

Celebrating Ohio's Authors

2010 Ohioana Book Festival Draws Record Audience

By David Weaver

Not even gray skies and the sudden return of chilly, March-like winds could keep the fourth annual Ohioana Book Festival from being a great success when it was presented on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the State Library of Ohio. Once more, several thousand readers of all ages came to talk to their favorite authors and enjoy a day of fun-filled activities to celebrate reading, writing, and literacy. More than 3,000 people attended the event.

First Lady and Festival Honorary Chair Francis Strickland kicked the day off with an opening ceremony that included honoring winners of the fourth annual Ohioana Robert Fox Awards for Young Writers. Jessica Fox joined in presenting the awards named for her late father, Bob Fox, the Ohio Arts Council's longtime Literary Coordinator and a member of



Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland opens the 2010 Ohioana Book Festival.



The crowd at the festival opening.



2010 Robert Fox Award winners
with Frances Strickland and Jessica Fox.

Ohioana's Board of Trustees. The six honored students (chosen in a competition open to all Ohio high school students) gave readings of their winning entries in a special presentation following the awards ceremony.

The festival program included panel discussions, readings, children's activities, book appraisals by the Aldus Society, and a book fair with an on-site Barnes & Noble store. Ohio Government Television and The Ohio State University Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing were on hand to record interviews with many of the nearly ninety participating authors.

Outreach programming with our ten featured authors – David Catrow, Dan Chaon, Lori Foster, Andrew Hudgins, Angela Johnson, Lisa Klein, Martha Moody, David Lee Morgan, Jr., Ted Rall and Lucy Snyder - took place during the three days prior to the main event. Activities included visits to eleven schools and libraries, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and



Curious George
passes out DVDs to
kids.



Author Steve Harpster signed copies of his *Giggle Fit* series books.

The 2010 Ohioana Book Festival was presented by the Ohioana Library Association with major funding provided by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Humanities Council, the State Library of Ohio, the Reinberger Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and Honda of America, Mfg., Inc. The special children's activity area, with programming presented by the Kent State University School of Library and Information Sciences, was co-sponsored by Huntington Bank and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Media sponsors were WOSU Public Media, OHIO magazine, and WCBE radio; Barnes & Noble was the official bookseller; with additional support provided by more than twenty-five contributors and community partners. A complete listing of all our sponsors, contribu-



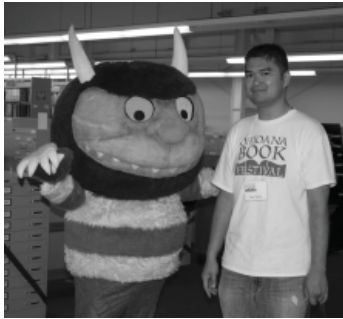
Paranormal Mystery writer Casey Daniels is ready to sign some books!

the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility in Delaware; events at the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington and the Lennox Square Barnes & Noble; and interviews on WOSU, WCBE, and WCRS.

Between live and broadcast programming and events, the four days of the festival reached a record audience of nearly 20,000 people.



Author Tiffany Ann Laufer talks with a festival guest about her book, *The Porch Dream*.



One of the Wild Things from Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* came out to celebrate with us.

tors, and partners is available on pages 20 and 21, and on the Ohioana Book Festival website: www.OhioanaBook-Festival.org

Plans are already underway for the fifth annual Ohioana Book Festival, which has been set for Saturday, May 7, 2011. We have begun taking applications from authors interested in participating in the event. Details can be found on the festival website.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the 2010 Ohioana Book Festival such a great success. We look forward to seeing you next year!



2010 Featured Authors

Front Row: David Catrow, David Lee Morgan, Jr.,
Ted Rall, Dan Chaon, Lori Foster

Back Row: Andrew Hudgins, Lucy Snyder, Martha
Moody, Lisa Klein, Angela Johnson