

## President's Message

# One Drop Does Not Make A River

*That was then.....*

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. In all things enjoy every moment. Drink the refreshing brew of life and relish each memory of the past. But by the same token, watch what the flow will bring to you in the future.

Territory Tellers is like that "ole man river". It has been goin' along for over 20 years, sometimes turbulent, sometimes just lazin' along. But it has always kept movin'! Tellers have come and tellers have gone, but our spirit of Oklahoma has left its



*Out-going President Tony Hardman passes the gavel to now President Bonnie Smith at the 2017 Membership Meeting.*

mark. We've been around the bend and back with meetings in different parts of our state. If we haven't been to your "neck of the woods" yet, we will be coming into sight in the future. We have kept up with the current of things. We've updated the by-laws to include a webmaster, and other items that have brought the organization into the flow of things. Standing committees have aided for smoother sailing with the festival, the retreats, and

other business of the organization.

*That was then.....this is now!*

This year we celebrated another successful Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival. Plans are in the works for Festival 2018. The winter retreat is on the docket of upcoming events, after the successful event near Tahlequah, in January 2017. A new board of directors was elected at the yearly membership meeting in June and have set sail for a new year. Tellers have plans for Tellebrations over the entire state. Individual tellers have plans for the year in many genres. In the northeast part of the state, story slams are on the tide of times. I think it an honor to be the president of this organization, and the board are the spokes of the wheel. But to keep on movin' we must have the support of the members. The meetings of the Territory Tellers are open, the location and times will be posted in the Tattler and on the website. Sometimes they will be far from your home, but the trip is worth it. You might want to host a meeting in your home town. Be a part, renew your membership if needed, and come see what's on the horizon.

Old man river, he just keeps rolling along. Get on board and come along for a thrilling ride!

*Bonnie Smith*  
President

### **Tattler Deadlines**

**We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion in the Tattler:**

**October 1, 2017 • January 15, 2018**

**March 1, 2018 • July 15, 2018**

## Executive Board

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Vacant

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## 2017 Festival Recap

Territory Tellers rolled out a new format for the 2017 Spirit of Oklahoma Festival - TT members were the featured tellers in each event. A new venue, Westlake Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, offered great space for all the activities during the weekend.



Friday evening activities started with a dinner cooked by church members. Storytelling friends had time to visit and catch up on what everyone had been doing. Pre-music established the theme and the history of Territory Tellers was emphasized at the evening concert as all the tellers were people who were instrumental in starting our organization. Friday night con-

cluded with the traditional Ghost Tales.

Saturday started off with coffee and homemade kolaches. Then the stories began. Five categories of stories were scheduled throughout the day that members could sign-up to tell. Outstanding stories were told in each! Members had the option of a lunch together prepared by the church that ended with a fun time of participation music. We had a table set up to sell TT items and many members walked away with a bargain on items from past festivals. Throughout the day members browsed the silent auction and bid on items. The Saturday evening performance started off with a special memorial honoring members who passed away in the last year. Then the audience was treated to stories from the best-of-the-best storytellers from each of the five categories presented earlier in the day. It was exciting to see the talent we have in our organization. The festival concluded with a reception. Then everyone helped put things back in place, so that the church building was ready for their service on Sunday.

All during the festival church members were available to help in any way that was needed and many of their members attended the storytelling events. Territory Tellers truly felt welcome in this new venue. The steering committee for 2017 met on July 8 and reviewed the festival and made suggestions to make next year even better. We will keep the same basic format of giving Territory Tellers many opportunities to tell. The board voted to have the 2018 festival on June 1 and 2 and have it at the same site. Throughout the year members will receive more information about what the 2018 festival will offer. - Liz Parker



Kathryn Thurman built the 2017 SOOSF band from attendees featuring Connie Fisher on kazoo.

# Winter Retreat Plans Underway!

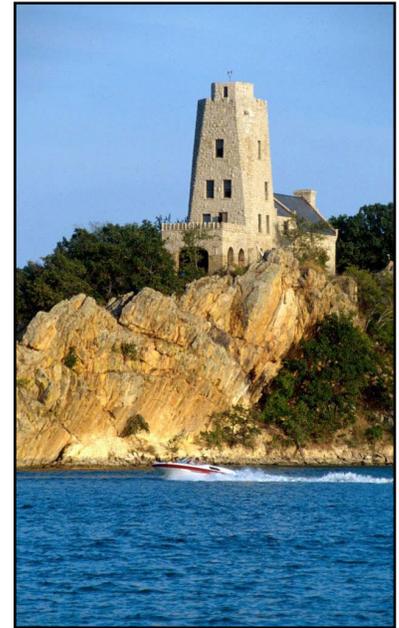
All who are interested in a fun, relaxing weekend of sitting around the fireplace listening or telling a tale will have a chance to do that January 26-28, 2018. The 9th annual Winter Retreat of the Territory Tellers will be at the new Lake Murray Lodge on Lake Murray in southern Oklahoma, just south of Ardmore. Besides storytelling there will also be a Festival Steering Committee and Board meetings during the weekend. Remember that as a TT member you are always invited to Board meetings.



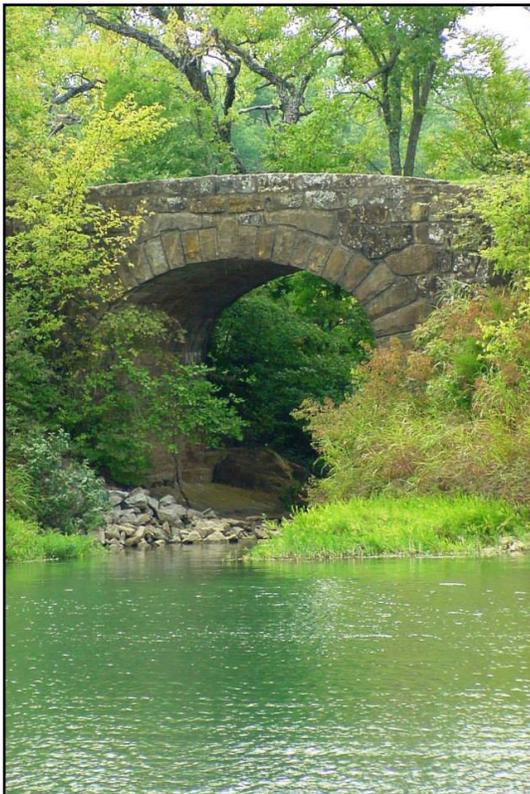
Room reservations need to be made with the lodge prior to December 25, 2017 and mention you are with the Territory Tellers. The rate is \$99 plus tax per night. Each room has a lakeside view and balcony with refrigerators and microwaves. The phone number is (800) 257-0322.

Lake Murray State Park is Oklahoma's first and largest state park consisting of 12,500 acres located on the shores of beautiful Lake Murray. The park's diverse terrain, exceptional trails and historic sites make Lake Murray State Park a favorite destination among outdoor, water sport and ATV riding enthusiasts.

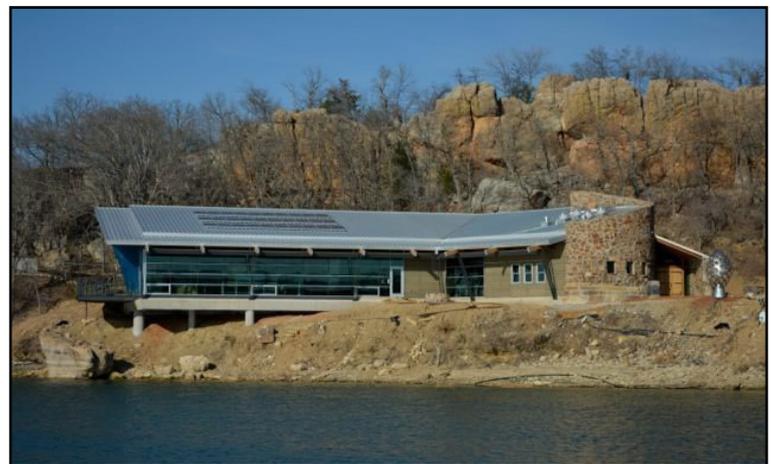
The park has extensive trail systems for hikers and mountain bikes. New Deal, Anadarche, Buckhorn and a new system from the park office to Tucker Tower all combine for more than 30 miles of scenic trails offering a wide variety of hiking and biking experiences. These trails range from fairly simple and flat to moderately difficult with good hills and even some interactions with rock and bluff environments.



*Tucker Tower stands as an iconic landmark of Lake Murray. It was originally built to be a retreat for Governor Alfalfa Bill Murray.*



*Throughout the park you will find structures like this bridge built by the boys of the WPA.*



*Not only is the Lodge new, but the Nature Center in the Park boasts a newly built home.*

# ArtSpace engages youth in Clinton

From Monday, July 31st through Saturday, August 5th, there will be a youth activity called "ArtSpace" at the First Presbyterian Church in Clinton. The church building is located on Gary Boulevard, about three blocks west of Hwy. 183. (Hwy. 183 is a north-south highway, crossing I-40 in Clinton NOTE: The Dairy Queen is in the same block).

The program will run daily from Noon (with lunch) to 5:00, Monday-Friday. Saturday there will be a "commencement" in the afternoon.

Designed for students grades 2-6, ArtSpace is a guided day "camp" for all kinds of arts experiences, starting on Monday with Chickasaw storyteller **Stephanie Scott**, a member of Territory Tellers and National Storytelling Network. She's bringing with her a mother-and-daughter storytelling team to present more Chickasaw stories.

On Tuesday, noted classical guitarist Edgar Cruz will conduct master classes during the afternoon, and present a free public concert that night.

Several visual artists will be working with the students throughout the week, as well as Territory Teller **Loralee Cooley** of Yukon, who will be partnering with Carol Waters from Cordell, an Oklahoma writer and poet. They will work with the students in guiding them how to develop their own "hero" tale, which will be presented on Saturday at the commencement.

This is the fourth year for ArtSpace, sponsored by BuffaloGrass Institute, a Clinton-based 501.c.3 non-profit organization.

For more information, E-mail Donelle Ratheal, director, at donelleratheal@gmail.com.

**Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!**

**T**erritory Tellers is a growing network of individual tellers, listeners and local storytelling circles. Get connected by joining our statewide organization! Dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family membership per year.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a storyteller? \_\_\_\_\_ a story listener? \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 individual                       \$40 family                       \$40 organizational

Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to Territory Tellers to:  
Territory Tellers · 6619 S 4382 · Locust Grove OK 74352