



Press Release

East Lansing, MI – The joy of reading and the importance of early literacy is the inspiration behind the inaugural **Young Folk BookFest**, launched and hosted by the **Michigan State University Press** on Saturday and Sunday August 8 & 9, in conjunction with the 2009 **MSU Museum's Great Lakes Folk Festival**. The two-day event will provide great entertainment with readings and discussion sessions with **eighteen** award-winning Michigan and Great Lakes-area authors and illustrators. Featured books on display, for various ages from children through young adults, will cover a wide range of interests.

Michigan State University Press is pleased to be working with the **MSU Literacy Achievement Research Center (LARC)**, whose experts will provide engaging sessions of particular interest to parents and educators. The three sessions will include: Poetry – Multicultural Literature – Humor and Graphic Novels.

Highlights of the two-day event:

- Announcement of the winner of the Library of Michigan's annual ***Michigan Reads!*** "One State, One Children's Book" program.
- A large selection of African literature for children and young adults.
- A selection of fascinating books for young adults from the Michigan State University Press catalog: poetry, fiction, stories of Great Lakes shipwrecks, regional history and folktales, history of the Peoples who have settled in Michigan, and much more!
- Readings – signings – presentations by these 18 best-selling and award-winning regional authors: **Rosemarie Brennan · Denise Brennan-Nelson · David Coverly · Cynthia Furlong Reynolds · Renee Hand · Jim Hines · Doris Holik Kelly · Kirk Lignell · Jef Mallett · Mary Ann McCabe Riehle · Ruth McNally Barshaw · Charity Nebbe · Jeffrey Shatzer · Nancy Shaw · Debbie Taylor · Susan Thoms · Jim Tobin · Gloria Whelan**
- Three fascinating sessions organized by the MSU Literacy Achievement Research Center.
- A rich offering of a wide range of books for young folk offered by Barnes & Noble bookstore; Curious Book Shop; Archives Book Shop; Everybody Reads bookstore; Riley Books; as well as information for young readers, parents, and educators offered by the East Lansing Public Library and Library of Michigan.
- The BookFest tent is located at a prime central location of Abbot Road and Albert Avenue. Saturday will get underway at 11:00 a.m. with the announcement of the award-winning book for the Library of Michigan's annual ***Michigan Reads!*** "One State, One Children's Book" program. Readings and sessions will run throughout the afternoon every half hour between noon to 7:00 p.m. Sunday readings and sessions will run every half hour from noon to 6:00 p.m.
- For a full schedule of events and times, please go to msupress.msu.edu.
- The BookFest is generously sponsored by Meijer, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, CATA, City of Lansing 4th Ward Council Member Tim Kaltenbach, Levine Law Group, Megawave Corporation, Michigan Flyer, Mittenlit, MSU Office of the Provost, and Mark Shawl.