

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

BETH BISSMEYER is a senior English Literature major and Appalachian Studies minor at Berea College whose student labor position is with *Appalachian Heritage*. She devotes much of her time to Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, a social justice organization.

ROBERT J. CONLEY is a distinguished Cherokee author who has written the official history of his people as well as *The Cherokee Encyclopedia* and dozens of novels. He will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book this spring, but he now lives in North Carolina and serves as the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University.

THOMAS RAIN CROWE is the publisher of New Native Press. He has written, translated, and edited twenty books including *Zoro's Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods*, published by the University of Georgia Press. He lives in Tuckasegee, North Carolina.

ERIN CUTLER grew up in Stanford, Kentucky, and plans to graduate this Spring as a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Kentucky. She has published in scientific journals regarding nanoparticle synthesis, but this is her first literary publication. She is an avid photographer, gardener, and cyclist.

PAMELA DUNCAN, the featured author for this issue of *Appalachian Heritage*, lives in Cullowhee, North Carolina, where she teaches creative writing at Western Carolina University. She is the author of three novels and is currently working on her fourth novel, *The Wilder Place*.

SIDNEY SAYLOR FARR served as editor of *Appalachian Heritage* from 1985 until 1999. The author of several books, including most recently, *My Appalachia: A Memoir* from the University Press of Kentucky, she grew up on Stoney Fork of Straight Creek in Bell County, Kentucky.

SILAS HOUSE, the featured author for our Spring 2004 issue, is the author of three novels, and, most recently, *Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountain Top Removal* with Jason Howard. His fourth novel, *Eli the Good*, will be published later this year. He is a life-long resident of Lily, Kentucky.

NANCY CAROL JOYNER is Professor Emerita of English at Western Carolina University. A native of Asheville, she has published numerous articles on Appalachian literature, especially in women's literature and literary theory.

DEBBIE LITTLEDEER grew up with a view of the Black Mountain Range in Marion, North Carolina. She now lives in Celo with her woodcrafter husband, their daughter, two dogs and three cats. She spends her days making silkscreen and linoleum block prints in her studio above their home.

SKY MARIETTA grew up in Berea, Kentucky, and joined Teach for America after graduating from Yale. Her article in this issue is based on the qualifying paper she submitted in the doctorate program she is currently enrolled in at Harvard University's School of Education.

JEFF DANIEL MARION, the featured author for our Fall 2003 issue and professor emeritus at Carson Newman College, is a native of Rogersville and a resident of Knoxville. He has published seven poetry collections, four chapbooks, and a children's book. *Ebbing & Flowing Springs* won the 2004 Independent Publisher Award in Poetry.

ROBERT MORGAN, the featured author for our Summer 2004 issue, is working on a history of America's westward expansion, following up on his most recent book, *Boone: A Biography*. Previously, he was best known as the author of novels, short stories and poetry. A native of Zirconia, North Carolina, he serves as a professor at Cornell.

RON RASH, the featured author for our Fall 2002 issue, is the author, most recently, of *Serena*, his fourth novel and 2009 Pen/Faulkner Award Finalist, following three story collections and three books of poems. He teaches at Western Carolina University.

BERNADETTE RULE is a Kentucky native who now lives in Ontario and teaches at Mohawk College. She is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *The Literate Thief: Collected Poems*, published by Larkspur Press.

GEORGE SINGLETON lives in Pickens County, in the South Carolina Upcountry. His most recent books are his second novel, *Work Shirts for Madmen*, and a book of advice entitled, *Pep Talks, Warnings and Screeds*. He has also written four collections of his stories which have appeared in such venues as the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's*. Nine have appeared in various editions of *New Stories from the South*.

SAVANNAH SIPPLE lives in Beattyville, Kentucky, where she was raised. She teaches part-time for Hazard Community and Technical College and works in television production. Currently she is engaged in a project to promote the literary arts through videography.

LEE SMITH, the featured author for our Winter 2003 issue, is not only one of our region's most distinguished authors, but also one of our most fervent supporters of aspiring writers. She has been instrumental in nurturing the careers of legions, especially three of our featured authors, all with strong working class roots: Pamela Duncan, Darnell Arnoult, and Silas House. A native of the Virginia coalfields, Lee Smith is the author of nine novels, most recently *On Agate Hill*, as well as three story collections.

CHARLES A. SWANSON pastors a small Baptist Church and teaches at Gretna High School in southside Virginia, which proclaimed him 2008 Teacher of the Year. Raised on a farm, he still gets out in the predawn hours to speak sweet nothings to his cows, and wants all to know that he believes both in sustainable agriculture and sustainable faith.

SUMMAR WEST was born and raised in Tellico Plains, Tennessee. She currently lives in nearby Maryville where she teaches writing and literature at Maryville College.