



Mythcon 44

Progress Report #1

February 2013

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If you would like to participate as a Conference Committee member, or would be a willing volunteer during the event, please contact Marion.

We’d love to have you!

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Green and Growing: the Land and Its Inhabitants in Fantasy

The Mythcon 44 Conference Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to Michigan! We have a beautiful venue, and a wonderful conference in the works.



The [Call for Papers](#) has been issued, and we expect the usual high quality of offerings. Panels and other presentations are being planned. If you wish to submit a paper, or have an idea for a panel, please contact either Judith, our Panels Coordinator, or Leslie, our Papers Coordinator.

Our Guests of Honor this year are Franny Billingsley, Author, and Douglas A. Anderson, Scholar. Franny is the author of the 2000 MFA for Children winner [The Folk Keeper](#). Her novel, [Chime](#), appeared in 2011, and she has a novel forthcoming. Doug is twice winner of the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies, in 1990 and 1994. He is an independent Tolkien scholar from Marcellus, Michigan, and a long-time Society member.

Our theme and our venue have lots in common: the growing green! Michigan State University was the country’s first land-grant university, and is a leader in all things agricultural. Its 5,200 acre campus in mid-Michigan is three-fifths undeveloped, and the university maintains 17,500 acres throughout Michigan used for agricultural, animal, and forestry research. The [Horticulture Gardens](#) provide six distinct spaces that are open to visitors, with plantings ranging from roses to vegetables to annuals and perennials. The main campus features a [Tree Research Center](#), and a research team that supports the Christmas tree industry in the state. We know that our conferees will find MSU a truly green and pleasant land!

Follow Mythcon 44, and the Mythopoeic Society



Dealers' Room Information

Our Dealers' Room will be the spot to do your Mythcon shopping. Karla Powell, the liaison for the dealers, is ready to accept reservations for tables. She is working on recruiting book dealers and others and will be happy to work with any conferees who wish to sell items. You can contact her at the email address above.

The Mythopoeic Society will have its usual sales table, where conferees can renew their Society membership, purchase the latest copies of *Mythlore*, *Mythprint* and *Mythic Circle*, as well as Mythopoeic Press titles and other Society items. The Society can now take Visa and MasterCard as well as checks and cash.

Money Matters

- [Conference registration](#) rates are \$75 (Society members) and \$90 (non-members). Students' rate with currently valid ID is \$60. Conference registration runs through June 25; at-the-door rates will then apply.
- Full [room and board packages](#) include lodging for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night, along with Friday dinner through Monday breakfast, and a Sunday evening banquet ticket. Double occupancy rate for the package is \$285 per person; single package rate is \$455. Rooms must be reserved through the conference to get the conference rate. The deadline for room reservations is **June 11**. The deadline for meal packages is **July 5**. **Reserve these on the [conference web site](#).**
- Please let us know what type of room you need (2 double beds or 1 queen), the name/s of any planned roommates, if you need ADA accommodations or a quiet floor. The conference may be able to match you with a roommate if necessary; please inquire.
- Extra nights, for those arriving early and/or staying after Sunday night, can be reserved at \$57.50 double, \$115 single. Extra meals can also be purchased on a walk-in basis.
- Meals-only packages are available for those who have alternative housing arrangements. The full meals package, including the Banquet, is \$92. Single Banquet tickets are \$50.

Some Site Specifics

- Housing is in the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. This full-service hotel will be the venue for all conference programming and evening entertainments. See Kellogg's web site for details of amenities: <http://www.kelloggcenter.com/index.html> Conferees will make room reservations through the conference web site. Rooms have either two double beds or one queen-size bed; ADA rooms are available and should be requested when making your reservation, using the Note to Merchant box in Paypal, or on the paper registration form.
- Meals (excluding the Banquet) will be served in the [Brody Square Dining Room](#), located directly across the street from the hotel. This beautiful facility— completely renovated in 2010— offers nine different stations with a wide variety of cuisines. You can see what's on the menu every day at <<http://eatatstate.com/menus/brody>>
- For those wanting a more upscale meal, the [State Room Restaurant](#) is located in the Kellogg Center. Serving all three meals, the State Room offers casual fine dining. Hours are 6:30 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. Meals here are not included with the room and board package.



Conference Activities

Our schedule, in rough terms:

Friday, July 12	Afternoon sessions; evening Stewards' Reception on the Kellogg Center East Patio
Saturday, July 13	Opening Ceremonies & Scholar Guest of Honor speech; morning & afternoon sessions; evening concert by The Saline Fiddlers
Sunday, July 14	Morning & afternoon sessions; Society Auction; Banquet, Author Guest of Honor speech and Awards; Masquerade, the Not-Ready-for-Mythcon Players, and other evening fun
Monday, July 15	Morning sessions; Annual Meeting of the Mythopoeic Society; Closing Ceremonies



Late Night Activities

Late-night activities will be held in the hotel, at the close of regular programming.

- The conference Hospitality Room will be open until 12:00 a.m., and will be serving snacks and beverages, some of which are unique to Michigan.
- Bardic Circles will be scheduled for all three nights. They will be planned for a space as far away from sleeping rooms as possible.
- Golfimbulists will find several outdoor areas suitable for their activities.



Registered Conferees

Alexander, Edward
Anderson, Douglas
Anderson, R.J.
Billingsley, Franny
Bratman, Berni
Bratman, David
Callahan, Bonnie
Callahan, Tim
Coopersmith, Anne
Crowe, Edith
Dean, Margaret
DiSante, Paula
Donovan, Leslie
Emerson, David

Farrell, Eleanor
Fisher, Jason
Gilson, Chris
Hammond, Wayne
Harris, Jerry Ann
Holmes, Gerry
Hostetter, Carl
Houghton, John Wm.
Hunnewell, Gary
Hunnewell, Rachel
Hunnewell, Sylvia
Kapsalis, Mary Jo
Kinney, Daniel
Maudlin, Lynn
Naxer, Meghan

Oas, Peter
Oberhelman, David
Pelsor, Jeanell
Powell, Karla
Richmond, Mariana
Richmond-Schultz, Paul
Schultz II, Jerry
Scull, Christina
Smith, Arden
Speth, Dolores
Speth, Lee
Smith, Arden
Thomas, Hannah
VanLoo, David
VanLoo, Marion

Student Awards and Financial Assistance

Alexei Kondratiev Award for Best Student Paper

The Council of Stewards gives one award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was introduced at Mythcon 41 and was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and himself a brilliant scholar, who died in 2010. All applications for this award must meet these requirements:

- ◇ An application form [see format and requirements below] must be submitted to the committee chair, Marion VanLoo, at <mvanloo@comcast.net>, at least 30 days before the first day of Mythcon. [Deadline for 2013 is June 10.]
- ◇ The finished paper must be submitted electronically to the chair at least ten days before the first day of Mythcon. [Deadline for 2013 is July 1.]
- ◇ The paper must follow Mythlore style guidelines and should be between 4,000 and 9,000 words long. Guidelines may be accessed at: <<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythlore/submissions>>.
- ◇ Applicants must be accepted in or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract was submitted.
- ◇ Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper to qualify for the award.
- ◇ Winners will receive a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore* and half-off registration for the next Mythcon they attend. He or she is also strongly encouraged to submit the paper to *Mythlore* for consideration.
- ◇ The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet and on the Society's website, as well as in *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*.

Application Form (must include the following items in this order)

Name:

Mailing address:

Institution:

Major:

Status:

Title of paper:

Abstract of paper (up to 250 words):

Glen GoodKnight Memorial Scholarship Fund

For scholars needing financial assistance, the Mythopoeic Society offers one or more Glen GoodKnight Memorial Scholarships each year. Formerly called the *Starving Scholars Fund*, this fund was renamed in 2010 to honor the founder of the Mythopoeic Society. Awards from this fund are meant to partially defray the costs of Mythcon registration, room, and board, but they are not typically targeted toward travel expenses. Scholars may request the application form for these awards from the Papers Coordinator, Leslie Donovan, at <lesliedonovan@comcast.net>. Completed applications also should be submitted to the Papers Coordinator.

Preference will be given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration. The Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, will then make the final award[s].

Award[s] will consist of membership in the conference or credit toward other conference expenses. The deadline for applying for funds is normally two weeks after the deadline for paper abstracts; contact the Papers Coordinator for the deadline for Mythcon 44. Decisions on grants will be made within two weeks of this deadline. Applicants will be notified if they have been awarded funds.

Call for Papers

“Green and Growing: the Land and Its Inhabitants in Fantasy”

Author Guest of Honor: Franny Billingsley

Franny Billingsley is the author of children's and young adult fantasy novels *The Folk Keeper* (winner of the 2000 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature), *Well Wished*, *Chime*, and a novel forthcoming.

Scholar Guest of Honor: Douglas A. Anderson

Douglas A. Anderson, is an independent scholar, author and editor on the subjects of fantasy and medieval literature, specializing in textual analysis of the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. He won the 1990 Award for Inklings Studies for *The Annotated Hobbit*, and his work with Wayne G. Hammond, *J.R.R. Tolkien: A Descriptive Bibliography* won the Award for Inklings Studies in 1994.

How does mythopoeic literature address the relationship between the land and its inhabitants, between the wild and the cultivated? What are their respective moral values, their dangers and delights? Tangled forests, majestic trees, the ordered fields, the carefully tended gardens; or untamed, wild beauty: each offers a different kind of bounty to those who would live off the land. What role do advocates and protectors of the land play in fantasy literature, particularly as personified in characters such as Yavanna, Radagast, Sam Gamgee and, of course, Tom Bombadil. Our theme also voices many a cautionary tale— Tolkien's Dead Marshes, the scouring of the Shire, the desolations of Smaug, Saruman and Sauron, the unnatural winter in Narnia— inviting eco-critical approaches to mythopoeic literature. From the whimsical wild places of Baum, Seuss and Sendak; to the mysterious and often tutelary landscapes of Orwell, Garner and Burroughs— not to mention those of our favorite Inklings— we invite papers on any aspect of the green and growing land in mythopoeic writing.

Papers and panels dealing with the conference themes (or other themes sparked in your brain by this topic) are encouraged. As always, we especially welcome proposals for papers and panels focusing on the work and interests of the Inklings (especially J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and Charles Williams), of our Guests of Honor, and of other fantasy authors and themes. Papers and panels from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are welcome.

Individual papers will be scheduled for one hour to allow time for questions, but should be timed for oral presentation in 40 minutes maximum. Two presenters who wish to present shorter, related papers may also share a one-hour slot. Panels will be scheduled for 1.5-hour time slots and will normally include 3-5 presenters who speak briefly on the subject (usually 10-15 minutes), leaving substantial time for discussion with the audience.

Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society (<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythlore>). All papers should conform to the MLA Style Manual. Papers from graduate and undergraduate students are especially encouraged; we offer an award for “Best Student Paper.” See <http://www.mythsoc.org/awards/student-paper>.

Paper and panel proposals (250 word maximum), along with contact information, should be sent to the Papers or Panels Coordinator at the following email addresses by 30 April, 2013. AV and technology requests must be included in your proposal.

Papers Coordinator

Dr. Leslie A. Donovan
Associate Professor, University of New Mexico
ldonovan@unm.edu

Panels Coordinator

Dr. Judith J. Kollman
Professor Emerita, University of Michigan- Flint
jkollman@umflint.edu

The Mythopoeic Society is an international literary and educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and mythopoeic literature. We believe the study of these writers can lead to greater understanding and appreciation of the literary, philosophical, and spiritual traditions which underlie their works, and can engender an interest in the study of myth, legend, and the genre of fantasy. Find out about past conferences at (<http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon>)



Douglas A. Anderson: Scholar Guest of Honor

Doug's first book was *The Annotated Hobbit* [1988], and it is mostly for his work on J. R. R. Tolkien that he is known today. Much of this work on Tolkien had its origins in textual studies. In fact, the impetus behind *The Annotated Hobbit* was the studying of the revisions made by Tolkien to the various editions of *The Hobbit*. When Anderson learned that the revisions did not by themselves justify a variorum edition of the book, he proposed an annotated edition, which was eagerly accepted by the publisher, Houghton Mifflin. His study of Tolkien's revisions to *The Hobbit* comprises Appendix A of the published book. *The Annotated Hobbit* won the Mythopoeic Inklings Scholarship Award in 1990.

His textual studies on *The Lord of the Rings* resulted in an updated American edition published by Houghton Mifflin in 1987. This edition brings into print in America a large number of Tolkien's own revisions to the British editions which had never previously made it into the American editions. It also includes Doug's summary of the textual history of *The Lord of the Rings* as an introductory "Note on the Text". In England, a further update to the British text of *The Lord of the Rings* was published by Harper Collins in 1994, with a slightly revised "Note on the Text". This revised "Note" and new text appeared in the U.S. in a one-volume edition published by Houghton Mifflin in June 1999.

He also collaborated with Society member and conferee Wayne G. Hammond on *J. R. R. Tolkien: A Descriptive Bibliography* [1993]. While the research for this volume covered many years, and while the book itself went through many drafts, the final version was entirely compiled by Hammond, and credits Anderson as the lesser co-author. This book also won the Inklings Scholarship Award in 1994.

With Michael D.C. Drout and Verlyn Flieger, Doug was co-editor for volumes one through eight of *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review*. He is also a member of the Board of Academic Advisors for Walking Tree Publishers.

Photo credit: Marion VanLoo

Franny Billingsley: Author Guest of Honor

Franny grew up in Chicago, the oldest of five children, and daughter of a University of Chicago mathematics professor. Her childhood was filled with folk songs and ballads, sung by her father at bedtime, and writing stories in her head, "magical stories [that] always simmered in my mind." She was one of those students who would rather read than do homework or pay attention to the teacher (who else can relate to that?)



She spent her fifth-grade year in Denmark, where she absorbed the atmosphere and the tales of Andersen. As Franny says on her web site, "My memories of that year come to me now as though through a magical lens: the statue of the Little Mermaid rising from the gray waves of the Copenhagen harbor; myself at Christmas, wearing a crown of lighted candles; the Snow Queen's palace, present everywhere in the dark afternoons, the drifts of snow, the moon-shot ice."

Her late teens brought on a fit of conformity and, after graduating, Franny went to law school. She spent five years in her choice of career, and then went to Spain on an extended visit to her sister. She brought many of her favorite children's books with her, intending to get back to them as a pleasant change from legal documents. The re-reading experience awakened the imagination in her; "I'm convinced now," says Franny, "there was something very smart operating below the level of my conscious mind, something that knew what it was I needed. Once I began reading, I thought, 'I love these books! How could I have gotten so far from what I truly love?' From there, it was just a small step to beginning to write them myself. And so it was that I came around full circle, back to my oldest, truest passion."

She returned to Chicago, and worked in a bookstore while she now pursued writing. Her first book, *Well Wished*, was published in 1997. Franny cites the influence of characters from fairy tales on her own writing, and is back to spinning stories for us to read, enjoy, and honor.

Photo credit: Miranda Pettengill

Spending Time in Michigan

Many conferees will spend a lot of time and money traveling to Mythcon. We, the committee, suggest that you make the most of your time in Michigan, and plan to enjoy some of the state's attractions.



There are many things to see and do right at Michigan State; it is one of the biggest and greenest campuses in the country. In addition to the Horticulture Gardens and the Tree Research Center, mentioned on page 1 of this report, there are other natural attractions. The [Beal Botanical Garden](#) is an outdoor laboratory for the study and appreciation of plants. Established in 1873 by Professor William James Beal, it is the oldest continuously operated university botanical garden of its kind in the United States. Many of the

woodlands, wetlands, and natural areas are available to visitors. The Department of Entomology maintains a [Bug House](#). On your trip there, a guide will introduce you to the fascinating world of insects. Each guide is a graduate student in the department. And you don't want to miss the [Dairy Store](#), with fresh-made-on-site frozen treats!

There are scientific and cultural attractions, too. The [Abrams Planetarium](#) serves as an astronomy and space science education resource center for central Michigan. They offer a variety of planetarium shows to the public. Enjoy a free tour behind the scenes of a world-class rare isotope laboratory at the [National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory](#).



The lab is one of the few world-class facilities for rare isotope research. The [MSU museum](#) is free to visitors, and offers (among many other things) the Michigan Traditional Arts Program. The museum's Folk Arts Division identifies, documents, preserves, and presents traditional arts and cultural heritage of the state. The [Main Library](#) and branch libraries elsewhere on campus house a collection of almost 5 million volumes, along with thousands of other resources in print and electronic formats. Mp3 devices are available at the Main Library Circulation Desk. Visitors may check one out and go on a self-guided walking tour of the Main Library. And the gem of the campus is the newest museum, the [Broad Art Museum](#). The museum features a striking façade of pleated stainless steel and glass, and is committed to exploring international contemporary culture and ideas through art.



Just a short way down the road is the striking [Library of Michigan](#) and [Michigan Historical Museum](#). The beautiful library building has a Michigan white pine growing in the center of the complex, and the museum has a wealth of artifacts from the state's past.

One can certainly spend some wonderful hours in the countryside, east, west, south or north in Michigan. With four of the five Great Lakes close at hand, the summertime is perfect for enjoying the outdoors. A good way to begin your planning for visiting wineries, beaches, forests, shopping areas, scenic rivers, golf courses and much more is to visit the [Pure Michigan](#) visitors' website. A traveler's treasure-trove of information, the site will introduce you to many vacation options. The conference committee will be happy to be of help to you as you make your plans for an enjoyable stay, however long you make it.



MYTHCON 44

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<http://www.mythcon.org>

Room & Board packages available [online](#). Reserve yours now!

Traveling to Mythcon

- Kellogg Center is located eight miles from Lansing's [Capital Region International Airport](#) (LAN), served by Delta and United. Shuttle service is available to the Center.
- Flying to the conference can also be done using [Detroit Metropolitan Airport](#) (DTW), which is within 90 miles, Metro Airport is likely the most affordable option. It is served by several major airlines, including Southwest. There is also the [Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport](#) (AZO), within 80 miles, and [Grand Rapids Ford Airport](#) (GRR), within 65 miles.
- There is very convenient, reliable, and reasonably-priced motor coach service from Detroit Metro to East Lansing on the comfortable [Michigan Flyer buses](#). You can book round trips, and discounts are given for two or more people travelling together both ways. There are eight runs each day from Metro to East Lansing, and they provide free water and free WiFi.
- A full range of rental vehicles is also available at Metro, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids Airports.
- If airport-to-venue shuttle service from Grand Rapids airport is needed, contact the [East Lansing Taxi Co.](#)
- East Lansing is served by [Amtrak](#); station code LNS, and by [Greyhound Bus](#), located 1 mile south of the conference center.
- For those renting cars or driving one's own vehicle to the campus, East Lansing is located in south-central Lower Michigan just off US-127, and near I-96. Interstate-94 runs the width of southern Michigan, and north-bound US-127 is at Exit 138 off I-94. See more detailed directions to [Kellogg Center](#).
- A 1,000-space attached parking garage is available at no charge to guests at the Kellogg Center.