Kansas Center for the Book is Featured at Inaugural Festivities

by Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book

During the 2007 Kansas Inaugural, the Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) had a very visible presence. Among the Topeka events prior to the Inauguration was the "Mainstreet Family Festival," held at the Ramada in downtown Topeka from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The theme of the Inauguration was "The Best of Kansas 2007." Included among the best were eight of the fifteen Kansas Notable Book authors, invited by the Festival Chair Anita Wolgast. Among the authors attending were Brad Sneed, *Deputy Harvey and the Ant Cow Caper*; Max Yoho, *The Moon Butter Route*; Eunice Boeve, *Maggie Rose and Sass*; Lisa Harkrader, *Airball*; Thomas Fox Averill, *Ordinary Genius*; Michael J. Haddock, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas*; Marci Penner, *The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers*; and Michael J. Everhart, *Oceans of Kansas*. Also invited by Wolgast was Trudy McFarland, whose book, *Diary of a German War Bride*, won the J. Donald Coffin Memorial Award of the Kansas Authors Club, a KCFB Affiliate.

Visitors to the Festival could purchase any of the fifteen titles on the 2006 Kansas Notable Books List through a vendor attending the event, Claflin Books and Copies, a KFCB Affiliate. Co-owner Stormy Kennedy served on the Notable Books Committee in 2006. Only titles on the Notable Books List and McFarland's book were sold. Copies of the books of the authors attending were autographed on the spot, and all authors autographed multiple copies of their works.

Also at the Festival was KCFB Director Roy Bird, who shared the mission and goals of the Kansas Center for the Book, promoted the 2006 Kansas Notable Books List, discussed the 2007 Notable Books List and told visitors about the upcoming "Kansas Reads … *The Learning Tree*," the first One Book, One State project for adults in Kansas which kicked off on January 29.

The KCFB participation included a virtual presence, too. During December and early January, people in the Kansas book community were invited to share their favorite Kansas books. This list of favorite Kansas books was placed on the inaugural website, www.bestofkansas2007.com. This list can also be viewed on the home page of the KCFB website, www.kcfb.info.

Organizer Wolgast, the Notable Books List authors and many guests were pleased with the participation of the Kansas Center for the Book at the Mainstreet Family Festival celebrating the 2007 Kansas Inaugural.