

Anthology of Appalachian Writers
Ann Pancake Volume XVI



Photographic Art from Ann Pancake Volume

- In spring 2024, the Ann Pancake volume of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* was published by the West Virginia Center for the Book, with funding provided by the WV Humanities Council, the Shepherd University Foundation, and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. The photographic art accompanying the poetry and prose of this volume was inspired by Pancake's writing, as well as by the poets and prose writers whose work won a place in this volume. Photographic artist **Mike Mendez**, curator for the exhibit, selected the prize-winning photograph and arranged the pieces in the Scarborough Reading Room in such a way that the photographs speak to library visitors as powerfully as they did to readers of the Ann Pancake volume of this anthology collection. The first-place photograph and winner of the \$250 prize in the exhibit is **Sheree Stewart Combs' *Moody Mountain***, which begins this photographic art exhibit. However, other photographs that have likewise won a place in the Ann Pancake volume are extraordinary examples of photographic art excellence. The show concludes with Rachel Herbaugh's cover photograph for the series, *Morning Fog*, which hangs permanently in the Scarborough Library.

#1, First-Prize Award, *Moody Mountain* by Sheree Stewart Combs



- Sheree Stewart Combs' *Moody Mountain* was selected by Mike Mendez as the winning photograph in the exhibit. Combs is a photographer and writer who resides with her husband on a small farm in Kentucky. This photograph is a superb example of the use of composition, light, and shadow to create a mood and sentient feeling about the natural world.

#2, *Trestle* by Ravyn Weirich



- Ravyn Weirich is a Shepherd University undergraduate major in Appalachian Studies, from Elkins, West Virginia. Ravyn was awarded in 2024 an Appalachian Studies Community Service Award of \$500 to help with her university expenses. She traveled with the Program to Ireland and Cornwall in June 2023, exploring her Celtic Roots and recording her adventures with her camera. This image holds the honor of being placed first in the Pancake volume, both for its symbolic and visual value.

#3, *Breakthrough* by Riley Kilmore



- Riley Kilmore studied writing and theater at Seton Hill University. She is a former police officer, firefighter, and home-schooling mom. Kilmore is a published writer as well as a photographer, living in East Waterford, Pennsylvania.

#4, *Thurmond Then and Now* by Riley Kilmore



- Riley Kilmore's stories and poems have appeared in dozens of anthologies, journals, and collections. She is also author of the novel, *Shay the Brave*, categorized as young adult and fantasy literature. The book was published by Wild Ink Publications in 2024.

#5, *The Gorge* by Riley Kilmore



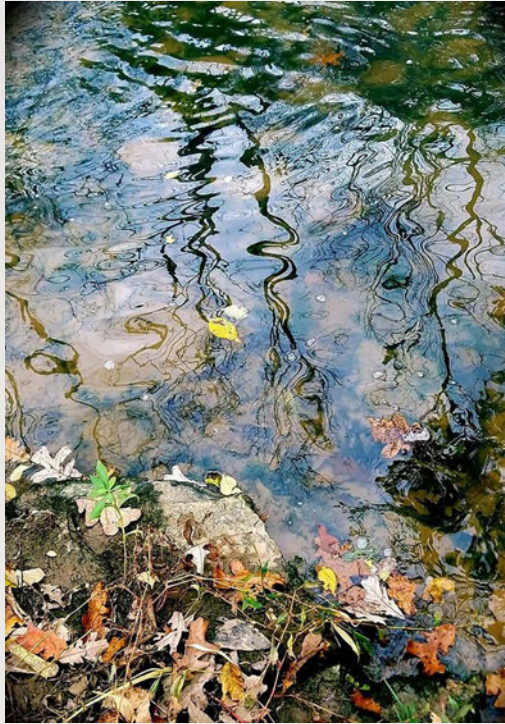
- Coming from a literary family, Kilmore has traveled widely and has had a range of educational experiences, formal and nonformal. Her photography and her writing suggest a keen response to nature and finely honed observational skills.

#6, *Good Fences* by Riley Kilmore



- Riley Kilmore's observations, whether of the natural or the human worlds, are always thoughtful, prescient, and provide images that capture the imagination of the viewer as well as the beauty, mystery, and majesty of the world around us.

#7, Honorable Mention, *Autumn's Creek*
by Sheree Stewart Combs



- This photographic image is alive with energy, texture, and color that literally and figuratively reflect the surrounding world. Combs' photographs and writing have been published in *Beyond Words*, *International Magazine of Literature and Art*, *Minnow Literary Magazine*, and *Persimmon Tree Magazine* among others. Combs' interests at her home in central Kentucky include gardening, walking, and Argentine tango.

#8, *Hope* by Rachel Herbaugh



- Rachel Herbaugh's sensitivity to the landscape of Appalachia and her understanding of the power of metaphor are hallmarks of her photographic style. Here we have both a highly symbolic image of the resilience of the natural world and an emblem for hope.

#9, *Leaving* by Randi Ward



- Randi Ward is a writer, translator, lyricist, and photographer from Belleville, West Virginia. She earned her MA in Cultural Studies at the University of the Faroe Islands and has twice won the American-Scandinavian Foundation's Nadia Christensen Prize. Randi's *Whipstitches* collection features her keen observations, whimsical wit, and succinct insights into both the human and natural worlds. Along with Poet Laureate Marc Harshman, Randi will host the September 24, 2024, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers Celebration* at the Scarborough Reading Room.

#10, *Gathering Storm* by Rachel Herbaugh



- Rachel Herbaugh's *Gathering Storm* reveals both the beauty and the fear inspired by the natural world, as she portrays the Romantic idea of the "Sublime." Here light and dark interplay to suggest what Blake would call the "Fearful Symmetry" of the world in which we live.

#11, *Mountain Wetland* by Rachel Herbaugh



- Wetlands are not generally associated with mountain places, but such natural features are part of the highlands as well as the coastal plains. With this image, Herbaugh captures the serenity and quiet beauty of such places in the Appalachian region.

#12, *Create* by Riley Kilmore



- This poignant photographic image captures the creative absorption of the young artist lost in a moment of inspiration and imagination. The interplay of light and dark in this remarkable photograph reminds one of the painting of de la Tour

#13, *Hurly-Burly* by Rachel Herbaugh



- Rachel Herbaugh won the 2019 photography prize for the Crystal Wilkinson volume of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*. This image from the Ann Pancake volume reveals Herbaugh's propensity for the allegorical; and like the prose of Ann Pancake, Herbaugh's images are rife with color, energy, and complex emblematic significance.

#14, *Morning Fog* by Rachel Herbaugh
Cover Image for the Sixteen-Volume *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*



- Rachel Herbaugh's haunting image has graced the cover of sixteen volumes of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*. The image conveys the mystery and majesty of these most ancient mountains on planet Earth, whose creation story began with the continent of Pangea and whose landscape today represents the last great North American migration corridor to mitigate species extinction, both animal and plant. Appalachia is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world.