

For Immediate Release:

2008 Maine Literary Festival to Focus on the Environment

“For This Earth: Visions in Literature” is Festival Theme

CAMDEN, ME – July 24, 2008 – “For This Earth: Visions in Literature” is the theme of the Maine Literary Festival, to be held November 7 – 9, 2008, at the Camden Opera House.

The Festival explores the roles of writing, poetry, nature, and science in shaping the way we treat the planet and live our lives. Professor Verlyn Klinkenborg is the 2008 E.B. and Katharine White Memorial Lecturer. University of Vermont Professor Emeritus of Biology Bernd Heinrich and *Gourmet* magazine Editor in Chief Ruth Reichl headline the Saturday and Sunday sessions, respectively.

“We have attracted a roster of superb authors, poets and food writers, and struck a chord with people who are passionate about the environment and doing whatever they can to make a difference,” said Festival Chair Maryanne Shanahan. “The weekend includes serious literary discussion, constructive suggestions for our individual lives, good food and great fun.”

Professor Klinkenborg wrote *Making Hay* (1986), *The Last Fine Time* (1991), *The Rural Life* (2003), and *Timothy: Or, Notes of an Abject Reptile* (2006). His work has appeared in many magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *The Smithsonian* and *National Geographic*. He has taught literature and creative writing at Fordham University and Harvard University.

Professor Heinrich is University of Vermont professor emeritus of biology and the nation's leading expert on thermoregulation of insects. He has published scientific books including the National Book Award nominee and natural history classic, *Bumblebee Economics*, as well as *Winter World: the Ingenuity of Animal Survival*, and *Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds*. He contributes articles to national publications including *Science*, *Scientific American*, *The Smithsonian*, *Natural History* and the *New York Times*.

Ms. Reichl has been editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine and www.gourmet.com since April 1999. Previously she was a restaurateur and widely read restaurant critic at both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*. Ms. Reichl began writing about food in 1972, when she published *Mmmmm: A Feastyary*. Since then, she has authored the critically acclaimed, best-selling memoirs *Tender at the Bone*, *Comfort Me with Apples*, and *Garlic and Sapphires*.

In addition to the acclaimed keynote speaker and headline authors, approximately 20 authors, poets, scientists, critics and chefs will participate, among them Kate Braestup, Kathleen Ellis, Annie Finch, Melissa Kelly, Gary Lawless, Sy Montgomery, Molly O'Neill, Michael Ruhlman, Jonathan Skinner, Candace Stover, Martha White, Joy Williams, and Sandip Wilson.

Festival attendees are eligible to sign up, on a first-come-first-served basis, for the “Church Supper Redux” on Saturday, November 8. This new twist on a classical church supper will be prepared by local chefs who use local and organic foods and support sustainable agriculture. Register now! Early bird registration ends August 31, 2008. Details and registration are available

at www.mainerliteraryfestival.com. Questions can be directed to Maryanne Shanahan at 207-837-2827.

About the Maine Literary Festival

The Maine Literary Festival is a scholarship project of the Midcoast Branch of the American Association of University Women. All proceeds from the Festival are used for the Midcoast AAUW's scholarship program for young women and girls who might otherwise not be able to attend college.

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