

The 2012 Midwest Folklorists' Retreat

We are pleased to announce the **2012 Midwest Folklorists' Retreat** will be held in **Madison, Wisconsin, Thursday, May 31—Sunday, June 3, 2012.**

In challenging times for folklorists, both in academe and the public sector, it is crucial to gather, on a regional basis, to network, brainstorm and plan. We seek means to promote our profession and ways for academic and public folklorists to collaborate and be of mutual support. We urge all folklorists in or interested in the Midwest to attend and participate Friday's session will include a Panel on *Publishing* by Jim Leary and Tom DuBois, Editors of the *Journal of American Folklore*, Robert Glenn Howard, who previously served as the Editor of *Western Folklore* and Sheila Leary, Press Director, University of Wisconsin Press; a Panel on *Internet Based Folklore Resources*; and a Panel on *Hybrid Models of Collaborations* between public, and academic folklorists, arts and humanities agencies. Saturday's session will focus on long term and strategic planning for the Midwest.

The retreat's setting will be at **Edgewood College**, (<http://www.edgewood.edu/aboutEC/GreenTier.aspx>) an exceptionally beautiful and very inexpensive location. Dormitory rooms are available only several yards from our meeting space, in a nature study center in the woods on the shore of Lake Wingra, an urban lake that nonetheless is completely surrounded by forest and park land. Retreat participants will have the opportunity to hike on trails through the woods and on boardwalks through the adjoining wetlands. Edgewood abuts the 1,260 acre UW Arboretum, a remarkable expanse of restored ecosystems, forest, prairie and wetlands, established in 1934.

The very progressive outlook of the Sinsinawa Dominicans, the order that established Edgewood, is reflected in the healthy, well-prepared food service we will enjoy during the retreat. Vegetarian and vegan options are always available and they are very proud to have been the first Wisconsin university food service to be certified as a Green Restaurant. At least 40% of their foods are from local sources and a substantial portion of their fresh produce is raised in their on-campus vegetable gardens.

As a recreational activity, Rick March has planned a **Saturday bicycle tour** using Madison's remarkable paved off-road bike trails. Bicycling magazines often proclaim Madison to be one of the most bike-friendly cities in the US. The tour route includes a visit to the Arboretum, to Madison's fabulous Saturday Farmers' Market, plus stops at Outsider Art sites and a visit to an authentic

Thai pavilion. Rental bikes are available or bring your own. (Driving is an option for those who need to.)

For those who would like to stay for it, there will be a **post-retreat canoe or kayak paddling outing** on Madison's lakes beginning late-morning on Sunday. Bring your own boat if you can, or you can rent a canoe or kayak nearby.

The retreat begins with lunch on Thursday, May 31, followed by meetings and evening socializing. We will have meetings during the day on Friday and in the evening enjoy a Friday night fish fry, (a Wisconsin institution), then go out for a beer and a polka dance, (also Wisconsin institutions). The Saturday bike excursion will run from morning to mid-afternoon, followed by another meeting and Saturday evening socializing. A wrap-up session will follow breakfast on Sunday morning.

Please register by **May 15**. We cannot guarantee space for you after that date. Registration will be available by credit card through the Brown Paper Tickets website (a \$.99 + 3.5% surcharge will be added for on-line registration), or you may mail a registration form and check made out to Richard March at the address below. To determine the amount of the registration fee, select either the "full retreat" option for 3 days or "weekend only" for 2 days. Then select the corresponding food and lodging option that you desire: a triple-occupancy room, double-occupancy room or commuter (meals and parking only). Indicate the name(s) of your roommate(s). Participants who are seeking a potential roommate can contact Rick March for assistance.

For more information contact:

Rick March or
507 Leonard St
Madison, WI 53711
radmarch@gmail.com
608-204-9184

Sue Eleuterio
Sueeleu@gmail.com
219-902-1831

Registration Form

Name_____

Address_____

City/Zip Code_____

Telephone (land line)_____(cell)_____

Email_____

Registration Fee: Full retreat \$25 _____

Weekend only \$20 _____

Full retreat food & lodging:

Weekend only food & lodging:

Triple occupancy \$111 _____

Triple occupancy \$74 _____

Double occupancy \$156 _____

Double occupancy \$104 _____

Commuter \$105 _____

Commuter \$70 _____

Full retreat total \$ _____

Weekend total \$ _____

Roommate(s) _____