

# Blind Faith

by *David McGuirt*

**2009 DORIS BETTS FICTION PRIZE WINNER**

Final Judge, Kat Meads



*Valle Crucis, NC, 1979, by John Rosenthal*

**DAVID MCGUIRT** lives in Charlotte, NC, with his wife, Patty, and three children, Avery, Casey, and Emmy. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University and a past winner of the Garland Kever award for humor writing from UNC-Charlotte.

The 2009 Doris Betts Fiction Prize final judge, **KAT MEADS**, says of McGuirt's winning story, "'Blind Faith' is fiction that mercilessly observes and indicts with the means by which all good fiction indicts: plot, pacing, powerful imagery, and characters who stay with the reader long after the reading is finished."

**JOHN ROSENTHAL's** photography has been exhibited throughout North Carolina and the Southeast, as well as in the Panopticon Gallery in Boston. Some of his work is also collected in his book, *Regarding Manhattan* (Safe Harbor Books, 1998), on Chapel Hill's online Tyndall Galleries ([www.tyndallgalleries.com](http://www.tyndallgalleries.com)), and on his website ([www.johnrosenthal.com](http://www.johnrosenthal.com)), which includes his American Spaces series of photographs featuring his son in Valle Crucis in western North Carolina. The photograph above is from that series. Rosenthal has published essays and lectures in a wide variety of periodicals.

**ROB AMBERG's** photography is featured here, with the preceding stories and review, and with the Byer short story. For more information about him, see pages 103, 131, and 141.