



# spore mule



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter  
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*Strophes*, the national newsletter is available online at  
<http://www.nfsps.com/> Click Strophes online.



## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Poets and Friends Chapter Report

Perhaps our biggest monthly meeting is coming next month with our Poetry in the Park meeting. We meet at Grant Beach Park at Grant and Lynn Street intersection in Springfield. The date is April 22 from 1-6 pm. We start with a potluck lunch and lots of poetry reading. There is a nice pavilion for the meeting so rain or shine we should have a good time. All poets and friends are invited to join us.

The Poets and Friends have been meeting at the Brentwood Library for years but ran into a little problem of late getting our meeting place reserved. For the past two months we have been meeting at the Library Station on North Kansas and will again in May, September and November. The rest of the year we will be back at Brentwood. We found that things have progressed so far that in order to reserve certain rooms at the library you have to be in person at the library by about 5:30 am on sign up day to get a room reserved. And so it goes.

Don DePriest, President  
Poets and Friends



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STEELVILLE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING

MSPS was represented recently in Steelville, Missouri, when vice president, Dawn Harmon, attended an evening of poetry and music sponsored by the Steelville Arts Council. This was an event presented free of charge to the community and featuring music by a local artist followed by a reading from Missouri Poet Laureate, David Clewell. Mr. Clewell has held this honorary position for two years and has used it as a means to broaden his opportunities for lecturing and reading. In addition to engaging the minds of the students of the local high school, Mr. Clewell shared some of his favorite pieces with approximately 60 people who came out to hear him speak that evening at The Soda Fountain. You may all remember his wonderful cadence and humorous tales he shared with us at the 2010 State convention held in Cuba, Missouri, including his piece on America's Bed and Breakfast. Upon hearing he had an owner of such an establishment in his audience that evening and that she had a good sense of humor, he told her 'if that is so, then put it on now,' and read again that much anthologized piece. Mr. Clewell's term as Poet Laureate will be expiring soon and it was indeed a pleasure to hear him open the world of poetry to so many with that specialized style all his own.



### HEAR YE, HEAR YE

The time has come,

the time is now,  
if you want to participate,  
here's how.....

It's that time of year again that GRIST submissions are being accepted by your editor for our upcoming 2012 publication.

Here are the rules:

Submit your poem with no more than 36 lines and limited to 60 characters per line to Dawn Harmon either by email or via the US postal service.

Include your name, city and state, chapter affiliation and title of the poem, if applicable.

Submissions should be sent to the following addresses:

inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com  
or Dawn Harmon  
Editor-GRIST  
PO Box 639  
Cuba, MO 65453

Please do not send your poem thru another member of the poetry society as this has in the past led to miscommunication and improper crediting of the poem.

The deadline for submissions to be received for publication is MAY 1, 2012.

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Purchase price per copy PRIOR to MAY 1, 2012 ---\$8.75  
--AFTER MAY 1, 2012 ----\$10.00

All orders for GRIST should be submitted to Dawn Harmon at the above address or below with your MAILING address and contact phone number included.

I cannot always think of catchy ways to promote this, but I must admit, the highlighting and underlining here was a little bit fun for me.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Harmon if you have any questions concerning GRIST 2012 or earlier publications as well.

In an effort to reach all of our Society members, I ask you to share this email with all of your friends. The more

submissions we get the better and I certainly could use your help spreading the word. If you know members who do not have email, you can request of me to mail them a copy of this announcement, but unless you give me their address, I will not be able to comply. So please, please, please, help us spread the word to our fellow poets.

I look forward to hearing from each of you soon,

Happy Writing!!

Dawn Harmon  
PO Box 639  
Cuba, MO 65453  
573-205-9113  
inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com

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**WINTER POETRY CONTEST RESULTS**

Following is the winners list from 4 of the 5 categories in the Winter Contest.

Category 1, Rhymed Verse

1. It's Elementary--Lee Ann Russell, MSPS Member
  2. Ode to a Molar--Aaron E. Holst, non member
  3. The Greatest Generation--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS Member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Supermarket Saturday--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS Member  
2nd Honorable Mention--Raspberry Tea--Joyce Shiver, non member

Category 2 Free Verse

1. Golden Pomise--Dorothy Roger, non member
  2. A Fair Day--Sara Gipson, non member
  3. My First Time--Jennifer Harbaugh, non member
- 1st Honorable Mention--The Call--Dorothy Rogers, non member  
2nd. Honorable Mention--Wind Stories, David L. Byrn, non member  
3rd Honorable Mention--Arithmetic--Carol J. Megge, non member

Category 3, Humorous

1. Oops!! Did I Say That?--Marilyn Stacy, MSPS member
  2. The Pasture Stakes--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS member
  3. McCoffee to Go--Barbara Blanks, MSPS member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Claire, the Near-sighted Dance Hall Girl--Jim Barton, non-member  
2nd Honorable Mention--Modesty, Be Damned--Lee Ann Russell-MSPS member  
3rd Honorable Mention--Sedona--David L. Byrn, non member

Category, Winter Subject

- 1st Place--The Dove--Dewell H. Byrd, MSPS member
  - 2nd Place--Gentle Snow--Beverly Stanislawski, non member
  - 3rd Place--Happiness is a Warm Cuppa Cocoa--Barbara Blanks, MSPS member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Species Shift--Dennis Maulsby, non member  
2nd Honorable Mention--Caroline Zarlengo Sposto--non member  
3rd Honorable Mention--Sara Gipson, non member

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JUDY YOUNG, MSPS' YOUTH WORKS DIRECTOR just finished judging the poems submitted to the Winter Poetry Contest's Missouri youth divisions. There were 647 entries in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and 106 entries in the Senior Division (grades 9-12). The ten top poems were then sent as Missouri's submissions to the NFSPS' Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest. In the last eight years, seven Missouri youth have had a poem recognized in this contest! Below are the two first place poems - as you can see, Missouri has some excellent young poets!

**LIFE**

by Claire Shipp  
Grade 6  
Chillicothe Middle School

My grandma's death was an ax  
  
My dad was the handle  
Holding tight so he wouldn't shatter into a million pieces  
Staying strong for me  
  
My mom was the bolts  
Holding our family tight together  
Holding together for me  
  
My sister was the chopped through air  
Dizzy and confused  
  
My heart's the wood  
The ax slowly, painfully splitting it in half  
  
But now, two years later  
Our family is growing  
With new refreshed life  
As a sapling

**MOMENTUM**

(a pantoum)  
by Matthew Lenz  
grade 12  
University of Missouri High School  
Columbia, MO

A mass swinging back and forth  
Creates a pendulum effect  
Objects constantly in motion  
A grandfather clock tolling the last hour  
  
Creates a pendulum effect  
Light bouncing off chafed skin  
A grandfather clock tolling the last hour  
At 340 meters per second  
  
Light bouncing off chafed skin  
A splintered cracking sounds  
At 340 meters per second  
Like the death of a man  
Objects constantly in motion  
  
A splintered cracking sounds  
A mass swinging back and forth  
Like the death of a man

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★ Poetry in the Park ★

Annual P&F Celebration of Poetry Month  
22 April 2012 100 PM to 600 PM  
in Springfield, MO Grants Beach Park  
(Opposite side of park from the Locomotive)

🎵 Pot Luck and Poetry--Who could ask for more!! 🎵

(Remember--April 22 is also 🌸 Earth Day!! Celebrate with a Poem!)

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COME CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH  
WITH KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN VERSE

April 10, 2012 6:30-8:00 pm  
Reception and Launch for  
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse volume 6  
@ New Song Church ,  
8600 NE Sam Ray Road, KCMO 64156  
rsvp [kayklink@yahoo.com](mailto:kayklink@yahoo.com)

April 20, 2012 7:00 pm  
Spoken Word Art @ Crossroads Coffeehouse  
310 Southwest Blvd , KCMO 64108

April 28, 2012 1:00 pm @  
Gatsby Days in Excelsior Springs , Missouri  
101 E Broadway, Excelsior Springs , Mo

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**FROM WANDA SUE PAROTT**

*How to Enter--AND WIN--Poetry Contests!!*

*Sponsor of the National Annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition  
for American Poets age 50 and older*

*and Co-sponsor of the White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate Contest*

FOR DETAILS GO TO -----[www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org)

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**KUDOS FOR:**

**LEE ANN RUSSELL**

Three of her submissions were accepted in the 10 Tenets of Civility Photo Contest sponsored by the Springfield-Geene County Civility Project, local businesses and American Library Association. The tenets illustrated were: "Listen," "Act with Compassion," and "Give and Accept Constructive Feedback." They were displayed at the Park Central Branch Library during the March First Friday Art Walk and will be displayed later in area businesses and public entities.

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**JUDY YOUNG**

Judy's 12th children's book, Little Missouri (Sleeping Bear Press), releases April 1. A board book for the youngest of book lovers, toddlers will delight in rhyming riddles about Missouri's birds, animals, flowers, trees and other state symbols. In addition, Judy's book A Book for Black-Eyed Susan (Sleeping Bear Press, 2011) received the 2012 Storytelling World Honor Award, is the 2011 Gold Winner of the National Parenting Publication Award and is on the 2012 KS National Education Association Reading Circle List. A Pet for Miss Wright (Sleeping Bear Press, 2011) is also on the 2012 KS National Education Association Reading Circle List as well as the 2011 Parents' Choice Approved Book Award Winner and on the 2012 Louisiana Reading Association Child Choice Award List.

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**POEMS**

**OUR COMMUNION**

Listening  
as we breathed  
to the sounds  
of the night.

Seeing shadows cast  
in moonlight.  
Blessing the quiet  
of our communion.

Frank Adams, Kansas City Metropolitan Verse, is the author of two volumes of poetry; Mother Speaks Her Name, and Love Remembered. Both published by Wild Ocean Press, San Francisco, CA.

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**FRANCIS**

Francis is the name  
they chose for me.  
Mother said it was a "such a nice name"  
and "pretty."  
It was my father's middle name,  
though he never used it.

The boys at school  
thought it too pretty.  
Teased me, saying it  
was a girl's name.  
They'd forgot St. Francis of Assisi,  
who talked to the animals,  
At. Francis Xavier, founder  
of the Jesuits and a warrior.

The boys would ask  
if I was a girl.  
They'd call me a sissy.

Francis they'd mockingly call out  
as they bloodied my nose,  
tore my clothes  
broke my glasses  
pummeling me  
and my name  
to the ground.  
Leaving me alone in tears  
wishing I could talk to the animals  
that I could be a warrior  
or a saint.

Frank Adams, KC Metro Verse

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**PULLING GRANDSON DUTY**

Prepare for a marathon by loading up  
with carbs, plenty of hydration, a quick stretch  
of moxie muscles, anticipate the starter's gun.

Launch slowly and never change the tempo:  
up the stairs, down the slide, run to the stairs,  
up the stairs, down the slide, run, run, run.

...both at the age of  
enjoying long naps.

Todd Sukany  
Second Tuesday

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Instant Lament poems:

**A GANG MEMBER'S PRAYER**

I am anger,  
I wear it like a badge of honor, for all the world to see.  
They are my family, my refuge,  
but I labor almost daily, simply to stay alive,  
please help me to escape.

Marilyn Smith P&F

**TO SOAR WITH THE BIRDS**

Fearless, he jumped from the barn loft,  
with gusto, he flapped his arms,  
but alas, he hit the ground with a thud,  
for the wings he attached to his arms  
didn't work the way that he thought they should.  
But the loser in this situation,  
was the chicken who gave up her life for his flight.

Marilyn Smith P&F

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**MY LOVE WILL COME AGAIN**

My day has come and now I cannot stay,  
no longer here will I be seen,  
neither can touch again reach me,  
I've tried and yet cannot remain.  
Think kindly of our future plans,  
know I would have loved them so,  
But do not dwell where I have been,  
go out and let the sun, your friend,  
shine on you now in my stead,  
for I would hold you if I could  
but Time has whispered things untold  
and though I cannot see your face,  
I'll fuel the sun for your embrace  
and send to you my love each spring  
in flowers blooming and in the rain.

Dawn Harmon  
Crawford County Bombadils

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Six senryu poems

**AT AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP: SENRYU**

a man steps in  
mumbling to himself  
“Lord Jesus, thank you!”

freezing cold...  
he takes off his winter hat  
revealing matted hair

cashier  
pretty but she didn't wash  
her hair today

old man complains  
about his heart problems  
no one listens

mechanic's jargon—  
I'm confused but he looks and  
sounds sincere

my poetic trance  
is abruptly broken—  
my car is fixed

John J. Han  
On the Edge

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**JOURNEY**

From all things must we part  
And into all things must we go.  
Our journey can only end  
With a new beginning.  
Our hearts can only break  
With renewed joy;  
Our death hangs above our heads  
As we rock in the cradle  
With laughter on our lips;  
And life hovers on gentle wings  
Above every coffin.

Debby Dunstedter  
Crawford County Bombadils

