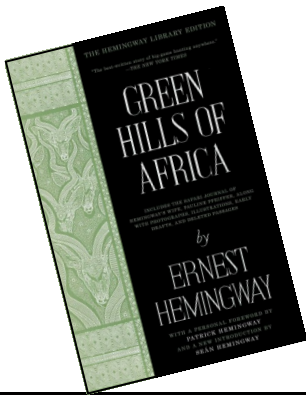




Green Hills of Africa Reading Retreat

On April 12-13, the museum hosted a reading retreat based on Hemingway's *Green Hills of Africa*. Throughout the weekend, participants gathered to talk about three novels connected to the safari Ernest and Pauline Hemingway took in 1933-34. The first novel was *Green Hills of Africa*, a fictionalized account of the Hemingways' trip. The second was Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa*, the memoir of a European woman who ran a farm near the same place the Hemingways hunted. The third novel was *The River Between* by Ngugi wa Thiong'o, an account of European colonization of Kenya told by a Kenyan author. In addition to discussions of these books, the participants joined in other fun activities to experience the background of the novels. On Friday evening, the participants enjoyed a screening of the 1985 Academy-Award-winning film *Out of Africa*, starring Robert Redford and Meryl Streep. On Saturday night, participants celebrated at a safari-themed cocktail party on the Piggott Square. We have reading retreats every spring, and we hope you will join us next year!



*Some of sights
the reading
retreat.*



Director's Corner

At the Saturday night party that concluded our April Reading Retreat, we also celebrated the legacy of our Executive Director Dr. Ruth Hawkins, who will be retiring from the University at the end of June. Ruth led the effort to found the museum and also literally wrote the book on the place. We'll be sorry to see her go, but we wish her the best as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement!

This July 4 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the museum. We will celebrate with the community at the annual Piggott 4th of July Celebration. We will also hold a celebration weekend later in the fall. We'll let you know when details are available. Thank you all for your support through the years. We're looking forward to the next twenty years!

Hope to see you soon,
Adam

Dorene O'Brien Announced as Writer-in-Residence

We are thrilled to announce our writer-in-residence for 2019. Dorene O'Brien of Detroit, Michigan, will spend the month of June in residence at the museum and will serve as a mentor for other writers at the museum's June Writers' Retreat. The residency is made possible by an underwriting sponsorship by Piggott State Bank.

Dorene O'Brien is a Detroit-based creative writing teacher and writer whose stories have won the *Red Rock Review* Mark Twain Award for Short Fiction, the *Chicago Tribune* Nelson Algren Award, the *New Millennium Writings* Fiction Prize, and the international Bridport Prize. She is also an NEA and a Vermont Studio Center creative writing fellow. Her work has been nominated for three Pushcart prizes, has been published in special Kindle editions, and has appeared in the *Baltimore Review*, *Madison Review*, *Best of Carve Magazine*, *Short Story Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Detroit Noir*, *Montreal Review*, *Passages North*, and others. *Voices of the Lost and Found*, her first fiction collection, was a finalist for the Drake Emerging Writer Award and won the USA Best Book Award for Short Fiction. Her fiction chapbook, *Ovenbirds and Other Stories*, won the Wordrunner Chapbook Prize in 2018. Her second full-length collection, *What It Might Feel Like to Hope*, released in 2019, was named first runner-up in the Mary Roberts Rinehart Fiction Prize and won a gold medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards (IPPY). She is currently writing a literary/Sci-Fi hybrid novel.



Dorene O'Brien

In addition to serving as a mentor for the June retreat, O'Brien will spend the month working on her own writing in the Barn-Studio where Ernest Hemingway penned portions of *A Farewell to Arms*. She will also live in the community, in a loft apartment on the Piggott Square which is a part of the Inn at Piggott.

We hope that writers will take this opportunity to work with Dorene. Besides being a great writer herself, she is also an experienced mentor to other writers. We feel that she is a great fit for our retreat program.

Berry Wins Short Fiction Contest

Alan Berry of North Arkansas College was selected as winner of our 6th Annual Short Fiction Contest for his story "Brother, Sister." Of the story, the judge said, "In Alan Berry's 'Brother, Sister', a young boy supports his mother after his father commits a crime and absconds. Through an artfully spare style, Berry communicates much more than he says about the impoverished and tense relationships in this family unit, and the weathering away of parental strength. 'Brother, Sister' is a powerful series of vignettes, and the psychic abilities of Brother add a delightful strangeness to a familiar domestic scene. A gorgeous, skillful fiction."

Berry is a retired industrial supervisor who has returned to college after a forty-seven-year absence. He attends North Arkansas College in Harrison, Arkansas. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he has made his home in Arkansas for more than three decades. Berry mixes attending school with writing, woodworking, fishing, sailing, and teaching martial arts.



Alan Berry