



January 2008

Kentucky Storytelling Association

Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 4 Issue 1

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

www.kystory.org

National Storytelling Network Website

www.storynet.org

Contact your Board

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mary@maryhamilton.info
502-223-4523

President Elect, Donna Slaton
donna@misspockets3.com
270-825-1478

Treasurer, Don Creacy
freshdeal@buckpcreacy.com
859-402-0756

Secretary, Betsy Fleischer

Message from our President

The Kentucky Storytelling Association has come so far. In just under four years KSA has grown from an idea to consider forming a statewide storytelling organization, to a 501(c)3 non-profit member-based organization with over sixty members. Wow! We've created four Kentucky Storytelling Conferences, developed a Kentucky Division of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase program, presented an ongoing monthly storytelling performance, (and KSA fundraising), series for adults at Natasha's Café in Lexington, created a website where visitors can learn about KSA programs, storytelling events in Kentucky and nearby states, and even a Request-a-Storyteller. No, we are not a booking agency. We just help audiences and tellers find each other. We've published four newsletters each year, and much, much more. People, who did not even know each other existed four years ago, are now working together to develop on-going support and appreciation for the art of storytelling in the Commonwealth.

How does one organization accomplish so much in four short years? The secret of KSA success is you – KSA Members. Your volunteer hours have made the difference between KSA being a membership organization that collects your dues and accomplishes little, and KSA being an active and accomplished organization. Thank you! Thank you for your ongoing support. How can you continue to help KSA thrive?

You can renew your membership. Please accept my heartfelt apology if you already paid and yet received a renewal notice. I received an unnecessary renewal notice too! KSA volunteers do learn from our mistakes, and we are working to improve information-sharing so mistakes won't be repeated.

You can send a donation. Because KSA is now a 501c3 organization, any donations are tax-deductible.

You can also help KSA by volunteering. In this newsletter you'll find an extensive Volunteer Help Wanted article. We have jobs you can do from home. We have one day jobs, multiple day jobs, jobs that require travel, and more. Please read the article and find a volunteer match for your skills, interests, and time available.

As always, thank you for your support,
Mary Hamilton
KSA President

KSA Conference November 2007

The 4th Annual KSA Conference

What a time we had!! If you were there you know how great it was. For those of you who missed it, we hope you'll make it next year. Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park was a beautiful setting for our conference. Every time we walked out of a meeting room we saw a panoramic view of the lake, trees and creatures.

All of the workshops had informative presenters and were well attended. This

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Announcements

Your KSA Board Meetings will be:

February 2nd Board meeting will be in Western Kentucky. Donna Slaton is the person members should contact for details.

May 31, Harlan, KY, Contact Pam Holcomb.

August 23, Lexington, KY, contact Ann Roseberry

November 9,

year we had Kathi E.B. Ellis as our partner artist. She presented workshops on theatrical skills for creating character and the use and care of voice. Librarians received credit for attending. Storytelling beginners and non-beginners, tellers and educators, deaf and hearing, producers—all had something to learn and share. The handouts were well done and very well received.

We had a surprise this year! I'm not talking about the raccoons who visited nightly. We had five of our six youth torchbearers, our Kentucky winners, attend the conference! These youths were six through fifteen years old. They told stories and participated in workshops. Also, they mingled—they were delightful! And we are proud of these young storytellers. (See the related article on youth tellers.)

At the Evening Open Mike Story Events we picked up some tourists and they were wowed!!

A huge, and mighty, thanks goes out to all who volunteered their time, talent, money, and door prizes. (More photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/misspockets3>). (Article by Betsy Fleischer)

Next year's 5th Annual Conference, 2008 will be held at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center in Shepherdsville, Kentucky, on the weekend of November 7th and 8th, with the new board meeting on the 9th. We will be having an overlapping conference with the Knowledge Center on Deafness whose conference will be November 6th and 7th of 2008.

Come one, come all, to the 5th Annual Conference!!! Put it on your calendar now!

The magic flute of Dale Hollow

By Ann Roseberry

I woke early on Sunday-November 4-the last day of our KSA conference for 2007. My husband made me a cup of coffee in our room at the Dale Hollow Lodge. Then I bundled up to take my morning walk. After a few minutes of walking, I heard the sound of a "magic flute" playing "Amazing Grace." I followed the sound and discovered Cynthia Changaris playing the flute. Cynthia and her friend Sandy Spencer were watching the wisps of fog fade away as the sun rose over the lake. Dale Hollow was a perfect picture of autumn beauty in our beloved Kentucky. Together we took in the view of the lake, the rugged ridges around the water, and the colorful trees of fall. We told stories, talked about our families and friends, and shared photographs. Then we went into the Dale Hollow Lodge for a tasty breakfast. Wonderful stories were told around the table. Cynthia said in an email that she "was thankful for those snatches of time that allow us to be with each other" as KSA members. I am also grateful for those special times of friendship and great stories. My thanks! And best wishes to you all for the magic of the KSA conference at Dale Hollow.

Member Spotlight

Charlotte Hogan

I am coordinator for Lee Co. Youth Services Center at Lee Co. MS/HS. Before being in Youth Services, I was an elementary teacher and a school librarian. My home is in Beattyville, KY (home of the Woolly Worm Festival in October) and also near Natural Bridge State Park. My husband is Ronnie and we have three married daughters who live in Nicholasville, Morehead, and Hazard. We have two grandchildren Hogan & Talley.

I play piano for two churches, the Catholic Church and then my own Church of the Nazarene every Sunday morning. I enjoy religious music, reading about religion, castles and cathedrals, and traveling via Internet to places all over the world that I can't afford to visit. My daughters and I enjoy going to tearooms

Shepherdsville, day after the conference, same location as conference.

[New to KSA- Want to meet other Storytellers](#)

My name is Robin. I am new to KSA, and have been involved in storytelling and other performing arts for 20 years in California and Kentucky. I would like to get to know local storytellers in my area of Bowling Green, KY. And I'd like to develop a fellowship to discuss storytelling, performing arts, etc. If anyone can connect me with other artist in our area, I would be interested in meeting them for a professional relationship. Contact: 270-746-2988, or ExpressionsPerformingArts@yahoo.com

The first-ever meeting of KSA Quadrant 1 members was held October 23, 2006, with storytelling afterwards, at the Hopkins County, Madisonville Public Library.

The Owen County Storytellers were the only KY Guild listed by National Storytelling Network, NSN, for Tellabration 2007. Several people attended the 2007 Tellabration at the Owen County Library in Owenton, Kentucky. It was their second annual Tellabration.

when we can, and we have visited most of the tearooms that we've heard about in Kentucky. I collect crosses, rosaries and unique candleholders.

Why did you join KSA?

I am a Youth Services Center coordinator and I received an email about KSA last year. I wanted to find out more about it because I thought it would be a positive activity for youth and would also help to continue the tradition of storytelling.

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

The people that I have met, mostly by e mail, have been very nice. I like the opportunity Storytelling Showcases for youth that KSA offers.

What kind of stories do you enjoy?

I enjoy Appalachian folk tales, funny stories, and family stories.

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

My dad always told funny stories about his family of twelve brothers and sisters, and of growing up on a farm. I always liked to hear those stories.

When we have family reunions, we usually hear these stories again and again.

Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Cafe

The Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Cafe in Lexington, Kentucky has had a good year as a pilot program. I have met with the new event coordinator and we have set plans for 2008. New for next year is the beginning time. Instead of starting at 9:00pm, we will begin at 8:00pm. Story lovers and tellers need to pack the place - room for 70 people- in order to convince the store 8:00 is better.

Each month has a different theme attached to it for the telling night.

January's theme is "Firsts" - could be your first dog, first pair of shoes, first kiss, first win, first time you could whistle, etc.

February's theme is "It's a Love Thing".

March's theme is "Liar, Liar! Pants on Fire!", complete with a 'blarney o'meter' to be used.

April's theme is "Gotta! Gotta! Stories of compulsions.

May's theme is "Mother May I?" It's all about you and your mom, or your friend's mom, or...

June's theme is "Barefootin'". It's time for summer stories, growing up, vacations, finally out of the office and on the beach, mountain, lake, etc.

July's theme is "Heroes - heroic tales of past, present, future".

August's theme is "Alma Mater Days including the school of hard knocks."

September's theme is "Should Have Seen It Coming", oh my.

October's theme is "Ghosts and Monsters Inside and All Around". (Some of the scariest monsters live inside your head).

November's theme is "Attitude of Gratitude".

December's theme is "Compassion" stories of heart and the human condition etc. Sometime during the year, (to be announced later), we will be holding a "Story Slam" complete with judging.

Two storytellers will be needed each month. The evening's schedule is as follows: 8:00- 8:30 first teller, 8:30-8:45 first 3 open mike tellers, 8:45-9:15 second teller, 9:15-9:30 next 3 open mike tellers, 9:30-9:40 first teller 9:40-9:50 next 2 open mike tellers, 9:50-10:00 second teller and then door prize to be given away.

WE NEED tellers to sign up for a Wandering Storytellers' Night in 2008. Do it now, why wait? Call Betsy Fleischer at 859/734-3194 or email at betsycat2@yahoo.com Sign up for January ASAP. Every teller will get publicity with photo and will be able to sell wares the night they tell. Perhaps we can sell your stuff every month, hmm? Why don't you give the public something to take home? (article submitted by Betsy Fleischer)



Ann Roseberry, the "Queen of Halloween"!

What a great Conference we had this year!

There are so many people to thank for all their hard work. When I think about the work put in on this Conference, it just blows me away.

Great workshops, everything I attended was right on target and professionally presented. I loved it. The Programs Committee and their Chair Betsy Fleischer really did an excellent job. The facility and location was beautiful, comfortable, and relaxing. The food was good too... maybe too good. I haven't got on the scales yet.

I don't know about you but I want to thank everyone who presented a workshop. There was something for almost everyone; Cynthia Changaris spent time sharing Storytelling for Beginners, Kathi E. B.

Ellis shared two workshops for our voices and creating characters, Mary Hamilton spent some time teaching us how to explore a story to get more out of it. We had a discussion panel "Act Locally" where Charlie Hardy, Bill Watson and Pam Holcomb shared about efforts to promote storytelling in their

The Art of Storytelling with Children

One of the resources I used in preparing my program at the 2007 conference was <http://www.storytellingwithchildren.com>. Brother Wolf (Eric) has a wonderful encouraging site with lots of information and advice for storytellers and for working with children. The site offers pod casts and interviews with world famous tellers such as Margaret Read McDonald who I have heard in person and quite literally the who's who of storytellers are featured. Hey, our own Mary Hamilton, Cynthia Changaris and Carolyn Franzini are listed as resources just to name a few! The site is free as are the pod casts and is a wonderful source for continuing education. Many of the storyteller professionals spend a great deal of time promoting very expensive workshops or tapes of theirs to teach you their style of doing it. Sometimes expensive education is worth it and sometimes not. But as a librarian, I can certainly tell you that there is a lot of quality continuing education that is available free of charge through your local library, interlibrary loan, and professional networks such as this site led by Brother Wolf.

Whether you are interested in mentoring someone for our youth storytelling showcase or just improving your own storytelling...visit this site and find out about "Stories about Giving and Receiving," just one of many excellent article/interviews.

A good way to help the youth storytelling showcase grow is to personally contact at least one teacher or child about the opportunity. We have 60 plus members if each of us found one entry - think how much it would grow over last year! Let's all try!

Donna F. Slaton, aka Miss Pockets
KSA President-Elect

Help Wanted!! KSA Volunteer jobs available!

Match your skills, time, and interest with the help needed. Then contact P.J. Beckett, Nominating Committee Chair, at pjbeckett39@aol.com or 502-484-3359 or 340 Jansen Trace, Owenton, KY 40359. NOTE: Once in awhile I've told you someone else to contact; otherwise contact P. J.

Jobs you can do at home whenever convenient for you:
Member Recruitment – Tell the Membership Committee of individuals and/or organizations you are aware of who might be interested in KSA membership.

communities. Donna Slaton shared about telling stories as a visitor in classrooms. Nina Coyer shared using American Sign Language to enhance and enjoy stories. I just want to say thank all of you for contributing to the success of this years Conference. I can't wait to see what the New Year brings. We are already revamping the Kentucky Division of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. Didn't the kids do a great job? Wasn't that inspirational? I don't know about you but those performances were worthy of quarter panel space on the front page news. There is just one last thing that I wanted to tell you this year. I have so much to be grateful for and so many people to love and thank for your friendship and support. I will get it done; somehow I hope to show you all just how much you mean to me. Happy Holidays! Oh yes, please drive safely and live to tell those stories again.

Buck P Creacy, Treasurer

Saturday, January 12, 8
- 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Willy Clafin, *The George Washington Method for Blues Ukulele*. Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848. www.storytellingarts.org

Saturday, January 27, 4
- 6 p.m. Sharing Hoosier

KSA now offers organization/institutional memberships that allow an organization to send as many people as they want to the KSA Conference at Member-discounted rates! Send contact information for individuals/organizations to the Membership Chair, Cynthia Changaris at cchangaris@aol.com or 502-451-7144 or 502-645-2930 or 2109 Wrocklage Avenue, Louisville, KY 40205.

Audience Recruitment for Wandering Storytellers – Do you know anyone who lives in or near Lexington, KY? If so, please tell them about the monthly Wandering Storytellers events at Natasha's Café in Lexington. An article about this storytelling performance series appears elsewhere in this newsletter. These events are fund-raisers for KSA. The storytellers and other event workers are all volunteers, so the \$5.00 cover charge from each audience member goes straight to KSA!

Jobs requiring one day or less of your time, but cannot be done from your home:

Youth Storytelling Showcase volunteers – Could you be in Madisonville on Feb. 1, or Erlanger on Feb. 16, or Prestonsburg on Feb.22, or Somerset on Feb.23, or Louisville on August 22? If yes, the Youth Storytelling Committee needs the following volunteers: Friendly people to greet and sign-in Youth Storytelling Showcase participants. We need people with good math skills to tally judging sheets, and runners to take judging sheets from the judges to the tally table. This help is needed immediately, so volunteer for a Youth Storytelling Showcase right away by contacting Don Creacy, Youth Storytelling Chair, at freshdeal@buckpcreacy.com or 859-396-3736 or 859-402-0756.

Conference Volunteers – Could you be in Shepherdsville on Friday evening November 7 or Saturday, November 8? If yes, the Conference Committee needs the following volunteers: registration table workers Friday evening or Saturday morning, Story Store workers on Friday evening or Saturday, Open Mike emcees Friday evening or Saturday, room hosts Friday or Saturday, set-up crew to set up the sound system and stage back-drop, take-down crew to take down the sound system and stage backdrop after the conference ends on Saturday night.

Packet Stuffing for Conference – Another volunteer is needed to help stuff packets for the 2008 Conference. The current volunteer lives in Willisburg (between Elizabethtown and Lexington). This job will happen somewhere in Central Kentucky. The date of the job will be arranged by the people doing it, and is dependent on when all the materials for Conference packets become available.

Ongoing Jobs you can do at home:

Conference Hospitality Coordinator – For this job, your contact information will be posted on the KSA website (you choose how much, phone only, email only, or both). Conference attendees contact you if they need help locating a roommate for the conference and/or if they'd like to car pool to the conference. You help people by putting them in touch with each other. Most of the time you will have nothing to do, but just before the November Conference, you may be very busy contacting people. So, you will need email and phone calling skill.

Conference Publicity – You write press releases for the conference and work to send them out where needed. Two people are needed. Email skills are required. Writing and editing skill will also help. Any needed postage and envelopes are covered by KSA. Most of the year you will be doing nothing, but expect to be busy in July, August and September.

History Through Stories features Stephanie Holman, *Safe and Sound. Letter to Follow: Stories of Hoosiers at Home and War during WWII.* Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848. www.storytellingarts.org

Saturday, February 2, 8 – 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Lyn Ford, *What Folks Told Me, and What They Didn't.* Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848. www.storytellingarts.org

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, February 15, 16, 17, 2008. Working on our Work Storytelling Weekend, Storyteller's Riverhouse Bed & Breakfast, Bethlehem, IN. Registration required. Cost: \$150 includes all food and lodging. Learn more at www.maryhamilton.info/Programs/WOWretreats.htm

Saturday, February 16, 8 – 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Bill Lepp, *Punching the Lard: True Stories and Tall Tales.* Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848. www.storytellingarts.org

Friday, Saturday,

[Website Directory Editor](#) – You would work with our webmaster on the posting of Storyteller Directory listings on the KSA Website. You would also be responsible for sending renewal notices for this paid directory. Detailed instructions are available. You'll need to be able to keep track of your work. You'll need to be comfortable using email and sending photos as jpeg files. This work is sporadic and the volume depends solely on how many paid directory listings KSA receives. To see the current directory, visit the KSA website www.kystory.org and select Find a teller; then select directory. While there, take a look at the Purchase a Directory Listing information too. Information from that form will be sent to you from our website, so you can review the information before you send it on to the KSA webmaster. People generally expect their Directory entry to be posted within a month of submitting their directory information – thus, the sporadic nature of this job's deadlines.

[Newsletter Assistant Editor](#) – You would work with the current Editor to assist on the newsletter. Duties could include gathering information; mailing newsletters to those members who do not have email; correcting submissions and/or clarifying submitted information. Email needed. Proofreading skills help. Postage and envelopes for mailed newsletters supplied by KSA. You would have four deadlines per year, to coincide with the four newsletter issues per year.

[Website Coordinator](#) – Your job would be to work with various KSA Committees and with our webmaster to make updates to the KSA website. You do NOT need to know html. You will need to use email. The previous website chair will supply you with samples of past updates to help you learn this job. Good proofreading and writing skills are a huge help. Especially busy times are when conference information needs updating, when Youth Storytelling information needs updating, after each KSA election to update Board information, and when pages are needed for any new KSA programs. You would not be responsible for the Storyteller Directory or the Event Calendar. These sections of the website are handled by other volunteers. Also helpful is that you are willing to become very familiar with how the KSA website works. Your main job is to make sure information that goes to our webmaster is ready for a move to the website with a minimum of rewriting on her part to save KSA money.

Jobs requiring more than one day of your time, and cannot be completed at home:

Youth Storytelling Committee needs [judges for the Youth Storytelling Showcase](#) events. There will be a one day training gathering, and you must judge at least one February Showcase venue. The training day will take place in January, so if interested, immediately contact Don Creacy, Youth Storytelling Chair, at freshdeal@buck-creacy.com or 859-396-3736 or 859-402-0756.

[Conference Door Prize Coordinator](#) – This job requires some of your at-home time before and after the conference, plus being present during the conference. Before the conference, you would solicit door prizes (primarily from KSA Members) and bundle those door prizes into seven door prize bundles. During the conference, you would announce the door prize winners (give-away schedule and entry slips are handled by others). After the conference, you would write a thank you note to every door prize donor, and enclose an in-kind receipt to anyone who wants one (receipts, thank you notes, and postage will be supplied by KSA).

[Conference Brochure Committee](#) – One volunteer is needed to work on the Conference Brochure. You will need email. You will be responsible for receiving information for the Conference brochures, contacting the printer regarding how the brochure should be printed, and working with the Conference Chair for

Sunday, February 29 – March 2, 2008. Riverwind Whirlwind Weekend XXV, Collinsville, IL.

Workshop Leaders:

Connie Regan-Blake and Barbara Freeman.

Sponsored by Riverwind Storytellers Co. Belleville, IL. More details as they become available.

proofreading, picking up printed brochures, and delivering printed brochures to the publicity committee. So, some travel will be involved. Proofreading skills, organizational skills, and ability to attend to details will also help. (Of course, KSA will pay for the printing, not you!)

Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Café in Lexington Subcommittee needs a "[talent coordinator](#)" to handle the selection and scheduling of each month's featured volunteer storytellers. You will work primarily through email, but you should also expect to attend most, if not all, of the monthly Wandering Storytellers events. See related Wandering Storytellers article in this newsletter.

Saturday, March 1, 8 – 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Heather Forest, *Travel Scenes*, Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848.

www.storytellingarts.org

Saturday, April 5, 8 – 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Patrick Ball, *In Celtic Harp and Story*.

Indiana History Center Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848.

www.storytellingarts.org

Thursday – Sunday, April 10 – 12, 2008. Going

Deep Storytelling Festival, Celebrating long, traditional stories. Storyteller's Riverhouse Bed & Breakfast, Bethlehem, IN. Registration required.

Limited to twenty participants. Fees include all food and lodging. For details: Call 502-451-7144. See a flyer at: priscillahowe.com/images/going_deep.pdf

Saturday, April 26, 8 – 10 p.m. Storytellers Theater features Bobby Norfolk,

[Scouts for future conference locations](#). KSA bylaws require that the KSA conference move to a different KSA quadrant each year. Learn more about quadrants by going to the KSA website www.kystory.org Select About KSA; then select Quadrants. The conference committee needs people willing to travel throughout each quadrant to scout out possible conference locations. The Conference Chair would supply you with a checklist of basic location requirements to help you with this job. Good information organizing skills are needed to keep track of what you learn about each possible site. While much can be determined about whether or not locations will work through email and phone calls, site visits are required before final location selections can be made. So, if you like the idea of visiting possible conference locations, please volunteer. In this newsletter you'll see the announcement of the 2008

Conference location in Quadrant 4. KSA would like to become two years ahead on conference location selection. Future conferences will be held in Quadrant 3 in 2009, Quadrant 1 in 2010, Quadrant 2 in 2011, and again in Quadrant 4 in 2012. Some folks have already volunteered for this job – we'd like to end up with three volunteers per quadrant.

[Do you want to help, but simply cannot decide which job to volunteer for?](#) Let P.J. know which jobs interest you and how many jobs your time available will allow you to work on. As volunteers contact P.J. she will be able to see where your help is most needed.

[Can't find a match, but you want to volunteer?](#) Contact P. J. and let her know your skills, interests, time available, and whether or not you can travel. KSA will keep this information available and contact you when help is needed that looks like a potential match. (article by Mary Hamilton)

Kentucky's Youth Storytelling Showcase

What a year it has been for the Young Tellers Committee. Through collaboration with our committee, (Octavia Sexton, Pamela Holcomb, & I), with our partners, The Kentucky State Fair, The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, and the Mountain Arts Center, we were able to hold a statewide competition of young tellers. We had other partners too, the Kentucky Department of Education, the 4-H Clubs of Kentucky and the Knowledge Center for Deafness all of which helped us with publicity. We all teamed to hold three venues of storytelling competition. Out of those contests we selected five young people to review for the National Youth Storytelling Showcase.

We decided early in the year to create the statewide showcase with a suspicion. We suspected there were many kids in Kentucky who love storytelling. We suspected schools systems would see this as an opportunity to direct the creative energy of their young people into something positive. We suspected that others would feel the need to do something positive themselves.

Tiny seeds grow into wonderful things. Our wonderful, fantastic dream culminated in three contests. The Kentucky State Fair had only two competitors each in different age groups. The Glema Mahr Center for the Arts

Swingin' with Duke Ellington. Accompanied by pianist Pete Ruthenburg. Indiana History Center, Basile Theater, 450 Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848. www.storytellingarts.org



Emilee Seaman and "Buck" Don Creacy

Emilee is dressed as narrator for the MCTI production of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". Past President Don Creacy, chair of the KSA youth event traveled to Bath County Middle School Friday, Dec. 7 for a school assembly which honored Jordan Sallee & Brackon Curtis, tandem team. He then drove west to attend the MCTI in Greenville, KY. Then followed the curtain call which publicly acknowledged Emilee's selection to the top 20 youth storytellers in the nation...one of four high school entries picked for the NYSS. Visit www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org. Let's all go to the festival and support our outstanding youth.

saw only seven. The Mountain Arts Center held in conjunction with a workshop that Octavia Sexton was also holding at the Mountain Arts Center. This last contest was by far the largest attendance, totaling about 400 observers and 15 competitors.

Then the Committee of three poured over the entries and selected our "State Torchbearers." We invited the young people to attend the Kentucky Storytelling Conference in early November. You saw an impressive display from the young people who were able to attend. Next, we had to wait for the national announcement of the names of the twenty young tellers invited to the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. November is a very long month when you are waiting for an early Christmas.

Finally, December 7th rolled around, Donna Slaton and I both visited the NYSS website very early that day. And, there it was, the top twenty names of young tellers in the country. One sentence stood out to me like newspaper headline, "This was the largest participation the NYSS has ever had." Well, you know the rest. We had three names on the list! Kentucky placed in two categories, but we have three names out of twenty kids going to the National Youth Storytelling Showcase in February 2008. This is beyond our wildest dreams! The three are Emilee Seaman from Greenville, KY and our tandem team, Jordan Sallee and Brackon Curtis from Owingsville, KY.

I hope you will circle the dates on your calendar, attend the Smokey Mountain Storytelling Festival, and attend the National Youth Storytelling Showcase held in conjunction with the festival. The dates are **February 6 - 8**. Excellent tellers are going to be there as well, Chloe Clunis, Willy Clafin, Martha Hamilton & Mitch Weiss, Carmen Agra Deedy, Kim Weitkamp, Waddie Mitchell, Bill Harley, and Bil Lepp. And I will be there.

The 2008 Kentucky Division of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase is already in progress. Schools began entering last December 15, 2007, and there are more venues and a State Championship. See our website for details. Someone in your community could be one of the next Kentucky Youth Storytelling Torchbearers. By Buck P. Creacy



Jordan Sallee, Brackon Curtis, Emilee Seaman, Katie Dorris

The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, has provided funding for the 4th Annual Kentucky Storytelling Conference with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation, deserves great art.



THE KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

