

Spring Literary Festival in Macon

Thursday, 24 March 2011

Macon County Public Library, in partnership with Western Carolina University, is celebrating the Ninth Annual Spring Literary Festival. This year's Festival will feature more than a dozen established and emerging writers, including Alan Weisman. Weisman's most recent book, *The World Without Us*, a bestseller translated into thirty languages, was named the best nonfiction book of 2007 by both Time Magazine and Entertainment Weekly. It was also a finalist of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Nonfiction and a finalist for the Orion Book Award.

On Thursday, March 24th at 6:00pm, the Macon County Library will host a book discussion on *The World Without Us*. Dr. James Costa, executive director of the Highlands Biological Station, will lead the discussion. The book offers an utterly original approach to questions of humanity's impact on the planet.

After his presentation, Dr. Costa will lead a group discussion about the concepts in this book. This program is free and open to the public. Copies of the book are available for check out at the library. For further information, please contact the Macon County Public Library at (828) 524- 3600 or visit the library's website www.fontanalib.org.

Author Alan Weisman will be speaking at Western Carolina University's Coulter recital hall on Thursday, April 7th at 7:30 PM. For more information on the Festival, call (828) 227-7264 or visit www.litfestival.org.

Macon County Public Library in partnership with the Western Carolina University's ninth annual Spring Literary Festival also offers the following programming:

Sunday, March 27 at 2 pm in the Macon County Library Living Room-

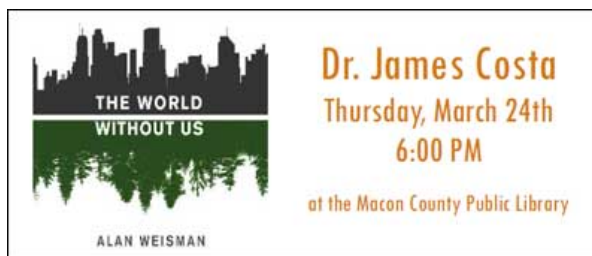
Kay Stripling Byer. A native of southwest Georgia, former N.C. Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer maintains a blog, *Here, Where I am*, that was named one of the thirty best poetry blogs of 2009. Her most recent book, *Coming to Rest*, received the Hanes Poetry Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers in 2007. Her poetry has been set to music for chorus, mezzo-soprano and soprano.

Kathryn Stripling Byer will also be speaking at Western Carolina University's Illusions on Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 pm.

Sunday, April 3 at 2 pm in the Macon County Library Living Room -

Bret Lott is the best-selling author of 12 books, including the Oprah Book Club pick *Jewel*. Born in Los Angeles, he received his undergraduate degree in English from California State University Long Beach and his master of fine arts from the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he studied under James Baldwin.

Brett Lott will also be speaking at Western Carolina University's UC theater on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 pm.



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