

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

DONALD ASKINS arrived in the region in 1968 to teach at Clinch Valley College, now the University of Virginia at Wise. Ten years later he coedited *Colonialism in Modern America: The Appalachian Case* with Helen Lewis and Linda Johnson and then became an attorney in nearby Dickenson County, eventually serving two terms as Commonwealth Attorney before recently retiring.

JOYCE COMPTON BROWN watched as Ron Rash, the author of the book she here reviews, grew up and then enrolled in her English classes at Gardner-Webb University. She is now retired and continues to play an active role in the Appalachian Studies community.

SAMANTHA COLE is a sophomore Appalachian Studies major at Berea College who hails from Beattyville, Kentucky, in Lee County. Her poetry has been published in the student literary magazine, and her student labor position is with *Appalachian Heritage*.

JULIA NUNNALLY DUNCAN was born and raised and still lives in Marion, North Carolina, where she teaches English at McDowell Technical Community College. She is the author of a novel, a book of poetry, and two story collections.

STÉPHANIE DURRANS is an Associate Professor at the University of Bordeaux 3 in France. She has published on American literature in French in *Revue Française D'Etudes Américaines* and in English in *Narratives of Community: Women's Short Story Sequences*. She is the author of *The Influence of French Culture on Willa Cather: Intertextual References and Resonances*.

SIDNEY SAYLOR FARR grew up on Stony Fork of Straight Creek in Bell County, Kentucky, and served as editor of *Appalachian Heritage* in the 1980s and 1990s. Her most recent publication is *My Appalachia*, a memoir published by the University Press of Kentucky.

PATRICIA HARMAN is the author of *The Blue Cotton Gown: A Midwife's Memoir*, a first book that received an Indie Next Award for Independent Book Stores Top Picks in October 2008. She came to West Virginia in the 1970s to live in a rural commune and now lives in Morgantown and runs a women's health practice with her husband.

SHARON HATFIELD is the author of *Never Seen the Moon: The Trials of Edith Maxwell*, which won a Weatherford Award in non-fiction in 2006, and coeditor with Gurney Norman and Danny Miller of *An American Vein: Critical Readings in Appalachian Literature*. A native of Lee County, Virginia, she currently teaches English at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio.

SILAS HOUSE will have two new books out this coming year, a young-adult novel entitled *Eli the Good* and *Something's Rising*, coedited by Jason Howard, a collection of vignettes of people adversely affected by mountaintop removal. A life-long resident of Lily, Kentucky, he is the author of three successful novels and serves as writer-in-residence at Lincoln Memorial University in Cumberland Gap.

LOYAL JONES is one of the most respected founding fathers of Appalachian Studies. He is a native of Western North Carolina and founded the Berea College Appalachian Center in 1970 where he taught Appalachian Studies courses until 1993. He is the author of several books and numerous articles mostly relating to Appalachian values, religion, music, and humor. His most recent book is *Country Music Humorists and Comedians*.

TOM MARTIN is a photographer, outdoorsman, and activist who lives in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. He is the author of *Kentucky Ice*, *Rappelling*, and *Observations*.

MARSHA MATHEWS teaches creative writing, composition, and literature at Dalton State College in Georgia and serves as advisor to the college literary magazine, *Tributaries*. She came to Appalachia in 1996 to direct the Wesley Foundation in Wise, Virginia, and pastor two churches in Coeburn.

JESSICA NEWTON, a native of Yancey County, North Carolina, has been published in the *Bryant Literary Review* and *Stolen Island Review*. She currently serves as an administrative assistant at the Julian F. Keith Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center and lives in Asheville.

GURNEY NORMAN was the featured author for the Summer 2005 issue of *Appalachian Heritage*. He is a guru to legions of regional writers and teaches creative writing at the University of Kentucky. He is also the author of the novel, *Divine Rights Trip*, and the story collection, *Kinfolks*.

JAYNE ANNE PHILLIPS is a native of Buckhannon, West Virginia, and one of the most esteemed contemporary American writers and writing program directors. She created and directs the writing program at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. Her fourth novel, *Lark and Termite*, will be released in January 2009 by Alfred A. Knopf.

RUFUS A. SKEENS is a retired coal miner who was raised in Grundy, Virginia, and now lives in Bristol. He has been published in several regional magazines.

MEREDITH SUE WILLIS was the featured author for the Fall 2006 issue of *Appalachian Heritage*. A native of Shinnston, West Virginia, she has not only published novels and stories for adults, but also children's literature and books about the writing process. She is currently working on a new collection of Appalachian short stories from her home in New Jersey.