Inspiration & Perspiration

FLORIDA - Land of the Storyteller

Not all books are literary wonders but Florida has been blessed by the works of Walt Whitman (Occonee) and for inspiring the poetic muse of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Richard Garnesville resident and acclaimed Young Adult author, Nancy Yi Fan (Swindbirt). She has already had two books on the New York Times Top-10 list and she’s still in high school (2011). Elders were telling stories to new generations as soon as they could communicate. Not all the tales were about deeds of derring-do and fierce fights with sabre-toothed tigers. Many were more practical: where to hew wood, how to make a fire, and when to sow seeds.

One of Florida’s best known writers, born in Orange Park, Clay County, would never make it onto the Pulitzer Prize short-list of candidates. But former Miami Herald writer/editor Nixon Smiley (a colleague of Al Burt and fellow U.S. Marine) captured a wide audience of readers with his book, Florida Land of Images. He also entertained and instructed newcomers to the Sunshine State in the fine art and craft required to grow plants, flowers, and vegetables in his book, Florida Gardening Month By Months. A writer of history, also from Clay County, was Kevin S. Hooper, whose recording of the Civil War in Images of America in prose and pictures garnered from archives of the past entertainers and educates today’s readers.

The mobility of readers and writers and the many forms of communication, from handwritten manuscripts (SciFi writer Joe Haldeman uses one of many fountain pens in his collection) to keyboard and voice-activated electronic devices, cause many “border” crossings.

Putnam County’s “One Book, One Putnam” annual event -- which gets all 17 residents on the same page -- selected the historic novel, The Barefoot Mailman, by (Palatka) writer Theodore Pratt, a year. Most recently, readers have delved into the writings of Jacksonville (Duval County) resident Charles Martin, whose novel, Wrapped in Rain, is a story set in Alabama but with universal appeal.

This map, for Melrose visitors, will hopefully provide a guide to readers and writers alike to the rich writing heritage Florida has evolved.

Debora M. Cory
Moms Need Chocolate. An inspirational and motivational writer and proponent of a vivacious sense of humor. She is also an occupational therapist, former producer of radio and television shows, and freelance writer.

Kevin M. McCarthy
St Johns River Guidebook. Prolific author of Florida, and other books, professor of English. He teaches at Gainesville and sometimes summers aboard cruise ships touring the Greek islands.

Reid Tillery
Surviving the Wilds of Florida. A Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

Will Bartram
Franklin’s Journeys in North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country etc. This naturalist’s accounts of his travels are noted for his vivid descriptions of the American countryside and his botanical illustrations.

William “Bill” Kerr
Mark of the Devil. Curator of the serial adventures of special agent Matt Berkeley, by former U.S. N. Captain Kerr.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
The Steling. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

The Last True Story I’ll Ever Tell. A quest by a mystic in search of his family, and the adventures he and fellow felinos encounter.

Edward E. Roberts

JoAnne Ducote Smith
The Legend of Sally and the Pink Marble Eggs. More modern writers. Elders were telling stories to new generations as soon as they could communicate. Not all the tales were about deeds of derring-do and fierce fights with sabre-toothed tigers. Many were more practical: where to hew wood, how to make a fire, and when to sow seeds.

Jeffrey Lamb
Save the Gator Queen. A Young Adult (teenager) adventure by a Floridian. Born with a mild case of cerebral palsy, the author’s doctors part of book sale proceeds to UCP (United Cerebral Paly) of Central Florida.

Lynette L. Walther
Florida Gardening on the Go. She has already had two books on the Florida Gardening Month By Month series. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

Harry Crews
His Bad Seeds: Memoirs of a Stripper. He also entertained and instructed newcomers to the Sunshine State in the fine art and craft required to grow plants, flowers, and vegetables.

Meredith Ann Pierce
I took the one less travelled by. A young Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

John Crawford
Ectotravellers’ Wildlife Guide. A glimpse into the life of a photographer and a master of the genre who also teaches.

Stenton Kennedy
The Klan. From Unmasked. Author, folklorist, environmentalist, labor activist, and human rights advocate. Woodie Guthrie wrote songs while staying with him at the Kennedy home at Bethesda Terrace by F. Scott Fitzgerald on the banks of the St. Johns River. He was also known for his affiliation of the Ku Klux Klan during the 1940s.

Joe Haldeman
The Forever War. Hugo and Nebula Award winning SciFi writer whose experience and injuries sustained during combat in the Vietnam conflict provide an authentic background to much of his writing. He is an adjunct professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he teaches writing in the fall.

Bobo B. Jones
Florida Ghost Stories. A book of Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

Bradley Stone
Florida Gardening on the Go. She has already had two books on the Florida Gardening Month By Month series. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

Harry Crews
I took the one less travelled by. A young Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

Robert Frost
T wo roads diverged in a wood, and — I took the less travelled by, And that has made all the difference.” — from The Road Not Taken (1916) by Robert Frost

Edward E. Roberts

JoAnne Ducote Smith
The Legend of Sally and the Pink Marble Eggs. More modern writers. Elders were telling stories to new generations as soon as they could communicate. Not all the tales were about deeds of derring-do and fierce fights with sabre-toothed tigers. Many were more practical: where to hew wood, how to make a fire, and when to sow seeds.

Jeffrey Lamb
Save the Gator Queen. A Young Adult (teenager) adventure by a Floridian. Born with a mild case of cerebral palsy, the author’s doctors part of book sale proceeds to UCP (United Cerebral Paly) of Central Florida.

Lynette L. Walther
Florida Gardening on the Go. She has already had two books on the Florida Gardening Month By Month series. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

Harry Crews
I took the one less travelled by. A young Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

Robert Frost
T wo roads diverged in a wood, and — I took the less travelled by, And that has made all the difference.” — from The Road Not Taken (1916) by Robert Frost

Edward E. Roberts

JoAnne Ducote Smith
The Legend of Sally and the Pink Marble Eggs. More modern writers. Elders were telling stories to new generations as soon as they could communicate. Not all the tales were about deeds of derring-do and fierce fights with sabre-toothed tigers. Many were more practical: where to hew wood, how to make a fire, and when to sow seeds.

Jeffrey Lamb
Save the Gator Queen. A Young Adult (teenager) adventure by a Floridian. Born with a mild case of cerebral palsy, the author’s doctors part of book sale proceeds to UCP (United Cerebral Paly) of Central Florida.

Lynette L. Walther
Florida Gardening on the Go. She has already had two books on the Florida Gardening Month By Month series. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

Harry Crews
I took the one less travelled by. A young Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.

Robert Frost
T wo roads diverged in a wood, and — I took the less travelled by, And that has made all the difference.” — from The Road Not Taken (1916) by Robert Frost

Edward E. Roberts

JoAnne Ducote Smith
The Legend of Sally and the Pink Marble Eggs. More modern writers. Elders were telling stories to new generations as soon as they could communicate. Not all the tales were about deeds of derring-do and fierce fights with sabre-toothed tigers. Many were more practical: where to hew wood, how to make a fire, and when to sow seeds.

Jeffrey Lamb
Save the Gator Queen. A Young Adult (teenager) adventure by a Floridian. Born with a mild case of cerebral palsy, the author’s doctors part of book sale proceeds to UCP (United Cerebral Paly) of Central Florida.

Lynette L. Walther
Florida Gardening on the Go. She has already had two books on the Florida Gardening Month By Month series. Her best-known creation, which won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction, was conceived in the wilderness area of Alachuas at Cross Creek between Gainesville and Patrickers, on the way of St. Johns River. To theme of a folksy hero and his father’s need for meat for the table, struck a nerve.

Harry Crews
I took the one less travelled by. A young Florida outdoorsman who teaches and writes about safety and survival in Florida’s wild places.