



# The Cove Chronicle

Spring Edition, 2009: Volume 2, No 1



*"In the still air Old Buncombe's whistle blew - far away. The sound echoed faintly in the valley between the mountains.... Then even the sound was gone, and there was nothing... I stood there wanting to move and yet not able to, staring at the spot on the horizon where the two tracks converged into one." Christy, Chapter One*

## Remembering How the Story Began

In 1909, Leonora Whitaker left her home to teach at a mission school near Del Rio, TN. She is the mother of Catherine Marshall, and *Christy* [the novel] is inspired by Leonora's experiences teaching in rural Appalachia.

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## Bill Lea: Nature Photographer

At ChristyFest™ Bill will be sharing with attendees about his work in the Smokies, and specifically, Cades Cove. Recently we asked Bill about his photography and some of the challenges he has faced along the way.

**CF: Does your work involve a lot of outdoor exposure, i.e., is it ever necessary to camp or explore off the trails?**

**Bill:** *Yes, I spend a lot of time outdoors photographing. I do not do a lot of camping, although I have spent a lot of nights sleeping in the back of my truck. I also did some camping when photographing grizzly bears at McNeil River in Alaska. I may not do a lot of camping but I sure do get up early on a lot of mornings.*

**CF: What animal is the most interesting to photograph? How do you prepare for photographing animals in the wild?**

**Bill:** *I find the black bear one of the most interesting animals to photograph and spend time with. They are incredibly intelligent and so misunderstood by most of the public. Although large and powerful black bears are very timid and reclusive. Bears are afraid of their own shadow. I once saw a great blue heron lunge at a bear and the bear ran for his life. A chipmunk can easily startle a black bear. Bears have an incredible sense of smell and love to eat. Food and fear are two driving forces in the life of a bear. People often say bears are unpredictable. I find bears to be VERY PREDICTABLE, it is just most people cannot read their body language nor are they acquainted with their personalities. The main thing I do to prepare for photographing wildlife is "simply to be out there." I always try to photograph in areas where animals are not hunted and then I try to establish a level of trust with my subject, whether it is a bear, deer, raccoon or whatever. Once they realize I am not a threat then I am in position to observe their natural behavior and capture it in my camera.*



Photo by Bill Lea

**CF: Do you apply the same techniques and standards you use when photographing the wild as you do with family events or more casual settings?**

**Bill:** *I have to admit I mostly photograph nature, wildlife and a few recreational scenes. I let other people photograph family events and/or more casual settings.*

**CF: How have you seen the Smoky Mountains area change for the better during your time photographing there? For the worse?**

**Bill:** *I think people have a greater appreciation for the wonder and beauty of the Smoky Mountains today than when I first starting photographing here in the mid-seventies. Visitors love the Smokies. I just wish the Federal government would provide more funding for the Park. The other most significant change I have seen over the years is the drastic increase in the number of people who visit Great Smoky Mountains National Park on a daily basis. It is harder to be alone in the Smokies today.*

**CF: Do you still use film, or are you exclusively digital?**

**Bill:** *I have gone strictly digital with my photography, beginning in 2004. I miss some aspects of film, but I also like some of the advantages of digital shooting. With digital photography it is like being able to do all of the darkroom work that I missed when I was using slide film.*

**CF: What do you hope to share with others via your work?**

**Bill:** *I hope that people will gain a better understanding and appreciation for nature and animals through my photography. I want folks to realize there is value in every living creature and all animals have their own distinct personality just like dogs and people. Most of all I hope people will see the Lord's hand in the beauty of all Creation.*

*I think Cades Cove is the most beautiful place in the world. It is a wonderful place to enjoy wildlife and the splendid Smoky Mountain scenery. It also has a well documented and extraordinarily interesting history. All of these things and more are covered in my book titled Cades Cove – Window to a Secret World and will be the topic of my presentation on Cades Cove at ChristyFest™ 2009.*

To learn more about Bill's presentation and view some of his work visit: [www.christyfest.org](http://www.christyfest.org)  
You can also discover more about Bill at [www.billlea.com](http://www.billlea.com)

**Cast and Crew Members: Current List of those Confirmed**

**Tom Blomquist**

Supervising Producer/Writer [CBS]  
Executive Producer/Writer [PAX]

**Lane Batot**

Bonnie Prince Charlie [CBS]  
Crew [CBS]

**Jo Doster**

Casting Director [CBS]

**Jeffrey Buckner Ford**

Bob Allen [CBS]

**Mike Hickman**

Bird's-Eye Taylor [CBS & PAX]

**Brenda Lilly**

Writer [CBS & PAX]

**Michael Lilly**

Bob Allen [PAX] / Dialogue Coach [PAX]

**Bruce McKinnon**

Jeb Spencer [CBS & PAX]

**Andy Stahl**

Tom McHone [CBS & PAX]

**Presenters: Current List of those Confirmed**

**Bill Lea**

Nature Photographer

**Marilyn Mitchem**

Ebenezer Mission Historian

**Larry Myers**

Ebenezer/Christy Mission Property Owner and Caretaker



***Who said this in the book Christy?***

"Never did like upscuddles myself. Sorter wears the bright off the day."

*Answer on last page*

## News and Updates!

You can learn more about the following updates by visiting the ChristyFest™ website:  
[www.christyfest.org](http://www.christyfest.org)

### **Schedule!**

See where you can join in fun activities, meet the Guests, and spend time with fellow attendees!

### **The Christy Forum**

Have you joined our active message board? Not only do we have constant fun but it's a nice corner of the internet to spend time with fellow fans! Link via the home page.

### **ChristyFest™ Ambassadors**

Download out poster and hang a few up – let us know where they are and you are entered in our monthly drawing for two raffle tickets! See the home page for info!

### **Raffles to be unveiled soon!**

We will have some fabulous items up for raffle this year! We will post them on the website when they are revealed.

### **New Store Items!**

Over the past few months we have added new charms, and a keepsake box. We'll be adding more fun and exciting items in the next few weeks!

**Register now and take advantage of our current low rate! The earlier you register, the more you save!**

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## **Win a Free Adult Registration to ChristyFest™ 2009!**

Until April 15 you can register to win an Adult Registration to ChristyFest™ 2009!

Learn more at [www.christyfest.org](http://www.christyfest.org)

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## Ruby Mae's Corner

Ruby Mae finds Miss Christy's magazines fascinating and pours over each copy Christy lets her have. The girls have started up their own handmade version of a magazine, electing Ruby Mae in charge of the advice column.

**Dear Miz Ruby Mae,  
I think Teacher is a pretty gal, and think the boy I like might be fancying her. You live at the Mission, how do I get to be more like Teacher?**

*Miz Ruby's Reply: Well that teacher in question shore is a mighty nice lady. I been talking to her and learning lots. I think I must be one of her best friends here 'cause we be talking all the time. 'Course I do most of the talkin' and she does a lot a smiling...though sometimes I seen her roll her eyes but I don't pay no mind, I figure she's mostly listening. Anyway, well, shore, I can tell you what I can about being more like Teacher.*

*This one pains me something fierce, but frequent bathing is a sure thing. Most boys won't smell you over their own boy stink but stinkin' for a gal isn't so nice I am told. I hates bathing and it gets me real devout with all that prayin' but the Preacher says sometimes I got a long way to go to git to Heaven so maybe that praying helps.*

*Also, get some sort of cloth and cut it like a kerchief, don't put it on your head, use it on your face and things like that. To be real fancy stitch on your initials real pretty-like.*

*Can't do much about them perfumes she's got, we haven't got something like that here [though a bottle in the mission barrels busted – what a stink!] but comb your hair real nice and wear a flower. But not a real smelly one that attracts bees. I learned that one the hard way.*

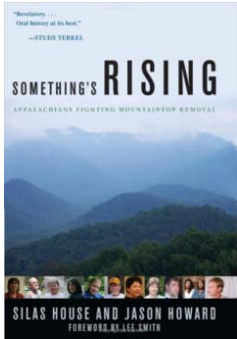
**Ruby Mae**

## New Books: Appalachian-Themed Reading

### NON-FICTION

#### **Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal**

By Silas House and Jason Howard  
Univ. Press of Ken., \$27.95 (312p)  
ISBN: 9780813125466  
Published: March 2009



Novelist House (*Clay's Quilt*) and Kentucky journalist Howard, both "children of Appalachia," decided to pick up where the national media have left off in their environmental obsession, illuminating the long-growing mining crisis in Central Appalachia. Twelve Appalachians—among them a college student, former union organizers, community activists and the octogenarian "mother of folk," Jean Ritchey—provide first-hand accounts of a disappearing way of life, a vital ecology in rapid decline, an industry that refuses to take responsibility for the devastation it causes (blowing the tops off mountains is only the latest, most destructive technique), and a nation too hooked on cheap energy to help. If nothing else, these oral histories will give readers a sense of what's at stake on a personal level. Student Nathan Hall calls mining the best job he ever had: "I met the most interesting characters of my life... the most hilarious, most good hearted." Says Judy Bond, lifelong resident of the leading coal-producing county in W.V., "The more coal we mine, the poorer we get." This important collection illuminates the ongoing betrayal of the American mining town. (Apr)

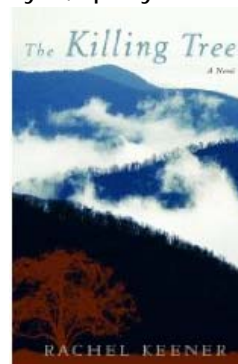
Review: Publisher's Weekly  
Web Exclusive Reviews: Week of 03/02/2009  
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6640883.html>

### FICTION

#### **The Killing Tree**

By Rachel Keener  
Hachette/Center Street, \$13.99 paper (336p)  
ISBN 978-1-59995-111-9  
Published: March 2009

An Appalachian coming-of-age novel detours through a migrant workers camp for an intensely lyrical, emotional debut. Raised on Crooked Top Mountain, Mercy Heron was raised by her grandparents, crazy Rutha and cold church deacon Father Heron, after her unwed mother died in childbirth. Mercy, 18 and working as a diner waitress, falls in love with Trout, a migrant fruit picker who shares Rutha's connection to mountain magic. Echoing her mother's actions, Mercy tries to escape Father Heron's disapproval and goes on the run with Trout, and she's quickly thrown into the tumultuous life of a migrant worker. Despite her fortitude, Mercy finds she cannot avoid Father Heron's influence, and she returns to Crooked Top for a dangerous confrontation. Keener's vivid imagery and lush, folksy language evoke traditions about nature and mountain people, reality and myth, piety and sin. Though occasionally



overwrought, the novel succeeds in bringing to life a slice of mountain life where old and new, foreign and native, real and imagined, poetic and mundane blend against a harsh and beautiful landscape. (Mar.)

Review from: Publisher's Weekly  
Web Exclusive Reviews: Week of 10/06/2008  
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6601541.html>

*The ChristyFest™ Planning Team offers these books as recommendations only; they have been reviewed by third parties and not by the team.*

## Lundy's Luscious Cookies

2 cups butter	1 tsp salt
4 cups flour	4 eggs
2 tsp baking powder	2 cups sugar
2 cups brown sugar	2 tsp vanilla
2 tsp baking soda	3 cups any chopped nuts (optional)
5 cups oatmeal	
24 oz. butterscotch chips	

*Recipe can be halved*

Measure oatmeal and blend in a blender. Cream the butter and both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix together with oatmeal, flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add butterscotch chips. Roll into balls and place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes at 375. Makes about 100 cookies. Enjoy!

**Scott Campbell [Lundy Taylor]**

From "Everything but Ruby Mae's Possum Surprise – A Cookbook by *Christy Fans*"

## Townsend Tips

If you want to know the best places to eat, or find the best quiet spot on the river, ask around. The Visitor's Center is a great place to stop in and get acquainted with the area.

In Townsend, Highway 321 is called East Lamar Alexander Parkway. It runs in a general East-West direction. Thus, for the most part it's easy to navigate the town as one goes left or right along the highway, with little need for side streets. You can find a map on our website under the "Information" tab.

Answer:

**Who said that quote from the book *Christy*?**  
*Fairlight, Chapter 17 [end]*

## Roots and Leaves Themselves Alone

ROOTS and leaves themselves alone are these;  
Scents brought to men and women from the  
wild woods, and from the pond-side,  
Breast-sorrel and pinks of love--fingers that  
wind around tighter than vines,  
Gushes from the throats of birds, hid in the  
foliage of trees, as the sun is risen;  
Breezes of land and love--breezes set from  
living shores out to you on the living sea –  
to you, O sailors!  
Frost-mellow'd berries, and Third-month twigs,  
offer'd fresh to young persons wandering  
out in the fields when the winter breaks  
up,  
Love-buds, put before you and within you,  
whoever you are,  
Buds to be unfolded on the old terms;  
If you bring the warmth of the sun to them,  
they will open, and bring form, color,  
perfume, to you;  
If you become the aliment and the wet, they  
will become flowers, fruits, tall branches  
and trees.

**Walt Whitman (1819–1892)**

*Leaves of Grass, 1900.*

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[www.christyfest.org/press.htm](http://www.christyfest.org/press.htm)

*The Cove Chronicle* is open to suggestions. Have  
an idea for something you'd like to submit? Email  
[chronicle@christyfest.org](mailto:chronicle@christyfest.org)

**ChristyFest™ thanks you for your support!**

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