

## Presentation Summaries, continued

**Matt Meacham** will examine the culture surrounding lead mining in southeast Missouri as compared with central Appalachian coal culture. He will address similarities and differences between the two with regard to social and economic history, occupational folklife, contemporary environmental and public-health issues, and their influences upon regional identity.

**Robert Faust** will discuss means by which citizens of southeast Missouri's Old Lead Belt sought to control the development of their communities as the mining-oriented economy became centralized in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They confronted increasing immigration, disease, pollution, crime, and complicated relationships between the labor and management sectors. According to Faust, proponents of reform in the Lead District, like grassroots progressives throughout the nation, reinvigorated democratization at the end of the Gilded Age.

**Randy Story** will present a reader's theater production based on *Li'l Abner*, a comic strip drawn by Al Capp and published nationally from 1934 to 1977. The comic strip, which satirizes the culture of the rural Upland South, inspired two movies and a Broadway musical of the same name, as well as the creation of a theme park in northwest Arkansas called Dogpatch USA, named for the cartoon's fictitious setting. Story will invite discussion about the "hillbilly" stereotypes that *Li'l Abner* conveys.

**Marideth Sisco** will examine the influence of Native American pharmacology on folk medicine in the Ozarks. She will demonstrate that many folk remedies still in use here derive from Native American practices involving plants of both native and European origins. Sisco notes that although many white Ozarkers acknowledge Native Americans as the sources of medicinal traditions, fewer acknowledge that the transmission of many of these traditions can be attributed to intermarriage between white settlers and Native Americans.

**Ed McKinney** will compare the social history of the Mississippi Valley region of northeast Missouri, where Mark Twain was raised, with that of the south-central Missouri Ozarks. McKinney will discuss similarities and differences between the regional culture in which Twain's *Tom Sawyer* is set and our own regional culture. His presentation will be offered as part of the West Plains Council on the Arts' participation in the National Endowment for the Arts' "Big Read" program, as well as the Missouri State University-West Plains Ozarks Studies Symposium.

**Laura Bowles** will apply 20<sup>th</sup>-century American rhetorical theorist Kenneth Burke's ideas regarding writing as a symbolic act to publications about Ozarks culture by folklorist Vance Randolph, elucidating how those writings reflect Randolph's particular conception of the region and what that conception reveals about Randolph himself. Because Randolph's work has been so influential, his formulation of Ozarks culture has become the definitive representation of the region for many readers who might not be aware of the extent to which it bespeaks his own distinct perspective.

**Gary L. Buxton** will discuss the verbal art of auctioneering as practiced by livestock and tobacco auctioneers in the United States. He will apply oral-formulaic performance theory to auctioneers' chant in an effort to explain how they are able to execute such rapid delivery. Buxton's presentation will be based largely on field research that he conducted in Missouri.

## Symposium Presenters

### **J. Brett Adams**

Professor of History, Collins College-Preston Ridge Campus, Frisco, TX

### **Laura Bowles**

Instructor of Writing, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

### **Dr. Stanley D. Brunn**

Professor of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

### **Gary L. Buxton**

Instructor of English, Black River Technical College, Pochontas, AR

### **Dr. Michael Dougan**

Professor Emeritus of History, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR

### **Robert Faust**

Instructor of History, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

### **John Hensley**

Curator-Archivist, Churchill Memorial and Library,  
Westminster College, Fulton, MO

### **Zachary Michael Jack**

Assistant Professor of English, North Central College, Naperville, IL

### **Gary Kolb**

Professor and Dean, College of Mass Communication and Media Arts,  
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

### **Dr. Ed McKinney**

Professor of History, Missouri State University-West Plains

### **Matt Meacham**

Folklorist, West Plains Council on the Arts;  
Adjunct Instructor, Missouri State University-West Plains

### **Jan Roddy**

Associate Professor of Cinema and Photography, Southern Illinois  
University-Carbondale

### **Marideth Sisco**

Author and Journalist;  
Adjunct Instructor, Drury University-Cabool Campus, Cabool, MO

### **Randy Story**

Teacher of Drama and English, West Plains R-7 High School;  
Adjunct Instructor, Missouri State University-West Plains

### **Dr. Esther D. Stroh**

U.S. Geological Survey  
Columbia Environmental Research Center, Columbia, MO

### **Barbara Williams**

Adjunct Instructor, Missouri State University-West Plains



**Missouri State University**  
WEST PLAINS

## *Second Annual Ozarks Studies Symposium*



# *"Nature and Culture: Land and People in the Ozarks"*

*September 18–20, 2008*

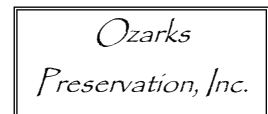
*West Plains Civic Center  
110 St. Louis Street - West Plains, MO*

*417.255.7966*

*<http://ozarksymposium.wp.missouristate.edu>*



*We thank the following sponsors:*



This program is made possible with funding from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, September 18

**4:00 - 6:00 pm: Opening Reception -**

Civic Center Magnolia Room and Mezzanine

**Guest Speaker: Mitch Jayne**, author of *Fiddler's Ghost*, gold medal award winner - Midwest Best Regional Fiction 2008 Independent Publisher's Book Award;

**Exhibition: Ozarks Rock Masonry Architecture**, photographic exhibit by **Barbara Williams**

*The author's novel will be available on the Mezzanine after his remarks.*

### Friday, September 19

**8:00 - 9:00 am: Registration - Redbud Rooms 1 and 2**

**9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome and Introductions -**

**Dr. Craig Klein**, Dean of Academic Affairs,

Missouri State University—West Plains

**9:15 - 9:45 am: "A Great, Historic American Region On the Rough Edges of the Landscape and Economy" - John**

**Hensley**

**9:45 - 10:15 am: "Ozarks Rock Masonry Architecture" -**

**Barbara Williams**

**10:15 - 10:45 am: "Comparative Mountain Research:**

*The Appalachians and the Ozarks" -Dr. Stanley D. Brunn*

**10:45 - 10:55 am: Break**

**10:55 - 11:25 am: "Whose Forest Is It?: Resistance to the**

*Arkansas National Forest" - J. Brett Adams*

**11:25 - 11:55 am: "An Ozark Natural Resource Partner-**

*ship" - Dr. Esther D. Stroh*

**11:55 - 1:30 pm: Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 - 2:00 pm: "An Essay on Agricultural Life and Regional**

*Identity in the Missouri Ozarks" - Zachary Michael Jack*

**2:00 - 2:10 pm: Break**

**2:10 - 2:40 pm: "The Shawnee National Forest in the Illi-**

*nois Ozarks: Hidden Gem and Rich Resource" - Gary Kolb*

**2:40 - 3:25 pm: "Ozark Dirt Into Bone: A Photo-Text**

*Interpretive Documentary" - Jan Roddy*

**3:25 - 3:30 pm: Break**

**3:30 - 4:30 pm: Keynote Address - "Judge John R.**

*Woodside: Understanding the Emergence of the Ozarks,*

*1840—1890" - Dr. Michael Dougan*

## Schedule of Events

### Saturday, September 20

**8:30 - 9:30 am: Registration - Redbud Rooms 1 and 2**

**9:30 - 10:00 am: "Another Black Gold: Comparing the Cultures Surrounding Lead Mining in Southeast Missouri and Coal Mining in Central Appalachia" - Matt Meacham**

**10:00 - 10:30 am: "Lead Belt Liberals: The Democratization of Mining in Missouri's Ozarks" - Robert Faust**

**10:30 - 10:40 am: Break**

**10:40 - 12:00 noon: Panel discussion: Mining Issues -**

*Discussion of issues surrounding mining in the Ozarks by panelists representing a variety of perspectives.*

**12:00 - 1:30 pm: Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 - 2:00 pm: "A Reader's Theater Production Based on**

*Lil' Abner" - Randy Story*

**2:00 - 2:30 pm: "Witchin' Warts and Burin' Onion Blades:**

*An Ozarks Approach to Folk Medicine" - Marideth Sisco*

**2:30 - 3:00 pm: "The River Man and the Ozarker: Cultural**

*Comparisons of Mark Twain's Missouri and Hill People of the Ozarks Uplands" - Dr. Ed McKinney*

**3:00 - 3:15 pm: Break**

**3:15 - 3:45 pm: "Vance Randolph's Ozarks: A Burkean**

*Reading" - Laura Bowles*

**3:45 - 4:15 pm: "The Art of the Auctioneer: A Performance**

*Tradition In Ethnographic and Historical Perspective" -*

**Gary L. Buxton**

**4:15 - 4:30 pm: Break**

**4:30 - 5:15 pm: Panel discussion: Turkey Call Making -**

*Discussion of the craft of turkey call making by practitioners from the Ozarks.*

**5:15 - 5:25 pm: Closing Remarks - Missouri State Univer-**

*sity-West Plains Ozarks Studies Committee*

**5:25 - 7:00 pm: Dinner (on your own)**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm: Entertainment - Civic Center Theater**

*"Music of the Mississippi Valley in the Twain Era" -*

**Wayne Schell**, singer, multi-instrumentalist, and commentator

## Presentation Summaries

**John Hensley** will examine efforts to define the Ozarks as components of the discourse that constitutes knowledge of the region as such. According to Hensley, claims regarding regional identity operate within two semi-autonomous economies: the cultural and the financial. Scholarly and popular interest in representations of regions within those two economies has increased in recent decades. Hensley will consider several representations of Ozarks identity that differ, yet coincide.

**Barbara Williams** will display and discuss her photographs of Ozarks rock masonry architecture in south-central Missouri and north-central Arkansas. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, schools, churches, houses, barns, and businesses were constructed from Ozarks polychrome rock typically gathered at or near the construction site. Williams regards these practical, yet creative, structures as metaphors for their builders – people who worked hard using limited available resources.

**Stanley D. Brunn** will discuss current themes in the interdisciplinary fields of Appalachian studies and Ozarks studies. Drawing upon his experience as a participant in the Appalachian studies program at the University of Kentucky, he will note potential opportunities for collaborative and comparative research among scholars in the two fields.

**J. Brett Adams** will discuss the impact of Progressive-era conservation policy in the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas, especially the ways in which the region's residents accepted, altered, or rejected the modernizing tendencies of that policy following the establishment of the Arkansas National Forest in 1907. Adams will focus largely on subsistence farmers' resistance to the U.S. Forest Service's regulation and management of the land that they occupied.

**Esther D. Stroh** will summarize the results of "Ozark Summit 2008: Ozark Streams," held in West Plains in May 2008. Representatives of federal and state agencies and nongovernmental organizations discussed issues of mutual concern and sought avenues for collaboration, efficient sharing of financial resources, and improved communication with one another and the public. Stroh will discuss developments resulting from this meeting, including the creation of a web-based communication tool, and will welcome input from symposium participants.

**Zachary Michael Jack's** essay will address the intersection of agricultural life and regional identity in the Ozarks, drawing upon his experiences as a farmer, writer, and teacher.

**Gary Kolb** will display his landscape photographs from the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. The Shawnee National Forest occupies a diverse landscape that encompasses hardwood forest, cypress swamp, high bluffs, and lowland savanna and is sometimes called the "Illinois Ozarks." Kolb will offer contextual commentary on his photographs, emphasizing the Forest's biological diversity and threats posed by human use and resource exploitation.

**Jan Roddy's** interpretive documentary, "Ozark Dirt Into Bone," integrates photographic and prose vignettes. Her visual and word portraits of place, people, and events span from the time of the Civil War to the present, emphasizing intergenerational continuity and the impact of a specific geography upon a people and a culture. The documentary reflects ongoing interdisciplinary deliberations about the concept of "place" and resists nostalgic interpretations of the region.

*(Presentation summaries continue on the other side)*