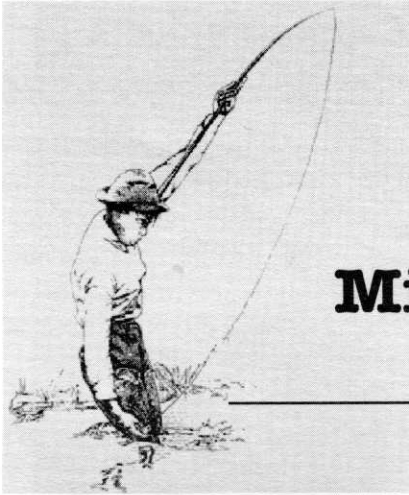


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Michigan Hemingway Society

Newsletter, Winter 2004 - 2005



MHS president-elect Mike Federspiel and past president Charlotte Ponder pose for a changing of the guard photo.

Charlotte has guided MHS for ten years, following the terms of founding president Joe Waldmeir. She remains on the MHS board of directors. She and her husband, Cecil ("The First Gentleman"), live in Decatur, AL. Their Southern hospitality has set the welcoming, friendly tone for which MHS events are known.

Mike is a school administrator in Midland, Michigan. His contributions have been pivotal in creating a visionary relationship between MHS and the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.

We thank both of these leaders for their able and willing service.

"Hemingway and Film" is theme for *Up in Michigan ...next year!*

Hemingway always had a love / hate relationship with Hollywood. He loved the income it provided him and hated that anyone tampered with his sacred text and characters. At its next annual gathering, the MHS will look at the films associated with Hemingway and the stories on which they are based.

There will be a great deal for us to discuss. Twenty-three of Hemingway's novels and stories were made into feature films. Additionally, two major films based on Hemingway's own life have reached the silver screen (*In Love and War* and *Hemingway* starring Stacey Keach) and there are currently two more major movie projects in production – one starring Anthony Hopkins as Hemingway; the other James Gandolfini (of *The Sopranos* fame).

**Up in Michigan, 2005
October 28 - 30
Stafford's Perry Hotel**

**Keynote speaker:
Academy Award-winning
filmmaker DeWitt Sage**

We are also honored and excited to announce that **our keynote speaker will be DeWitt Sage, an Academy Award winning director whose own Hemingway documentary will have its world premiere on PBS next September.** He's tracked Hemingway around the world (including in northern Michigan!) and will offer a filmmaker's perspective on the author's life.

Stay tuned to our website for details as the board continues to put the program together, and don't miss the opportunity to hear first-hand about the challenges of being a filmmaker-biographer.

--Mike Federspiel



The 2004 weekend began with a presentation of “Hemingway’s Real Women” by one of the founders and President Emeritus of the Michigan Hemingway Society, the much-beloved Joe Waldmeir. Taking female characters from Hemingway works, Joe spun a lively, imaginative tale. The women were all summoned to a bar where they shared cocktails and stories of “the old man.” It was with absolute delight that members of the audience witnessed these characters stepping off “the page” and into the first evening of the 2004 Hemingway conference.

This initial performance was a fitting segue into the portrayal of the Hemingway women. Charlotte



Ponder began the parade of women with her reenactment of Grace Hemingway, Ernest’s mother. Sharing reminiscences from Grace’s life before and with

Ernest, Charlotte entertained the audience with much of the researched material she has for a book in progress.

On Grace’s heel and dressed in a wedding gown came Ernest’s first wife, Hadley, depicted by Carole Underwood. And just as “Hadley” cajoled a great deal of affection and sympathy from the audience, along

came Pauline Pfeiffer Hemingway, adeptly portrayed in authentic 1930’s garb by Susan Lightcap.

Susan soon captured the heart of the audience much like Hadley –

only to leave the audience miffed once again – this time at Martha.

Entering from the rear of the room, Martha stormed in talking about the battle field of her marriage to Ernest. Audrey McMullen, as Martha, was the only wife of Ernest’s to leave him, and she left no doubt about her reasons for doing so in the mind of the audience.

The last of Hemingway’s wives to entertain the audience was Mary, played by Janice Byrne. With gun in tow, shells in her hunting jacket, and sharp tongue, “Mary” concluded the presentation as the fourth and surviving wife of Ernest.

--Diane Fox



Cappel conducts “Prudence” site tours

Never a group to be deterred by a little rain or wind, attendance was high for the MHS Saturday morning tour hosted by Dr. Constance Cappel, author of *Hemingway in Michigan*, and Simon Otto, local Native American and Historian.

Our first stop was “Indian Camp”, a small tract of land used as the setting of the short traumatic story of the same name situated in the woods behind Windemere, the Hemingway family cottage. Although the small community of Indian barkpeelers is

The Hemingway Women

gone, the locale is still very similar to when Hemingway described it.

The visually and historically rich area of Green Sky Hill was our next destination. In the 1850’s Peter Greensky, a Chippewa Missionary, constructed a church of dovetailed logs that stands today. In the wooded hills between the church and nearby lake lies a cemetery where Prudence Boulton is believed to be buried. After viewing the honorary (and arbitrarily placed) grave marker of the young girl immortalized as Prudence Mitchell in the short story “Ten Indians”, all were invited inside the church for a “smudging” a spiritual cleansing using burning incense that was performed by Simon Otto.

--Chris Struble

Photos courtesy Cecil Ponder

