

NEWS

SUMMER | 10

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE STARKVILLE AREA **ARTS** COUNCIL

ART EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY YOUR SAAC...

Take a moment and enjoy the impressive selections by your local artists. Many are available for purchase.

Citizens Bank- 201 Highway 12 West
 Art on display by Arch Pitts. .

ERA- 111 West Main Street
 Art on display by Faye Fisher.

Express Employment - 100 Russell Street
 Variety of artists on exhibit

GSDP Welcome Center
 200 E Main Street
 See Calendar of Events

M & F Bank- 315 University Drive
 Art on display by Betty Jane Chatham

Rob Roberson's Law Office
 212 East Main Street
 Variety of artists on exhibit in front display windows

Starkville Electric Department
 Variety of art is on display.

Starkville Mayor's Office & Conference Room- 100 E. Lampkin
 Variety of artists on exhibit

VISIT starkvillearts.org
 for more information about
 Arts happenings in the
 Starkville area!

2010 COTTON DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL A RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS!

The 15th annual Cotton District Arts Festival in April was one of the most successful years to date, with attendance at an all-time high. Festival goers came from all over the region to celebrate the arts in Starkville's historic Cotton District.

The Cotton District Arts Festival broke all previous attendance records this year, the most dramatic of which was the overall attendance at the festival. Last year's record of 28,000 was shattered when 42,000 festival goers descended on the Cotton District to enjoy the best in arts and culture. In addition, the Hilton Garden Inn 5K boasted a record 300 runners to kick off the festival day of events. The Spruill Properties Pet Parade also had a record-breaking year when over 80 pets and their owners marched down University Avenue strutting their stuff.



The record-breaking crowd also helped make this one of the best years for other festival events as well. The Cotton District Arts Festival Villages had record attendance at the multitude of performances, demonstrations, and activities they offered. The fantastic musical entertainment didn't disappoint, either: all four stages played to standing room only crowds. The Taste of Starkville vendors also enjoyed a very successful year. The Taste vendors worked tirelessly to satisfy the crowds with their delicious food and much-appreciated cold beverages. One of the day's biggest highlights, however, was the incredible variety of art to be

...continued on page 3 ►

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Arts Council Members and Friends,

Summer has been extremely hot and dry, yet for the arts in Starkville, surprisingly fruitful. Work last winter and earlier this year produced incredible results, and I am very pleased to see our efforts continue to come to fruition. This year brought continued quality and growth in the MAG Film Festival, Everything Garden Expo and Cotton District Arts Festival. The Starkville Community Market broke ground on a new site and kicked off another successful season, and our Arts In Public Places Committee continued to expand its Arts Walk and provide the GSDP Gallery with quality and diverse exhibitions. Tireless effort goes into the promotion of the arts in all its forms; creating greater visibility, accessibility, and appreciation of the arts.

SAAC is committed not only to supporting the arts, but also creating opportunities for our local artists. Working in collaboration with the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, the City of Starkville, and MSU, the Arts Council has helped launch a Public Arts Initiative. The City of Starkville committed \$15000 in matching funds towards beautification efforts including public arts, landscaping, and expansion of the number of recycling and trash receptacles around town. In addition, MSU established the Community Development Training Fund to sponsor student worker positions to help develop project proposals and carry out the implementation of the projects. The City's Beautification Committee reviews the project proposals and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for approval of funding.

This collaboration resulted in the successful application and grant award from the Mississippi Arts Commission for Arts-Based Community Development. The "Children's Community Mural Project" will facilitate drawing and painting workshops in the public elementary schools across Oktibbeha County and incorporate the art produced into the final mural design. Community will be the theme of the workshops and of the mural itself going to the source, our children, to give vision to our future. The Starkville Community Market is another example of success. In a bricks-and-mortar project and a true collaborative effort, the new Market site provides a public arts venue through the Market, a multi-use public space, and an example of reclaiming unused space for the better good.

The Starkville Area Arts Council continually strives to better the quality of life in our community. Some verification as to the track we're on has come in the form of supporting funds for both projects and general operations. SAAC has recently received notice of grant awards from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau in support of both the Cotton District Arts Festival and the Everything Garden Expo, two of our marquee events in the spring. We have also been awarded an Operations Grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission for general support of our activities and expansion of our programming. The local and state support is an endorsement of the quality services we already provide and a mandate for progress and responsibility to the vitality of our community in the future.

Thank you for your support, interest, and appreciation for the arts as an integral part of our daily lives.

Dylan Karges, President

NOTES from your SAAC Office

As noted in the Spring/Summer issue of Mississippi Travel Guide: "Where the traditions of the Old South meet the charm of the New South, at the crossroads is the pleasant little town of Starkville in eastern Mississippi. This community has really made strides to encourage its local artisans to be as active as possible and even has a burgeoning arts organization, the Starkville Area Arts Council, that encourages painters, sculptors, and other artists as well as singers, dancers and musicians. When it comes to the arts, in Starkville you can have it all!"

This is what happens when an organization has tremendous support from its members as the SAAC experiences with each of you. Thanks to all for your ongoing support. Please encourage your friends and associates to join us and enjoy our excellent events. More importantly, get involved and enjoy the arts even more.

Remember The Arts...Become You.
Candy Crecink, Executive Assistant

American Life in Poetry: Column 256

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET
LAUREATE 2004-2006

A poem is an experience like any other, and we can learn as much or more about, say, an apple from a poem about an apple as from the apple itself. Since I was a boy, I've been picking up things, but I've never found a turtle shell until I found one in this poem by Jeff Worley, who lives in Kentucky.

On Finding a Turtle Shell in Daniel Boone National Forest

This one got tired
of lugging his fortress
wherever he went,
was done with duck and cover
at every explosion
through rustling leaves
of fox and dog and skunk.
Said au revoir to the ritual
of pulling himself together. . .

I imagine him waiting
for the cover of darkness
to let down his hinged
drawbridge.
He wanted, after so many
protracted years of caution,
to dance naked and nimble
as a flame under the moon—
even if dancing just once
was all that the teeth
of the forest would allow.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2008 by Jeff Worley, whose most recent book of poems is Best to Keep Moving, Larkspur Press, 2009, which includes this poem. Reprinted from Poetry East, Nos. 62 & 63, Fall, 2008, by permission of Jeff Worley and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2009 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

To learn more about American Life in Poetry
and The Poetry Foundation:
www.americanlifeinpoetry.org

COTTON DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL continued...

had in the Artisan's Village and its 113 artisan vendors. This year, not only did the Festival have more artisans than in past years, but the vendors had record-breaking sales thanks to the festival attendees.

In addition to all of these activities, the festival was once again host to a variety of friendly competitions. Make sure to check www.starkvillearts.org, the SAAC website, under "Events" to view a complete list of 2010 winners of the CDAF competitions.



Finally, the Starkville Area Arts Council extends deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved in making the 2010 Cotton District Arts Festival a success, and truly the best festival yet. Save the date for the 2011 festival, scheduled for Saturday, April 23; it is sure to be an event to remember.

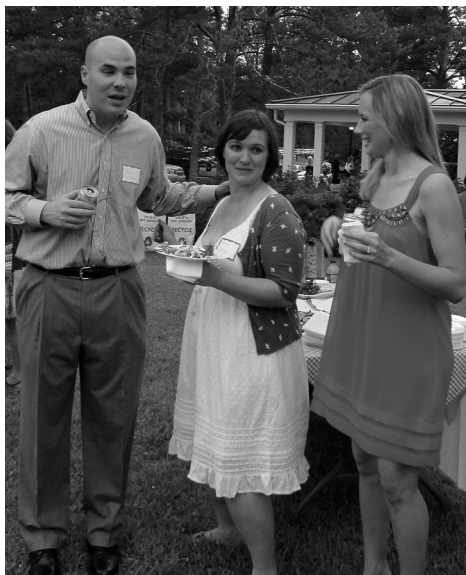
For more information on the Cotton District Arts Festival or how to join the Starkville Area Arts Council, contact the SAAC office at 662.324.3080 or www.starkvillearts.org.

ARTS IN EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Applications for the **SAAC Arts in Education grants** will be accepted beginning on September 1, 2010. Awards will be given for innovative projects in a fine arts or performing arts classroom or for projects in any classroom or school that incorporate the visual arts, music, theatre, dance, or literature into the curriculum. Classroom grants of up to \$200.00 will be awarded to classroom teachers for projects that affect only one class of students. General grants of up to \$500.00 will be awarded for projects that affect several classes, the entire school, or that may affect students for many years. Any faculty member or administrator may apply for the grants. The deadline for applications is October 8, 2010. The guidelines and application form may be found on the SAAC website (www.starkvillearts.org).

2010 SAAC MEMBERSHIP PARTY

Friday evening, June 11th found over 300 members, their guests and the 2010 SAAC scholarship winners enjoying the wonderful sounds and tastes of Italy. The annual membership party, Partito...Italian Style, was held on the breathtaking grounds of hosts Albert and Glenda Clark's home. Party goers enjoyed Italian delectables and beverages prepared by SAAC board members and the special creations of Chefs Greg and Jennifer Frazer.



Author of *Three Cups of Tea* to Visit MSU Sept 23

Greg Mortenson, the author of *Three Cups of Tea*, will be visiting the MSU campus on Sept. 23 in support of MSU's Maroon Edition, the freshmen common book program. Mortenson will speak at Humphrey Coliseum at 7 pm that night. Tickets are free, but are required for admission. Some tickets will be available at the SAAC office beginning mid-August.

Mortenson is known as an engaging speaker whose book describes his adventure attempting to climb K-2, one of the world's tallest mountains. Although he failed in his mountain-climbing quest, he was befriended by local villagers who took care of him after the disastrous attempt which nearly killed him. In return, he decided to repay them by building schools for girls in Afghanistan. He continues this work through his Central Asia Institute.

Invitational Ceramics Exhibit

The MSU Art Department is hosting a "Cup Invitational Exhibit" in honor of *Three Cups of Tea*. Ceramic artists from all over the country will be entering their interpretations of cups. This exhibit will run from early September through October. The opening reception will be Sept. 16, at 5:30 in the McComas Art Gallery. The cups that will be part of this exciting exhibit will be available for purchase, with some of the proceeds benefiting the Lamia Afghan Foundation which sends school supplies to children in Afghanistan. The public is invited to attend the exhibit and the opening reception. Lydia Thompson, Art Department Head, has organized this invitational. For more information, visit www.maroonedition.msstate.edu.

OKTIBBEHA COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM HAPPENINGS...

About fifty visitors attended the April 10th *Dolls Delight* morning event at the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum. The dolls were on temporary exhibit for two months following the opening event. The attraction brought in many visitors to see the dolls while they were on display. Diana Crabtree coordinated the doll exhibit.

Groups continue to visit the museum for special guided tours. The Starkville public school summer enrichment program brought in more than 200 students in mid-June.

The Friends of the Heritage Museum is sponsoring a series of Our Community programs honoring veterans of World War II. As a part of this series, more than 50 people gathered on May 20th at the Starkville Sportsplex Annex to hear Bill Lee, of Jackson, tell about the German U-boat campaign that destroyed American ships in the Gulf of Mexico during WWII. He is an expert on the topic; his fascinating presentation was aided by maps showing the large number of ships destroyed. The German warfare in the Gulf was classified as top-secret by the U.S. government.

A round-table discussion on this area's early days of aviation will be featured August 26. Panelists will include Gus Raspet's son Dave, Chester McKee, Terry Camp, Mel Swartzberg, Ernie Russell, Estel Wilson, George Bennett, and Stuart Vance. Time and location will be announced later.

On August 28, the Heritage Museum, the Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the MSU Center for America's Veterans will sponsor an exciting event to honor World War II veterans. The public is encouraged to attend the event to be held at 10 a.m. in the MSU Student Union. Dignitaries will be present to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the end of WWII. The veterans' service to their country will be acknowledged in a special manner.

The Heritage Museum is located at 206 Fellowship St. Regular hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 1 - 4 p.m. Call the museum at 662-323-0211 to request a tour at other times.

STARKVILLE READS...

has chosen *Three Cups of Tea* for their fall program. They will sponsor a program at the Starkville Public Library on Monday, August 30 at 7 pm, on "Perspectives on Pakistan and Afghanistan" which is open to the public. [See sidebar for more events related to this book!]

NEWS FROM THE STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE...

The Starkville Community Theatre "Rising Stars" Youth program and the Project Play program combined their talents for two nights of theatre at MSU's McComas Theatre this June. Project Play presented an original play written by director MJ Etua, followed by the "Rising Star production of "Once On This Island, Jr," a musical directed by Paula C. Mabry.

In July, the Starkville Community Theatre held its yearly fundraiser—a musical revue called "A, B, C's of Broadway." The cast presented Broadway selections from A to Z to the delight of the audience.

SAAC AWARDS FOUR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE ARTS

The Starkville Area Arts Council is proud to announce the 2010 winners of arts scholarships. Nathan Ford, Emalee Formica, LaTonya Lark, and Anthony Lowe each received a \$1000.00 scholarship to the college of arts where they have been accepted. To qualify for the SAAC scholarship, the students must have been accepted into a college or university arts program and must write a personal essay on “Why do you want to pursue a major in the arts?” They also had to send a complete resume of their activities and awards in their arts field, and CD’s, pictures, or a DVD of their work displaying their talent.

Funding for the college scholarships comes from the various SAAC activities, namely the Cotton District Arts Festival, Star Shine, SAAC Gala, Everything Expo, Magnolia Film Festival and Art in the Garden.



Nathan Ford

One of seven students of the Class of 2010 to have a 4.0 average, Starkville High School Honors graduate Nathan Ford has auditioned for and been selected into the Musical Theatre program with the Department of Theatre at the University of Mississippi. He was recently named as a Senior of Distinction at Awards Day. Among the vast number of on-stage theatre accomplishments credited to Ford, he also has done set construction and other backstage duties. Ford has the distinction of being involved in twelve productions since he entered Starkville High School. During his senior year, Ford served as President of the International Thespian Society, and he held several other offices in his undergraduate years as well.

Emalee Formica

An award-winning artist, Emalee Formica has numerous local, regional and national accolades for her drawing and painting skills. Formica was accepted into Savannah School of Art and Design. A recent honors graduate of Starkville Academy, Emalee Formica received second place at the Third District Congressional Art Competition in photography. During her junior year, Formica won third place in the Congressional Contest in both Painting and Drawing categories. Locally, she has won a third place in the Noxubee Refuge Photography Contest. Formica has garnered honorable mentions in her junior and senior years for Photography, and Best of Show during her senior year at the Prairie Arts Festival Student Contest. She has also been honored with a number of regional awards.

LaTonya Lark

Starkville High student LaTonya Lark was named the overall winner in the 2010 Third District Congressional Art Competition, and her drawing, “Seashells of Galilee,” will hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year beginning in June. Regionally, Lark has won Gold Key Scholastic Art Awards in 2005, 2008, and 2010, and the Silver Key Scholastic Art Award twice. She has been honored with a Jurors Award with the Scholastic Art contest. A member of the National Art Honor Society, Lark also mentored other art students in their process of learning. She served as president of the Fashion Design Program at SHS. Another extracurricular activity at Starkville High in which Lark participated was Project P.A.S.S. in 2009. Lark has been accepted into Savannah College of Art and Design, Mississippi University for Women, and East Mississippi Community College. Her major will be Studio Arts. Lark will make her college decision later in the summer.

Anthony Lowe

A National Honor Society member and graduate of Starkville High School, Anthony Lowe received Mississippi Scholars Recognition at the recent senior awards day. Lowe has been accepted into Mississippi State University and will study Computer Graphic Arts. In 2006, Lowe received honorable mention in drawing at the Cotton District Arts Festival. In 2008, Lowe was chosen as the Student of the Month in Computer Graphics Technology II. Lowe is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of the Golden Triangle. He has served as treasurer for the Keystone Club there for two years.



STARKVILLE AREA **ARTS** COUNCIL

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Starkville MS 39759-2914

www.starkvillearts.org

ATTENTION:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE: **SEPTEMBER 15**. Information for future newsletters should be sent to Candy Crecink at the SAAC office: Suite 18, 101 S. Lafayette Street, Starkville MS 39759-2914 or ccrecink@starkvillearts.org. You may also submit items through the SAAC website at www.starkvillearts.org/newsletter

AROUND & ABOUT IN THE ARTS: Upcoming Events

Starkville Community Market
Saturdays, through October

▶ AUGUST

through September 2
Exhibit of artwork from the T.K. Martin
Center programs
GSDP Gallery

Aug 13-14
Live Jazz Nights at the Central Station
Grill featuring El Rio Trio

Aug 30
Starkville Reads "Perspectives on Pakistan
and Afghanistan" program in conjunction
with MSU "Three Cups of Tea" events
Starkville Public Library • 7pm

▶ SEPTEMBER

through October
Exhibit of artwork from Columbus Arts
Council artists
GSDP Gallery

through October
"Cup Invitational Exhibit" ceramic show
in conjunction with MSU Campus "Three
Cups of Tea" events
McComas Art Gallery

Sept 1
SAAC begins accepting **Arts in Education
Grant applications**

Sept 10-11
Live Jazz Nights at the Central Station Grill
featuring El Rio Trio

Sept 16
"Cup Invitational Exhibit"
Opening reception
McComas Art Gallery • 5:30pm

Sept 21
Pops on the Plaza featuring MSU Brass
Quintet
Cadence Bank Plaza • 6pm

Sept 23
Greg Mortenson Lecture
Humphrey Colliseum • 7pm

Sept 24
Viva Starkvegas: **Bulldog Bash**
Cotton District

▶ OCTOBER

Oct 1
Starkville-MSU Symphony Orchestra
"Programs for Children"
Lee Hall Bettersworth Auditorium • 8:45am,
10:20am, 1:00pm

Starkville-MSU Symphony Orchestra
"Folksong Fantasia"
Lee Hall Bettersworth Auditorium • 7:30pm

Oct 8
Deadline: **Arts in Education Grant
applications**

Oct 8-9
Live Jazz Nights at the Central Station
Grill featuring El Rio Trio

Oct 29
Viva Starkvegas: **Pumpkinpalooza**
Downtown Starkville

▶ NOVEMBER

through December
Fall Showcase Exhibit and Holiday Sale
"It's in the Bag"
GSDP Gallery

Nov 6
Arts Council **Annual Gala**
Hunter Henry Center

Nov 8
Symphony Chorus Concert
"The Music of Franz Schubert"
First United Methodist Church • 3pm

Nov 12-13
Live Jazz Nights at the Central Station
Grill featuring El Rio Trio

Nov 30
Starkville-MSU Symphony Orchestra
"Crisp Christmas Concert"
Lee Hall Bettersworth Auditorium •
7:30