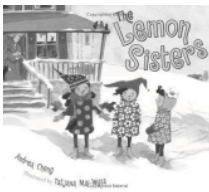


Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks

The staff and board of Ohioana are all readers too, and we want to share our summer reading lists with you.

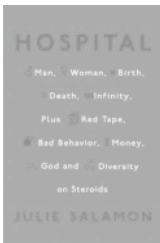
Some of us picked new books and some of us picked older titles. We all had a tough time choosing just a few books a piece, especially since we get to spend so much time with the more than 45,000 volumes in Ohioana's collection (and new books come in every day!).

Cindy Puckett, President, Ohioana Board of Trustees



THE LEMON SISTERS BY ANDREA CHENG, ILLUSTRATED BY TATJANA MAI-WYSS. PUTNAM (NEW YORK NY), 2006. 32 PP HC \$16.99. *The Lemon Sisters* by Andrea Cheng of Cincinnati is a classic children's book that is also cherished by adults. I gave this book as a birthday present to a young friend of mine, and

her mother read and declared it to be HER favorite new book! *The Lemon Sisters* won an Ohioana Book Award in 2007.



HOSPITAL: MAN, WOMAN, BIRTH, DEATH, INFINITY, PLUS RED TAPE, BAD BEHAVIOR, MONEY, GOD AND DIVERSITY ON STEROIDS BY JULIE SALAMON. PENGUIN (NEW YORK NY), 2008. 384 PP HC \$25.95. Ohio native Julie Salamon is an exceptionally talented writer and reporter. If you liked the television series "ER," you will probably love *Hospital*. This book is a fascinating collection that draws from the every day lives of

patients and staff of a hospital in Brooklyn, New York and is a first rate chronicle of the real challenges in our health care system.

Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks



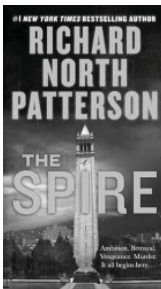
BEYOND THE RIVER: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BY ANN HAGEDORN. SIMON & SCHUSTER (NEW YORK NY), 2004. 333PP PBK \$15.00. Last but not least, pick up anything by Ripley resident Ann Hagedorn. Her book *Beyond the River* is at the top of my must read stack. In addition to recommendations from two of my friends, Ohioan Arthur Schlesinger Jr. praised the book for its narration and scholarship. Enough said.

Linda R. Hengst, Executive Director



MISTRESS SHAKESPEARE BY KAREN HARPER. PUTNAM (NEW YORK NY), 2009. 384 PP HC \$24.95. Like other book lovers, I share the lament “so many books – so little time.” Because I commute nearly seventy miles a day, I am a book-on-CD fan and last year listened to *Mistress Shakespeare* by Columbus native Karen Harper. It is one of the Choose to Read Ohio selections for 2011 and reminded me of just how much

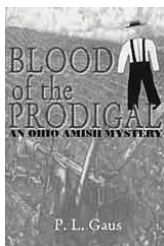
I once enjoyed reading and watching Shakespeare’s plays. This historic novel tells the story of Anne Whateley, William Shakespeare’s secret wife, as well as what life might have been like living in England during the late 1500s and early 1600s.



THE SPIRE BY RICHARD NORTH PATTERSON. HENRY HOLT (NEW YORK NY), 2009. 384 pp hc \$26.00. As a mystery fan, I would recommend two Richard North Patterson books *The Spire* and *Eclipse*. *The Spire* is a murder mystery set in a fictional college campus much like Patterson’s alma mater, Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware. A home town boy returns to campus where he was a star

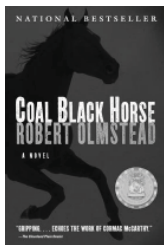
Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks

athlete before becoming a successful East coast attorney. The book explores not only the campus in the present, but the turmoil of the 1970s. *The Spire* is a 2010 Ohioana Book Award finalist. *Eclipse* is set mainly in West Africa and is about the world's dependence on oil. Both books, as well as most of Patterson's book, can be borrowed from your local public library.



BLOOD OF THE PRODIGAL BY P.L. GAUS. OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS (ATHENS OH), 1999. 235 PP HC \$24.95. On my summer reading list is another 2011 Choose to Read Ohio selection, *Blood of the Prodigal*, the first in P.L. Gaus's Ohio Amish mysteries. The series was originally published by Ohio University Press as a part of their Ohio culture selections. All the books in the series will soon be reprinted by Plume, an imprint

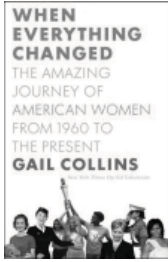
of the Penguin group. There are six books in the series and I know that once I get started I will need to read them all. Gaus is retired from the chemistry department at the College of Wooster, where he was a professor and served as chairperson of the Chemistry department. Ohio has the largest Amish population in the US and he has used Ohio as the setting of all of his novels.



COAL BLACK HORSE BY ROBERT OLMSTEAD. ALGONQUIN BOOKS (CHAPEL HILL NC), 2007. 224 PP HC \$23.95. I want to read all of the Choose to Read Ohio titles. Next on my list is the 2008 Ohioana Book Award winner *Coal Black Horse* by Delaware resident and Ohio Wesleyan professor Richard Olmstead. *Coal Black Horse* is a coming-of-age story of 14 year old Robey Childs as he searches for his father, a soldier in the war.

After, I will read two of the CRTO teen selections: *Two Girls of Gettysburg* by Columbus resident Lisa Klein and *Sweet, Hereafter* by Angela Johnson of Kent.

Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks



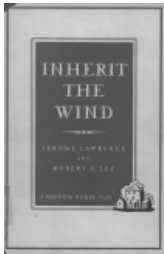
WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED: THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF AMERICAN WOMEN FROM 1960 TO THE PRESENT BY GAIL COLLINS. LITTLE, BROWN AND CO. (BOSTON MA), 2009. 480 PP HC \$27.99. On my side table is Gail Collins' *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, a 2010 Ohioana Book Award finalist. I am eager to read this book, it is the story of my own time. I have

perused the Gary Meszaros amazing photos in *Wild Ohio* published by Kent State University Press, but will savor reading the text by Jim McCormac over the summer.

Oh so many books....so little time! As time allows I will read all of the 2010 Ohioana Book Award finalists and CTRO selections, but this list includes all that I hope to read and/or listen to during the next few months.

David Weaver, Development Director

With the arrival of another hot summer, nothing is more relaxing than sitting in the shade with your favorite cold beverage and a book. Here are my picks - a collection of stories, books, and poems by Ohio writers. Coincidentally, all of them just happen to be past Ohioana Award winners.

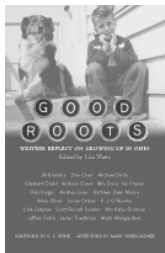


INHERIT THE WIND BY JEROME LAWRENCE AND ROBERT E. LEE. RANDOM HOUSE (NEW YORK NY), 1955. 162 PP HC \$2.75. Fifty-five years have passed since this landmark play opened on Broadway. Based on the famed Scopes "monkey" trial of the 1920s, the story is so compelling and the characterizations so vivid that it doesn't even need a stage, scenery, or actors to make a powerful impact.

Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks

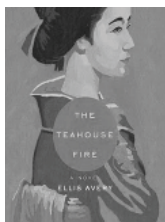


NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT: MY LIFE IN RHYTHM AND RHYME BY MICHAEL FEINSTEIN. HYPERION (NEW YORK NY), 1995. 406 PP HC \$24.95. Michael Feinstein has become recognized as one of the outstanding interpreters and caretakers of what is known as “The Great American Songbook.” His entertaining 1995 memoir traces his remarkable journey from the east side of Columbus to the glamorous lights of Broadway and Hollywood, and the legendary songwriters and performers he encountered along the way from Ira Gershwin to Liza Minelli.



GOOD ROOTS: WRITERS REFLECT ON GROWING UP IN OHIO EDITED BY LISA WATTS. OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS (ATHENS OH), 2006. 208 PP HC \$29.95. I’m admittedly prejudiced when it comes to this book - not only is it a wonderful collection of essays and poems by twenty distinguished Ohio writers, it was the catalyst for the creation of the Ohioana Book Festival: *Good Roots* was the focal point of our very first

festival in 2007. We often hear people talking about the importance of “a sense of place.” This book has that sense - and the place is Ohio.



THE TEAHOUSE FIRE BY ELLIS AVERY. RIVERHEAD (NEW YORK NY), 2006. 400 PP HC \$24.95. Ohioana is very proud of Ellis - in 2002, she won our Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, given to writers under the age of thirty who have not yet published a book. Since then, Ellis has gone on to publish two acclaimed books, the second of which, *The Teahouse Fire*, won the 2007 Ohioana

Book Award. It is about the cultural changes in Japan in the late 19th century as seen through the eyes of an orphaned American girl who is taken in by a master tea maker.

Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks

Beth Poley, Program Coordinator



SELECTED WRITINGS OF VICTORIA WOODHULL: SUFFRAGE, FREE LOVE, AND EUGENICS EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CARI M. CARPENTER. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS (LINCOLN NE), 2010. 337 PP PBK \$35.00. In honor of 2010 marking the ninetieth anniversary of women's suffrage, I will be reading up on the first woman to run for president: Homer, Ohio native, Victoria Woodhull. Woodhull's political and personal views were radical during her time, and even now, almost a century later, some of her political beliefs would still be considered radical. This collection of Woodhull's letters, speeches, essays, and articles shed light on the difficulties women faced before the passage of the 19th amendment.



UNDER GLASS: THE GIRL WITH A THOUSAND CHRISTMAS TREES BY JEN HIRT. RINGTAW BOOKS (AKRON OH), 2010. 174 PP HC \$22.95. I love a good memoir. Jen Hirt won the 2003 Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant and *Under Glass* is her first book. *Under Glass* chronicles the rise and fall of her family's Christmas tree farm, and that of her family, in Strongsville, Ohio. Hirt writes her story in a series of essays.

Reading her memoir is like getting to know a new friend, a life story in bits and pieces, not all at once and not all in the right order, but still cohesive and ultimately relatable.

Summer Reading Ohioana Staff Picks



THEN WE SAW THE FLAMES: STORIES BY DANIEL A. HOYT. UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESS (AMHERST MA), 2009. 128 PP PBK \$19.95. I can't say enough good things about this collection of short stories. A professor at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Hoyt writes engaging, vibrant prose. While his stories do not follow one another thematically, the style in which they are written easily takes the reader from one story to the next. The stories are brief yet poignant, perfect for hectic days where you need just a little time out to read.

Kirstin Krumsee, Library Associate

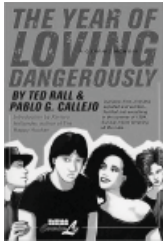


Y: THE LAST MAN, VOL. 1: UNMANNED BY BRIAN K. VAUGHAN, ILLUSTRATED BY PIA GUERRA. VERTIGO, (NEW YORK NY) 2003. 128 PP PBK \$12.99. After the instantaneous death of every male on the planet, Yorick Brown and his monkey Ampersand begin their journey across the globe to discover how and why they are the only remaining mammals with Y chromosomes left on the planet. While the subject may sound bleak, *Y: The Last Man* is a fast paced and highly entertaining graphic novel series that poses the question, what would the world be like if suddenly there weren't any men? I would highly recommend this collection for first time graphic novel readers and long time readers of the format alike.



TRYST BY ANGIE ESTES. OBERLIN COLLEGE PRESS, (OBERLIN OH) 2009. 75 PP PBK \$15.95. In Angie Estes' fourth collection of poetry she covers an extremely wide amount of ground, from Appalachia to Ancient Rome to Heidegger to Rita Hayworth. Her collection of free verse poetry is simultaneously very readable yet filled with puns, wordplay and references. Often

times, my favorite books tend to be those that refer to other books and poems and pieces of artwork and this book does that. Many times while reading *Tryst*, I found myself wanting to look into the things Estes references to better understand the poetry and to expand my own knowledge. Even without being familiar with many of the things discussed in this collection of poetry, I found it to be a very beautiful collection.



THE YEAR OF LOVING DANGEROUSLY BY TED RALL, ILLUSTRATED BY PABLO G. CALLEJO. NBM PUBLISHING (NEW YORK NY) 2009. 127 PP HC \$18.95. In a departure from writing political cartoons, Ted Rall presents a graphic memoir about the summer of 1984. Having just been expelled from college, he suddenly finds himself homeless and jobless in New York City. This book was gripping from the first page. The combination of

Rall's prose and Pablo Callejo's art made this piece an especially resonant coming of age tale about life in the 1980s.