

## ***President's Message***

**B**lated Happy New Year to all our members! This year is off to a flying start with our winter retreat at the Oklahoma State Park, Sequoyah. Storytelling, workshops and fellowship brought people into eastern Oklahoma on January 25-26, to join in our retreat. We are also moving along pretty quickly with our festival plans for June. We have set up some sessions with new tellers for the spring event! Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers are onboard for the festival starting Friday, Greg will host a workshop and Tim will be our showcase teller Friday night in two sessions: the evening concert and the ghost story session. Be looking for more information to come on our website, [www.territorytellers.org](http://www.territorytellers.org).

Many thanks must be given to our members and storytelling friends of Territory Tellers. I would like to offer up a round of applause to one of our past presidents, Jeanette Harjo and Phillip, of course. Jeanette and Phillip hosted our fall board meeting at their wind farm this past November. Our menu for the day was palate pleasin' pizza crafted by Phillip. Territory Tellers sends a shout out and a hug of appreciation to Ms. Molly Lemmons; Molly has served on our board over the years so many times I cannot keep count, her volunteer spirit is one to be revered by all. It would be impossible without the dedication of our board members and festival planners who do all the hard work behind the scenes to bring a festival to life every spring.

Oklahoma Tellabration was a great success. Our members hosted five Tellabtrations across the state this past November, from Mayes county to Washita county! Stories were held in a poetry museum in rural Oklahoma, along with stories shared up in a barn in Pottawatomie county, at the Old Angus Barn. Our other venues included a library, a retirement center and a community center in Caddo county. A thank you is in order for all the planning that was necessary to host the yearly NSN events.

On another note, Tony Hardman is working on a board roster for next year's 2013-14 board. He may be calling on you soon to help fill a slot on our board. Our general membership meeting will be held at the festival Friday, June 7, 2013 at which time the new officers will be appointed. It may seem a ways off, but if you are willing to serve on our board, get in contact with Tony via our website board member link. In closing, just a reminder that membership does have it privileges. Fellowship is at the top of that list.

Storytelling,  
the age old tradition of family,  
friendship and  
folly!

*Darla  
L'Allier*



**2012-2013  
Executive Board**

**President**

Darla L'Allier  
*djtelz@hotmail.com*

**Vice-President**

Tony Hardman  
*realchapman@yahoo.com*

**Secretary**

Jeanette Harjo  
*jmharjo@hotmail.com*

**Treasurer**

Vacant

**Board Members**

Sheron Rodgers  
*sheronrodgers@cox.net*

Teresa Vail  
*san\_bois@fullnet.net*

Paulette Geeslin  
*pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.*

Barbara Jones  
*bwjbook@yahoo.com*

Steve Kardaleff  
*skardaleff@aol.com*

Bonnie Smith  
*bonnieuane@windstream.net*

**Liaison Director**

Shaun Perkins  
*okieload@sstelco.com*

**Parliamentarian**

Kathryn Thurman  
*KMThurman@aol.com*

**Past-President**

Liz Parker  
*eparker1964@yahoo.com*

**NSN Representative**

Nancy Lenhart Matthews  
*larkielady@sbcglobal.net*

**Webmaster**

Shaun Perkins  
*okiestoryteller@gmail.com*

**Tattler Editor**

Tina Saner  
*twosaners@aol.com*

# History of Oklahoma Storytelling being compiled

**M**arilyn Hudson is working on a history of storytelling in modern Oklahoma (ca 1900 to present) and needs your help. She is hunting down memories of people who inspired, mentored, and encouraged others to tell stories in this state. If you are a story listener, she needs your knowledge of programs, supporters, and groups that promoted the use of oral storytellers in schools, churches, libraries, community centers and other venues across the state.

Hudson is tracking down historical references in books, records, and periodicals but she states, "...they are sometimes limited in coverage, scope, or detail." Many groups outside of Territory Tellers contributed to the perpetuation of storytelling in the state such as Toastmasters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church children's programs, classroom teachers, librarians and ministers and she hopes to get input from those sources as well.

Please consider sharing your memories and the names, events, groups and sponsors of storytelling events. Hudson can be contacted at *marilynahudson@yahoo.com*.

She also wants to add a small annotated directory of as many tellers as possible. So send in a paragraph or two or send her a copy of a bio you have used when telling. Please state that you give her your permission to reproduce all or parts of the material for the book when you send the information to her.

## Upcoming dates

Any TT member or potential member is welcome to attend board meetings and the retreat.

### TT Board Meeting

March 2, 2013 • Kardaleff's home, near Lawton

Our meeting is at 1 pm

Please check our website for further details

### Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival

June 7 & 8, 2013 • Seminole, OK

### And from our neighbors & friends...

March 7 - 10, 2013 • Texas Storytelling Festival,  
Denton Civic Center • Denton, Texas.

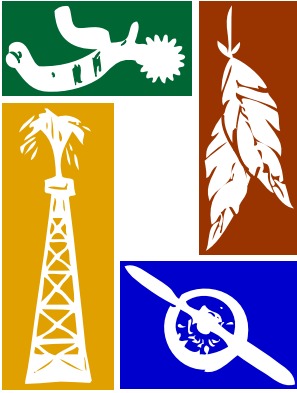
August 1-4 • 2013 National Storytelling Conference  
Richmond, Virginia

## 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*:

**March 8, 2013 • July 7, 2013**

**October 1, 2012 • January 19, 2014**



# *Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival*

June 7-8, 2013

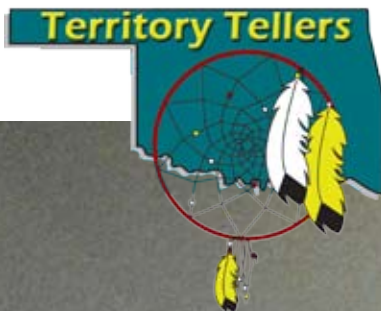
Enoch Kelly Haney Center • Seminole State College • Seminole, OK

## **Tim Tingle**

award winning author and  
acclaimed storyteller, is our Featured Teller

*Dozens of regional tellers, including Teresa Black, Paulette Geeslin,  
Tony Hardman, Nancy Lenhart Matthews and Kathryn Thurman*

Story swaps • concerts • ghost tales • silent auction • workshops



Learn more at our web site

[www.territorytellers.org/SpiritOfOklahoma/StorytellingFestival](http://www.territorytellers.org/SpiritOfOklahoma/StorytellingFestival)





# Winter Retreat hosted both long time members and new tellers in Northeastern Oklahoma

Our winter retreat at the Oklahoma State Park, Sequoyah Lodge was a great success. We had over 25 participants. Storytelling, workshops and fellowship brought people into eastern Oklahoma in January. Members came in from across the state and we also had new membership. A state group of ladies from BOW (becoming an outdoor woman) joined us both Friday and Saturday nights for a workshop and evening story concert. Our festival committee met to address the scheduling and cost of this year's June festival. We also held our winter board meeting. Tim Couch gave an intensive workshop for both the beginner and seasoned storyteller, including dos and don'ts on how to MC a storytelling event. Our Friday evening session was truly out of this world! Luann Sewell Waters presented the workshop, Carved in Stone – the hidden meaning of gravestone graphics to a large crowd of Territory Tellers members and resort guests. Quite an array of sites were shared, from Ireland to the local cemetery right on the grounds of the state park where we were staying. Shaun Perkins started our Saturday morning with card games

and stories. A great wake-up start to the morning, with laughter, literature and card counting occurred. Breakfast, lunch and dinner was served in the resort restaurant and many members shared dinner stories and conversation throughout the weekend. Our retreat



Chester Weems

**Luann Sewell Waters shared the history of graphics found on gravestones, including those found in the cemetery right on the grounds of the state park where the retreat took place.**



Chester Weems

**Fred Peters kept the audience entertained with one of his stories.**

was a little chilly, but worth the walk to the wildlife sanctuary; it housed a beaver in habitat, an eagle and owl, along with coyote. There was a nice fossil trail walk and a lighted paved trail that was a fun night walk to the lakeside. A shout out goes to Al and Sharon Rodgers for hosting our hospitality room and doing the initial leg work to get our retreat set with the parks department. A thank you to our tellers is in order, THANK YOU Jeanette & Phillip, Pat & Steve for your evening of couples stories on Saturday. Our storyswap MC, Paulette Geeslin took control of the afternoon swap rounding out the volunteer signups for the telling on Saturday. I feel certain that a fun time was had by all in attendance this past month!

*Darla L'Allier*

# So many books

*The Itsy Bitsy Tiger and Other Ridiculous Stories and Songs Told by Priscilla Howe, filmed by Storm-door Productions © 2010. <http://www.priscillahowe.com/>*

This DVD provides a wonderful array of stories, interesting and appealing puppets and a great view of a live performance. The opportunity to see how a master storyteller copes with young audience members who temporarily lose interest and pulls them back into the next story is a great teaching tool for new performers. When I watched the DVD, I had an eight year old and a 5 year old watching with me. The stories captivated them both. They were really into this version of folktales and they enjoyed the interaction with the puppets. This is an excellent tool for those who are considering using puppets with their stories and for seeing how to adapt stories they may know for this venue. I would recommend this to performers and teachers in the lower elementary grades just to show to their students and to pick up hints for their own presentations.

--reviewed by Rosemary Czarski

*Rapunzel and the Seven Dwarfs: A Maynard Moose Tale by Willy Claflin. August House; 16, 2011. ISBN-10: 0874839149*

Get this book for your collection. With a verbal-wrangling style that only Maynard Moose (and his human storytelling alter ego of Willy Claflin) could create, you and your kids could dive into a fractured-fairytale universe from which you may never escape as you will be overloaded with fits of laughter. The names of the dwarfs are enough to make this book worth every moment you spend with it. You and your kids will find plenty of surprises and unexpected turns when you turn page by page. The illustrations are fun and capture the scenes just as if you are looking into the mind of the moose.

The book comes with an audio CD. The story as told by moose is really something you must hear at least once so that you will truly appreciate the phrase turns and language mashing that Maynard provides.

We get many books for review at Storyteller.net. Unlike other books, anything by Maynard and Willy gets spirited off by my kids as soon as they see it- and the youngest is in junior-high. This is an all-ages book that even you as a parent will be saying, "Let's read that one again."

--reviewed by Sean Buvala, Director of Storyteller.net

*More Spooky Texas Tales by Tim Tingle and Doc Moore. Texas Tech University Press 2010, ISBN-10: 0896727009*

There are some stories that, once you hear them or read them, they just crinkle up and sneak into the back of your mind and hide there. They make you check the closets in the house one more time or ask yourself, "What was that sound?" as you take out the trash or take the dog for a walk. You will find tales like these in the new More Spooky Texas Tales by Tim Tingle and Doc Moore.

Taking cultural folklore stories of the Southwest and resetting them into the written word, the authors are helping to preserve some fine traditional stories while giving them the modern bent today's readers need. All good story collectors have done this, including well-known collectors such as the Grimm Brothers. Resetting tales to speak to the current generation is the job of the interpreters. Tingle and Moore do that well in this little book. While the authors are specifically setting the tales in Texas, alert connoisseurs of stories will recognize and appreciate that some tales have been adapted from other parts of the world from other points in time. As you read, it is fun to think of classic stories such as "Mary Culhaine" with a slight Texas twang to them.

Along with good black-and-white drawings liberally presented throughout the book, young teens through adult readers will enjoy this collection.

--reviewed by Sean Buvala, Director of Storyteller.net



Chester Weems

Saturday evening's concert featured storytelling couples. Here Pat Kardaleff shares a tale from her story bag. Pat's husband, Steve, and Jeanette and Phillip Hargo rounded out the tellers for the evening.



# Member news, notes and events

Halloween was a busy time for **Tony Hardman**. During the day he told stories at the No Man's Land Museum Halloween Open House in Goodwell. The event was sponsored by the museum in cooperation with Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Tony received a special commendation from the museum for his contribution. Halloween night was the final performance of *Dracula*, which Tony directed for the Guymon Community Theatre (GCT). After the performance he was presented with his official "Director's Chair" from GCT and a copy of the novel *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. The novel was autographed by all cast members.

An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the stories and songs of this year's Tellabration in Apache. The evening began with some delightful stories and poems from cowboy poet Charlie Kriss from Cache. Next on the program was **Bonnie Smith** from Prague, Oklahoma. Bonnie told some amusing and some inspirational tales about growing up in the oil patch. At intermission the refreshments were served by the members of the GFWC Study Club. After intermission Barbara Sechrist sang some beautiful original songs and accompanied herself on the guitar. Then **Sam McMichael** told one of his tales based on his experiences growing up in rural Southwest Oklahoma. The entertainment concluded with a song from Stephanie French and the audience and performers singing *God Bless America*. The events were kept rolling smoothly along by MC **Steve Kardaleff**.

The generous sponsors were The Shamrock Bank, The Chickasha Banking Center, The Apache Rotary Club, The GFWC Study Club, and the Town of Apache. Tellabration 2012 was produced by Pat Lindsey. The program was designed by Allison Crews. Sound technician was Justin French. The proceeds generated by Tellabration will be donated to support the Apache Senior Citizen's Nutrition Center.

Organizer Sam McMichael states that many thanks are due to the Apache News for helping publicize the event and to the outstanding support of the Apache community for making this one of the *outstanding storytelling events in the state*.

On April 6, 2013, Doug Bennett will be hosting a first time storytelling festival in Pittsburg, Kansas' Public Library. **Darla L'Allier** and **Nancy**

**Lenhart Matthews** from Territory Tellers will be among the tellers. Before the festival several of the tellers will be going to Pittsburg to tell stories for an advance preview of this event.

Missing your name in this column? So are we! Please send your storytelling event, recent past or future, to Tattler editor Tina Saner at [twosaners@aol.com](mailto:twosaners@aol.com). Other TT members want to know what you've been up to in the world of storytelling!

## **The Arkansas Writers Workshop**

*presents its*

### **Annual Free Conference**

Saturday, March 9 9 am to 4 pm  
Ozarks Electric on Wedington Road  
Fayetteville, AR

We are pleased to present the in-demand and popular five Sisters of the Traveling Pen, fresh from their six-week gig at Fayetteville Public Library.

Morning sessions cover the topics: "Sense of Place: Make 'Em Smell the Coffee", "Characterization: Whose Head Are You In/Interviewing Your Character", "The Editing Process: Trimming the Fat from Your Story/Thawing Writer's Freeze". Afternoon sessions will provide suggestions on what happens after your book is written: "What to Do and Where to Go" and will end with "Writing 101".

Email to request additional information: [vebrotherton@gmail.com](mailto:vebrotherton@gmail.com)



**Tim Couch gives pointers for emceeing a storytelling event at the recent TT retreat. Tim has been MC for several of our festival concerts and always does a masterful job.**

# Storytelling and Reading Aloud

Valerie Kimble, MLS, PLS Center for Children's Services

Article taken from Sept 2012 *Growing Like a Read*, quarterly eNewsletter of the Pioneer Library System

**W**hen my nephew Christopher was three, his favorite books went everywhere with him—to Grandma's house, to the park, on the train, etc. I was in high school then, and babysat for him a lot. I read those books over and over and over. One summer day we were on the train going to the beach. Chris asked for a particular book, so I reached for the book bag... and realized it had gotten left at home. The extra bag had towels and a pail and shovel, but no books. "Which book do you want?" I asked. "One Fish, Two Fish," he said. So, picturing the small yellow book by Dr. Seuss, I began to recite. After that he wanted *The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night*. Then he asked for *Green Eggs and Ham*. I recited or told the story of every book we usually carried for the entire train ride. I threw in some nursery rhymes since those were easy to remember. Chris prompted me when I hesitated over a refrain. When I paused to listen to the conductor announce the next stop, the lady seated behind us leaned forward and said, "I really liked that last book, can I see the cover?" She was astonished when I told her there was no book. Chris told her proudly, "We readed it out of our heads." After that I never carried that heavy bag of books again, and Chris was content to listen to the stories. Sometimes he suggested we tell together. "I'm Sam I Am," he'd begin, "You're the fox."

Telling the story in the correct sequence, turning it into imaginative play, and then inventing new plot twists whiled away many long trips. Little did I know at 16 that these storytelling games were building Chris's narrative skills and helping him become the proficient and voracious reader that he is today.

Zulmara Cline and Juan Necochea in their article, "My Mother Never Read to Me" in the *Journal of Adult and Adolescent Literacy* (October 2003) tell how they became readers in spite of the lack of books in their home and never having experienced their parents' reading aloud to them. Both attribute their success to caring families invested in their academic success, and frequent sessions of family storytelling. Zulmara writes, "...the oral tradition of storytelling that is so strong in many Latin and African cul-

tures could be just as important as books to promote literacy and a love for reading and writing within the family." She goes on to recommend music and singing as family activities that are "...just as important in promoting avid readers as the ritualistic 20-minute bedtime story."

According to Beaty and Pratt in their book, *Early Literacy in Preschool and Kindergarten* (2007), babies remember stories and songs they hear in the womb by the 7th month of pregnancy!

By all means cuddle up at bedtime-or anytime-with your little one and share a story. The story may come from a book or from your heart. Children love to hear about the day they were born, or how their pet joined the family, or other special and personal reminiscences. Storytelling is possible while driving the car and less harmful to paper in the bathtub. Be confident, because those often-repeated songs and nursery rhymes are easily recalled, as are the plots and characters of your child's favorite books, or the favorite stories of your own childhood. Sing silly songs. It's okay to make up new words or hum the missing phrases. Your child will be glad to provide correction and suggestions. Ask him or her to tell you a story. Ask "what will happen next?" Ask him or her to voice one of the characters. S/he may even begin the storytelling session unprompted.

To me reading aloud is storytelling with a prop. Put down the prop and tell it from your heart. Or, as my nephew use to say, "Read it out of your head."



In a photo from last year's TT Olio at the OKC Storytelling Festival, Valerie Kimble and Tony Hardman help another teller with her story.



Address Correction Requested

6619 S 4382  
Locust Grove OK 74352

***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