

WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING.

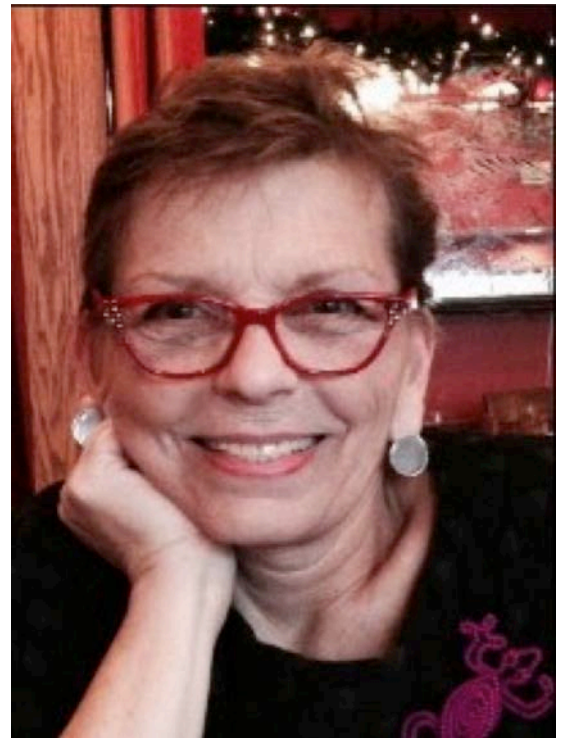


# THE REGISTER

## SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our mission is to spread the art and joy of storytelling throughout Missouri. We envision that Missourians will keep the oral tradition alive in our fair state. Sponsoring storytelling in the state parks was one of the ways we satisfied this mission. From MO-TELL's inception, we have had a presence in the Missouri state parks. For 35 years we have managed to place storytellers in the parks and the state historic sites with contributions from donors and from the Department of Natural Resources. Our intention was to treat our members/tellers as professionals and pay them a professional fee for their participation. Sometimes this isn't possible, but we have managed. In 2018, Becky Walstrom, one of our board members applied for a grant from the Missouri Arts Council to help cover some of the storytellers fees. We were very excited when we received news that our application had been approved and we had been awarded almost the full amount we had asked for. Our plan was to have twelve storytellers at 12 venues for the Fall of 2018 and the Spring of 2019 and to use this money along with contributions we received to pay for everything. We will continue this long-standing tradition and do so with the help of our friends, The Department of Natural Resources, The Missouri State Parks Assoc., The Missouri Arts Council and our individual donors. To all these we are eternally grateful.



*A THOUGHT FOR YOUR DAY:*

"Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others."

- Peter Forbes  
photographer and author  
*Works: A Man Apart*

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**SAVE THE DATE!**

January 24, 25, 26, 2020

River and Prairie Storyweavers will host its 27th Annual Chicken Festival at the Paola Community Center (905 E. Wea Street, Paola, KS, 66071). The Chicken Festival is a combination of community outreach & storyteller retreat. Attendees are those who love stories, whether you are a storyteller or a story listener, all are welcome. Instead of one or a few featured tellers, YOU are the featured storyteller when you tell your story.

As part of the community outreach, we will tell stories in the local schools, libraries, and senior centers on Friday, January 24, and present a community storytelling concert on Saturday, January 25. Those interested in volunteering their talents to tell in the community should contact Gary Kuntz as 816-896-8611.

Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning storyteller will share their favorite stories and music. Yes, there is a time slot for chicken stories. Keep checking [www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org](http://www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org) for updates on The Chicken Festival.

The Nitty Gritty: Chicken Festival registration is \$30 for RAPS members or \$60 for non-RAPS members. RAPS annual member is \$25, \$35 for a family. Contact the Paola Inn and Suites (1600 E. Hedges Ln. Ct., Paola, KS, 66071) At (913) 294-3700 by 12/24/19 for the fabulous RAPS room discount rate of \$70 (plus taxes). Don't delay! Don't call too late for reservations to the Chicken Festival only to find yourself completely plucked.



**FYI**

September 17th, our own Jim "Two Crows" Wallen will give a workshop at the Missouri Interpreters Conference. He'll demonstrate storytelling and discuss MO-TELL's role in the state parks as we're collaborating with the Missouri Arts Council and the Department of Natural Resources. Thanks, Jim, for spreading the word!



**Missouri Arts Council**

*The State of the Arts*



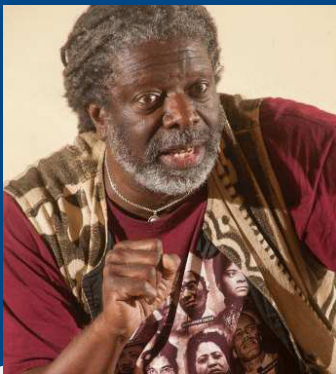
**THREE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS  
BRINGING STORYTELLING  
TO OUR GREAT STATE!**



# SAVE THE DATE!

**November 13-16, 2019**

## THIS YEAR'S FEATURED TELLERS



Michael D. McCarty



Laura Packer



Dovie Thomason



Andy Offutt Irwin



Musical Storytelling  
Performance by  
Mike and Nancee Micham

# MCC

816.604.3011

[KCSTORYTELLING.MCCKC.EDU](http://KCSTORYTELLING.MCCKC.EDU)

Metropolitan  
Community College



MAPLE WOODS

# STATE PARK STORYTELLING

Funded and sponsored by the good folks at the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, MO-TELL is pleased to provide musical, educational, and storytelling performances in parks facilities across our fair state.

## Coming Up Next...

WHO: FRAN STALLINGS, STORYTELLER

WHERE: ROARING RIVER STATE PARK

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019; 7PM



## Coming Up Next...

WHO: DENISE GROW

WHERE: ROBERTSVILLE STATE PARK AMPHITHEATER

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019



Missouri Arts Council  
The State of the Arts

## Coming Up Next...

WHO: JIM "TWO CROWS" WALLEN

WHERE: NATHAN BOONE HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2019

## Coming Up Next...

WHO: HEATHER HARLAN, MUSICIAN & STORYTELLER

WHERE: ROBERTSVILLE STATE PARK DAY USE AREA SHELTER

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2019; 7PM



## Coming Up Next...

WHO: RIC VICE

WHERE: ROBERTSVILLE STATE PARK AMPHITHEATER

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2019; 7PM



MISSOURI  
STATE PARKS

# MO-TELL'S MEMBER PROFILE

GREAT PEOPLE COMPOSE THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION!  
EACH MONTH'S MO-TELL REGISTER FEATURES ANOTHER TO THE MEMBERS.

## CAROL KARIOTIS



**Tell a little about yourself and your family? What is your vocation and your hobby?**

I have a husband, two grown sons, one daughter-in-law, and a granddaughter. All are dual citizen Greeks except my daughter-in-law and me because we are not blood relatives. However, I have my Greek green card.

I am also a visual artist and am currently working on a mixed media photography/batik exhibit with my brother.

**What is your interest in storytelling? How did it begin?**

My interest in storytelling began when I tried to learn and duplicate my grandmother's stories (after I retired). This grew to writing and telling my own stories. I especially like tall tales written from my life experiences. I guess I have always been an embellishing type of person with my recollections and storytelling makes me more legitimate. My favorite tall tale writer is Patrick McManus.

**What tellers have been influential in your life?**

Patrick McManus, Steve Otto, Gary and Linda Kuntz, Anthony Clark, Joyce Slater, Jim Two Crows Wallen.

**What is your favorite story?**

*The Other Wiseman*, any Oscar Wilde fairytale, especially the *Happy Prince*, and the *Selfish Giant*. I love my own stories because they are so hard to write that I value the efforts in writing them, good or bad. My favorite vacation is in Greece where we are now splitting our time with America. We have a house we inherited and renovated and are happy moving back and forth.

**Why did you decide it was important to be a member of Missouri Storytelling? How can Mo-Tell improve?**

I think now that I am really passionate about storytelling, it is important to use every resource that is available to me. That is why I am a member of the *River and Prairie Storyweavers*, *MO-TELL* and the National Storytelling Network. They are especially valuable for the mentorship I have had in each organization.

# **ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET**

**"EARL 'THE GOAT' MANIGAULT WAS PROBABLY THE GREATEST BASKETBALL PLAYER OF ALL TIME, BUT MICHAEL JORDAN IS UNIVERSALLY REGARDED AS THE BEST EVER. THIS IS BECAUSE THE GOAT ONLY DID IT AT RUCKER PARK, WHILE MICHAEL DID IT WHERE IT MATTERED: IN FRONT OF THE WORLD."**

**– Tucker Max**

**GO.  
TELL YOUR STORIES.  
OUT LOUD.  
TO PEOPLE.**

# **RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS**

## **September 2019 Calendar**

**Thursday September 5, 2019, 7:00 pm - RAPS Main Meeting**

Workshop: How to create and tell a short story in a very short amount of time.

Theme for Stories: If I only had listened to my pet . . .

**Trailside Center**

**99th & Holmes Rd.**

**Kansas City, MO 64131**

**Saturday September 14, 2019, 2:00 pm - RAPS North Meeting**

Theme for Stories: My parents were smarter than I thought

**Woodneath Library Center / Storytime Barn**

**8900 NE Flintlock Road**

**Kansas City, MO 64157**

**Saturday September 28, 2019, 10:00 am - RAPS John Knox Meeting**

**John Knox Village, Missouri Room**

**(Inside Lakeside Grille)**

**600 NW Shamrock Ave.**

**Lee's Summit, MO 64081**

**Thursday October 3, 2019, 7:00 pm - RAPS Main Meeting**

Theme for Stories: Bring your favorite candy to share. Your story should include that type of candy.

**Trailside Center**

**99th & Holmes Rd.**

**Kansas City, MO 64131**

# **STORYTELLERS OF THE OZARKS**

Sept. 2, Monday, 9:30 a.m.,  
Swap at Lolita's, light breakfast and tell practice,

Sept. 12, Thursday, McBride Elementary School,  
Morning, primary grades,  
Tellers will receive schedules soon.

Sept. 19, Thursday, Montclair Independent Living,  
Afternoon tell.

Oct. 1, Tuesday, Crossway Church,  
Morning parent/child preschool program.

## **RIVERWINDS STORYTELLERS**

Riverwind Storytellers will meet  
at **Bert's Chuckwagon** in Collinsville, Illinois  
Monday, September 9th.

The address is 101 Main St. Collinsville, IL. You can park on Main St. and come in through the Verona Coffeehouse or on the side street which has a cement ramp to the side entrance of Bert's. We will eat at 6 pm. If we haven't finished eating we could take our food into the coffeehouse which is attached to Bert's. Sharing of stories will begin in the coffeehouse at 7 pm and continue until 8:30 or 9PM when they close.

## **GATEWAY STORYTELLERS**

GATEWAY STORYTELLERS WILL BE HOSTING  
**TELLABRATION**

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

St Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh Blvd.

Mark your calendars now. This will be an afternoon event.

The September meeting of St. Louis Gateway Storytellers  
will be on Sunday, September 22nd also at St. Louis County Library Headquarters.

Doors of the library do not open until 1:00 PM and the meeting  
and story sharing will begin around 1:15. \_



MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET  
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS  
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

## RAPS

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# MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE WOODNEATH...

CLASSES FOR STORYTELLING CERTIFICATION!

## SEPTEMBER 2019 CALENDAR

### Let's Make a Podcast, Part One

Wed, Sep 4 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Computer Lab Story Center - *Event Registration Required*  
Develop the skills you need to create an original podcast in this three program series led by Sam Zeff, metro reporter for KCUR and producer of the history podcast Archiver.

### Copyright Basics

Tue, Sep 10 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Community Hall 1 Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Learn the basics of copyright law, what rights copyright holders have, the exceptions to those rights, and learn the proper application of fair use.

### Let's Make a Podcast, Part Two

Wed, Sep 11 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Computer Lab Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Develop the skills you need to create an original podcast in this series of three programs led by Sam Zeff, metro reporter for KCUR and producer of the history podcast Archiver.

### River and Prairie Storyweavers

Sat, Sep 14 2019 2:00pm - 4:00pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Develop and tell your stories with the River and Prairie Storyweavers, a regional group that supports the art of storytelling and helps people realize their potential as storytellers.

### Let's Make a Podcast, Part Three

Wed, Sep 18 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Computer Lab Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Develop the skills you need to create an original podcast in this three-part series led by Sam Zeff, metro reporter for KCUR and producer of the history podcast Archiver.

### Story Swap!

Thu, Sep 19 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
An open-mic storytelling event that's open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story or just come to enjoy the show.  
EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

### Storycrafting Fundamentals

Sat, Sep 21 2019 12:00pm - 5:00pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Writer and storyteller Anthony Clark explores character development, point of view, the difference between showing and telling, and other story crafting techniques.

### Changing Skins: Folktales about Gender, Identity, and Humanity

Fri, Sep 27 2019 7:00pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Community Hall 1 and 2 Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Grammy-nominated storyteller Milbre Burch will perform her one-woman show that explores the wealth and persistence of gender-fluid folktales from around the world.  
EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

### Performance Showcase and Masterclass

Sat, Sep 28 2019 10:30am - 12:30pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center *Event Registration Required*  
Bring your best seven-minute story to perform and get feedback from your peers and Grammy-nominated storyteller Milbre Burch.



*This is impossible.*

**ONE  
CAN'T.**

No matter how mythic.



**THIS IS NOT.**

**MANY  
CAN.**

No matter how human.

**MO-TELL NEEDS YOU TO PULL.  
WHICH COMFY HARNESS FITS YOU?**

Serve on the Board of Directors?  
Represent MO-TELL from other Missouri areas?  
Coordinate, plan, and manage events?  
Write grants? Help with accounting?  
Contact any current Board Member with your ideas.

# THE PLOT THICKENS

Larry G. Brown, 2019

How do you know when you have told or heard or otherwise experienced a “good” story? There are probably a multitude of answers to this question, but a share a few options. You know the story is worthy of your participation when you find that the story, the teller, and the audience are all positively interacting with each other, namely that the words of the story are clear and compelling, the teller is fully engaged in telling, and the audience is involved as evidenced by their observable responses.

A good story and good telling keep the listener in the story, connected, feeling empathy with and believing the characters, finding the images in their own imagination, and affirming the values of the story. This is to say, the story becomes real for both teller and listener, it rings true to life to the degree that the listener can admit that, yes, life is like that. Therefore the teller has to shape the images and characters in such a way that the average person can identify with the who, what, where, and how of the story. These elements of the story need universality, although be delivered in specificity. The teller needs to ask of the story and the telling: Is it connecting with the listeners? And, is it prompting their engagement? If not, then modify the story and the presentation.

However, I suggest there is another very basic consideration for good telling, and that is the plot, the narrative line, the progress of the story. Good stories immediately invite the listener into the world of the story, and shortly thereafter create ambiguity, issues, problems, difficulties, and/or other complexities that beg for resolution. In one sense, the equilibrium is disturbed and maybe even discrepancies are revealed, which keep the listener tuned in to learn how it all turns out. Depending on the time, space, and energy constraints of the audience, a teller can create quite a web, in which to catch the listeners. There is something about human perception that wants questions answered. Of course, too many questions, too much complexity, or too many questions unanswered can leave the audience dissatisfied. Live practice can help the teller figure out what is working best. Somewhere along the plot, subtle clues are given for resolving the questions, such that the audience is supported in their “intelligence” for figuring it out in the end. Too much information given too soon undercuts the development of ambiguity, but not enough given will get people lost. So here is where the refining of the plot is so important. The teller has to be making mental notes during the telling, and then literally make notes after the telling, to evaluate the balance of ambiguity and resolution, and make adjustments. A crafty teller seemingly lets the story and the audience arrive at conclusions just a few seconds before the teller; as they say, “timing is everything.” When to share information is as important as what. The post-telling evaluation involves going back over the content and sequence of the plot and characters to determine what genuinely supports the plot.

A teller should ask, “Did I need to share that information? Is that information best left to the imagination of the audience? What information is essential? What information should be supplied near the end of the story, rather than the beginning? Did the volume, tempo, pauses, physical presentation support the plot? Understand that there are no right and wrong answers, no absolute rules, but a teller can use audience response to guide in the refining process. Ask: What worked? What needs to be shifted or tweaked, what needs to be cut or added, etc.?”

I tend to be a “lean” teller, and want to prompt the audience to visualize the scenes for themselves, however you may be more skilled at sharing descriptions that connect with the audience. For example, when I am telling Jack Tales, I do not describe Jack’s height, weight, complexion, hair color, or shoe size, unless such information is absolutely essential for making the plot work. I do enjoy having people tell me what Jack looked like in their imagination. I do focus considerable attention on the movement of the plot, and find that reflection very soon after each telling is very valuable. Fairly frequently I make changes during the telling, as inspiration may come at that time, and then after I have told the story, I will assess the value of those changes for future telling.

Sometimes a key word or phrase, well placed, or dropped may enhance the audience’s ability to stay with the plot. There are times when a strategic pause needs to be added, to give the audience time to process what just happened; and watch the audience for clues, they are ready to move on. There are times when the audience may give the teller clues that they are lost or confused, or “did not get it” and the teller may need to insert a word or phrase, or repeat something to maintain the flow.

In the end, all aspects of the telling of the story have to support the plot, keeping the audience determined to get things resolved, and the world restored to some sense of integration.

Unless, of course, you are planning a sequel. . .

# FISHING WITH SPIDERWEBS

by Allen DeBay.

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It all started on an ordinary day until I woke up. When I woke up, I heard this little tiny voice. I looked all around, but there was nobody there. Then, I saw on the floor a little tiny spider. I listened and this is what she said, "Hello, my name is Miranda. I'm a spider. Please don't step on me."

I took pity on the spider, and I took good care of her, until I figured out what I was going to do with her. I was going to use her for fishing, and no I'm not talking about using her for bait. I was going to use her to create massive underwater spider webs to catch fish. However, I had a problem. Spider webs aren't waterproof enough and they're not strong enough to catch fish. So, I devised a special diet for Miranda of ground up concrete and water sealer. Within a few weeks her webs were as strong as concrete, as waterproof as water sealer, and still as flexible as spider webs.

I drove my truck down to lake. She tied herself herself to my line, and I cast her out. Half an hour later, she was crawling up my line. I waited another half an hour, and I tried to reel in all the fish. However, my line broke.

The next time I went out, I was much smarter. I had Miranda tie herself to the back of my truck, and I threw her out into the lake. An hour later, she crawled up my line and I waited another hour, and my truck was barely able to pull those 3,000 pounds of fish out of the lake.

That's when I saw the local wildlife and parks officer walking in my direction. He was not in a good mood. I explained to him that I was using spider webs to catch fish with. I'm not sure if he bought that hook, line, and spider or not, but he let me go.

However, he told me to never use spiders to catch fish ever again, and I never did. I knew I had a good idea though, and I asked Miranda if she could train more spiders. She said "sure." She trained thousands of spiders. I was going to go into business selling spiders. However, people in my area just weren't buying it. This was over 25 years ago, and there just wasn't a good way to sell spiders. I devised a system of hooking computers up together and I called it the Internet, which you all know became known as the World Wide Web.

Business was going great. I was selling thousands and thousands of spiders. One day though, I had another problem. I couldn't find Miranda anywhere. When Miranda was sleeping, I had accidentally sold her. I got on the phone and called everyone I had sold spiders to. It turned out that I had sold Miranda to the wrong person, which was someone for the equal rights of insects and arachnids. That person just happened to be looking for me. It was a couple weeks later that the police came, and they read me Miranda's rights and took me away to jail. In court Miranda explained that the new diet didn't cause any problems, and they let me go.

If you ever see a talking spider, I recommend that you just let the spider lie, or as Miranda would say "what a tangled web we weave, when telling stories that are, oh, so hard to believe."

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

## VISION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sue Hinkel, shinkel@mail.win.org (Membership)

Secretary: Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

[www.mo-tell.org](http://www.mo-tell.org)

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# THE MO-TELL BOARD