

Currents

The Newsletter of the Center for Great Lakes Culture

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Issue 4, Fall 2002

CGLC 2003 Annual Awards: Call for Nominations

The CGLC Annual Awards are given to selected works devoted to the history and culture of the Great Lakes region. The Center is requesting for nominations for:

Best Website

Pursuant to its goals, the Center has established the Center for Great Lakes Culture Annual Website Award for the best world wide website devoted to the history and culture of the Great Lakes region. In particular, the Center will seek outstanding Great Lakes cultural and historical content that embraces new media and is therefore noteworthy for cultural importance, exceptional quality, and effective design. Last year's winner was the Wisconsin's Great Lakes Shipwrecks website.



Last year's recipient of the 2002 CGLC Best Website, Wisconsin's Great Lakes Shipwrecks: www.seagrant.wisc.edu/shipwrecks/

Best Exhibit

The CGLC Exhibit Award recognizes an outstanding exhibit that effectively tells a Great Lakes story. Priority is given to exhibits that tell stories that are regional in scope, but local stories also will be considered, particularly if the "lifestyles, folkways, industries, cultures, events, political perspectives, persons, etc." presented have some type of regional influence, impact, relevance or integration. The exhibit may be large or small; permanent, temporary or traveling; indoors or outdoors. Assessment will take into account the site/organization's annual operating budget and staff size as indicators of resource access; if the exhibit is a collaborative venture, the budgets of all participating organizations will be considered.

Best Book Non-Fiction

Past winners have included Michael McNally's, *Ojibwe Singers: Hymns, Grief, and a Native Culture in Motion* (New York: Oxford University press, 2000); and Dennis Valdes, *Barrios Nortenos: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the Twentieth Century* (University of Texas Press, 2001). The book should support the mission of the Center for Great Lakes Culture to understand and interpret the cultural history and expressions of the diverse peoples, traditions, and customs of the Great Lakes region and the region's interactions with the world.

Best Book Fiction

The Center has established the first Center for Great Lakes Culture Annual Fiction/Poetry Book Award for the best book of fiction or poetry dealing with themes, issues, experiences central to the history and culture of the Great Lakes region.

Winners of the CGLC 2003 Awards will be announced at the Annual CGLC Conference in the Spring of 2003.



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How to Nominate

For more information or to acquire detailed criteria to make a nomination, please contact Addie Guzman, addie@mail.matrix.msu.edu or visit <http://www.greatlakes.msu.edu/awards>.

CGLC Events

Dec 2

East Lansing, MI
Great Lakes Culture
Brown Bag
"Great Lakes Sailors,
Their Work and Songs
in the Schooner Era"

Regional Events

Oct 6

Lisle, IL
Illinois Landscapes

Oct 12

Michigan Historical
Museum
Lansing, MI
Michigan Archaeology
Day

Oct 13

Quincy, IL
Archeology and the
Underground Railroad in
Southern Illinois

Oct 26

Vienna, IL
2nd Annual Johnson
County Storytelling
Festival

Nov 1-10

Chicago, IL
Chicago Humanities
Festival - Brains &
Beauty

Nov 1

Palestine, IL
Archeology and the
Underground Railroad in
Southern Illinois

Nov 7

Ottawa, IL
Folk Songs of the Great
Lakes Region

Nov 7

Godfrey, IL
African Americans in
the Alton, IL Area



Dr. C. Kurt
Dewhurst,
Director

When the Center for Great Lakes Culture was established, one of the organizing principles was that the Center would explore regional culture of the Great Lakes region in relation to the theory and practice of regional cultural studies around the world. Over the past three years, the Center

for Great Lakes Culture has taken on the role as the coordinator of the International Program for the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Center has been awarded two major grants to facilitate a partnership with the Salzburg Seminar organization to produce a series of international seminars to examine the role of culture and communities.

In November 2002, a planning meeting was held in Salzburg, Austria with approximately twenty community development practitioners, cultural workers, artists, scholars, and researchers to explore how culture defines and reaffirms community. This planning session focused on a post-diaspora examination of how communities are formed and reassembled in a variety of ways and how multi-ethnic neighborhoods work to address and solve

contentious issues using culture and the arts. This planning session set the stage for a planned series of future Salzburg Seminars, each involving thirty to forty participants from around the world over the next three years. The workshop sessions will incorporate plenary presentations, working group discussions, and the use of technological resources to enhance the professional development and dissemination of best practices in regional cultural work.

The Center for Great Lakes Culture is especially pleased to be collaborating with the Salzburg Seminar organization on this ground breaking series of international seminars. The Salzburg Seminar, now fifty-five years old, is internationally recognized independent educational institution "committed to global understanding through broadening the perspectives of tomorrow's leaders. With principles of reconciliation and intellectual inquiry, central to its activities, the Salzburg Seminar is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas and experience in a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural environment." Thanks to the generous grant support of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, this new initiative will contribute to a growing dialogue and scholarship in region cultural studies set in a global context.

 Great Lakes Collections

Historical Collections of the Great Lakes at Bowling Green



The Historical Collections of the Great Lakes (HCGL) at Bowling Green State University in Ohio is a rich and unique source of historical materials documenting the Great Lakes region and connecting waterways. The collections, which are open to the public, include materials related to commercial shipping, shipbuilding, navigation, maritime law, commercial

fishing, shipwrecks, yachting, popular literature, freshwater ecology, recreation, and the story of Great Lakes ports. In addition to over 9,000 books, 4,500 pamphlets, and 250 linear feet of periodicals, the HCGL features a large collection of marine architectural drawings from numerous shipbuilding companies, along with over 130,000 images depicting the vessels, people, ports, and places of the American and Canadian Great Lakes region from the late-nineteenth century to the present. An important manuscripts and archival collection of over 2,000 linear feet holds major collections of such companies as the Lakes Carriers Association, American Shipbuilding Company, the Wilson Marine Transit Company, and the International Ship Masters' Association. The HCGL also maintains vessel genealogies for more than 10,000 vessels that had careers on the Lakes. You can find more information on this distinguished Great Lakes collection at www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/hcgl/hcgl.html.

Nov 8

Alton, IL
African Americans in the Alton, IL Area

Nov 10

Murphysboro, IL
Michael Accault, Moons of the Illinois Indians

Nov 17

Wauconda, IL
Gathered Around a Table: Paintings of Family Meals and Gatherings

Nov 17

Michigan State University Museum
East Lansing, MI
Michigan Jews Exhibit

Nov 19

Wheaton, IL
Illinois and the Underground Railroad

Nov 21

Kankakee, IL
Gathered Around a Table: Paintings of Family Meals and Gatherings

Nov 24

Lisle, IL
Illinois Landscapes "Midwestern Farm Women: A Century on the Land"

Dec 17

Rockton, IL
Folk Songs Of The Great Lakes Region

More events and a continuously updated calendar can be found on CGLC's web site at: greatlakes.msu.edu/calendar.

Commemorative CD: Michigan's Great Outdoors Culture Tour

Five successful summer seasons of Michigan's Great Outdoors Culture Tour (1998-2002) are celebrated in a new compact disc "sampler" of 22 selections from Culture Tour programs, now available from the Michigan Humanities Council.

"The Promise of Place: Journeys Through Michigan's Outdoors" features music and songs, stories and narratives related to Michigan's Great Lakes and northwoods culture and heritage. The "sampler" reflects an eclectic mix of the formats, topics and presenters' talents from the summer Culture Tour programs that take place in Michigan State Parks, National Parks, National Forests and small community venues in northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The CD's production is supported by a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant.

Proceeds from CD sales will help expand the number of Culture Tour programs available in coming years, according to Nancy Mathews, director of Community Programs and Culture Tour coordinator for the humanities council.

The CD retails for \$12 plus tax and handling (\$2.50). For more information, visit the council's web site: michiganhumanities.org/culturetour/2002/CDorder.htm or call 906/789-9471.



 Fellowship Report

By William Heath, Great Lakes/Newberry Library Fellow

I had a one-month Great Lakes/Newberry Library Fellowship from May 15 to June 15 this year. I am writing a historical novel entitled, *William Wells' Path*, about a man whose family came to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville, Ky.) in 1779 and he was captured by the Miami Indians when he was thirteen in 1784. He was raised by the Eel River Miami, married the daughter of the great Miami warrior, Little Turtle, and fought for the Indians during Harmar's Defeat (1790) and St. Clair's Defeat (1791), the latter the worst defeat ever suffered by the U. S. Army against the Indians and the biggest Indian victory in North America. The next year he switched sides and became, in 1793, the head scout for Mad Anthony Wayne up to and including the decisive American victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. The following year Wells was the interpreter between Little Turtle and Wayne at the Treaty of Greenville. For most of the rest of his life he was Indian Agent for the Miami at Fort Wayne, and he died in the Fort Dearborn Massacre at the start of the

Dr. William Ralph Heath is a Professor of English at Mount Saint Mary's College

War of 1812. As you can see, Wells' life is at the very center of most of the important events of the Northwest Territory during his time; and my research involves reconstructing the world of the Miami and Wells' role as a middle-man between the settlers and the Indians. The research involved is truly daunting, since no one has ever studied Wells' life in great detail before. At the Newberry I concentrated on those rare books I probably wouldn't be able to receive via interlibrary loan, including Moses Dawson's *Narrative of ... William Henry Harrison*, and Gerald Hopkins' account of the Quaker efforts to teach the Miami how to farm, to name only two. I realize that it is very rare for a novelist to receive a research fellowship of this sort, but I believe the quality of my work will justify the assistance. As in my previous award-winning novel about the civil rights movement, *The Children Bob Moses Led*, my goal is to write vivid fiction that is also valid history. Thank you once again for your generous assistance.

CGLC to Combine Annual Meeting with Great Lakes Maritime Conference

Planning is under way for the Center for Great Lakes Culture's (CGLC) first annual "themed" conference. This will be a Great Lakes Maritime-themed conference and workshop, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, a Great Lakes coastal city that has extensive historic and current relationships with Great Lakes maritime work, lifestyles and culture.



The planning committee is exploring with conference planning members of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History (AGLMH) opportunities for developing synergy among the two conferences and their participants. (The AGLMH annual conference will be held in Vermillion, OH, only about one hour's drive from Cleveland, and will incorporate some Cleveland-based events.) While no specific date has yet been confirmed, tentative dates include the last two weekends of September 2003.

Planned highlights of the CGLC maritime conference include:

- scholarly presentations focused on exploring the existence, trends and roles of Great Lakes maritime culture;
- K-12 teacher workshops on maritime-themed curricula;
- an exhibit space for sharing maritime cultural resources;
- social events to explore Great Lakes culture (e.g., food, music, stories);
- more "popular" versions of scholarly stories and topics associated with Great Lakes maritime history; and
- public presentation of the 2003 annual CGLC Excellence Awards.

▲ The CGLC Maritime Gathering website. Look here for future developments as preparation for the conference continues.

Cleveland area residents will be invited to participate in some program elements.

Tentatively mark your calendar for the second half of September, 2003. The core of the conference will be held on Saturday, with an annual meeting bookended on Friday and Sunday morning.

If you have suggestions, connections or a desire to work with the planning committee, contact Gail Vander Stoep at Michigan State University, vanders1@msu.edu or 517-353-5190, ext. 117.



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