



The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

2019 Season

Laura Ingalls Wilder - Rose Wilder Lane Home Association, Mansfield, Missouri 65704

Mia Kelso: 6th Annual Fiddle Off Champion



The 6th annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle off competition was held on September 21st, 2019 on the grounds of Rocky Ridge Farm. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home, in association with Marriott Music in Ava, Missouri, sponsored the competition that drew contestants as far as Kentucky and Arkansas. Our Texas contestants were once again amazing!

Splinter Middleton, Branson entertainer, returned this year to be our Master of Ceremonies. Cathy Marriott and Vicki Johnston shared score keeping duties. Our Judges for the event this year were from Warrensburg, MO, William Shull, former President of the Missouri State Ol' Time Fiddler's Association; Clifford Hill, Eldon, Missouri; and Dale Morris, a former World Champion fiddler.

The Judges looked for, tone, difficulty, correct bowing, and overall execution in the 30 contestants as they performed for the crowd.

The Grand Champion Winner, for the second time, of the Round Robin competition and the custom made Bob Berg Buckle was Mia Kelso, Dallas, TX.

Welcome to "The Club House"



This past Wilder Day, on September the 21st 2019, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home & Museum along, with special guest Alison Arnglim, welcomed guests to our newest exhibit area at Rocky Ridge Farm, "The Club House".

The Club House, as it was known, sits at the far end of the Rocky Ridge Outbuilding that was built in 1935. A fire in 1934 destroyed the outbuilding orinally located on this site. During the era (1928-1936) Rose Wilder Lane occupied the white farmhouse, the home of her parents, while they resided in the Rock House across the ridge. During these Depression years, Rose provided a home for two orphaned brothers, Al and John Turner. When a replacement building was constructed after the fire the two high school boys assisted in building it. The 1935 structure consisted of the still-existing room, called "The Club House", a workshop with a shower and a garage. The Turners hosted many parties and dances here. It is even rumored that a ping pong table once occupied the space for the boys and their friends.

Only this room known as "The Club House" remains. It has served as a museum gift shop. and office, and now a place to exhibit period tools.



Al Tuner



John Tuner



Wilder Outbuilding circa 1958

Mia holds a Masters Degree from Indiana University and is now teaching at the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas in addition to running a fiddle studio, freelancing, and playing with the Abilene Philharmonic. She recently was invited to play at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN.

Also taking top honors this year:

Pee Wee Division: Tristan Paskvan,
South Lake, TX

Junior Division: Preston Marriott,
Ava, MO

Senior Division: Jim Christensen,
Harrison, AR

Accompanist: Monte Gaylord,
Vinita, OK

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off continues to show growth into its sixth year. We greatly appreciate the experience and the professionalism that Junior and Cathy Marriott bring to the Fiddle Off. We would like to thank our talented contestants and we look forward to next year.



Next years competition will be held here at Rocky Ridge Farm on October 10th, 2020.

“Little House” Hits TV Once Again

Earlier this fall, filming began for a new American Masters documentary about Laura Ingalls Wilder. Rocky Ridge farm was among several sites where filming took place. The American Masters crew from PBS spent 4 days here at Rocky Ridge conducting interviews, researching, and taking footage for the upcoming release which is expected in the Fall of 2020.



American Masters, public television's award-winning biography series, celebrates our arts and culture. Launched in 1986, and produced by PBS station WNET New York, the series set the standard for documentary film profiles, accruing widespread critical acclaim and earning 28 Emmy Awards — including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special — 14 Peabodys, an Oscar, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards and many other honors.

To further explore the lives and works of masters past and present, American Masters offers streaming video of select films, outtakes, filmmaker interviews, the American Masters Podcast,

educational resources, and more. The series is a production of THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC for WNET and also seen on the WORLD channel. American Masters is available for streaming simultaneously on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS Video app, which is available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast. PBS station members can view episodes via Passport (contact your local PBS station for details).



Meet the Producers:

Mary McDonagh Murphy, Writer/Director/Producer



Mary McDonagh Murphy is an award-winning director, writer, television producer, independent filmmaker and best-selling author. She directed Harper Lee: From Mockingbird to Watchman, broadcast on PBS's AMERICAN MASTERS in July 2015 to coincide with the release of the early Lee manuscript Go Set a Watchman.

The documentary includes a rare glimpse of Ms. Lee herself, and is an update of Murphy's independent film, Hey Boo: Harper Lee & To Kill a Mockingbird, which was released theatrically in 20 cities and broadcast on AMERICAN MASTERS in 2012. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution called Hey, Boo "an enlightened love letter to the novel," and noted its lengthy, never-seen-before interviews with the novelist's sister and close friends.

She has written and produced a variety of primetime hour-long programs and magazine stories for NBC and CBS News, where she won six Emmy Awards. Murphy's recent television credits include The Making of the Wiz Live (NBC, 2015), David Letterman: A Life on Television (CBS, 2015), The Making of Peter Pan Live (NBC, 2014), Live From Space (National Geographic, March 2014) and The Making of the Sound of Music Live (NBC, 2013). Murphy is the author of Scout, Atticus & Boo: A Celebration of Fifty Years of To Kill a Mockingbird, a New York Times best seller, published by HarperCollins. She also has written for Newsweek, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Post, Publishers Weekly and the Daily Beast.

A native of Rhode Island, she is a graduate of Wesleyan University and was a John S. Knight fellow at Stanford University. She lives in Scarborough, NY.

Christopher Czajka, Associate Producer



Christopher Czajka is the Senior Director of Community Engagement at WNET, the producing station for American Masters. Czajka develops, supervises, and executes engagement initiatives associated with WNET's broadcast and online productions in partnership with public television stations across the country.

Czajka's interest and content knowledge about the American frontier led him to be a historical consultant for the smash-hit, Emmy-nominated, "hands-on" history series Frontier House, one of the highest-rated PBS programs in history.

Czajka's lifelong fascination with Laura Ingalls Wilder secured him a position as the Historical Consultant for Little House on the Prairie, the Musical, during its national tour in 2009-2010.

In summer 2015, Czajka spearheaded a cross-station promotional initiative focused on Mary McDonagh Murphy's film Hey, Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill A Mockingbird in conjunction with the publication of Harper Lee's Go Set a Watchman. The initiative directly reached 1.7 million viewers and achieved \$1.33 million in earned publicity.

Czajka has been a guest lecturer and writer for arts-in-education programs at New York University, the Metropolitan Opera, and Nashville Children's Theatre. Prior to his arrival at WNET, he developed educational programs and outreach content for the New 42nd Street, Inc., the nonprofit organization charged with the redevelopment and revitalization of eight historic theatres in Times Square.

Previously, Czajka taught at the Idyllwild School for Music and the Arts in southern California and Arizona State University. He currently splits his time between New York City and Asbury Park, New Jersey. He holds degrees from Northwestern University and Arizona State University.



The Laura Ingalls Wilder Children's Literature Festival

In April of 2019, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home & Museum launched its' first literature festival in Mrs. Wilder's name. This is the only literature festival in the country that honors our beloved author. The Church of the Nazarene in Marshfield, Mo hosted the event during Marshfield's annual Cherry Blossum Festival, which honors historically significant figures.

Committee members reached out to area schools, taking with them promotional goodies. The t-shirts were available for purchase during the festival, online, and in our gift shop at the museum.



The first year's attendance numbers greatly exceeded the committees goals, which were set at roughly 150 kids. Five times that number showed up with over 700 guests listening and learning from their favorite authors. Seven authors attended the first year's festival. The committee hopes to expand this number to twenty for the second year.

The second annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Children's Literature Festival will be held in Mansfield, MO at the Ann Short Community Center on November 5th-6th, 2020. So make plans now for your young ones to tour the house at half price, participate in scavenger hunt in the museum gallery, get their books signed, and learn from a group of very talented authors.



Wilder Home Visits the Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks

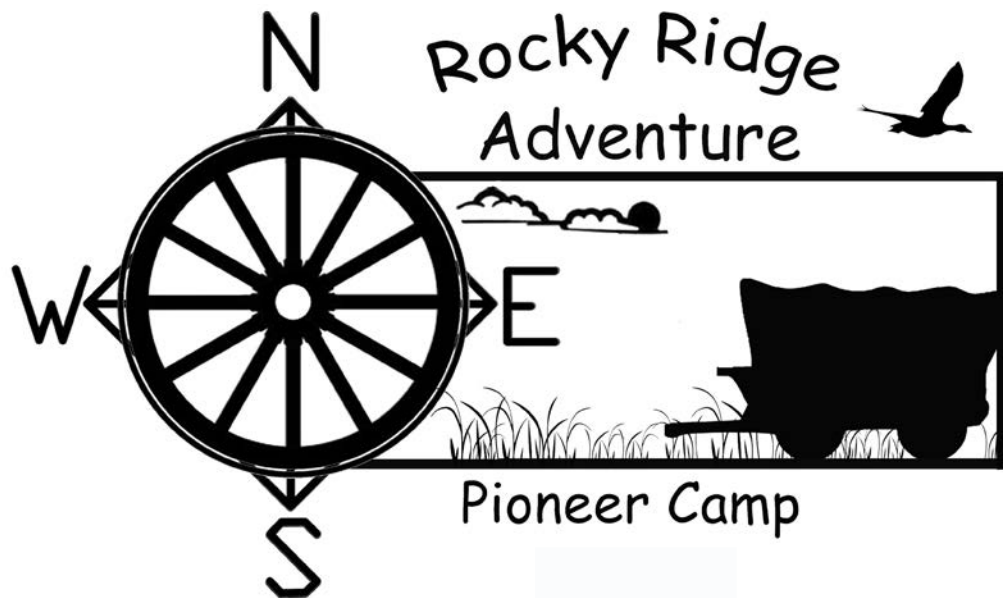
On a beautiful, sunny Saturday, October 5th, 2020; Marie Bristol and Vicki Johnston (pictured left) met folks at the Wilder Home booth during the Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks. The Festival is held each first weekend in October on the banks of Bryant Creek in Douglas Co. Missouri.

Dressed in period clothing the ladies met many fans of Mrs. Wilder's books from as far west as Joplin, MO; and as far east as West Plains, MO. Northern most visitors came from the Bolivar, MO area and as far south as Harrison, AR.



The Wilder Home booth was in a great position to hear music from Possum Trot and David Scrivner who many times has played Pa's Fiddle on Wilder Day here in Mansfield. The ladies saw many of their own relatives and friends in attendance as they both have ties to Douglas County. Many children stopped by the booth to receive flyers about our Kid's Camp sessions for next season and our next Laura Ingalls Wilder Children's Literature Festival. There were makings for your very own corn cob doll and to make a leaf suncatcher. Don't forget candy.... We shared plenty of that with all our visitors!

We would like to thank the great folks that host the Pioneer Heritage Festival of the Ozarks for having us and look forward to going again next year.



Summer of 2019 marked a pioneer experience for both the Wilder Home & Museum here in Mansfield, as well as a couple of great groups of kids. This past summer marked the launching of our first ever summer camp. Children came from all over to attend the Rocky Ridge Adventure, Pioneer Camp.

Two sessions were held with 10-15 kids in each. The participants came from near and far, everywhere from here in Mansfield, MO to across the pond all the way from Ireland.

Campers spent time learning about Mrs. Wilder and her books, exploring the 200 acre property and its' historic structures, and participating in a variety of games and activities. One of which was making their own pioneer journals that they wrote in everyday.

Special guests came to visit with the campers on themed days. Baker Creek Herloom Seed Company came and worked with the group planting their own seeds, making suncatchers, and identifying native plants. Representatives from the Native American Museum talked about the tribes that are local to this area and shared artifacts from their museum.

Additionally, the campers enjoyed a farmer boy day, where we focused on Almanzo's role here at the farm. They toured an exhibit area with period tools and equipment, made tin can lanterns, and even got to make their own ice cream.

Pioneer Camp will run for a second season Summer of 2020 with the first session running from June 22-26 and the second, July 13-17.



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Wilder Day 2019 was a record-breaking success. The annual event witnessed a great deal of change as it was relocated to Rocky Ridge Farm. The event, which included the traditional fiddle off, brought in over 6,000 visitors to the historic property.

The Wilder Day organizational committee was composed of members from the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, Mansfield Historical Society, Wilder Home staff and volunteers and the City of Mansfield. These dedicated community volunteers worked long and hard to put together two days of historic fun, made complete with vendors, entertainment and period demonstrators.

Alison Arnglim (Nellie Oleson, Little House on the Prairie) served as the keynote speaker at the Wilder Dinner, which serves as the kick off event of the Wilder Day weekend. Arnglim visited with fans from around the world at the Wilder Museum during Saturday's events. Arnglim also assisted in giving the morning welcome from the event stage and cut the ribbon on the newest exhibit featured on the property. The new exhibit, which is located in the former director's office, features many of the farm tools and instruments used by Almanzo Wilder at Rocky Ridge.

Wilder Day 2020 has already been scheduled for October 9-10 and will again be held on the historic grounds of the Wilder Home and Museum. Additional information will be posted on the Wilder Home website as it becomes available for this exciting fall event.

2019



Holiday Highlights

Christmas at Rocky Ridge

Keeping with tradition, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home offered free photos with Santa in the Historic Farm House living room on Saturday, December 7th. Refreshments were served in the main museum building and the gift shop was open for business.

For the first time ever the Wilder Home offered group tours from November 29th- December 23rd. The tours had to be booked in advance by contacting the museum at (417) 924-3626.

Guests came from all over to see the Farmhouse in its' complete holiday grandeur along with refreshments and the newly opened exhibit area in the Turner Boy's Clubhouse.

The holiday tours were a huge success.



Give the Gift of Laura All Year



The Little House cookbook is always a popular gift. It goes great combined with our new line of coffee and perhaps a mug.

Stay warm this season with one of our new zip up hoodies or button up denim shirts.

Themed gift crates are available this year for purchase. The Farmerboy crate (shown) comes with a hardback of the book, finger puppet, donkey, tincup, and popgun.

Wilder Home Recieves Gift



Alice Ann Hartley, a treasured board member, gifted the Wilder Home the 1955 Oldsmobile Owner Manual and Service Policy book. The donation was made during the Fall board meeting and is one of many donations by the Hartleys.

Local Spotlight: Michelle Underwood A Lion's Roar in a Can

Michelle Underwood is a seasoned employee here at the Wilder Home who also works on the literature festival committee. After which, she published her first childrens book, A Lion's Roar in a Can. This is not Mrs. Underwood's first publication, in 2018 she published a very inspirational book, Ten. Both books are available through our museum gift shop.

Authors note:

"I've always loved reading children's books and encouraging imagination. I wrote A Lion's Roar in a Can about 25 years ago for my kids, but never tried to publish it. It was simply a story for them. Working at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home has inspired me to realize my dream of writing and publishing children's books."





Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum

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