

# Table of Contents

## Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies

(formerly Kansas Quarterly)

Volume 57, Number 2

Summer/August 2026

General Editor's Note: The Delta and Dark History

by Marcus Charles Tribbett

83

Monstrous Delta: Selected Proceedings from the 31st Annual Delta Symposium

Creating A Town Called Weiner:

Writing Local History as Stewardship, Memory, and Place

by Patricia Hesse

84

Perceptions of Japanese Americans in Arkansas Internment Camps  
and Storytelling as Resistance

by Taylor Abernathy

90

The Monstrous Land:

Bears and Barbarians in Go Down Moses and Mudbound

by James Stannard

100

Colonial and Evangelical Monsters in Arkansas's Catholic History

by Paul A. Crutcher

104

Love and Labor (poetry)  
by Sam Jackson

107

Four Poems (poetry)  
Trace  
Hauntology of Rodney, Mississippi  
A Patch of Blue  
A Fire Scene  
by Jianqing Zheng

108

Screens (fiction)  
by Vince Tweddell

112

Orchard (poetry)  
by Leslie Benigni

115

Downriver (poetry)  
by A. Z. Foreman

116

A for Alice (non-fiction)

by Calvin Mills

118

Two Poems (poetry)

Estuary at the End of the World

Pink Docents, Post-Production

by Daniel Thompson

120

[Elsewhere \(non-fiction\)](#)

by Rachel Layton

122

Bad Astronaut (poetry)

by Dan Leach

129

The Night Heron (fiction)

by James Ulmer

130

The Kingfisher: Reelfoot Lake (poetry)

by Floyd Collins

136

The Utility Room in the Parish (poetry)

by Ginny Brown

138

Harvest Moon (poetry)

by Larry D. Thomas

140

## [Delta Sources and Resources](#)

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts  
501 E. Ninth Street  
Little Rock Arkansas  
by Sierra Tribbett-Collins

141

## [Reviews](#)

Mould and Vaughn, *Choctaw Tales: Stories from the Firekeepers*, reviewed by Gregory Hansen  
Zheng, *Visual Chords*, reviewed by Lauren Adams Willette  
Pryor, *This Leaves Me Okay*, reviewed by Janelle Collins  
Review Essay: Charles Portis for the Early Twenty-first Century:  
Jennings, ed., *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany* and Cochrane, *A Haunted  
Man's Report: Reading Charles Portis*, reviewed by Bryan L. Moore

145

Contributors

158

# Contributors

---

Taylor Abernathy is a graduate student in the department of English at the University of Arkansas and holds a BA from Arkansas State University. Her research focus primarily falls within the digital and cultural rhetoric fields, but she also finds herself occasionally being drawn back to her Delta roots.

Leslie Benigni is a writer, artist, and teacher from Pittsburgh, PA. Graduated from the Bowling Green State University MFA program, her work revolves around nature, family dynamics, psychology, and philosophy. Her work has been featured in Permafrost Magazine, ANTAE, Tint Journal, ANMLY, and more.

Ginny Brown is a paralegal and writer based in South Carolina's Lowcountry. With more than thirty years of experience in civil and domestic litigation, she has spent her professional life bringing clarity to complex narratives. Her writing reflects that same focus, exploring resilience, memory, and the spaces between leaving and returning through grounded, accessible prose.

Floyd Collins holds an MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in Twentieth-Century Literature from the University of Arkansas. He has authored several volumes of poetry, including *My Back Pages: The Teresa Poems* (2022). *The Living Artifact*, a selection of his essay-reviews, appeared in 2021. Most recently *Waking Past Midnight: Selected Poems*, a career retrospective, was published by Stephen F. Austin State UP in 2023.

Janelle Collins is Professor of English at Arkansas State University and Managing Editor of *Arkansas Review*. The author of numerous scholarly articles, she is the editor of *Defining the Delta: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Lower Mississippi River Delta* (U of Arkansas P, 2015).

Paul A. Crutcher is Associate Professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He researches and teaches about popular culture, religion and ethics, K-12 and higher education, and East Asia.

A. Z. Foreman is a linguist, poet, short story author, and/or translator pursuing a doctorate at the Ohio State University. His work has been featured in the *Threepenny Review*, *Rattle*, *ANMLY*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere including two people's tattoos but not yet the *Starfleet Academy Quarterly* or *Tattooine Monthly*. He writes from the edge of thought between sleep and waking. He wants to pet your dog.

Gregory Hansen is Professor of Folklore and English at Arkansas State University where he also teaches in the Heritage Studies PhD Program. He recently co-edited *Sustaining Support for Intangible Cultural Heritage* and he has published on roots music, public folklore, and a range of

topics. He recently was inducted as a Fellow of the American Folklore Society.

Patricia Hesse is an award-winning educator and writer. Over a 47-year career in education, she developed story-centered learning experiences that extended beyond the classroom into community-based projects. After retiring from teaching, she drew together years of collected stories, documents, and questions into a sustained study of local history. She is particularly interested in how everyday lives shape identity and the continuity of community.

Sam Jackson is Professor of English at Tyler Junior College. He holds an MFA from UA Monticello, and his work often explores the intersection of place, labor, and identity. Most recently, his work has appeared in *Shakespearean Sonnets*.

Rachel Layton is a writer from Memphis, TN. She received her MFA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she worked as an editorial intern with *New Letters* and a writer at *Kansas City Magazine*. She

is a past winner of Memphis Magazine's Very Short Story Contest (January 2020). Her work appears in North Dakota Quarterly, Big Muddy, Minerva Rising, and more. She currently resides in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dan Leach has published work in The Massachusetts Review, The Southern Review, and The Sun. His most recent novel, *Junah at the End of the World*, won the South Carolina Novel Prize and was awarded a Kirkus star. He lives in Summerville, MA, and teaches writing at Charleston Southern University.

Calvin Mills hosts the Raymond Carver Podcast. He is the author of *The Caged Man (Stories)* from Cornerstone Press (2025) and *A Handful of Tragic Days*, a chapbook of creative nonfiction essays (2025). He attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and teaches at Peninsula College in Port Angeles, WA. Learn more at <https://calvinmillslit.com>.

Bryan L. Moore is Assistant Chair of the Department of English, Philosophy, and World Languages; Professor of English at Arkansas State University; and Poetry Editor for Arkansas Review. He is the author of *Ecology and Literature: Ecocentric Personification from Antiquity to the Twenty-first Century* (2008) and *Ecological Literature and the Critique of Anthropocentrism* (2017), as well as numerous scholarly articles.

James Stannard holds a PhD from the University of Essex. A Faulknerian, he has previously published essays in Arkansas Review and the Philological Review. His recent work has drawn links and contrasts between William Faulkner and such authors as Jesmyn Ward, George Washington Harris, Mark Twain, Charles Chesnutt, Toni Morrison, Cormac McCarthy, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Tennessee Williams.

Larry D. Thomas has published twenty-five print poetry collections and numerous poetry chapbooks, in print and online. He has recently published a number of works with Buttonhook Press, an imprint of Open: Journal of Arts & Letters, the most recent of which is his chapbook *Singing a Hymn to the Sea: Poems of the Gulf Coast*. All are available for reading/downloading free of charge at the Buttonhook Press site (O: JA&L).

Daniel Thompson was born in the Black Forest in Southern Germany and has lived in New Orleans since childhood. His latest work can be read in *Sojourners Magazine*, *Chiron Review*, *Flyway*, *The Delta Review*, *Poetries In English*, and *Metachrosis Literary Magazine*, among others.

Sierra Tribbett-Collins is an MA graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and holds a BA from Hendrix College. She has previously been published in *Aonian*, *Valley Voices*, and *Quills & Pixels*. Born and raised in Jonesboro, Arkansas, she currently lives in Little Rock with her partner and two cats.

Marcus Charles Tribbett is General Editor of Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies and Associate Professor of English at Arkansas State University. He has published scholarly work on

blues performers, on a nineteenth-century slave narrative, and on contemporary American literature.

Vince Tweddell has lived and worked in many places around the country and the world, including six years in China where he met and married his wife, Chang Yu He. They have two daughters. He now lives in Henderson, KY, his hometown, and works as the publisher and editor of the newspaper/news site that he founded, The Hendersonian. Regarding fiction, he has published several stories in various journals.

James Ulmer is Professor of English at Southern Arkansas University. His new collection of stories, *The Highway that Leads Beyond the World*, was recently published by Bridge House Publications. His collection, *The Fire Doll*, was awarded the George Garrett Fiction Prize from Texas Review Press. Recent stories have appeared in *The South Carolina Review*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Arkansas Review*, *Descant*, and elsewhere.

Lauren Adams Willette is the Fieldwork Coordinator for the state of Arkansas's public folklore program, Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts, housed in the Special Collections Division of the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville. Willette has a PhD in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University.

Jianqing Zheng has published poems in *Arkansas Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *The Southern Quarterly*, and *Birmingham Poetry Review*. His recent poetry collections include *Dreaminations* (Madville, 2026) and *Visual Chords* (Broken Tribe, 2025). He has received three Mississippi Arts Commission poetry fellowships. Lucille "Mama Ceal" Hatch Eldridge and daughter LaRuth. Newcastle, Arkansas, ca. late 1940s. Photograph courtesy of Walter Pryor. See book review of his memoir, *This Leaves Me Okay*, in this issue.



Lucille "Mama Ceal" Hatch Eldridge and daughter LaRuth.

Newcastle, Arkansas, ca. late 1940s.

Photograph courtesy of Walter Pryor.

See book review of his memoir, *This Leaves Me Okay*, in this issue.



---

Revision #7

Created 2026-09-10 20:08:34 UTC by Michael Moore

Updated 2026-09-11 17:08:57 UTC by Michael Moore