



Kentucky Storytelling Association

July 2010 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 6 Issue 3

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

<http://www.kystory.org/>

National Storytelling Network Website

<http://www.storynet.org/>

Contact your Board

President, Pam Holcomb
President@kystory.org
606-573-4376

President Elect, Russ Conrad
President-Elect@kystory.org
859-654-3358

Treasurer, Nina Coyer
Treasurer@kystory.org
866-643-1829

Message from our President Pam Holcomb

What a wonderful spring we have had in the Kentucky Storytelling Association! So many great things have been going on among our ranks. First, the KSA in conjunction with the Harlan County Cooperative Extension Service festival - Storytelling in the Mountains was a big success. The folks that attended really seemed to enjoy themselves. I know I certainly had a wonderful time. I laughed a lot and cried a little especially with Bill Watson's outstanding performance of "I Will Love You Forever." This was our third year of the festival and it just seems to be getting stronger each year.

I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of the three young folks that were chosen to be among the National Finalists at the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. Only 15 students were chosen nationwide and Kentucky had three - **Lindsay Porter** a middle school student from Bath County and the tandem team of (Uncle) **Jacob Craiger** a middle school student from Letcher County and (Nephew) **David Benning** an elementary student from Whitley County! It is so gratifying to see storytelling flourish among our students! Trust me, they each represented Kentucky and the KSA well!

I'm also proud to relate several extra-special accomplishments of some of our members:

* **Thomas Freese** was chosen to spend the month of June in Argentina teaching the art of storytelling and telling stories. What a wonderful opportunity for Thomas!

* KSA member from Ohio, **Eric Wolf** will be presented with an Oracle Award in recognition of his work as producer and host of the Art of Storytelling with Brother Wolf Show during the last evening of the National Storytelling Conference on July 31st, 2010 in Los Angeles, California. The National Storytelling Network (NSN) gives the Oracle Award for Distinguished National Service to individuals who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level. It is a deserved accolade Eric, congratulations.

* **Russ Conrad** our KSA president-elect was chosen to present at the National Storytelling Network Conference (July 29 - August 1, 2010) as a Fringe performer!

What is the Fringe? The NSN Conference Fringe follows the Fringe Festival model giving artists freedom to create and audiences "the ability to decide for themselves the truly great productions from the good, the bad and the gloriously disastrous." In keeping with the Fringe principle of an un-juried selection process. Russ will have 55 minutes to share his story or stories. This is indeed a great opportunity for Russ and I'm sure he will be outstanding!

Have you made your reservations for our Fall KSA Conference? If not, please make plans now to attend in our 7th annual Kentucky Storytelling Association Conference to be held at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Gilbertsville, KY - November 12-13, 2010. We would like to have volunteers help make this our best conference ever. If you would like to volunteer to help with our conference, please contact Betsy Fleischer at betsycat2@yahoo.com and I'm sure she'll find a job for you to do!

If you have suggestions that would help to improve the Kentucky Storytelling

Secretary, Maggie
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At-large Board Member
Charles Wright
At-large1@kystory.org
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The other At-large Board
member position is
vacant.

Contact Us

<http://www.kystory.org>

Newsletter Editor
Thomas Freese
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News and Updates

I have a storytelling
program at Common
Grounds Coffee House, in
Lexington, on the 2nd
Thursday of the month
from 7-9 PM. Everyone is
invited to this program.

It is an open mic and
there is no fee. I would
love to have lots of
tellers come join us! You
can find more
information at
www.TheStorytellersCafe.com.

Susan Coates, The
Speaker Studio, 859-

Association, please contact me and I will be glad to present them to the Board on your behalf. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions! In the near future the nomination committee will be seeking folks to fill positions on the board. Please give some consideration to stepping up and joining the leadership of KSA by accepting a board position.

November 2010 KSA Annual Conference

It's not too early to reserve your space for this year's conference at beautiful Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Gilbertsville, KY on November 12th and 13th. Rooms are \$59.95. Be sure to put your name on a room before October 3 because the following day any unused accommodations go public. Friday night the conference opens with the Evening Open Mic Stories featuring our guest artist, Octavia Sexton. Stick around for the 2nd Annual Late Night Story Slam! You just might win the medal!

Saturday is filled with ten different workshops for pre-school storytelling, folktales, finding stories, planning a gig, fairytale building, storytelling at work, creating your own stories, and your own Jack Tales, Appalachian ballads, and a special session about the Western Kentucky University's Oral History/Folklife Archives. Our conference ends with the Evening Open Mic Stories. Go to the KSA website for the full descriptions.

Pack your bags and bring some stories to tell. Appreciative listeners are always enthusiastically welcome. Go online today and register for a good time. Any questions, comments, encouragements can be sent to Conference Chair Betsy Fleischer at betsycat2@yahoo.com or at 859-734-3194.

Opportunity for You to Help Your Conference

Pick up an oar and let's row together! It takes people just like you to make the conference to merrily, merrily, merrily happen.

First up is the Hospitality Coordinator: this is the contact person for people who want to carpool and/or split a room. This person is needed now!

Other jobs available are:

Registration Table - 2 on Friday night beginning at 7:30pm to sell tickets, take money, give out packets and receipts, and then 2 on Saturday from 8:00am - 10:00am, and 2 from 10:00-12:00 to take money, give out packets and receipts;

1 Ticket Seller for the Saturday night Evening Open Mic to take money, give out receipts;

1 Emcee for Saturday day to make announcements, must have an accurate watch;

1 Game Leader to run silent game, get three simple (silly) awards and present awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places;

1 Room Monitor Chair to recruit room monitors and schedule rooms --need a maximum of 12 people in order to have one person per workshop session--- monitors assist the presenter, move chairs if necessary, and keep track of the time;

1 Door Prize Chair who solicits and collects prizes for seven giveaways, set up the prize table, run seven giveaways;

Story Store Clerks-- we have a manager, now we need 1 or 2 more people to help out, the seven slots are 15 minutes apiece, see the conference schedule on the web site for specific times, must be punctual;

1 Open Mic Chair on Saturday day who will pull names from the hats, keep track of time;

1 Evening Open Mic Emcee on Friday night who will pull names from the hats,

266-2644, and Susan@TheSpeakerStudio.com. Common Grounds is located at 343 East High Street, Lexington, KY, 40507.

A Time for Tales, happens **on Sundays**, 4-5 PM on Morehead State Public Radio, 90.3 FM. (Morehead, KY), hosted by Carolyn Franzini. Each week the stories relate to a theme... "Work" "School" "Ghost stories", "Lessons Learned" and more. Listen on the web at www.msuradio.com.

Storytelling with Children Podcast and Blog is a national conversation from all perspectives on the profession of storytelling for children. It is recorded as a conference call biweekly, Tuesdays at 7 or 8 PM. Hosted by Eric Wolf, Yellow Springs, OH. Each show features a specific guest and topic. You can join in the conference call conversation, subscribe to the podcast via iTunes or listen on the website: <http://www.artofstorytellingshow.com>. On the website, you can also learn details on upcoming shows.

August 9 Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

August 12 Entries due for

keep track of time;

1 Evening Open Mic Emcee on Saturday night who will pull names from the hats, keep track of time;

Late Night Story Slam on Saturday night --- 1 Emcee who will pull numbers from the hats, keep track of time, 3 judges to listen and hold up numbers;

4 Set-up Crew to put out street signs, put up indoor signs, hang banner, put up backdrop, set up easels in workshop rooms;

4 Tear-down Crew to undo what the set-up crew did.

Proud of our KSA Members!

KSA Member Eric Wolf/Brother Wolf will receive The Distinguished National Service Oracle Award from the National Storytelling Network at the National Storytelling Conference in Los Angeles, California, July 29 – August 1, 2010. The Distinguished National Service Award is presented to those individuals, members, or groups who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level to forward the work of the National Storytelling Network. So what has our fellow KSA Member Eric Wolf done?

Eric James Wolf/Brother Wolf is the host and producer of the podcast interview series "The Art of Storytelling Show." Eric's show brings "the best and brightest of the storytelling community to the world." Interviews are free to anyone with an Internet connection – for free, yes free! With over 6000 downloads a month, numerous blog posts, and 92 hours of interviews with the international storytelling community, Eric shares the value of storytelling with more people than any storytelling conference, journal, email list or book could do.

Every week Brother Wolf interviews a new person on the podcast. Each guest covers a different aspect of the art of storytelling. The interviews are conducted in person or in a conference call format, and anyone is welcome to participate on the call. Not only can audiences join a call, you can also listen online and use iTunes, or your podcasting software. If you like what you hear, write a comment on the related post on the blog.

Want to know more? Visit the website:

<http://www.artofstorytellingshow.com/about/> In addition to general information about The Art of Storytelling Show, you'll find a topic index to over thirty different topics covered in past interviews. Topics include: African Storytelling, Literacy and the connection with storytelling, Music in storytelling, Environmental Storytelling, and much, much more. Select the "Upcoming" page and see what exciting guests and topics Eric has lined up through November, 2010.

Congratulations, Eric Wolf/Brother Wolf. KSA is proud to count you among our members. May we all learn from your model how to use our gifts to enhance the art of storytelling.

Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase News

Due to date changes of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase, the KYSS committee has had to make a few adjustments to their calendar. Below are some commonly asked questions:

* **Who Can Enter**

Any young Kentuckian age 6 – 18 on February 3, 2011

* **How to Compete**

An 8 – 10 minute DVD/VHS of your storytelling plus an [Entry & Permission Form](#) must be received by midnight August 12, 2010.

For details, see [Rules & Suggestions](#) as specified on the KSA website: www.kystory.org.

* **Competition Categories**

Elementary School Age / K-5th grade / age 6 by February 3, 2011

Kentucky Youth
Storytelling Showcase.
An 8 – 10 minute
DVD/VHS of your
storytelling plus an [Entry
& Permission Form](#) must
be received by midnight
August 12, 2010. For
details, see [Rules &
Suggestions](#).

August 27 Finalists
compete at the Kentucky
Youth Storytelling
Showcase at the
Kentucky State Fair in
Louisville, Kentucky. Five
Kentucky Youth
Storytelling Torchbearers
will be selected, and all
five will be entered into
the National Youth
Storytelling Showcase.

For more info and
timeline of events for
KYSS 2010, see website
page
[http://www.kystory.org/
progs-and-actvs/youth-
storytelling.shtml](http://www.kystory.org/progs-and-actvs/youth-storytelling.shtml).

August 30, If you love
stories, hearing them
and telling them, then
you'll want to join us at
Natasha's Bistro, 112
Esplanade, Lexington,
Kentucky. Stories begin
at 8:00 p.m. and run
until 10-ish. Cover:
\$5.00. This event raises
funds to support
Kentucky Storytelling
Association programs
and projects. To make a
reservation (not
required, but helpful),
you can [reserve online](#) or
phone: 859-259-2754,
859-259-2754.

September 10-12,
Constitution Square Arts
Fest, Danville, KY For
more information visit
[http://www.constitutions
quareartsfest.org/](http://www.constitutionsquareartsfest.org/)

Middle School Age / 6th – 8th grade
High School Age / 18 or younger on February 3, 2011
Tandem Teams (2 – 4 members per team, any qualified age)

* **Timeline**

Aug. 12, 2010 Entries due to Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase
Aug. 27, 2010 Finalists compete at the Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, Kentucky (from 10 a.m. to 12 noon). Five Kentucky Youth Storytelling Torchbearers will be selected, and all five will be entered into the National Youth Storytelling Showcase.
Nov. 12 - 13, 2010 Kentucky Youth Storytelling Torchbearers honored guests at the [Kentucky Storytelling Conference](#), Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, Gilbertsville, Kentucky.
Nov. 22, 2010 State entries due to the National Youth Storytelling Showcase.
Dec. 19, 2010 National Youth Storytelling Showcase Finalists notified.
Feb. 3 – 5, 2011 National Youth Storytelling Showcase, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.
Please help the KYSS committee spread the word about this competition to any school aged student.

KSA Member Spotlight

This month's spotlight shines on new KSA member Mitch Barrett. I was born and still live in a holler just outside of Berea KY that my Great Grandfather settled in. I come from a family of storytellers (not professionals but the men and the women are all blessed with the gift of gab). I grew up with lots of music and storytelling in my home. Most of it was centered on work. My Pa raised tobacco, so there was a lot of time spent as a child working with him and the elders of my family and community, in the field and tobacco barn stripping room. After my Grandfather, Raymond "Bunk" Gay died, the fox hunting magazine "Sounder" did a story on his storytelling abilities. We grandchildren knew that he made up tales for us, but had no idea he was famous for his storytelling around the fox hunting community here in Kentucky. I recon I come by it naturally. I am a father of four wonderful children and I have made a living singing and telling stories for thirty years now. I travel a lot but Kentucky is my home and I love it here. I have worked with the KY Arts Council in schools throughout the state for 20 years or so. I am proud to be a member of the Kentucky Storytelling Association.

Why did you join KSA?

Mary Hamilton told about KSA, I joined because in my travels I would hear all these tellers from other states, and wanted to be a part of the network of tellers here in my home state.

What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA?

I like networking with other tellers.

What kind of stories do you enjoy?

I love traditional tales, but my favorite stories are just real life stories from folks I meet.

How has your life been affected by stories from family or friends?

The stories my Grandparents told over and over again have helped shape me and give me such a sense of place. I try to share those old stories, and create new ones with my children. The thing I like the most about storytelling is how a good tale can take you away from the anxiety and stress of everyday life. It goes without saying how important family stories are for preserving our culture and history. I love telling and hearing good stories.

September 10, 11 Bristol Hills Storytelling Festival, featuring Dan Keding, Connie Regan-Blake, and Mary Hamilton. Clean, family-oriented stories for teens and adults at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Location: Elkhart County Historical Museum, 304 West Vistula Street, Bristol, Indiana. Swapping Ground open mike, 3 - 5 minute tales, both evenings from 5:30 - 6:30. For more information visit:

<http://www.bristolhills.net/>



Mitch Barrett, Storyteller and Musician

Wandering Storytellers

September 13 Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

Saturday, September 17, 18 Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) annual conference, Theme: "Telling Our Story", Cave City, Convention Center, Cave City, Kentucky, beginning 6pm on Friday. Adult and youth tellers featured including Emilee Seaman. There will be an ASL Interpreter from Kentucky Center on Deafness.

September 25, 26 Cave Run Storytelling Festival, Morehead, Kentucky. Learn more at: www.caverunstoryfest.org

September 30 If you love stories, hearing them and telling them, then

Hi Folks, Charlie Hardy here...

Wandering Storytellers will be at Natasha's on the 26th of this month (last Monday of the month). We are fortunate (we are always fortunate with our tellers!!) to have Mike and Maggie Beville this month. Please come and enjoy a meal and listen to the Cowboy (and Cowgirl) poetry and stories of Mike and Maggie.

There will also be OPEN MIC where anyone can get up and tell. We look forward to the entertaining stories of Maggie and Mike and the great stories that we always get from Open Mic!! Please come, enjoy a meal and listen to some great stories!!

Remember there is a \$5 cover that goes to help KSA in all of its endeavors. August 30th at Natasha's will be very different to me, but not to many of you all. We are going to have a StorySlam. I will be helping under the tutelage of Betsy. I will be her "Vanna".

Things we will need:

Story CD's or books to be donated for the winners. We need at least 6.

I will need to get with Pam and Maggie regarding the cash awards

We (read I) will need to generate some publicity, so if you have any ideas besides contacting NPR, UK radio, EKU radio, or the news paper, please let me know.

3 judges (PLEASE, Volunteer!!)

And we'll need other stuff that I don't know about yet

As always, thanks for your patience, understanding, and participation in Natasha's and KSA!!!!

Journey to the Fringe

KSA Member, Russ Conrad, will be a Fringe Teller at the NSN Conference in Los Angeles. He shares about his journey preparing for that unique opportunity.

In late July of 2009 I got one of the KSA mass emails offering an opportunity to enter the Fringe Lottery for 2010 NSN Conference in Los Angeles. Having no idea what this was about, I placed my application. In October I got information from the NSN Fringe Committee that I was "Waiting List No. 6" for a Fringe slot.

May 27, 2010 I got an email offering me a Fringe slot at the conference. The offer required an immediate response and after a quick phone call to First

you'll want to join us at Natasha's Bistro, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, Kentucky. Stories begin at 8:00 p.m. and run until 10-ish. Cover: \$5.00. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. To make a reservation (not required, but helpful), you can [reserve online](#) or phone: 859-259-2754, 859-259-2754.

October 1-3 National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, Tennessee. For more information, call 800-952-8392 or 423-753-2171 or contact info@storytellingcenter.net.

October 11 Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

October 25 If you love stories, hearing them and telling them, then you'll want to join us at Natasha's Bistro, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, Kentucky. Stories begin at 8:00 p.m. and run until 10-ish. Cover: \$5.00. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. To make a reservation (not required, but helpful), you can [reserve online](#) or phone: 859-259-2754.

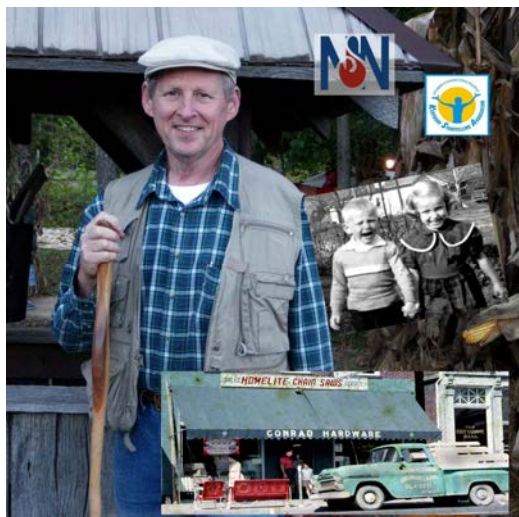
Wife I answered yes to the conference. Later I called a few of my KSA friends and each assured me I had made a good decision. I was on the road for that Memorial Day weekend with a KSA board Meeting and Storytelling Concert in Harlan, KY, followed by two home workdays for my eldest son in Nashville. The conference generously allowed me to delay my registration until June 2.

Since Memorial Day my storytelling life has been mostly a blur. Don "Buck P." Creacy made a generous offer to be a coach in helping prepare me and my story for the conference. It has been very comfortable working with Buck. We set goals to develop my story and enhance my delivery. Two busy guys have forced their schedules to merge and Buck is helping me toward achieving these goals. While holding fast to coaching principals, Buck has become a comfortable friend and helper to me.

A week ago I had heard the words but I didn't know what a Promotional Post Card looked like. After conferring with Buck I spent last evening (July 9) with Jim Fausz, my Photo Mentor, and I now have an order ready to place Monday morning for my Post Card. This will complete one more component of this whirlwind experience.

Plane tickets and hotel reservations have been lined up. Penny and I will leave KY on July 27 for the 2010 NSN Conference in Los Angeles. I have some Furniture and Gift Market work days lined up to support my day job while we are in the west and we are going to vacation a few days before returning to KY August 10. This will be our first trip to the southwest. Penny and I are excited about the Storytelling Conference and trip.

I feel as if the sun, moon and a bunch of stars got in a straight line to provide this opportunity. Folks, when the next Fringe offer comes around, jump on board.



Cave Run Storytelling Festival

The 12th Annual Cave Run Storytelling Festival will be held at the Twin Knobs Recreation area at Cave Run Lake September 24-25, 2010. This event features nationally know storytellers that are sure to entertain you. This year's featured tellers include the following: Bil Lepp, Regi Carpenter, Ernie Sites, Kevin Kling, Elizabeth Ellis, Rev. Robert Jones and Dan Kedding. Make plans now to attend the Cave Run Storytelling Festival. For more information or tickets call The Morehead Tourism Commission at 800-654-1944 or www.caverunstorytellingfest.org.

New festival of ghostly tales:

La Grange, Kentucky, is a historic and haunted town with a picturesque Main Street and fun shops. It has been host to ghost tours for seven years and this year's ghostly season will kick off with the first annual Spirits of La Grange presents Ghosts Stories on the Square. This one-day festival of ghostly tales happens on September 11th this year, and features local storytellers Roberta Simpson Brown, Thomas Freese and Bill Watson. Each teller of ghostly lore will present an approximately 40 minute program. For more information visit www.spiritsofLaGrange.com or call (502) 291-1776. Folks are invited to bring blankets and lawn chairs, pay \$10 per adult (children under 12 years of age are admitted free), and settle in for a real night of fright!

Storytelling in Foreign Lands

I recently went to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to story tell for school children on a four week tour. Dream On Productions found me through my website and last August, 2009, I received an email inquiry from them. They offered me a four week tour which I accepted, and after some months of preparation and exchange of information, I left on June 5 for my storytelling adventure! Dream On hires storytellers from different English-speaking countries, such as England, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. They place storytellers in one of seven countries and they do a very good job in terms of planning, organizing and managing the tour. The tour schedule is matched to the best seasonal time for schools in South America, which often is in October or May/June.

I happen to have a decent knowledge base of Spanish and, although not strictly necessary for the tour, it was very helpful in both my free time and for the performance feedback loop. That is, if I heard a child identify a word or phrase in English by defining it aloud in Spanish, then I knew that some of the student audience was keeping up with the story.

I enjoyed the challenge of storytelling to an audience of children age five to 18 years of age who were on the road to English (as a second language) competency. Some of the schools were bilingual or trilingual, and other schools simply had classes in English. Each day I'd leave my apartment to find the regular taxi driver and my tour manager waiting. Buenos Aires and area has some 13 million inhabitants and with this large city some of our taxi rides to the school easily took 45 minutes to an hour. Ariel was our reliable and safe driver and Alberto was the tour manager. Alberto, who is also the owner and head of Dream On, was great with managing every detail, scheduling, getting me my daily lunch and trouble shooting language and logistical situations. Although my schedule was busy (I did 60 performances in four weeks), I had time to enjoy later afternoons, touring museums and craft shows and more ambitious weekend side trips. I went on a four-hour one-way bus ride to Rosario, I took a plane to the north of Argentina near the Brazilian border, to tour Iguazu Falls and a crystal mine, and I took a ferryboat across the Rio de la Plata to Colonia, Uruguay.

So grateful for this unique opportunity, I did my best to stretch into some of the nuances of Argentine Spanish, culture, World Cup soccer madness and of course the wonderful personal connections made at each school with students and teachers.

I think I usually feel to be a solo performer working diligently but fairly alone in my field. The experience I had storytelling in Buenos Aires gave me a very real sense of being part of a team, and that support was both practical and helpful in terms of the energy I needed to do a good job and connect with the children. To find out more about Dream On Productions, here is their contact information dreamonstorytellers@hotmail.com, 54-11-43025755.