

ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Gallery At the Center: "Ozarks Beatlemania" Exhibit through September 12

"Ozark Snapshots" September 15—October 5

"A Brush with Life" October 6—26, Meet the Artist Reception October 18, 1-3 PM

BARBARA WILLIAMS EXHIBITION TO HIGHLIGHT 2014 SYMPOSIUM OPENING RECEPTION



"Hill's Service Station" by Barbara Williams

Barbara Williams, artist and per course faculty member at Missouri State University -West Plains, will be the guest speaker at the opening reception for the Ozarks Studies Symposium on Thursday, September 18, from 5 - 7 PM on the mezzanine at the West Plains Civic Center. Her photographic exhibit, "Ozark Snapshots", will be on display from September 15 through October 5, 2014.

These "snapshots" of Ozarks family members caught in a moment of time are of actual people and actual places in could-have-been combinations. Williams states, "Memories, and what my eyes still see, are combined in mixed media collage of etchings, water media and photographs. Producing them has been a way to stop time, making it stay; to keep the people, places and things with me which are too valuable to disappear and which have too quickly changed. Collected items such as brightly colored 1930's tablecloths, wall coverings, period furniture and images of remaining Ozarks native stone buildings serve as inspiration and reference for these pieces of a time 'here and gone.'"

The reception is admission free and sponsored by the West Plains Council on the Arts and Community Foundation of the Ozarks with financial support from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Ozarks Studies Symposium— "Modernity and Regional Identity" Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, 2014

"Modernity and Regional Identity" is the theme of the eighth annual Ozarks Studies Symposium set for Sept. 18-20 at the West Plains Civic Center.

The event celebrates various aspects of Ozarks culture through presentations and performances by representatives of the academic world and the public sector. The symposium is being sponsored by the Missouri State University-West Plains academic affairs office, West Plains Council on the Arts and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Admission is free and open to all.

"We have an excellent program this year." said Dr. Phillip Howerton, associate professor of English at Missouri State-West Plains and coordinator of the symposium. "This year's theme was chosen to prompt a discussion about the impact of modernity upon how people both inside and outside of the Ozarks view the region and to prompt discussions about how the region is changing, both for the better and for the worse, as its culture is leveled by such forces as population shifts, globalization and enhanced communication."

Schedule subject to change—full, updated schedule available at

<http://ozarksymposium.wp.missouristate.edu/Schedule.htm>

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Keynote Address: The symposium's keynote address will be given at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, by Dr. Gary R. Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri and author and editor of numerous works, including *James Milton Turner and the Promise of America: The Public Life of a Post-Civil War Black-Leader*, *Missouri's Black Heritage* and *George Washington Carver: In His Own Words*. His new book, *Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri*, will be released by the University of Missouri press in October. Before becoming executive director of the state archives, Kremer taught history at Lincoln University in Jefferson City and William Woods University in Fulton. He also served as the State Archivist of Missouri from 1987 to 1991, and was a student and research assistant of African American history pioneer Dr. Lorenzo J. Greene while a student at Lincoln University in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The title of Kremer's presentation will be "Slavery and Freedom in the Rural Missouri Ozarks: A Look at Wright County."



At the Ozarks Studies Symposium

- **"Hard Toward Home" by Dr. Craig Albin**, professor of English at Missouri State-West Plains. Albin will read his short story, "Hard Toward Home," which is set in the northern Arkansas Ozarks and concerns the encroachment of the illegal drug culture into the life of protagonist Lid McKee, a laid-off factory worker and part-time logger.
- **"Childbirth in the Ozarks – Where the Old becomes New" by Charles Baclawski**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Heritage Studies Program at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. This presentation uses the Arkansas midwife war of the 1980s as a framework to address concepts of modernity.
- **"Mountain Modernity and Archeology in the Arkansas Ozarks: A Case Study from Van Winkle's Mill" by Dr. Jamie C. Brandon**, research station archaeologist with Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. This presentation will explore the archeological investigations that have been ongoing at Van Winkle's Mill, the site of a late-19th century sawmill community in the Arkansas Ozarks.
- **"Another Good Story Shot Down by an Eyewitness: Textile Production in the Ozarks" by Laura Bowles**, a writing instructor at University of Central Arkansas in Conway. This presentation will challenge the romantic pioneer stereotype of the housewife single-handedly growing cotton, spinning it, weaving it and making clothing, bed coverings and quilts.
- **"The Front Porch Regulars" by Larry Dablemont**, journalist and editor of Lightn' Ridge Publications and freelance author. Dablemont will discuss his new book, *The Front Porch Regulars*, in which he tells stories of some of the old-time river men and farmers he knew when he was a child.
- **"Faces Like Devils: The Bald Knobber Vigilantes in the Ozarks" by Dr. Matthew J. Hernando**, instructor of history and government at Ozarks Technical Community College in Hollister, Mo. In this presentation, Hernando will discuss the activities and the form of justice meted out by the Ozarks Bald Knobbers.
- **"Bloodroot: Poems of Rural Missouri" by Howerton**, who will read a selection of his poems that engage a number of themes central to life in this region, such as urban sprawl, inflated farmland prices, the demise of the small and independent farmer, the inability of outsiders to fully understand native culture, the loss of respect for manual labor and the loss of connection to past folkways and traditions.
- **"Jews, Gentile, and Intergroup Relations in Springfield, Mo.: A Change in Modernity" by Mara W. Cohen Ioannides**, senior instructor in the English department at Missouri State University-Springfield. This paper will examine incidences of anti-Semitism from the 1940s to the turn of the century. It will show the differences in how the 20th and 21st century Springfield Jews reacted to these incidents and the responses of the larger Springfield community.
- **"Exploring Regional Identity in Arkansas: The Salience of the Ozark Term" by Dr. Thomas M. Kersen**, associate professor of sociology at Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss. Kersen will present findings that suggest that, rather than getting less Southern and more Americanized, Arkansas regions are increasingly identifying more in terms of Ozark culture. Results also suggest that Southern exceptionalism is moot, that is, to be Southern is to be American.
- **"Favorite Fiddle Tunes, Old and New" will be a panel moderated by Dr. Ed McKinney**, former professor of history at Missouri State-West Plains. This panel presentation will offer discussions about some of the favorite fiddle tunes of past and present Ozarkers and will offer live renditions of these songs.
- **"Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves: Reflections on Traveling Medicine Shows and Our Quest to be Entertained While Fighting Gravity, Old Age and Pain" by Kim McCully-Mobley**, adjunct professor at Drury University in Springfield. This presentation will offer a humorous and quick look at the traveling medicine shows of the 19th century, the clinical studies of the 20th century and the 21st century's grasp of class-action suits, disclaimers, side effects and insights in the age-old war against pain and our quest to be entertained while fighting gravity, old age and constipation.
- **"Hook, Line and Sinker: A Collection of Fish Tales from Missouri Anglers" by Dr. Mark Morgan**, associate professor of parks, recreation and tourism at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Morgan will explore the reasons for the reduced numbers of people engaging in recreational fishing in Missouri and discuss his new book, *Hook, Line & Sinker: A Collection of Fish Tales from Missouri Anglers*.
- **"The New Deal, Dam Progress and the End of Producerist Populism in the Arkansas Ozarks" by Dr. Blake Perkins**, associate professor of history at Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark. Perkins will argue that, although observers today may find it surprising when considering the region's current tea party political culture, rural Arkansas Ozarkers in the 1930s generally supported enlarging the powers of the federal government in order to promote greater economic security and democracy for common, working-class Americans.
- **"From Mules to Monsanto: Modernity's Impact on Agriculture in Northern Pope, Johnson and Franklin Counties (AR)" by W. Scott Tomlin**, academic advisor at Arkansas Tech University, Russellville. This presentation discusses the transformations in agricultural practices in the northern portions of Pope, Johnson and Franklin counties from the 1870s until the 1970s.

In addition to these presentations, the 11-member musical group **Possum Holler Fiddlers**, based in the Branson area, will provide a special performance of **Ozark mountain music** at 3 p.m. Sept. 20 in the West Plains Civic Center theater. The performance is co-sponsored by the symposium and the Delta Kappa Gamma Xi Chapter, a regional professional honorary society of women educators, organizers said.



BEATLEMANIA EXHIBIT AT THE GALLERY AT THE CENTER

West Plains Council on the Arts, in support of the Ozarks Beatlemania Festival, invites the community to view a collection of photos and other memorabilia commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Beatles week-end stay at Pigman Ranch on the banks of the Eleven Point River near Alton in the Missouri Ozarks. The exhibit

will be featured at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from August 1 through September 12, 2014. The Gallery, on the mezzanine, is open to the public during regular Civic Center hours.

The Alton Community Foundation, an affiliate of Community Foundation of the Ozarks, has collected and catalogued a unique display which celebrates the anniversary of the Beatles' 1964 visit. The official website <http://ozarksbeatlemania.com/> states: "Residents of the Missouri Ozarks, Oregon County, the surrounding towns, and especially the Riverton community, have regaled others with stories of Pigman Ranch and its rich and colorful history for many decades, including the unexpected visit of the Beatles for a leisurely week-end on September 18-20, 1964. Reed Pigman, through his charter airline, American Flyers, contracted to fly the Beatles to their concert destinations during their U.S. tour in 1964. After their Dallas concert, the Fab Four and entourage had a 3 day break before flying to New York City, the last stop on their tour. Brian Epstein, Beatles manager, took Pigman up on offer of a quiet, leisurely week-end on the ranch in the Missouri Ozarks. No instruments, no music, no screaming fans (well, that didn't work out so well) just horseback riding, fishing, swimming, rest, and relaxation."

The exhibit will be on display until the Liverpool Legends Concert at the West Plains Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 12. The 2012 Grammy nominee Liverpool Legends Tribute Band, hand-picked by Louise Harrison, sister of the late Beatle George Harrison, performs songs spanning the entire career of the Beatles and on through their solo years. With precise attention to instruments and special effects, the Liverpool Legends make you feel like you are back in the 60's at the real thing!

The Liverpool Legends have played all over the world and in historic places such as Carnegie Hall and the Cavern Club in Liverpool, made famous by the Beatles. The Tribute Band now a rock and roll staple of Branson, has appeared on the Travel Channel's "Beatlemania Britain" and headlined "International Beatles' Week" in Liverpool where 100,000 Beatles fans jammed Victoria Street to hear them in concert. Liverpool Legends general admission tickets can be purchased at the West Plains Civic Center (417-256-6123), The Train 100.9 (417-264-7211) or at www.ticketmaster.com

The concert will be preceded by the Ozarks Beatlemania documentary, which includes interviews of many people who either lived at Pigman Ranch or visited the ranch in an attempt to see the Beatles. The documentary is funded in part through Community Foundation of the Ozarks' Cause Momentum on-line funding.

After the concert, the exhibit items will be added to those assembled at the Ozarks Beatlemania Festival, which will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13, in Alton. Watch the Facebook page for more information <https://www.facebook.com/OzarksBeatlemania>

Organizers hope the community will take advantage of this opportunity to view this portion of the collection during the exhibit's stay at the Civic Center. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the West Plains Civic Center and West Plains Council on the Arts, with partial funding provided by Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

"A BRUSH WITH LIFE" ART EXHIBIT BY REGINA WILLARD AND KATHRYN FISHER IN THE GALLERY AT THE CENTER



Kathryn (Kat) Fisher and Regina Willard

A unique collection of artwork by local artists Regina Willard and Kathryn Fisher will be featured in their exhibition titled "A Brush With Life" at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from October 6-26, 2014. The Gallery, on the mezzanine, is open to the public during regular Civic Center hours.

Regina Willard says, "I'm primarily a self-taught artist and painter working in oils and acrylics. My style would be considered 'painterly' with an emphasis on color and expressive brushwork. Creativity comes from my surroundings...nature, conversations with people, intriguing shapes and color appeal to me greatly. I don't particularly want to paint the photo or exactly what I see. I want to interpret it in paint and give it a new life beyond what is actually there."

After years as a successful textile artist, Kathryn (Kat) Fisher shifted from painting with thickened dye on cotton cloth to painting with oil paint on cotton or linen canvas. Her work is impressionistic with a lean toward expressionism. She has studied with such artists as Joshua Been, Dreama Tolle Perry, Michael McClure, Romel de la Torre, John Porter Lasater IV, Matt Smith, C.W. Mundy and Carolyn Anderson. Her work encompasses landscapes, animals, still life and figurative paintings. Her goal is to find beauty even in unexpected places and to bring to the viewer the joy, peace, excitement or wonder she found in the moment. She is a member of the American Impressionist Society.

WPCA will host a Meet-the-Artists Reception on Saturday, October 18, from 1-3 p.m., in the Gallery at the Center. All are invited to attend, view and discuss the artwork.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by the West Plains Civic Center and West Plains Council on the Arts, with partial funding provided by Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

WPCA NEWSLETTER
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COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING

West Plains Council on the Arts, revitalizing a tradition, invites everyone to a Community Messiah Sing directed by Larry Dame, scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2014, 2:30 PM in West Plains, Missouri.

The Christmas portion of "Messiah", using the G. Schirmer score, will be performed. The audience is invited to sing along in these favorite Messiah choruses.

Practice CD's and scores are available. Call Kathleen Morrissey at 417-293-7751 or Larry Dame at 417-256-4332 if interested. Bring your own score, or borrow one of ours.

Open seating; no advance reservations required. Non-singers are also welcome to listen and enjoy!

Sponsored by West Plains Council on the Arts, with partial funding provided by Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

West Plains Council on the Arts board members include Cathy Profitt-Boys, Carol Bruce, Kathy Campbell, Terri Combs, Judy Harden, Marideth Sisco, and Paula Speraneo, and volunteer administrator Kathleen Morrissey.