

# News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Volume 16 Number 2

Visit our website at: [www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org](http://www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org)

Winter Quarterly 2013

## President's Message

by Mary Anne Morgan

### Happenings from the Board of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm

Greetings! We are well into the New Year. The holiday season is behind us and the Board is looking forward to a very special time for Rawlings devotees. The Friends are working with the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society, UF's George A. Smathers Libraries and the Matheson Museum in Gainesville to launch a series of events here in the North Central Florida area to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *The Yearling*.

The first printing was issued on April 1, 1938, and the novel was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in April of 1939. We are proclaiming "The Year of *The Yearling*: Celebrating a Literary Classic," and we will offer a number of events open to the public to help us follow the trajectory of the novel from "publication to Pulitzer." Please see a list of events elsewhere in this newsletter.

All events will be free and open to the general public. This list will be updated in future newsletters and on our web site. There will be something for everyone!

This is an exciting project and we are energized! We want to share our enthusiasm with you as well! We are putting together an impressive list of activities to span the coming year (April 2013 to April 2014). I'll coordinate the Year of *The Yearling* Volunteer effort and together we will celebrate in fine style. See the call for volunteers in this and subsequent newsletters!

I look forward to meeting and working with you over the next year. Enjoy our North Central Florida spring!

## Scrub Trip 2013 Saturday, March 2

We are sponsoring a guided walk of a portion of the Yearling Trail in the Ocala National Forest on Saturday, March 10, 2013. Anne Pierce will read passages from *The Yearling* and tell the story of the Long Family's residence in the "Big Scrub" from the late 1800's.

The walk is a 3 mile loop that includes the sink hole mentioned in the novel. The trail is mostly flat and is well maintained but sandy and hilly in places.

We'll meet at the Rawlings County Park adjacent to the MKR House in Cross Creek at 8:15 AM to carpool to the trail. You will need to wear sturdy closed shoes, have sun protection including a hat, and carry water for the trail. Bring lunch and snacks, as no food or water will be provided during the excursion. There are no restroom facilities until we reach Silver Glen Springs. We will be on the Yearling trail by 10:00 AM and back to our cars by 1:00 PM..

We will also visit Silver Glen Springs, to see the "boils" and do another reading from *The Yearling*.

Please call the MKR Historic State Park at 352-466-3672 by Friday, March 1, to sign up. Leave your name, phone number, and the number in your party to register.

## Christmas Open House Recap Sheila Barnes

It was a lovely day for our annual gathering at the Rawlings house. We hosted a good number of folks who came out for the fresh squeezed orange juice, Brunswick Stew and great companionship. While it was a rather warm day to be celebrating Christmas, we still enjoyed the ambiance of the farmyard amidst the chickens and ducks.

“Friends of MKR” President Mary Anne Morgan was the “go to” gal for fresh squeezed OJ, while Judy Baker and Sheila Barnes ladled up the Brunswick Stew by the gallon. An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the house decorations and down home foods, that included corn bread from Anne Pierce.

The Christmas Tree in the living room was one of the prettiest yet, as no ornaments were spared. Volunteers and staff decorated the house with boughs of native greenery.

Thanks to all who made this event happen, and to those who attended. This small but festive event is one of our favorites at the Rawlings House each year. Please plan to attend next year.



Ranger Sheila Barnes and Staff member Judy Baker at woodstove making Brunswick Stew



## Call for Year of *The Yearling* Volunteers!

Can you help? The Friends of MKR Farms would like to create a bank of volunteers willing to donate as little or as much time, effort, talent and/or expertise as you care to offer at any one or multiple times. A list of opportunities and needs will be provided to all volunteers in the bank on a regular basis so you can volunteer for an activity that suits you best! We will need help to set up events, act as greeters, hand out programs, serve refreshments, clean-up after events, etc. over the course of the year.

I'd like to start by gathering your contact information. If you are interested in participating on any level at all please contact me by any of the methods below.

Mary Anne Morgan, President  
 e-mail: [yearlingvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:yearlingvolunteers@gmail.com)  
 cell phone: 352-214-6575  
 write: P.O. Box 337  
 Micanopy, FL 32667

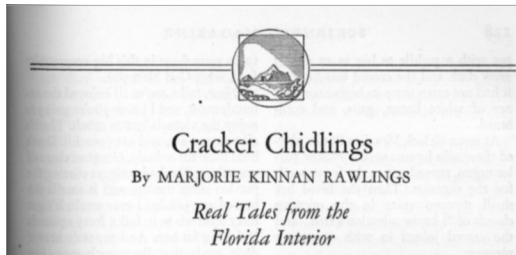
## “Chidlings” The Mystery Word.

By Rick Mulligan

It was 1931 before anything Marjorie Rawlings had been sending to potential publishers hit pay dirt (and not a minute too soon). It was a short story titled “Cracker Chidlings” which contained eight separate sketches based on

local Cracker people and events she had learned about. It was her first story about Crackers and Scribner's Magazine was the buyer.

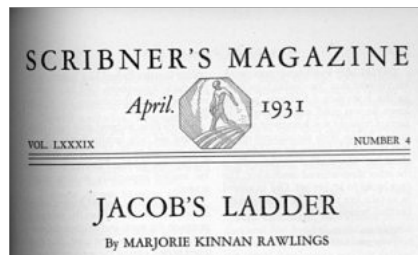
The title of her story drew our interest. Crackers we know about, but who or what are



Chidlings? There is no etymology for the word and it is not used in the story. Could it be a local derivative of chitterlings commonly known as chitlins? These words can be found in the dictionary and are defined as pork, and sometimes beef, small intestines prepared as food. But Rawlings was known for her precision in writing and enormous vocabulary so it is difficult to write the word off as some kind of mistake. On the other hand there was no way to verify its meaning or usage. It was a mystery.

One of the joys of reading Rawlings' stories is stumbling across a usage or a reference that explains something totally far afield of what you are reading. Such was the discovery of “chidlings” being used in two unrelated stories.

Rereading “Jacob's Ladder” recently (her second published piece) we came across “chidlings” used in a specific context. If you recall late in the story, Mart and Florry were done in when the storekeeper took Mart's traps in payment for the debt he ran up at the store. The loss of the traps seemed to break Mart, he lost his characteristic fearlessness and optimism. Florry thinks to herself “He's like to had the chidlin's beat out of him.” It was his courage that was beat out of him, or swagger if you will.



In “Lord Bill of the Suwannee River” Rawlings is describing the massive and imposing Bill Boyle who was larger than life and feared by all men. But she does concede that “Here and there a man had the chidlings to cross him” setting up the story of an epic battle. The word “chidlings” became a clear euphemism for courage or other more earthy terms.

Thank you Marjorie for revealing the definition of the word you chose for the title for your first published work at Cross Creek. It is also significant that she chose to characterize Crackers for their courage in her very first piece written about them, even if we didn't understand what she meant right away.

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ginny and Gunter Arndt  
 Danny and Judy Baker  
 Catherine Beazley  
 Diane E. Beck  
 Sybil Ann Brennan  
 Mary W. Bridgman  
 Dan Cantliffe  
 Ginger Carter  
 Norma Davis  
 Patricia Ann Davis  
 Sheila Dickison  
 John and Balinda Ferree  
 Sue Gaintner  
 Robert E. Haines  
 J. C. Harrell  
 Judith Harris  
 Candace Henderson  
 John and Phyllis Holmgren  
 Roy Hunt  
 Deanne Clark & William H. Jeter, Jr.  
 Brenda Keith  
 Shirley Kiser  
 Richard Knellinger, P.A.  
 Susan M. Kowal  
 Angel Kwolek-Folland  
 Murray Laurie  
 Shirley A. Lucas  
 Michelyn Lutte  
 Colleen, Frank and Lana Mahoney  
 Ruth Maughn  
 Philip S. May, Jr.  
 Andy and Eleanor Merritt  
 Judith McFadden and Ilene Nathanson  
 Robert D. McReynolds  
 Elinor N. Midgette  
 W.L. Miller  
 James R. Nici  
 Rebecca Nullier  
 Alan Palmer  
 Spence Perry  
 John Henry & Margaret Anne Pierce  
 Liz Pooley  
 Dana Preu  
 A.L. Rhinehart  
 Art & Edda Ross  
 Shirley and Pierre Thompson  
 M. List Underwood, Jr.  
 Pamela Lydick Whiting  
 Colleen Whitlock

## Corporate Members

Alachua County Trust  
 Blue Highway Restaurant  
 Horseless Carriage Club of America  
 Mansbridge Editing & Transcription

## Volunteer Highlights

By Sheila Barnes

We are always excited to welcome new camping volunteers to the MKR Historic State Park. In early December 2012, Joan and Laird Lorenz arrived after volunteering for a time at the Capital Reef National Park in Utah. This dynamic duo brought their great skills with visitor services and their interest in history to our little corner of the world.

It has been a delight getting to know them. Laird is adept at grounds maintenance, and is a terrific “roaming Interpreter”. He is often the first person a visitor encounters. He is gracious and cordial with our guests, and provides a wealth of information to them. Joan loves to lead tours and help us keep the house clean and decorated with fresh flowers. She is comfortable doing whatever is needed, and like her husband, has a “can do” attitude.

As their time with us progresses, the Lorenz’s are becoming more diversified in their duties. Just yesterday, Laird led his first tour through the house with great aplomb, while Joan continues to use her creative skills to the maintenance of our special collections. She has been working on repairing an antique crochet bedspread.

In just a few short weeks the Lorenz’s will be on their way to other adventures, and we wish them the best of everything the volunteer/camping life has to offer.

Meanwhile, we welcome back Karl and Nancy Lemke, who were our very first camping volunteers. It’s been easy getting them back in the swing of things, as they already know our routine. Karl was ready, willing and able from day one to pick up giving tours, while Nancy couldn’t wait to get her hands dirty in the garden.

We couldn’t be more grateful for the help our volunteer campers provide. The question that remains is: how did we ever manage without them?



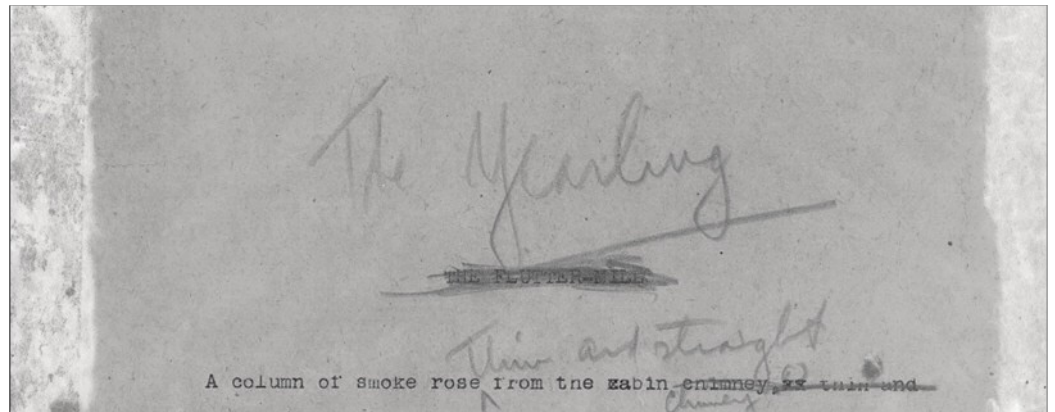
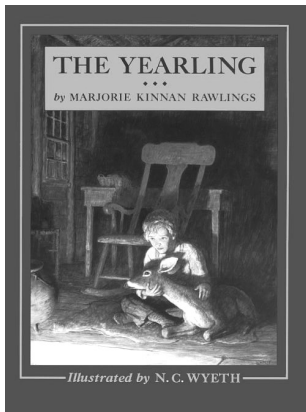
Joan and Laird Lorenz



Karl and Nancy Lemke

## The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual MKR Society Conference Amelia Island, April 26-27, 2013

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference, will take place on Amelia Island, April 26–27, 2013. The conference hotel is the Hampton Inn, 2549 Sadler Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. Conference sessions Friday morning and Saturday morning will be held at the nearby Florida House Inn, 22 South Third Street, Amelia Island, FL 32034. There will be a Friday afternoon excursion, followed by cocktails and a banquet dinner. The web site for the Rawlings Society is as follows: [www.rawlingssociety.org](http://www.rawlingssociety.org).



### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers: 2011-2012

President: Mary Anne Morgan  
Vice President: Robin Lauriault  
Treasurer: Anne Pierce  
Secretary: Barbara Wingo

#### CSO Board of Directors

Mickey Angell  
Dan Cantliffe  
Robin Lauriault  
Murray Laurie  
Mary Anne Morgan  
Anne Pierce  
Neal and Elaine Spencer  
Jim Stephens  
Florence Turcotte  
Barbara Wingo

#### Resource Advisory Members

Sheila Barnes  
Roy Hunt  
Michaelyn Luttge  
Kay Williams

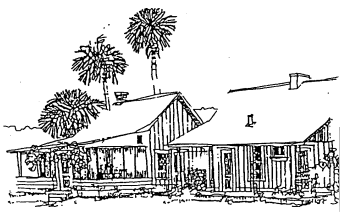
#### Newsletter Editor

Sheila Barnes

### The Year of *The Yearling*, from publication to Pulitzer

*Partial Calendar of Events ~ March 2013 to September 2013*

- March through May: MKR Farm Exhibit, Matheson Museum, Gainesville, Florida.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 -7:30 PM: Special Viewing of the Farm Exhibit—  
7:30 -9:00 PM: Screening of the original MGM film of *The Yearling*.  
Matheson Museum
- April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM: Florence Turcotte and Anne Pierce - “The Author Creating the Book” program.  
Matheson Museum.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM: Valerie Rivers - “Pets and Pet Care, Jody and Fodderwing” program. Matheson Museum.
- September Library Programs: Anne Pierce - “Visualizing *The Yearling*” program. *Times of programs to be announced.*
- Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Tower Road Library  
Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Millhopper Branch Library - AM  
Sept 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Hawthorne Branch Library - PM  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Main Library Downtown Gainesville



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Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.  
P.O. Box 337  
Micanopy, FL 32667-0337  
Website: [www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org](http://www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org)

**IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**  
Please check your address label. The date that you see on the label is the date your dues are due. If your membership is current, we thank you!

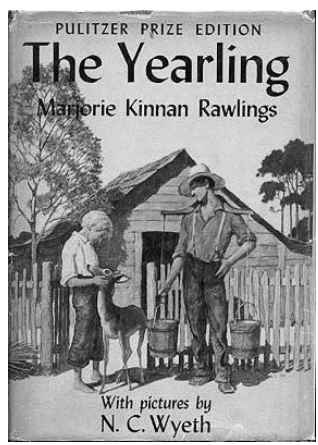


**2013 Friends of MKR Calendar\***

Saturday, **March 2, 2013**  
Monday, **April 1, 2013**  
  
Tuesday, **April 16, 2013**  
Saturday, **May 4, 2013**  
Tuesday, **July 16, 2013**  
Saturday, **August 4, 2013**

Scrub Trip: The Yearling Trail  
Kick-off of The Year of *The Yearling*: Publication to Pulitzer  
Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Publication of  
*The Yearling*  
Friends Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House  
Annual Meeting - Island Grove Fire House  
Friends Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House  
MKR Birthday Party at the Farm

\*Calendar of "The Year of the Yearling" events on page 5



<i>Membership Information</i>					
Type	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Lifetime
<b>Individual</b>	\$20	\$55	\$90	\$175	\$ 400
<b>Family</b>	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
<b>Educational</b>	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
<b>Corporate</b>	\$50	\$145	\$240	\$475	\$1,000

Please circle type of membership and send with your check to:  
**Friends of MKRawlings Farm, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 337  
Micanopy, FL 32667-0337

**Membership in the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.**

We invite you to join or renew your membership in the Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the MKR Historic State Park. Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc., is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 (toll-free within Florida). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_