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**The  
October  
GPS  
Meeting**

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, October 24th at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain,

# Fast News for GA Poets

Dear Steven,

Please send any announcements for readings, workshops, classes, local groups, or any other poetry related events (**at least one week prior**) to me at [georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com). I'll be thrilled to pass these along!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next **GPS Quarterly meeting on Sat. Oct. 24th**. See side panel!

## Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference

Several Georgia Poetry Society members have been instrumental in putting together a fantastic writing conference in Columbus, GA. The [3rd Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference](#) in Columbus, Georgia is scheduled for September 24 through 26, 2009. Poetry Readings will be the evening of Thursday, September 24. The Keynote Session will be Friday evening, September 25 at 7 P.M. All workshops will be on Saturday, September 26. Visit the website to find out about the poetry readings and poetry workshops offered.

## Keith Badowski's Poetry Stunt for Oct 1st Feature Presentation

The current GPS President writes:

Here's what I propose: a Spontaneous Poetry chapbook.

Between now and Sept 22nd, I will take on 12 challenges for spontaneous poetry. That will leave a week to get the results printed as a chapbook, before my "feature" reading on Thursday October 1st in Columbus, GA. I won't be aiming for slick or pretty. This will be a "cheap" book that draws its energy from speed and uninhibited creativity. I might even include scans of some of the original handwritten pages. I also might include some of the earlier spontaneous poems. I won't be printing very many copies of this thing. I'd say no more than 125 or 150.

As for challenges/prompts, anything goes: random words, strange topic, specific form, an image, a question, a first line, phrase that must be used, a reference that must be included, etc.

I will spend 45 - 60 minutes on each challenge. Maybe longer if time permits that same day. I will only solicit the challenge on the day I will tackle the challenge, so

GA. Mark  
your  
calendars  
now! More  
details  
forthcoming  
!

Join Our Mailing List

there will be no forethought.

If you are reading this and wish to be solicited for a prompt, shoot me an email at "the bearded poet at hot mail dot com" (eliminate the spaces and substitute @ for at). Visit [There Goes the Top of My Head](#) for the results as I complete poems.

Peace, Keith

### GPS Contests Deadline

I hope you've been sifting through your poetry for those gems that you plan to enter in the GPS Contests this year. Remember the deadline for all our annual contests is fast approaching! Each year, entries are accepted beginning September 1 and ending with postmarks of October 15. (If **October 15** occurs on a weekend or holiday, entries postmarked the first business day after October 15 are accepted.)

[PDF of Contest Rules](#)

[GPS Contests Web Page](#)

### Feature Poet for October Meeting

Our Feature Poet for the October 24th GPS Meeting is GPS Member **Lynn Pedersen**. Lynn's new book is [Theories of Rain](#). One of her poems has recently been featured on [Garrison Keillor's Writer's Almanac](#).

Lynn Pedersen's poems, essays and reviews have appeared in New England Review, Poet Lore, Southern Poetry Review, The Palo Alto Review, The Comstock Review, The Chattahoochee Review and Cider Press Review. She is a graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Writing Program. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Poetry Workshop Leader

Our Poetry Workshop leader for the October 24th GPS meeting will be **Scott Wilkerson**.

Carey Scott Wilkerson, poet and theorist, is a member of the English department at Columbus State University where he teaches composition, literature, and creative writing. His poems and speculative essays have appeared in journals including Eratio, zafusy, Amaryllis, and Word/for Word. He is a recipient of a 2008 residency fellowship from the Lillian E. Smith Center for Creative Arts. He considers himself a friendly avant-gardist but, in truth, has no clear idea of what that means. His book of poems *Threading Stone* will be published in late 2009 by New Plains Press. He is a member of the Georgia Poetry Society.

Scott's talk will take the form of an apologia for all the mistakes poets make and a celebration of failure as essential mechanism for finding the voice, shaping a style,

and speaking truth through art. Some questions we'll consider: Why are long poems so loved by poets and so hated by editors? What is "the tradition" and why is everyone so afraid of it? Why is it important to champion poets whose work you do not consider essential? Why must poetry fail so often in order to triumph in the end? And we'll have some fun thinking about the work we do.

### Member Showcase

Our Member Showcase for the Oct. 24th meeting is Vice President, **Robert Simon**, Kennesaw State University. He will present from his two books: *Não Tirei Fotos*, *Os Sophíadas*

Dr. Robert Simon is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at KennesawStateUniversity. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and his Master of Arts degrees in Hispanic Language and Literatures in 2000 from BostonUniversity, and his Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. He has taught both Spanish and Portuguese language, and has investigated the presence of Surrealism, Mysticism and postmodernism in Contemporary Peninsular Literatures. Dr. Simon is the Editor-in-Chief of The Kennesaw Tower (an undergraduate foreign language research journal) and Poetry in the Department of Foreign Languages (a website devoted to poetry in languages other than English).

His critical work includes a study on the work of the Portuguese Poet Joaquim Pessoa, as well as articles written on Spanish and Portuguese poetries. His poetry includes *New Poems from the Airplane and Graveyard* (Finishing Line Press, 2007), *Não Tirei Fotos* (Finishing Line Press, 2009), and *Os Sophíadas* (Apenas Livros, 2009), and other poems published in several journals across the nation, including *The Reach of Song*, *The American Poetry Journal* and *The New York Quarterly*. He explains his poetry as "an exploration of the intimate connection between love, death and the variance of language." He is married to a very, very patient woman with whom he has an even more patient daughter.

### Directions to Callaway Gardens for October Meeting

#### Directions

Callaway Gardens® is in Pine Mountain, Georgia, 60 minutes southwest of Atlanta and 30 minutes north of Columbus.

Note: If using an online mapping service like MapQuest, please use the address "5887 Georgia Highway 354." Please note that this address is for the Real Estate Office entrance and very close to the main entrance of Callaway Gardens.

Mountain Creek® Inn or The Villas at Callaway Gardens

If you are staying in the Inn or the Villas:

Please check in at the Mountain Creek Inn on U. S. Hwy. 27. You will not use the Gardens Entrance to get to your accommodations.

The Cottages at Callaway Gardens or the Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens

If you are checking in to a Cottage or the Lodge:

Please come to the Gardens entrance on Ga. Hwy. 18. Enter and take the first left (before the stone gated entrance), then take the second left. This will take you to the Lodge and Spa (formerly known as the Southern Pine). Inside the lobby, you will find the cottage or lodge check-in desk to your right.

Callaway Gardens entrance:

Use this entrance to visit any of our attractions, enjoy golf, fishing and bicycling, or to dine at the Discovery Cafe and Champions.

If you are traveling from:

Columbus, GA (30 miles) - Take Interstate 185 North to Ga. Hwy. 18 East (exit 34). Turn right off Hwy. 18 to the entrance of Callaway Gardens.

Atlanta (70 miles) - Take Interstate 85 South to Interstate 185 South (exit 21). From Interstate 185, exit at U. S. Hwy. 27 (exit 42). Follow Hwy. 27 South to Pine Mountain. In Pine Mountain, turn right onto Hwy. 354 West. Proceed to Ga. Hwy. 18 and turn left into Callaway Gardens.

Macon, GA (80 miles) - Take U. S. Hwy. 80 West to Ga. Hwy. 208 West to U. S. Hwy. 27 North. Proceed through Hamilton and past the Callaway Gardens Store (approximately 10 minutes). Remain on Hwy 27 and turn left into the Callaway Gardens Hwy 27 entrance.

Montgomery, AL (110 miles) - Take Interstate 85 to Ga. Hwy. 18 East (exit 2). Turn right off Hwy. 18 to the entrance of Callaway Gardens.

Albany, GA (110 miles) - Take Corridor Z (Ga. Hwy 280) to Columbus. In Columbus take Interstate 185 North to Ga. Hwy. 18 East (exit 34). Turn right off Hwy. 18 to the entrance of Callaway Gardens.

Birmingham, AL (150 miles) - Take U. S. Hwy. 280 East to Opelika and take Interstate 85 North to Ga. Hwy. 18 East (exit 2). Turn right off Hwy. 18 to the entrance of Callaway Gardens.

Tallahassee, FL (200 miles) - Take U. S. Hwy. 319 North to Thomasville, then U. S. Hwy. 19 to Albany. Proceed using directions listed above for Albany.

**Callaway Lodging for October Meeting**

The following are some hotels, motels, and lodges near Callaway Gardens where we are meeting for the October Quarterly meeting.

***These are provided for informational purposes only and our mentioning them does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of any kind.***

Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain  
<http://www.callawaygardens.com/>

Lodge & Spa at Callaway Gardens  
3168 Southern Pine Drive  
Pine Mountain, GA 31822  
Main Telephone: 706-663-6833

The following text reproduced from the Callaway web site:

Callaway Gardens offers a variety of lodging options. 4 types of accommodations cater to your needs and experience.

The charming **Mountain Creek®** Inn has 323 guest rooms and suites that provide warm and inviting comfort. Guests can enjoy the Fitness Center at the Inn which is also central to the Callaway Gardens restaurants, shops, and attractions.

The **Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens** is the newest addition to the resort. The Lodge at Callaway Gardens provides 150 deluxe guest rooms and suites surrounded by the lush foliage of the Gardens. The Spa Prunifolia is a center of serenity offering indulgences that delight even the most discriminating of spa enthusiasts.

The **Cottage at Callaway Gardens** is perfect for a Georgia family vacation or small group getaway. The 155 two-bedroom spacious cottages are private yet convenient to The Lodge Conference Center.

For a secluded and luxurious getaway, **The Villas at Callaway Gardens** provides exquisitely-appointed, spacious villas that have one to four bedrooms, large living rooms, dining rooms, laundry rooms, and other deluxe features.

Callaway Gardens offers a great selection of accommodation packages that include extraordinary lodging, admission to the Gardens, and special events, in addition to the exceptional service, delicious food, challenging recreational activities, and the magical setting unique to this historical Georgia vacation resort.

**White Columns Motel**

<http://www.whitecolumnsmotel.com/>

White Columns Motel  
524, S. Main Ave (Hwy 27)  
Pine Mountain, GA31822

TOLL FREE:800-722-5083

DIRECT: 706-663-2312.

FAX: 706-663-2311

Email us : [reservations@whitecolumnsmotel.com](mailto:reservations@whitecolumnsmotel.com)

**Pine Mountain Club Pine Mountain Club Chalets**

<http://www.pinemountainclubchalets.com>

14475 GA Highway 18 West  
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

1-706-663-2211

1-800-535-7622

Email

[info@pmccresort.com](mailto:info@pmccresort.com)

**Days Inn and Suites Pine Mountain-Maingate North of Callaway Gardens,  
Pine Mountain**

[http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/Booking/property\\_info?propertyId=12766&brandInfo=DI](http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/Booking/property_info?propertyId=12766&brandInfo=DI)

368 South Main Avenue  
Hwy 27 & Hwy 18  
Pine Mountain, GA 31822 US

Phone:706-663-2121

Fax:706-663-2169

E-Mail: [generalmanager12766@wynhg.com](mailto:generalmanager12766@wynhg.com)

This Days Inn is located approximately one mile from CallawayGardens and 75 miles from Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport.

**Fireside Inn, Pine Mountain**

<http://www.fireside-pinemtn.com/>

335 N Main St (Hwy 27)  
Pine Mountain, GA31822

Phone: 706-663-4141

Close to Callaway Gardens.

When calling, please remember that we live at the motel. There is no midnight desk clerk to answer calls. So if possible, please call for information and reservations between 8am and 9 pm. Of course, you may check in late. Just give us a call and we'll be ready for you.

Phone: 706-663-4141

Fax: 706-663-4488

E-mail: [firesidepm@yahoo.com](mailto:firesidepm@yahoo.com)

### Georgia Poetry Society Volunteer Job Postings

Please seriously consider getting more involved as a volunteer leader in the Georgia Poetry Society. Contact Keith Badowski at [georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com) or call (334) 448-4715. Here are just a couple of job postings that urgently need to be filled by GPS members:

**Youth Contest Chairperson:** This job requires an enthusiastic desire to encourage children and youth to write poetry. Ideally we need someone with excellent contacts within the Georgia education system. The single most important factor in promoting the contest is getting the word out, so access to the

various e-mail list serves and publications used by educators would be a huge plus. However, it would be just as possible for the chairperson to contact those in the education system with those resources and recruit them to push the info out. The Youth Contest Chairperson finds and appoints a judge for the contest (which can be a GPS member), receives the entries, verifies that the contestants followed the rules, and ultimately reports back to the GPS President and GPS board with the winners. The chairperson is also in charge of contacting the winners and arranging for and hosting the awards presentation at the April quarterly meeting. Over the long-term, this chairperson would develop and maintain a database of teacher/educator contacts for future use-in cooperation with the Poetry in the Schools Coordinator.

**Newsletter Editor:** This job requires keen desire to "get the word out" about GPS events, especially the quarterly meetings. Ideally we need someone who has previously created newsletters, flyers, or press-releases for other organizations, however, it's perhaps even more important that person be highly skilled in using Word, Publisher, or some other software that can produce professional looking publications. The Newsletter Editor will need to produce 4 newsletters per year, usually one month before the quarterly meetings. The final product will need to be in PDF format for e-mail and website distribution. Also the newsletter will be printed and distributed as needed. The editor will mostly receive email announcements and articles that can be imported into the formatted document. The editor is also encouraged to actively seek and solicit articles and columns from the GPS membership. (See the most recent GPS newsletter for examples.)

### Johns Creek Poetry Group

Members and Friends of the Johns Creek Poetry Group--

A poet who writes about the little people in Georgia's history will be featured on Saturday, September 26 at the Poetry Group's session at Northeast/Spruill Oaks Regional Library, 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dr. Harold Lawrence, Minister of the First United Methodist Church of LaGrange, will read poems from his five poetry collections.

I have been impressed with the quality of his verse and the life he breaths into his characters from the pages of local history.

See the attached full program for Sept. 26. (Below)

#### RECENT PROGRAMS RATE HIGH

I want to recommend to other poetry groups two presenters whom you may not know about. Their recent programs were especially well done and received.

In July Lou Jones of Greensboro read from his new book, From Microbe to Consciousness. Many of his subjects are scientific, which Lou handles in interesting and creative ways. Contact him at 706-467-6013 and invite him to present to your poetry group.

In August Terry and Joan Hensel read their poems and demonstrated careful and thoughtful preparation. Terry talked about "expanding" the poem past the narrative, a lesson he learned from

Max Hirschberg, his favorite poet. A very nice touch were the distributed booklets of poems from which they read. Terry, of course, is GPS treasurer. Phone him and Joan at 770-475-4906.

#### LAURA SILLING MOVES TO FLORIDA

As she and her family relocated to Florida, Poetry Group Member Laura Silling wrote: "I have enjoyed very much being with the poetry group, and I'll cherish every minute. I think that what you do is wonderful. I promise that I'll put to use every single tip and advice I received in your wonderful meetings. I'll be missing your words of wisdom."

#### TWO OF OUR OWN CHOSEN

Two members of the Johns Creek Poetry Group have been chosen for leadership in the Georgia Poetry Society

Maria Shaheen is the new director of the Poetry in the Schools Program for GPS. She has already recruited several from our group, including Paul Samuels, Bob Lynn, David Welling and Steven Shields, to help with the program. If you would like to volunteer, Email Maria at [mshaheen@kennesaw.edu](mailto:mshaheen@kennesaw.edu)

Sandy Hokanson has been named Associate Editor of The Reach of Song, GPS anthology. She will assist Editor Tonette Long and will aid in distribution. At our Sept. 26 meeting she will make gift copies available to members of our group, as long as they last.

See you on September 26. And bring a poem for critiquing.

Best,

Bob Lynn  
770-876-2904

Johns Creek Poetry Group

**September 26, 2009, 10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library**

For directions: [www.northeast-spruill-oaks-regional-library](http://www.northeast-spruill-oaks-regional-library)

WORDS ON POETRY: "What we strive for (in poetry) is to move from the world of our immediate knowing...into the unknown.."-Stanley Kunitz

Coordinator Bob Lynn, Presiding

1-Self-introductions/Welcome to first-time attendees

2---Presentation by Harold Lawrence

A LaGrange Methodist minister and poet, Dr. Harold Lawrence, will read some of his poems about the little people of Georgia. A writer and publisher of historical materials, Lawrence has authored five poetry collections: Southland (1992), Memory Hill (1994), The Voice of the Turtle (1995), Seeing the Elephant (1999), and Chin Music (2005).

3---A Potpourri of Verse-By New Members Cindy Evans and David Welling

4---A Gift for Our Poetry Group

An anonymous friend of poetry has purchased at \$15 each 15 copies of the just unveiled 2009 edition of The Reach of Song, GPS poetry anthology, as gifts for regulars of our Johns Creek Poetry group. This collection contains almost 100 selected poems by GPS members and GPS contest winners. Come on Sept. 26 and receive your poetic treasure, \$15 value, as long as they last.

4 ---Group Critiquing of each other's poems (bring 7 copies of one poem; hand poet your written comments/suggestions after his/her poem is critiqued.) In two groups led by Steven Shields and Sandy Hokanson.

5---Dutch treat lunch 12:15 p.m. at The Patio (East to Highway 141, left to first light; right down hill to The Patio Restaurant.)

#### Opportunities for Poets

A. Future JCPG meetings:

No meeting in October. Attend GPS Quarterly meeting Oct. 24 at Callaway Gardens.

Nov. 21-Open Mic and Unveiling of Bob Lynn's new poetry book, Midnight Verse.

No meeting in December.

Meetings usually each 4th Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-noon

NE/Spruill Oaks Reg. Lib., 9560 Spruill Rd., Johns Creek GA 30022.

B. Georgia Poetry Society Membership fee of \$30 due. Send to GPS, P.O. Box 2184, Columbus, GA 31902.

C. October 15, 2009--Deadline for adult poetry contests of Georgia Poetry Society. For rules, see [www.georgiapoetrysociety.org](http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org)

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**I hope you've enjoyed this e-newsletter!**

**Sincerely,**

Keith Badowski  
Georgia Poetry Society

