

NEWS RELEASE

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PHOTO OUTLINE INFORMATION:

NCLR 2010 cover, art by Will Henry Stevens (1881-1949); design by Dana Ezzell Gay, NCLR Art Director

From the Mountains to the Coast: The 2010 *North Carolina Literary Review* Reflects the State's Wide-ranging Literary Talent

GREENVILLE, N.C. (June 25, 2010) The 2010 issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* (NCLR), featuring vibrant cover art by Will Henry Stevens, is due out to subscribers in July and will reach bookstores across the state in August. The special feature section focuses on North Carolina Appalachian Literature, with the work of such literary stars as John Ehle, Robert Morgan, and Kathryn Stripling Byer, while other content moves the reader east with poetry by James Applewhite and, closing the issue on the coast, an interview with Wilmington mystery writer Wanda Canada, complemented by Doug Kazantzis's coastal photography. Published by East Carolina University and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, NCLR is an award-winning journal that received additional funding from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

NCLR 2010 opens with an excerpt from John Ehle's novel *The Land Breakers*, the first in a series of novels in which the author traces the settling of western North Carolina through the experiences of an extended family from the 18th to the early 20th centuries. This series is then discussed in an essay by Terry Roberts, which includes material from an interview Roberts conducted with Ehle, who is finding a new audience after Kevin Watson, Editor of Press 53 of Winston-Salem, began reprinting his novels in 2006. NCLR editor Margaret Bauer applauds Roberts's and Watson's campaign to renew interest in Ehle's work. "As we edited the content that would follow the Ehle material in the Appalachian section," Bauer added, "I was struck by John Ehle's influence upon the other writers discussed: Robert Morgan, Ron Rash, Pamela Duncan, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Wayne Caldwell—all of these writers seem to have been inspired by Ehle."

An essay on Robert Morgan's *The Hinterlands* will bring readers to this early book, published before Oprah Winfrey selected his novel *Gap Creek* for her book club. Readers will enjoy finding out about Ron Rash's Serena, who "may be the most evil female character I have encountered in literature," Bauer notes. Angelina Jolie has been tapped to play Serena in a movie to be directed by Darren Aronofsky (*The Wrestler*).

Other content includes poetry, as well as a short story by the former state poet laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, featuring photography by Rob Amberg, whose western North Carolina photography also appears with several other works in the issue.

The Appalachian section of the 2010 issue also features the 2009 Doris Betts Fiction Prize-winning story, coincidentally, set in the mountains. Two of the 2009 Betts competition finalists also appear in the North Carolina Miscellany section of the issue, with art by Richard Garrison and Kelly Adams complementing these stories' plots.

Throughout the issue, *NCLR 2010* features art and photography by several luminaries of North Carolina's visual arts. The cover artist, Will Henry Stevens (1881–1949), was a leading figure of modernism in the American South. The front cover art was provided by Carolina Galleries in Charleston, SC. Blue Spiral 1 Gallery of Asheville, NC, provided scans of several more of Stevens's paintings of the North Carolina mountain region for the inside and back cover and to complement content of the special feature section. And courtesy of Western Carolina University's Hunter Library, the photography of another historical figure who loved the Appalachians, Horace Kephart, adds visual images that reflect the time period of several of the novels discussed in the issue.

This 19th issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* will be available in independent bookstores across the state (see <http://www.nclr.ecu.edu/about-nclr/retail-outlets.html>) or may be ordered directly from *NCLR*. For information about subscriptions or single-issue purchases, go to <http://www.nclr.ecu.edu>.