

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS  
NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 22, 2016  
HOT SPRINGS, AR

WINNERS' LIST  
Prepared by Pat Laster, contest chair, 2016

**OVERALL RESULTS:** A total of 733 poems were entered in 23 contests, the least number being 12; the most, 51. Fifty-nine poets participated: Arkansas= 37; OK = 3; AL=2; MS=2; MN=1; MO=2; TX=4; TN=3; OR=1; FL=1; IL=1; UT=1. Ontario, Canada=1.

23. Saline County Branch Award - Sponsor & judges: Saline County Branch PRA – 43 entries.

- 3HM – “Awake” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.  
2HM – “Decent/Descent” – Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX.  
1HM – “The Jabberwocky Hour” – John A. McPherson, Searcy.  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “From Juke Joints to Concert Halls” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK.  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “The Prescription” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Sawmill” – Marilyn K. Smith, Fair Grove, MO.
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22. Gin Creek Award – Sponsor, a new branch in Searcy, Gin Creek Poets. – 35 entries.

- 3HM – “The Word” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
2HM – “The Innocent Age” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne.  
1HM – “Emerson Branch Library” – Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, Utah.  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Denied in Daylight” – Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS.  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “How Do You Define Love?” – Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX.  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Crossing a Muddy Swamp” – Pat Durmon, Norfolk.
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21. Crowson Award – Sponsor & judge, Don Crowson, Benton. 37 entries.

**Judge's comments:** Winning poems did well in showing rather than telling.  
Poems were generally smooth flowing and had content.

- 3HM – “This is Why I am a Follower of Christ” – Laura Loughridge, North Little Rock.  
2HM – “Is There a Reason?” – Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL.  
1HM – “From Days of Yore” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Looking Back” – Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL.  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “A Kindergarten Tyrant” – Sara Gipson, Scott.  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Windows” – Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK.
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20. Magdalene Collums Memorial Award – Sponsor & judge, Pat Laster, Benton, 31 entries

**Judge's comment:** Too many of the poems didn't use poetic techniques as required by the form.  
First & second places (both from Texas) had right-justified margins, another plus.

3HM – “A Country Preacher’s Gift” – Sara Gipson, Scott.  
 2HM – “A Slinky Kind of Spring” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne.  
 1HM – “Fighting Roy” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “I Get the Point” – Jim Barton, Huttig.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Heavy Shame” – Von S, Bourland, Happy, TX.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Along the Carnival Midway” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

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19. The Natural State Award – Sponsor & judge, Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock. 28 entries.

3HM – “What There is to Love About Arkansas” – D. Beecher Smith II, Memphis, TN.  
 2HM – “Arkansas in a New Generation” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 1HM – “Amazing Arkansas” – Vivian Barcroft, Johnson.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Natural State” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “A Perpetual Yesterday” – Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Lum & Abner at the Jot-Em-Down Store at Pine Ridge” – John A. McPherson, Searcy.

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18. Poets of the Pines – Sponsor & judges, Poets of the Pines, El Dorado. 21 entries

3HM – “Trees Speak of Renewal” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 2HM – “Percussion” – Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO.  
 1HM – “Oh, Woe Is Me!” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Mocking Bird” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “September Moon” – Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “When Iris Bloom” – Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL.

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17. River Market Poets Award – Sponsor, River Market Poets; Judge Kathy Helmer. 42 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** There were many wonderful poems with strong images, rhythm--poems that painted word pictures. I commend all the poets who entered this contest, for making it a difficult task to select the top 6.

3HM – “Ellie” – Fay Guinn, Jonesboro.  
 2HM – “Triple Impact” – Patricia A. Oplinger, Cherokee Village.  
 1HM – “The Return” – Dargan M. Ware, Moody, AL  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Morning at the Millpond” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Spell, Broken” – Pat Durmon, Norfolk  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “She Crochets the Spring” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne

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16. David Goodgame Memorial Award – Sponsor & judge, Rita Goodgame, Little Rock. 30 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** I was challenged with “On Second Thought” poems. Most conveyed wrenching to uplifting twists and turns from a single incident. Fresh imagery and thought-provoking angles were convincing winners. It was a delight to judge.

- 3HM – “Lost Ticket” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 2HM – “The Farrier’s Reflection” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.  
 1HM – “Leaving it to someone else” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “I Went Back to Sell the Home Place” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Two Ways to Look at the Moon” – Patricia Oplinger, Cherokee Village.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “The Berry Patch at Buckhorn Bridge” – Jim Barton, Huttig.
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15. Camp Award – Sponsor & judge, Laura Loughridge, North Little Rock. 35 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** It’s a shame that one-third of the entries were disqualified because they were the wrong font.

- 3HM – “Beginning Again” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.  
 2HM – “Along the Ridge Trail” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX.  
 1HM – “My Letter to Joe” – Bethel Kymes, Hot Springs.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “A New Start” – Dargan M. Ware, Moody, AL.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Taking some new steps” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “The Silence of Leaving” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.
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14. L. C. & Pat Bridges Award – Sponsor, L.C. & Pat Bridges; Judges: The Bridges & Laura Loughridge. 35 entries.

**Judges’ comment:** Again - About 1/3 of the entries were disqualified because they were not sent in Times Roman 12.

- 3HM – “I Come to the Garden” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX.  
 2HM – “Hope” – Rita Goodgame, Little Rock.  
 1HM – “A Poem for Mother’s Day” – Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Psalm 151” – Pat Durmon, Norfolk.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Building a Temple” – Jim Barton, Huttig.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Transported” – Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, Utah.
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13. The Bobby J. Hayes Knew Them All Award – Sponsor, chair & judge, Karen Hayes. 35 entries

- 3HM – “The Caboose Sank Last” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 2HM – “He Who Crows Loudest” – Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, Utah.  
 1HM – “Larry’s Surprise” – Vivian Barcroft, Johnson.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Leap” – Jim Barton, Huttig.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar’s Greatest Regret” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Music Lover” – Marla Bennett, Batesville.
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12. Sharp Award – Sponsor, chair & judge, Cathy Moran, Little Rock. 45 entries

- 3HM – “Desert Sunset” – Sara Gipson, Scott  
 2HM – “No More Stars” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 1HM – “Ghosts” – Harry McDermott, Fayetteville.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Mother’s Crows” – Stacy Pendergrast, Little Rock.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Rear View Mirror” – Sally Clark, Fredericksburg, TX.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “After the Wake” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.
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11. Opal Jane & Harry O’Neal Humor Award – Sponsor, Ben H. O’Neal III, Hot Springs; Judge, Diane Stefan. 41 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** More than half the poems submitted were truly well written, beautiful poems about an encounter with nature. However, this was a HUMOR contest, so only those which brought a smile or a laugh placed.

- 3HM – “Adventure on a Swinging Bridge” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.  
 2HM – “At the Vet’s Office” – Pat Durmon, Norfolk.  
 1HM – “How to Make it Rain” – Sally Clark, Fredericksburg, TX.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Shirking a Chore on a Spring Morning” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Communing with Nature” – Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “A Tale in Black and White” – Jim Barton, Huttig.
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10. Opal Jane & Harry O’Neal Memorial Award – Sponsor, Ben H. O’Neal III, Hot Springs; Judge, Diane Stefan. 51 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** Fourteen poems rose quickly to the top after the first few reads. Paring those down to six was not an easy task, but the winning poems were descriptive, had poetic flow, used great verbs and were imaginative, yet real.

- 3HM – “The Man in the Mirror” – Patricia A. Oplinger, Cherokee Village.  
 2HM – “Struck Dumb in the Womb of Time” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne.  
 1HM – “Cow Jumps Over the Moon” – Sally Clark, Fredericksurg, TX.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Clotheslines, the Storytellers” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Fourth and One” – Dargan M. Ware, Moody, AL.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “O-o-o-o-h, Elvis!!!” – Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX.
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9. “Poetry for Fun” Award – Sponsor & judge, Dennis Patton, Alexander. 35 entries.

- 3HM – “Morning Woes in Quick Time” – John A. McPherson, Searcy.  
 2HM – “Kissing Concrete” – Fay Guinn, Jonesboro.  
 1HM – “Confound Contraption” – Marilyn K. Smith, Fair Grove, MO.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Mama’s Accident” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “The Weeping Accident” – Don Crowson, Benton.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “The Tie That Binds” – Jim Barton, Huttig.
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8. Mildred McKinney Award – Sponsor & judge, Mildred McKinney, Camden. 35 entries.

- 3HM – “A Man and His Dog” – Pat Durmon, Norfolk  
 2HM – “All I Ever Wanted” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne  
 1HM – “Please, Love” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Colors of Love” – John McPherson, Searcy.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Love-----“ – Kitty Callan Sangster, Fort Smith.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Eternal Love” – Delores Hinde, Hot Springs.
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7. Scott Plantation Settlement Heritage Award – Sponsor & judge, Sara Gipson, Scott. 14 entries.

- 3HM – “Dear Betty” – Donna Smith, Greenbrier.  
 2HM – “look away” – Laura Trigg, Little Rock.  
 1HM – “Fleeting Childhood” – Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Cotton Picking Time” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “High Cotton” – John A. McPherson, Searcy.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Cotton Picker” – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton.
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6. Baker Nichols Award – Sponsor & judge, Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton. 12 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** I’m pleased with the poets’ interest in this introduction to the Baker Sonnet. The entries show sincerity and a love for poetry. Thanks to each one who tried this new sonnet form. Keep writing it!

- 3HM – “A Gondolier In Time” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.  
 2HM – “My Escape” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.  
 1HM – “Catching The Thunderbolt” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Crocodile In The Swimming Pool” – Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Final Symphony” – Barbara Blanks, Garland TX.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “Cypress Tree At Dawn” – Sara Gipson, Scott.
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5. Poets Northwest Award – Sponsor & judges, Northwest Poets. 27 entries.

**Judges’ comments:** What a wide variety of poems we had...quite a chore to judge.....we ran three rounds of reading and voting down to the final six.

- 3HM – “On the Endangered List” – Geneva King Emerson, Smithville.  
 2HM – “Gladly” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX.  
 1HM – “hanover drive” – Laura Trigg, Little Rock.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – “Mark’s Epiphany (The Ballad of the Prison Poker Game)” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – “Survivor” – Lilly Hobbs, Searcy.  
 1<sup>st</sup> – “I Got Talk to Show My Walk” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.
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4. Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs Award – Sponsor & judges, Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs; Delores Hinde. 27 entries.

**Judge’s comments:** There were many good entries, making the choices difficult. However, remind the poets to follow the rules, as some didn’t qualify by the rules of Rhyme or Inspiration.

3HM – “Earthbound Angels” – Patricia A. Oplinger, Cherokee Village.

2HM – “Enough For Him” – Kimberly M. Vernon, Pangburn.

1HM – “The Dream” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock.

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Shepherd’s Song” – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton.

2<sup>nd</sup> – “A Child was Born” – Jim Barton, Huttig.

1<sup>st</sup> – “Overcomers” – Don Crowson, Benton.

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3. Nina Tillery Memorial Award – Sponsor & judges – Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs; Jodi Tooke & Marie Allison. 32 entries.

3HM – “Teenager-hood” – Laura Loughridge, North Little Rock.

2HM – “A Mother’s Day Bouquet” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.

1HM – “Fitting into Footprints” – Sara Gipson, Scott.

3<sup>rd</sup> – “One Winter Morning” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK.

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Maybe Tonight, With Wings” – Dewell H. Byrd, Central Point, OR.

1<sup>st</sup> – “We the People” – Donna Smith, Greenbrier.

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2. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award – Sponsor – Paula Marinoni, Fayetteville; Judge – Liz Faulkner. 30 entries.

**Judge’s comment:** Food and drink well-done poetically.

3HM – “Peanut Butter Boy” – John A. McPherson, Searcy.

2HM – “Soul Food” – Dennis Patton, Alexander.

1HM – “Filling Pantries” – Geneva King Emerson, Smithville.

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Garden Dreams” – Jim Barton, Huttig.

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Vegetable Soup and Sweet Tea” – Bethel Kymes, Hot Springs.

1<sup>st</sup> – “Sweet Praline” – Kate Lacy, Fayetteville.

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1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award – Sponsor – the Nash Abrams family. Judge – Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, Mississippi. 12 entries.

3HM – “Serving up biscuits, with a side of the Blues” – Laura Trigg, Little Rock.

2HM – “Johnny R. Cash” – Sara Gipson, Scott.

1HM – “King of Ragtime” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado.

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Man in Black” – Don Crowson, Benton.

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Music Man from Huttig” – Fay Guinn, Jonesboro.

1<sup>st</sup> – “Remembering the Music” – Donna Smith, Greenbrier.

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Frieda Patton, reader.