduate school or lecturing to college students.

So where would I have acquired any particular ability or knowledge concerning storytelling to adults? Life experiences. First of all, I was blessed to be born into a family of strong Southern heritage where anything and everybody was fodder for Story. Beyond that, I am shamelessly mature, an avid adult story listener who has spent over 20 years listening to thousands of stories told by hundreds of tellers. With my husband, Wayne, I also happen to tell stories almost exclusively to adults and senior citizens.

On more than one occasion, a successful storyteller who works exclusively in schools and libraries with children has said something like this to us, "I understand you tell stories to adults. I'd love to do that and would like to know how you do it." When that happens, as I stand there looking at this person who is obviously over 50 and intelligent, my brain starts clicking and I think (to myself of course), "Well, most of the storytellers we know are older. Don't we know what we like when it comes to being entertained?"

This line of thought leads to suggestions which might be offered to someone who wants to please a grown-up audience, so here they are:

- 1- Choose or create entertaining stories. Obviously this varies by audience demographic.
- 2- Humor, humor, humor! Laughter is the best medicine. Get those endorphins pumping!
- 3- Leave the kid stories at home. One time the activity director of an independent retirement community called to hire us. The first thing out of her mouth was, "You don't tell children's stories, do you? We had a storyteller come here who did that and our residents didn't like it. They said it was like having someone treat them as though they didn't have any sense."
- 4- Don't panic if you think you're being ignored. Today's older citizens were raised without any of the electronic gimmicks or distractions which plague our lives. Many grew up with radio as the primary source of family entertainment. They revere the spoken word and consequently they are very good listeners. There have been times when Wayne and I were telling and noticed people sitting with their eyes closed or heads bowed. Early on we thought they were sleeping or not paying attention - until we realized, on the basis of the comments they later made, that they were *listening*.
- 5- Understand that the people sitting in front of you already have finely honed belief systems. They do not want to be told how they should live, what they should believe or how they can improve their quality of life, and they definitely aren't interested in politically loaded material - unless you have been hired specifically to address such topics.



- 6- Try to evoke nostalgia. Seniors love being inspired to recall, even generically, something that could be a segment of their life map. Who among us doesn't love it when Kathryn Windham leads us down a path into her Southern past, richly peopled with characters of all sorts or when Donald Davis takes us for a magic visit to his post-World War II childhood? Those seniors who lived through the Depression and World War II know hard times. They will remember the CCC, the WPA, and massaging those bags of white gooey oleo to disperse the little red dot. It is often the simplest cue that enables vivid visual imagery, and the experience is even more special when the person is prompted to retrieve a long forgotten, beloved memory.
- 7- K.I.S.S. As the old cliché says, "Keep it Simple, Stupid" - and keep it moving. Once (before I was a senior citizen) I sat and listened to a story whose hero had to negotiate a number of consecutive challenges to reach an inner circle wherein was located the prize. Each circular wall required a different act of bravery and each action had to be reiterated to go on to the next level. After five or six circles, I was totally exhausted.

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A Belated Thank You

by Gwenda LedBetter

I'd no sooner walked into that lovely room at the Brevard Library which is so perfect for storytelling when Terry the Pirate Rollins walked up to ask if it was all right if they gave me a Lifetime Achievement Award. I'm sure he told me before the event for fear I might be so surprised I'd keel over. I was stunned to an almost wordless state which, as you know, is strange and peculiar for a storyteller. I spent the ride home looking at the award on the seat beside me and thinking about all the years of telling...

Sandra Gudger and I were talking some time or other. She said someone had asked her how you knew you were a storyteller. I came up with a saying of Ron Evans, who lives in Canada now, "You know you're a storyteller when someone asks you to tell a story."

A couple of weeks ago, I went to the Leicester Library here in Asheville to talk about storytelling. The Library sits high on a hill surrounded by our beautiful mountains. I started with an Irish Jack Tale which may have been told at that first telling as Storylady for Pack Library: eight children and a very attentive stuffed bear named Mickey Leffrey Bing. John Bridges, who ran the exhibition room at the Library, had asked if I wanted a summer job telling tales. I learned on the job. Ruth Sawyer's Way of the Storyteller became my Bible with Padraic Colum's essay, *Storytelling, New and Old*, one of the gospels. I knew no other tellers.

Then I met Ray Hicks, the great traditional teller, heard and saw him open those long arms and bring me and an auditorium full of people in to meet Jack. I heard Mrs. Grover Long who one minute was talking about carding sheep's wool and before I realized the change, was telling Jack and the Heifer Hide, teaching me that stories come right out of life.

That old curmudgeon, Dick Chase came to town, sat on my sofa and

showed me pictures drawn by children when he told in their schools. I met Diane Wolkstein who told stories at the Hans Christian Andersen statue in New York's Central Park. The children's coordinator in Raleigh gave her my name because we both told the Nightingale. Diane told me about the Colum essay where he writes of stories coming from reverie. I love the word and think it can mean many things, one being the connection between that first teller in ancient times to say *Once*, and the tellers of today.

In 1962 maybe I was coming up with four new seven minute stories a month for the televised, *Tales from the Red Rocker*, shown on the Saturday morning, Mr. Bill Show. This went against Ruth Sawyer's, "You should live with the stories a long time." Sometimes I felt like the artificial nightingale, singing one of the real songs over and over and over, keeping perfect time. If I went over the seven minutes, I would be cut off. Everyone watched that show. A cigar smoking rough looking man at the gas pump would holler, "Hey, Story Lady. Liked that African story you told Saturday." It encouraged the people in Asheville to be story conscious and this consciousness was to happen in a bigger way over the mountain in Tennessee.

In the early 1970's David Holt came to town with his quest for preserving old timey music. I asked him to take two of the *Red Rocker* shows and, bless him, he did, widening the interest and the audience.

I told at Jonesborough for the first time in 1979. Jimmy Neil said we were pioneers. The great wild wilderness for me was telling to live adults instead of a room full of small smiling faces lifted to mine or a single-eyed camera. That year was the first time for tents and microphones. My first full set was on

Friday afternoon. One of the other tellers, an actor from New York, was sitting in the second row of chairs. I was so nervous, I expected the Sahara desert to pour out of my mouth with the first word. I told the Irish Jack tale, *The Bee, the Harp, the Mouse and the Bumclock*.

I came to the part where Jack comes home from selling the third cow with an Irish cockroach in his pocket and his mother said, "Show me the color of your money, boy." The actor threw back his head and laughed; a great ripple of hees and haws; he laughed as hard as the people in the story and, right then, I knew stories are for everyone and they were in all of us, no matter our age.

So, that's what can happen when someone asks you to tell a story. I'll need another lifetime to hear all I want to hear and tell all I want to tell. I do appreciate the award and feel that a big time part of the achievement was having enough sense to say, "Right on, You bet, Amen, Whoo-ha and Hallelujah," when first asked to tell stories 48 years ago.

Storyteller, Gwenda LedBetter, is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. She is best known for her award winning recording, "The Bee, the Harp, the Mouse and the Bumclock." You may contact her at bahpu@aol.com.

(Storytelling to Adults continued from page 4)

to your Aunt Sally there are stories for you to make your own. If you'd like to take your craft farther afield, you'll need to have stories for kids for sure, but the bulk of your storytelling out there in the wider world, I'd bet will be for the really big kids.

Michael Reno Harrell is an award winning songwriter and storyteller, hailing from the Southern Appalachians. He is a frequent contributor to the JTHT. He may be contacted at Joan@michaelreno.com.

Stories for Mother Nature

by Robin Berkman



I was asked by Connie Harris and Marcia Brashears to create a mother Nature character for their non-profit company called Journey Into Sustainability. Their purpose is to go to schools and festivals and teach children the importance of being green. At the Clean and Green Festival Saturday, April 17th held at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, I had a space beside their booth with a quilt on the floor and chairs behind, where I told Green and recycling stories.

Their mascot is Buddy the hummingbird, and my favorite story, that I told was The Flight of the Hummingbird, which is a story from the Quechan people of South America. Both adults and children really enjoyed the message in the story that, no matter how big or how small, each of us should do what we can to make this world better.

Storyteller, Robin Berkman is a relatively new member of NCSG. She lives in Charlotte where she is an active member of The Storytellers Guild of Charlotte. She may be contacted at: looneyyyy@bellsouth.net.

Newton's Mud and Music Festival by Steve Boyer

The hallways of the Newton-Conover Auditorium were buzzing with retail sales on April 10th 2010 as shoppers enjoyed the Mud and Music Festival. Potters from as far away as Kentucky displayed ceramic plates, mugs, vases, cups, and bowls. Back behind the building there were furnaces firing freshly made pieces of art work, while master potters gave demonstrations on techniques and different styles. But out on the front lawn under the white tent, members of the Asheville Storytelling Circle kept the audience enthralled with tales of fact and sometimes fiction.

Pete Koschnick started the show with his remembrance of his home town Port Townsend, Washington. From whales washed up on the beach to impressing a young girl with two cans of beer he had the audience right where he wanted them. Charlie St. Clair was the next teller and at the end of his performance I am sure he had many in the audience wondering "just how does that computer work?"

Donna Marie Todd told a graceful little story of her family reunion at grandmother's house. From her description of the food on the buffet

table to the know-it-all cousin it wasn't hard to easily remember your own family and some of their quirky ways. Wallace Shealy rounded out the morning show with his tales of flying pigs that went from here to there and back again. Wallace recently won the 2010 Bold Face Liars Competition in Laurinburg North Carolina. Sylvia Payne told some touching tales of her grandfather. From the chicken house to the hospital bed, he always waited for her. "Because they were Buddies". Before the telling moved inside to the Auditorium, Hobo Bill (Bill Morris) took the stage. He told stories about the life of real hobos and played several lively tunes on his harmonica.

At 2:00 p.m. on the main stage, Mica White, president of the Asheville Storytelling Circle gave a one hour performance. Her specialty and bit of magic that she brings to this world is Improvisational Stories. With just a simple word called out by an audience member, Mica, without hesitation will begin to weave a storyline with plot, characters, descriptions, emotions, and then finish the story with an ending that



leaves you wondering" how did she do that?". Truly a remarkable talent.

The final teller of the day was Michael Reno Harrell. With guitar in hand, a hat full of stories, and a good dose of humor, Michael made the two hour show go by in what seemed like minutes. From the beaches of South Carolina to the plains of West Texas, he took the audience on a fun storytelling ride.

Steve Boyer served on the NCSG Board as Southern Mountains Area Representative and is former President of the Asheville Storytelling Circle. You may contact him at rs03nc@gmail.com



Sherry Lovett with storyteller Kim Weitkamp

Toe River Festival by Sherry Lovett

Stories rang through the small mountain town of Spruce Pine on July 18, 2010 at the Toe River Storytelling Festival. The river rolled lazily along and occasionally a train passed behind us while our eclectic array of storytellers made magic with their stories and songs.

I had the honor of introducing the storytellers, and a seat close enough to the stage to catch every nuance. As an aspiring storyteller I found myself as giddy as a child at Christmas to be in the mix of some of the nation's finest tellers. The Toe River Festival featured Linda Spitzer, Fred Park, Kim Weitkamp, David Holt, and Michael Reno Harrell.

First up was Linda Spitzer, a veteran storyteller who is from Florida, but spends the summer at her home in the NC Mountains. She told a host of traditional stories and got the audience involved right away by having them join in with words and songs. Each story had a familiar feel, but then there would

be a surprise, a twist in the story, that would make it some how new.

Next was local teller Fred Park. He took the stage with a beautiful, calm presence, took a seat and began to talk to the audience as if they were old friends sitting on the porch with him. He spun two long Jack

Tales for us. I love Jack tales and know many of them, but the ones he shared with us were new to me – “Jack and the Factor” and “Jack Going to Make His Way in the World.”

We flowed from one storyteller to another without a break, just my short introduction as a pause between each one. Kim Weitkamp took the stage with ease and grace. She shared stories about her life that made me think about my own, and I'm sure everyone in the audience was experiencing the same time travel, traveling along with Kim back to simpler times and finally coming back to the present remembering what it is we value about our lives. I'm not sure if Kim's songs inspire her stories or her stories inspire her songs because they flowed so naturally together, both equally compelling.

Grammy Award winning performer David Hold took the stage next. He had an array of musical instruments and pictures of old-timers all of which he

used throughout his performance. David has a natural knack for making an audience feel at home. We all sat mesmerized as he easily flowed between Appalachian music and stories weaving the two together in a beautiful, living historical tapestry.

Michael Reno Harrell rounded out our group of talented tellers. With guitar in hand he began, his voice rich with the sound of Appalachia. With vivid clarity he took us back to his childhood and other places. His music punctuated his stories, and invited our emotions to further engage in the moving experience of his tales.

I listened to these tellers with rapt attention. So much to enjoy! So much to learn! I was inspired more than ever along this path of storytelling. Throughout the course of the day I met each teller and to me it felt like meeting celebrities and yet each teller exuded a down-home, friendly presence, each one humble, kind, and encouraging. I do hope to cross paths with these fine people again. I will certainly be listening to their stories and maybe we'll meet again next year at the Toe River. I know I'll be there. You come too, if you can.

Former school teacher and librarian Sherry Lovett, is a professional storyteller. She currently resides in Little Switzerland, on the grounds of the Wildacres Conference Center. (How lucky can she be?) She may be contacted at thelovetts3@gmail.com.

Stories on Asheville's Front Porch by Sarah Larson

There is no better way to build community than sitting on a front porch and sharing stories, for it is how we learn who we are, where we've come from and how we are to move into the future together. The mountain air is filled with stories and nothing is more indigenous to our culture.

In order to preserve them, share them and celebrate them, Sarah Larson of the Asheville Storytelling Circle began investigating how we might secure a place that would be set aside where stories could live. After the ASC Board concurred she began investigating with the city how this
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might happen.

She took the Leadership Asheville for Seniors course through the UNCA Reuters Center to discover who would be the appropriate city agency to give such approval and how she could be successful in obtaining this for the Asheville Storytelling Circle.

Leadership Asheville's 23 colleagues then came on board to help Larson seek funding for the project. Reports were made to the Storytelling Circle once the project looked feasible and members were asked to meet with the PACK Square Conservancy, serve on a storytellers

selection committee, volunteer to be storytellers, as well as serve as hosts and hostesses at the space on Saturdays during the summer.

PACK SQUARE PARK became the space designated for the free storytelling event, *Stories on Asheville's Front Porch*.

The Park Conservancy volunteered to be responsible for obtaining permits and for funding the project and began to look for sponsors.

Plans got underway to make Opening Day, June 19, a special treat for Asheville families and tourists. Face

(Continued on page 11)

A Dark and Stormy Night? by Wayne Sims

A formidable structure, a flash of light, the resounding boom of thunder, a whipping wind, and then the inevitable ominous pall of darkness... sounds like the perfect ingredients for a night of horror stories, right??? Wrong!!! But that was the setting Jane and I found ourselves in as we awaited the introduction of our performance at Sharon Towers in Charlotte, NC.

Regarding our storytelling for retirement community residents, I often say that Jane takes a road map of the USA, places it on a table, takes out the yard stick, and if it reaches... we do the gig. That's how we wound up in Charlotte on a return visit to Sharon Towers that particular evening.

We had heard storm warnings on the car radio concerning the threat of tornados, downed trees, power outages, etc. So when the lights went out, our first thought was, "There goes the show." We stood there by flashlight talking to the Activity Director about rescheduling. We figured there was no way we could go on. There were no lights. There



Wayne Sims

would be no sound system in this large and ordinarily well lit auditorium, and our audience was not particularly blessed with good hearing. We didn't think anyone would show up.

But just then the emergency generators kicked in and we could see down the dimly illuminated hallway. There were people walking as fast as they could, approaching

the auditorium. Others were being assisted on walkers and in wheelchairs. Well, we decided, we'd just ask those who came to "make a circle" and we'd go for intimacy. The Activity Director went to fetch a couple of candles and opened the doors wide.

The audience streamed in, and to the person they were in full dress for an after-dinner evening of storytelling! Forget the circle, we said, and we hiked up onto the stage. We figured we'd amp it up and give 'em a show using the "PA" the good Lord gave us. Old Maker knows how to make them!

The voices held out, the stories flowed better than ever, and the audience made everything worth the trip. It never hurts to be reminded in an unexpected way how valuable storytelling is, and Jane and I would like to thank the powers-that-be for giving us a new story to tell.

Wayne Sims is past co-president of the Asheville Storytelling Circle. Wayne and wife, Jane, perform as humorists and as Tandem Tale Tellers. He may be contacted at storybuff@aol.com.

Brevard Storytelling Fest

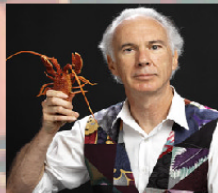


Sponsored by
Friends of Transylvania County Library &
North Carolina Storytelling Guild inc.

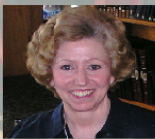
November 13



BETH HORNER
Wilmette, IL



WILLY CLAFIN
San Francisco, CA



JANICE DAVIN
Waxhaw, NC



WILLA BRIGHAM
Cary, NC



LONA BARTLETT
Charlotte, NC

Free Admission

Concerts & Workshops 9:AM - 9:30 PM

NOVEMBER 12: Headliners Concert 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Transylvania County Library

INFO: 828-884-3151 or 828-274-1123

Schedule Online: <http://www.ncstoryguild.org/events.htm>

Schedule for Brevard Festival Transylvania County Public Library

212 S. Gaston St., Brevard, NC 28712-3704

Friday, Nov. 12th

7:30 pm - *Storytelling Concert* presented by Beth Horner and Willy Clafin, with Ron Jones as Emcee.

Saturday, Nov. 13th

Storytelling Workshops

9:00-10:30am - *Using Different Characters and Voices*, presented by Willy Clafin

11:00-12:30 am - *Telling actual and historical events*, presented by Beth Horner

Afternoon Family Concert

1:30-4:30 pm - Featuring Beth and Willy and NCSG's Regional Tellers: Janice Davin, Lona Bartlett, and Willa Brigham. Youth Tellers from the Library will also perform during this Concert. Ron Jones as Emcee.

Evening Concert

6:30 pm - Featuring Beth, Willy, and NCSG's Regional Tellers; with Ron Jones as Emcee.

All events are FREE!

Storytelling in Todd NC by Doyle Pace



We are telling stories in Todd, North Carolina. From May through October visitors will hear stories about pirates and Indians, moonlight, sunshine, moonshiners, spooklights, haints and saints, boogers and goblins, and a boy named Jack. Every Tuesday evening, along about sundown, a storyteller at the Todd General Store will be drawing rapt listeners into a place of awe and wonderment.

The Old Todd General Store, built in 1914, sits on the ancient banks of the New River. It is an ideal place for stories, as it was in days gone by when "the regulars" would sit around the pot-bellied stove and "expound." And, yes, the pot-bellied stove is still there with chairs and rough-hewn benches scattered around. This old timey, down-home atmosphere is one of the qualities that storytellers like most about coming here. The creaking old hardwood floors, dim lighting and walls covered with antique signs, advertisements and artifacts of bygone retail commerce entices one to drift away into a make-believe place.

While folks are hearing wonderful stories, they can enjoy scrumptious food prepared especially for the occasion by proprietors, Bob and Ginny Mann.

The store started hosting storytelling about eight years ago, before the Mann's bought it in 2003. NCSG mainstay, Dianne Hackworth, started the storytelling at Todd General Store in 2002, when she lived in the

Fall 2010

Todd community. She continues to be a sustaining influence, performing a few times a season, even though she now lives way over in Tennessee. Dianne always culminates the season around Halloween with stories about ghosts, witches and nighttime bumpy things.

Another Guild stalwart, who treks all the way across the Old North State to share his stories at Todd, is Terry Rollins. Terry says that he enjoys coming to Todd because of the intimate cozy atmosphere. He says that it is like telling stories around someone's kitchen table.

Because The Todd General Store is a tourist destination, as well as a local gathering place, you never know who might be in your audience. Rhody Jane Meadows, an effervescent lady in purple who always includes music and audience participation with her storytelling, recalls when she asked someone to play her washtub bass, that she calls a "gut-bucket". The person who volunteered turned out to be a classical harp player with a symphony orchestra. Rhody Jane said, "That lady got on the gut-bucket and flat tore it up." Once, after I had told my stories that included some Jack Tales, a young lady visiting from Sweden came to me afterward to say that she was fascinated by the stories about Jack, and she knew stories from her country that were similar.

The tellers are as varied as the listeners. Charlotte Ross, one of the store's favorites, tells riveting tales of history and Cherokee legends, and Sherry Boone recites her "Letters From Myrtle" stories that she writes herself. People are always delighted with Orville Hicks' Jack tales and yarns about growing up on Beech Mountain. John Ashburn is the local historian and chronicler of the village of Todd's lore and legends. I like to tell tall tales and stories with a sardonic twist.

Guild members who have told this season are Charlotte Ross, Orville Hicks, Dianne Hackworth, Doyle Pace and Terry Rollins. Dianne Hackworth closes out the season on October 26th.

Bob and Ginny Mann are to be commended for providing this great venue for storytelling, and thanks to Dianne for seeing the potential for storytelling at Todd General Store. We hope that we are being faithful to Dianne's vision when she started the storytelling, that is, to "keep the mountain culture and heritage alive."

Doyle Pace has spent most of his life collecting, preserving and telling stories. He is currently serving as the Northern Mountains Representative on the NCSG Board. He may be contacted at bmonkus@bellsouth.net.

(Ex-Officio's...continued from page 3)

in at NCSG meetings, this Storytelling Guild has imagined and grown as only a storytelling guild can. We are moving in the directions dreamed of and requested by North Carolina's storytellers. My own dearest wish and dream for the Guild and NC storytelling is that all of this state's storytellers continue to share their wishes and hopes. If that continues as it has this year, no thin financial year or hard time stands a chance! Thank you for this unforgettable opportunity to act as your Guild president.

Claire Ramsey, Ex-Officio Chair

She may be contacted at claire@storieswithclaire.com

Story Tips

Some of you may be searching for a few ghost stories, particularly for October. Consider the following website: <http://www.americanfolklore.net/spooky-stories.html>

This fall, many storytellers, teachers and students will be searching for Native American Stories. Get a jump-start by going to the following website at <http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/native-american-myths/>

A great resource book for those of you who tell stories to teenagers: *Storytelling for Young Adults: A Guide to Tales for Teens*, by Gail de Vos, Second edition. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

Festival of



by Jane
Hauser

What a treat the 4th annual Storytelling Festival of Carolina was on April 23-25 in Laurinburg. Kim Weitkamp told about "noodling". Ever hear of it? I hadn't either. Go ahead, google it. Doug Elliott had a charming tale about handwriting on a speckled trout. Whose handwriting? you ask. You have to hear the story. He even quoted one of my favorite poems by William Butler Yeats. Gwen Rainer, a resident of Laurinburg, also used poetry by Dunbar and James Weldon Johnson as well as telling delightful Brer Rabbit tales. While there I went to a workshop by Andy Offutt Irwin on putting humor into stories. In other words, how to say serious things in a funny way. Andy often does this by creating wonderful characters and having them say funny and outrageous words. And then Andy's very Southern and elderly great aunt says: "That was uncalled for, Andy!" The helpful tip I came away with is that you must treat these outrageous characters with affection. I had been toying with doing a story on cheapskates as I had just spent time with a friend who was beyond belief. After Andy's workshop, I realized I could not as I did not feel affection for the characters...at all.

Next year see for your self what a great festival this is...I'll be back for my 3rd time and will see you there.

Jane Hauser performed at the National Storytelling Conference in July and is the newly elected Piedmont Triangle Representative to the NCSG Board. You may contact her at mejane@cochill.net.

According to Chase's Calendar of Events, the month of November is Family Stories Month.

(Accommodating Change continued from page 5)

Listening to a good story should not have to be a feat of endurance.

8- Know your audience.

Barring accident or injury, only a small portion of the older adults you entertain will be altered by diminished mobility or mental acuity. In an assisted living residence or nursing home you may be likely to encounter a significant number of residents who are challenged this way. Telling to senior audiences - even those in their eighties and nineties - is not necessarily different than telling to any other adult group. An adult audience is frequently composed of people who are extremely well

educated, accomplished and knowledgeable. Wayne and I often tell history-based stories, and occasionally we meet someone who knows more about our research and information than we do - which, I might add, is extremely inspiring!

9- We ain't all the same, McGee.

Most people in this day and time are conditioned to pay attention between commercial breaks. That amounts to 11 minutes or less. This is why most community audiences are more comfortable with shorter stories, varying energy levels, and an element of program pacing.

Finally, when working with older adult audiences it is imperative to pay close attention to presentation skills. It is not uncommon for hearing loss to start in middle age, so it behooves the storyteller to master those techniques which make what s/he says easier to understand. This includes being able to maintain a "column of air" and consistent vocal output, to speak slowly, enunciate carefully and, especially, to avoid mumbling words or swallowing phrases. It is beyond important to know how to use a microphone correctly. Augmented sound should

be used to 'boost' the human voice in the storytelling setting. Excessive volume distorts the voice and impairs ability among listeners to hear and understand - not to mention, it can be painful to people wearing hearing devices. After the show, the little lady sitting in Row 12 should be able to come up to and say, "I understood every word you said. It was wonderful! Thank you so much for bringing laughter. You have no idea what it means for us to be able to have such a good time for an hour."

Jane Sims is past co-president of the Asheville Storytelling Circle and also past president of the Florida Storytelling Association. Jane and husband, Wayne, perform as humorists and as Tandem Tale Tellers. She may be contacted at: storybuff@aol.com.

(Stories on Asheville's ... continued from page 8)

painters and balloon artists were on hand to help begin the festivities.

Confirmation letters went out to tellers the beginning of May. The stories were heard from 10:30-11:30 every Saturday morning through September 4 with the exception of June 24 during the Bele Cher Festival.

Exciting tellers were on board to make this a spectacular storytelling event for the mountains. Stories were for all ages and were true, although not all of them happened.

Over 20 were chosen by a committee of tellers to share their talents with us. They brought stories that touched our hearts, brought a laugh, built suspense, and called to our better natures.

The area was wheel chair assessable and a signer for the deaf was provided on July 31. Stories were told rain or shine. Mast General Store presented this event with sponsors Carolina First and Posana Restaurant.

Sarah Larson is Treasurer of the Asheville Storytelling Circle. She was a featured teller during ASC's Tellabration last November. You may contact her at sarahlarso@gmail.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR STORYTELLERS

ROLLINS AT THE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

Bath, NC - Terry Rollins was chosen as a panel presenter at the International Storytelling Conference held the end of July in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Terry comments, "I was absolutely thrilled! I served as the USA representative to the international panel, and those of us on the panel discussed the challenges facing storytellers and storytelling communities during these ever-changing times. It was a pleasure to share some of the exciting things that NCSG is doing to promote storytelling in our state and beyond. In addition, I was invited to once again present my one-man show about the life and times of Edgar Allan Poe on the night before the conference began."

NC STORYTELLERS SERVING WITH NSN

Willa Brigham was introduced to readers in the April/May issue of Storytelling Magazine. Willa is the new representative for the Southeast Region of the National Storytelling Network's Board of Directors. In that same issue, Jan Schmidt is mentioned in an article about State Liasons. Jan is the executive director of the Storytelling Arts

Center of the Southeast, in Laurinburg, and is pleased to be representing North Carolina.

MARY GRAY A FINALIST IN NC POET LAUREATE AWARDS

Boone, NC - Mary Gray shares her excitement of reaching the finals of the N.C. Poet Laureate Award contest.

"There were ten finalists and nine of us, along with the winner, read our poems at the Awards Day meeting in Southern Pines on May 15th."

Mary enjoyed meeting and visiting with other poets at this event.

JANE HAUSER PERFORMED AT NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

Durham, NC - The NSN selected Jane Hauser to perform at the 2010 National Storytelling Conference in Los Angeles on July 30. Seven tellers were chosen from a group of submissions for the All Regions Concert with one teller per region being picked. Jane is in the Southeast region which consists of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. There was also one international teller. Jane told a personal tale about the KKK.

Once Upon a Great Time ... in Laurinburg by Jan Schmidt

The Storytelling Arts Center of the Southeast in Laurinburg, NC, is offering a very busy Fall and Winter calendar of activities that both listeners and tellers will really enjoy. Every teller and lover of tales will have a story experience they will remember and often be able to participate.

On October 23, 2010, at 7 pm we will have the *Very! Scary! Spooky Story Cabaret* plus our *inaugural Story Slam*. Wonderful local tellers Brenda Gilbert, Tyris Jones and Gwen Rainer will have everyone shaking in the boots as they tell scary stories ... in the dark! Brenda has been telling stories for more than 30 years and is

founder of the Storytelling Arts Center. Tyris Jones is a theater graduate, who writes and performs his own stories. He was featured in the Exchange Place at the 2009 National Storytelling Festival. Gwen is a wonderful teller, who has been telling stories since she was a young girl. Nobody can incorporate dialect in stories more effectively than Gwen. She wowed everyone at the 2010 Storytelling Festival of Carolina.

The Story Slam will add more fun and mystery to the evening. The theme of the Story Slam will be announced at the beginning of the evening to insure impromptu stories. All those who wish to participate will then enter their names into a drawing. Members of the audience will be asked to judge. Fun prizes will be given to Story Slam winners. There will be cider and donuts and all this for just \$10 for advance reservations and \$12 at the door.

On January 22, 2011 join us for a day and evening of wonderful humor at the *4th Annual Bold-Faced Liars'*

Showdown and Blue Grass Music Cabaret. Tellers from across the southeast compete for the dubious title of the Best Liar in the southeast and for trophies and cash prizes. If you want to enter go to www.storyartscenter.org or call 910-706-3266 or email brenda@sfoc.info. Application forms and criteria are on the website. Tickets for the event can be purchased on line or by phone. The Showdown begins at 2 pm and concludes at 5 pm. The evening festivities begin at 7 pm when the winners of Showdown are announced. There will be Blue Grass music, a Story slam and the first place and People's Choice winners will tell their winning lies. The advance reservation cost of the event is \$15 for the entire event, or \$10 for the evening only; or \$18 for tickets purchased at the door. We are also planning a surprise at the evening Cabaret ...and since it is a surprise we will not tell you now ...but be ready!

Don't miss a truly unforgettable 3 days of learning and laughing! The weekend of **February 4 - 6, 2011**, SACS is hosting "**Calling all Storytellers, Intensive Weekend Workshop**" led by fabulous duo, and national storytellers, Bil Lepp and Kim Weitkamp, in Laurinburg at the Storytelling Arts Center of the Southeast. The weekend will include group telling, one on one telling/coaching, group coaching and training, as well as break-out sessions. This will be an unbelievable opportunity for storytellers and aspiring storytellers to improve their yarn spinning skills. Several of the participants will be selected to be the 'New Voices' at the Storytelling Festival of Carolina. **The workshop is limited to 15 participants.** For those who register by November 15th, the cost is \$600 which includes all workshops, meals and lodging, and the Saturday evening Concert (plus a nice bottle of wine). The cost of registration after Nov. 15, 2010, is \$650. Check web site www.storyartscenter.org for Application Process, Criteria, and other information or call Jan Schmidt at 910-544-9202.

Remember! to save **April 1 - 3, 2011**; to celebrate the **5th Annual Storytelling Festival of Carolina** ...we will feature Bil Lepp, Michael Reno Harrell, The Healing force, Barbara McBride Smith, Tyris Jones and Martha Johnson. It will be an amazing and fantastic April fool's Day weekend ... no foolin'!

The regional **Story Spinners Guild** meets every 3rd Monday of the month September through May. People come from as far away as Florence SC and from several surrounding counties. Each month people tell their stories and then the group discusses ideas to make the telling of the story better. Tellers and listeners have a good time.

Hope we get to see you all at these extraordinary activities.

Jan Schmidt is the Executive Director of the Storytelling Arts Center of the Southeast and co-chair of the Storytelling Festival of Carolina. Contact her at jan@sfoc.info.



2nd Monday of each month - *The Regulator Bookshop*, Storytelling for Adults. 7:00pm at 720 Ninth Street, Durham. Contact John Benedetto at: johnmbenedetto@cs.com.

2nd Thursday of each month - *The Storytellers Guild of Charlotte*. 7:30pm at Barnes & Noble, Arboretum Shopping Ctr. Contact 704-568-6940.

3rd Monday of each month - *The Asheville Storytelling Circle* meets at 7:00pm, Asheville Terrace, 200 Tunnel Rd. in Asheville. Contact Sandra Gudger at: gudgers@bellsouth.net

3rd Monday of every month, Sept. through May. *Story Spinners Guild Meetings*. Come listen or tell stories at the Storytelling Arts Center, 131 S. Main St., Laurinburg, NC. Free to all. 910-277-3599.

October 2010

17-21 *Sixth Annual Starburst Storytellers' Festival* with tellers Connie Regan-Blake, Sharon Murray, Nancy Basket, John Fowler, Saundra Kelley and Members of the Clemson Area Story Tellers (CAST). Anderson County Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson, SC. Contact: Marybeth Evans, Community Services Coordinator, 864-260-4500 ext. 107 or mevans@andersonlibrary.org

19 *Storytelling at Todd General Store* with Charlotte Ross. 6pm, Todd, NC. Call 336-877-1067 or go to <http://toddgeneralstore.tripod.com/>

20 *Create a fun Halloween Inspired Puppet*. Peek-A-Boo Pop-Up Puppets with Yostie. \$10. Ages 5-12. 4:30 - 6 p.m. Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island, SC. Contact 843-686-3945 or www.artshhi.com.

20-22 *SC Library Association Annual Conference 2010*, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC. Theme: South Carolina Libraries: Advocacy from the Ground Up.

20-23 *ETSU Special Topics class (STOR/THEA 4957/5957-001): "The Magical Dramatic Imagination,"* with Guest Instructor/Performance Artist Heather Woodbury. Bud Frank Theatre, ETSU Campus. Johnson city, TN. Information: <http://www.etsu.edu/stories/Fall2010Sched.htm>

22-24 *Story Treasures: the Call of Life Memories*. Weekend storytelling workshop with Connie Regan-Blake. Asheville, NC. http://www.storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_oct10.htm

23 *Really Very Scary Stories*. Brenda Gilbert, Gwen Rainer, Tyris Jones, Martha Johnson Cider/ Goodies, 7pm; \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door. Storytelling Art Center of the Southeast, 131 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC. Contact 910-277-3599.

26 *Storytelling at Todd General Store* with Dianne Hackworth. 6pm, Todd, NC. Call 336-877-1067 or go to <http://toddgeneralstore.tripod.com/>

November 2010

1-5 Marvin Cole will be performing and teaching *Mark Twain and His Works* at an Exploritas at Lake Junaluska, NC. Contact 828-452-2881 or email at <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/page.aspx?ekfrm=7602>

6 - The Chapin Museum in Myrtle - *All Day storytelling* and other events to celebrate El Dia de Los Muertos - Storyteller Joan Leotta will perform. Free to the public. Hours of the Festival are from 11am to 3pm. 3100 S Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC. 843-238-2510.

(November continued)

12-13 *Brevard Storytelling Festival* - Headliners: Beth Horner and Willie Clafin. Sponsored by NC Storytelling Guild and the Transylvania Friends of the Library. Location - Transylvania County Public Library, Brevard, NC. Friday 12th at 7:30pm - an evening concert. Storytelling workshops will be presented on Saturday morning. See page 9 for more details. Contact Sandra Gudger at 828-274-1123 or gudgers@bellsouth.net.

20 *Tellabration!* Hosted by the Inner Banks Storytellers Group. NC Estuarium. Washington. Call 252-948-0000.

20 *One-day Storytelling Workshop* with Connie Regan-Blake: Finding The Storyteller In You. Asheville, NC. A day long workshop to: develop skill in telling stories; explore the legacy of memories; gain confidence in speaking; connect with your listeners. http://www.storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_nov10.htm

21 *Asheville Tellabration!* Sunday, 3pm. Folk Art Center, Milepost 382, Blue Ridge Parkway. Asheville, NC 28805. See poster on last page. Contact Sandra Gudger at gudgers@bellsouth.net

26-27 Terry Rollins shares *holiday stories*. Tryon Palace. New Bern. Call Terry at 252-402-8595.

December 2010

1 - *Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, performed by Tim Lowry. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Columbia SC. Call 843-324-1366.

12 *Ladies Christmas English High Tea*. Allison McLean Harpist. 3 pm. Homemade Goodies and Exotic Teas, \$12/reservations only. Storytelling Art Center of the Southeast, 131 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC. Contact 910-277-3599.

January 2011

12 - Marvin Cole will be presenting *An Evening With Mark Twain*. 6:30pm at Big Canoe, Georgia.

28-30 *NCSG Winter Workshop* with Antonio Rocha (pronounced Haw-sha) (International Performer and storyteller) Antonio's Website: <http://www.storyinmotion.com/index2.htm> Workshop Location: The North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell on the eastern tip of Oak Island, Fort Caswell, NC. Contact Terry Rollins at bardelf@gmail.com or Dianne Hackworth at dianne@diannehackworth.com

February 2011

4-6 *Intensive Storytelling Workshop*. Kim Weitkamp and Bil Lepp, Workshop Leaders. Learn Storytelling from the Best Tellers and Teachers. Check web site www.storyartscenter.org for Application and other information.

April 2011

1-3 4th Annual Storytelling Festival of Carolina. Laurinburg, NC. Featuring Bil Lepp, Barbara McBride-Smith, The Healing Force, Michael Reno Harrell, Tyris Jones and Martha Johnson. Contact 910-706-3266 or www.storyartscenter.org.

15-16 *Sounds of the Mountains*. Music and story festival at Camp Bethel, near Roanoke VA. Featuring Donald Davis, David Holt, and Andy Offutt Irwin. Information 919-607-0993 or www.soundsofthemountains.org

2011

Wildacres Spring Retreat - Wildacres Conference Center, Little Switzerland, NC. Dates TBA.



*Sylvia Payne, Editor
1621 Nathaniel Street
Newton, NC 28658*

TELLABRATION!
A WORLDWIDE STORYTELLING EVENT

November 21



LLOYD ARNEACH
Cherokee



DOLS ELLIOTT
Union Mills



DONNA MARE TODD
Black Mountain



CHARLIE ST. CLAIR, MC
Asheville



GWENDA LEDBETTER
Asheville

3:00 PM \$5
Asheville Folk Art Center / Blue Ridge Parkway
INFO: 828.658.4151 or 828.777.9177
Sponsored by Asheville Storytelling Circle in partnership with
Southern Highlands Craft Guild & National Storytelling Network

**National Storytelling Festival,
Jonesborough, TN**



Early Saturday morning street scene in Jonesborough two hours before the festival began for the day. A few early birds can be seen heading toward their chosen tents in order to claim a good seat.



Saturday afternoon finds festival attendees gathering 'round Jonesborough's courthouse square for entertainment led by storytellers, Ed Stivender and Angela Lloyd.