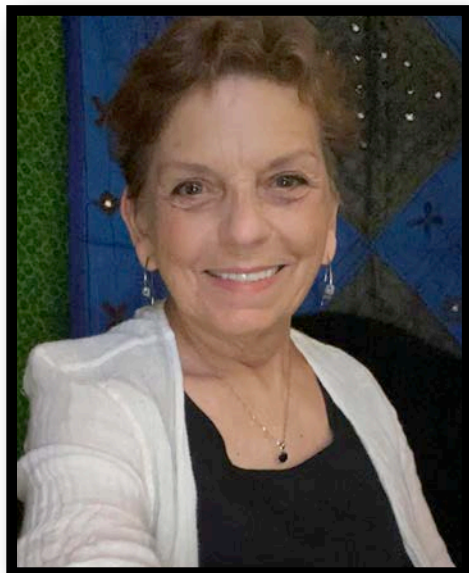




**MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER**

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello my friends,

My tulips and irises and pushing up through the soil. Nature is trying to bring Spring to our doors. I am afraid old man Winter has not finished his job just yet. One day it is 60 degrees and the next it is 16 degrees. Will my flowers survive?

In some cultures, stories are told only from the first snowfall to the last one. In my neck of the woods the weather changes so rapidly, I think we better be ready to share a story any time of the year, and that's what we do.

This year MO-TELL will be sponsoring four online events that will reach listeners near and far.

When Spring really hits, we will be helping to put storytellers in the Missouri State Parks. I hope you will be able to catch some of these shows.

Do not forget our Liars Contest. This year marks the ninth one. It will be in the St. Louis area again. The date is July 8. Watch for the updated rules soon to be posted on the website.

We also will be contacting you about your memories and stories of Missouri Storytelling, Inc.

Sharing our stories is so important to ourselves, our community and to the world. Please keep telling your tales.

Love to you all,

Joyce Slater

President of MO-TELL

"I'll tell you a secret. Old storytellers never die. They disappear into their own story."

- Vera Nazarian, author

# THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

Sink your teeth and claws into our monthly publication now



A new free E-Publication the 15th of each month

While you explore, consider submitting stories, articles, poems, and art.



[STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE](http://STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE)



# MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH



## *Fran Stallings*

Fran Stallings is an American storyteller for people of all ages. She has performed at numerous national and international storytelling festivals, in schools and libraries, and on the radio. She performs primarily folktales from around the world.

I met Fran Stallings at a River and Prairie Storyweavers Chicken Festival. She had brought her autoharp and her stories. Fran has combined her biology background with her love of storytelling. She is the force behind EarthUp! on the National Storytelling Network. She brings her scientific background and storytelling experience in the Earth Teller Tales column found on her blog and Oklahoma City University Environmentor. Fran also hosts the Artists Standing Strong Together Online Climate Conversations. Fran felt she needed to tell environmental tales and that the science needed to be correct.

Fran expressed some misgivings about Moth-style stories overlooking or pushing out traditional tales. The Bartlesville Public Library is throwing out books of folk tales, fairy tales and history because they are old. These stories are old because of their universal value. Indigenous people are starting to be heard but it may be too late. Fran is a coach for FEAST and Environmental Storytelling.

Currently Fran is using Zoom for storytelling and workshops. Feedback is so important with your audience so you must make extra strides to have eye contact. Technical rehearsals are paramount. Good internet, background, lighting and sound must be determined before using Zoom. Fran has learned to use Zoom for school visits. All-school assemblies turned into Zoom by Class. Fran partnered with teachers and wrote lesson plans. Fran volunteers with elementary teacher, Jeff Cauthen. Fran tells a story on Tuesday and then the students brainstorm 'sharing the fire' with Fran from her office and Jeff from his classroom. It is a new twist on being a resident artist. Working together with Lynn Moroney, Winter Tales founder and Chickasaw authority on Sky Lore, they concentrate on an Earth and Sky residency in schools training teachers and telling stories to students.

Fran applauds MO-TELL's State Park program. It gives tellers another platform to "stealth eco-telling" as tellers incorporate eating in season, caring for the earth and science into their stories without lecturing. You can contact Fran Stallings at [fran.stallings@icloud.com](mailto:fran.stallings@icloud.com) or 918-397-3079

Fran Stallings' website is: <https://www.franstallings.com/>

EarthTeller Tales can be found here:  
<https://www.franstallings.com/web/Environmentor>

The Oklahoma City University Environmentor page is here:  
<https://www.okcu.edu/artsci/enrichment/environmentor>

Watch this space at the National Storytelling Society for more information on EarthUp! 2022:  
<https://storynet.org/earth-up/>

Artists Standing Strong Together Climate Conversations can be found on their events page here:  
<https://www.artistsstandingstrongtogether.net/upcoming-events>

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET  
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS  
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

## RAPS MARCH 2023

**Thursday March 2, 2023, 7:00 pm** First  
Thursday Meeting  
Hybrid\* meeting at Trailside Center AND on  
Zoom  
Teller Spotlight: **Mary T. Nord**  
Story Theme: “If I only Had...”

**Saturday March 18, 2023, 10:30 am** Third Sat.  
Meeting Hybrid\* meeting at Woodneath AND on  
Zoom

**Saturday March 18, 2023, 7:00 pm** Deb Wallen  
Story Slam Hybrid\* meeting at Trailside Center  
AND on Zoom

**Thursday April 6, 2023, 7:00 pm** First Thursday  
Meeting Hybrid\* meeting at Trailside Center  
AND on Zoom Workshop:  
**Pacing and Pauses – Gary Kuntz**  
Story Theme: “Tricksters...”

\*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:

Trailside Center	Woodneath Library Center
99 <sup>th</sup> & Holmes Rd.	8900 NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64131	Kansas City, MO 64157

If not on RAPS Mailing List,  
Contact: [RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com) for  
additional info and Zoom links.

IS THIS YOUR CARD?  
TA-DA! (COOL, HUH?)



NEXT MONTH:  
HOW THE TRICK IS DONE!

## GATEWAY

Gateway Storytellers will  
send out email invitations  
once our next meeting  
date is confirmed.

"Luck of the Irish" is a Zoom only event and does require Zoom Registration to attend. Use the link below to register and you will be sent an email with a link to the actual Zoom meeting (See link below.)

MO-TELL Presents:

# LUCK OF THE IRISH

14 MARCH 2023

7PM CST ZOOM

**REGISTER HERE!**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?join\\_source=calendar&meeting\\_ref=calendar](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?join_source=calendar&meeting_ref=calendar)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?join\\_source=calendar&meeting\\_ref=calendar](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?join_source=calendar&meeting_ref=calendar)



DOROTHY CLEVELAND

DIANE COX



KORY MAY



RICH WHITE

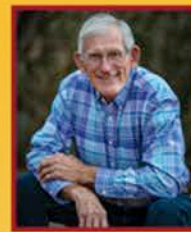


WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE... WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING!

38th Annual  
**TEXAS**  
**STORYTELLING**  
**FESTIVAL**

**MARCH 9 – 12, 2023**

Denton Civic Center • Denton, TX • [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)



ELIZABETH ELLIS SHEILA ARNOLD BERNADETTE NASON JOE HAYES COLIN URWIN

Personal Stories • Ghost Stories • Liars Contest  
Sacred Tales • Story Slam • Story Swap  
Kids Activities • Poetry • Music • Workshops  
Early Bird Registration Deadline February 23



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



# Registration is up!

Tejas Storytelling Association Members:

This year while registering, you can include a friend as a guest at member discount rates. Bring a friend!

Remember to see the member prices, you need to renew your membership first.

[Click for More Information: schedule, bios, lodging, and registration information](#)

[Click to go straight to Registration](#)

## About the Festival

Hear personal stories, ghost stories, a liars contest, sacred tales, youth activities, a story slam, poetry slam, music, and so much more. In addition, participants can attend workshops to hone their own storytelling skills.

A weekend pass includes:

15 storytelling events including

Ghost Tales, Liars Contest, Fringe, and Story Slam

9 workshops

3 music concerts

1 poetry SLAM

4 youth activities

and over 50 storytellers!

Early bird deadline is February 23.

Individual event tickets are \$10 paid at the door.

# **HEY, MO-TELL GANG!**

THOSE LOVABLE MUCKITY-MUCKS AT MO-TELL ARE BEGINNING A HISTORY PROJECT.

THEY'RE BEGINNING TO CONTACT CURRENT, FORMER, AND CHARTER MEMBERS TO "PICK THEIR BRAINS" FOR INPUT AND IDEAS. YOUR BRAINS MAY JUST BE THE MOST PICKABLE OF ALL!

WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS!

SEE BELOW ON ITS OWN PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

## **WHILE WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION..**

IN 2023 MO-TELL WILL HOST FOUR ZOOM EVENTS. ALL OF THESE EVENTS WILL BE AT 7:00 PM (CENTRAL) AND ONLY ON ZOOM.

MARCH 14 LUCK OF THE IRISH  
JUNE 13 CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER  
SEPTEMBER 12 A NEW MOON - NEW BEGINNINGS  
DECEMBER 12 HELPING HANDS



# MARCH ON JOKES

CAN FEBRUARY MARCH?

WHAT DO YOU CALL A FAKE DIAMOND?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A RUNNER IN THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY RACE?

WHAT CRIME FIGHTER DOES MARCH LIKE THE MOST?

WHAT DID THE IRISH POTATO SAY TO HIS GIRLFRIEND?

WHAT HAPPENS WITH YOU THROW A GREEN HAT INTO THE BLACK SEA?

KNOCK KNOCK  
WHO'S THERE?  
PADDY  
PADDY WHO?

*No, but April May.*

*A sham rock.*

*I wish you luck!*

*It's a tie between the Green  
Lantern, the Green Arrow and  
Robin.*

*I only have eyes for you.*

*It gets wet.*

*Paddy O'Furniture! Have a seat!*



### [Marketing for Storytellers \(Zoom\)](#)

Wed, Mar 1 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center

Event **Virtual Event**

Learn from entrepreneurial expert Kimberly Beer how to cultivate a brand that speaks to your audience as a writer or storyteller, and then explore effective marketing tactics, including networking, so

**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

### [Story Swap \(Hybrid\)](#)

Thu, Mar 16 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

This open-mic storytelling event is open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story, or just come to enjoy the show.

**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

### [Starting to Tell Stories](#)

Thu, Mar 30 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

You have a great story to tell, and the Library wants to help you tell it!

**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

# IT'S THE MTHP 2023

IN THE COMING MONTHS WE WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWS FOR THE MO-TELL HISTORY PROJECT.

ALL MEMBERS OF MO-TELL WILL BE ASKED FOR MEMORIES OF MISSOURI STORYTELLING, INC. FROM ITS BEGINNING UNTIL TODAY. WE LOST MUCH OF OUR HISTORY YEARS AGO AND ARE TRYING TO RECOVER IT THROUGH THE MTHP.

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR INPUT! WE NEED YOU!!

CURRENT MEMBERS WILL BE PHONED OR EMAILED BY A BOARD MEMBER. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO RESPOND ORALLY OR BY EMAIL, BY ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS, OR BY USPS MAIL TOO. WE WILL ALSO INTERVIEW PAST MEMBERS AND TELLERS INVOLVED WITH MO-TELL.

WE WANT ALL MEMORIES AND WILL COMPILE THEM. WE NEED ANY PAPERS: NEWSLETTERS FROM THE PAST, TICKETS, ADS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

EVERY QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED WITH THE 5 W'S. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY WILL GIVE US A FULL PICTURE. THANKS!

--PERRIN STIFEL

PERRIN STIFEL  
636 ELMWOOD AVE.  
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

314-413-2858  
PSTIFELSTL@EARTHLINK.NET

**NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND MO-TELL  
DON'T LET GO!**



NORMALLY, WE'D SAY "DON'T LOOK DOWN" BUT, IN THIS INSTANCE, THE DETAILS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE BELOW.

**LOOK DOWN &  
JOIN UP!**

# **THE 2023 MO-TELL LIARS CONTEST IS COMING,**

## **NO LIE!**

**WHO:** YOU, YES YOU, THAT'S WHO! LIARS, FAMILIES, LISTENERS, FOLKS, Y'ALL COME! YA HEAR?

**WHAT:** 9TH ANNUAL MO-TELL LIARS CONTEST, ORAL AND WRITTEN COMPETITION! SEE RULES TO ENTER!

FUN, CASH PRIZES, STORYTELLING WORKSHOP, BIG SILENT AUCTION! IT PROMISES TO BE OUR BIGGEST AND BEST CONTEST EVER! NO LIE!

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023, 9 AM TO 5 PM

**WHERE:** MASONIC TEMPLE, 12 E. LOCKWOOD AVE, 63119 IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN WEBSTER GROVES.

MANY PLACES TO STAY IN OR CLOSE TO WEBSTER GROVES. TONS OF WONDERFUL BOUTIQUE SHOPPING, BANKS, STRAUB'S GOURMET GROCERY STORE, SCHNARR'S HARDWARE, ART GALLERIES, THE HISTORIC ROLLING RIDGE NURSERY, 3 LOCAL BOOKSTORES, 20 RESTAURANTS, ETC. (GET THE IDEA?!) LOTS TO DO! AND ALL ST. LOUIS ATTRACTIONS ARE A 20-MINUTE OR LESS DRIVE FROM HERE.

WEBSTER WILL BE THE CENTER OF THE WORLD THAT DAY!!!

WOULD WE LIE?

**WHY:** WE LIKE LIARS AND LISTENERS!

WOULD WE TELL YOU A LIE? WE'D EAT STRAUB'S CHICKEN SALAD BEFORE WE'D TELL YOU A LIE!

MUCH MORE INFORMATION TO COME NEXT MONTH!

# THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

**RENEW TODAY!**

<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	<i>ANNUAL DUES</i>	<i>COMES WITH</i>
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$25	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$40	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$35	FAMILY-WIDE MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	TWICE AS MUCH OF THE SAME!!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60	\$250	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)

### SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

MO-TELL  
C/O  
SUE HINKEL  
2236 HIGHWAY N  
PACIFIC, MO 63069

OR PAY VIA MO-TELL'S PAYPAL ACCOUNT: SUEHINKEL1@GMAIL.COM



### THE BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

1. MISSOURI STATE PARKS STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE
2. MISSOURI LIAR'S CONTEST
3. WEB SITE PRESENCE FOR STORYTELLERS
4. MONTHLY STORYTELLING PROGRAMS
5. LOADS OF MERCH (HATS, CAPS, CLIPS, MUGS, BAGS, AND WHATNOT!)
6. NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AFFILIATION
7. A WORLD CLASS NEWSLETTER (HUZZAH!)
8. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (AND A VOICE THEREIN!)
9. CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

**RENEW TODAY!**

# Story of the Month

## FACT-TALE: THE BIRDS & THE BEAVERS

In 1825 when white men first saw the San Pedro River in southeast Arizona, it had so many beavers that they called it Beaver River. But they were trappers, who had already wiped out the indigenous beaver populations of the north and east to provide pelt hats for European and American gentlemen. They soon exterminated the San Pedro beavers.

Cottonwoods and willows along the riverbanks grew tall, no longer pruned into bushes by the nibbling beavers. Western Willow Flycatchers lost their willowbrush nest sites. Ranchers and farmers settled the floodplain, thinking its grassy flats would make excellent pasture and farmland. Unfortunately, the native bunch grasses (unlike prairie grass) could not withstand the pounding of hooves. Broken down, they left the land prey to erosion during rainy season floods.

Farmers' plows also destroyed the grasses. Eroded sand and earth scoured out the river's channel to 6-12 feet deeper than its earlier level. The water table dropped. People decided the San Pedro valley was good for little but as a resting place for migrating neotropical songbirds. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area was established in 1988. Ranching and farming stopped. But the ecosystem did not rebound, and the Western Willow Flycatcher did not return.

In 1999 American Rivers, a national conservation group, listed the San Pedro as the fourth most endangered waterway in the United States. Yet a year later, it wasn't on American Rivers list at all. The difference was beavers.

Reintroduced in 1999, the beavers got to work building a dam, which nearly doubled the local width of the river and pushed water into places that had been high and dry. They brought cottonwood and willow back toward their earlier role in the ecosystem and created willow brush for the flycatchers.

Now Western Willow Flycatchers have returned to the San Pedro.

The San Pedro River is still at risk from developments along its headwaters in Mexico, and from the water-hungry city of Sierra Vista. But Beavers have shown how quickly they can improve ecosystem health and diversity when they are allowed to resume their ancient relationship with Willow.

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

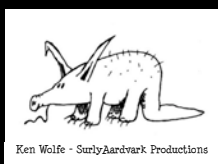
## VISION STATEMENT

- President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater2o@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jackie Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net (Membership)
- Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com
- At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com  
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com  
Sue Hinkel, suehinkel1@gmail.com
- Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

[www.mo-tell.org](http://www.mo-tell.org)

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Volume 6, Newsletter 3

Our mailing address: 7338 Belleview Ave, Kansas City, MO 64114



# THE MO-TELL BOARD