

Dear Friends,

We are offering not one, but two, interesting events on Monday and Tuesday of next week—a book signing at the archives and a fascinating speaker at our monthly program at the Garland County Library.

You can meet William “Youngblood” McCrary and his biographer, Linda Pennington Black, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, January 19, at the GCHS archives building at 328 Quapaw.

McCrary, who lives in Hot Springs Village, is one of the few remaining living figures of the acclaimed Negro Baseball League. He became a shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1946, playing with greats that included Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, Ernie Banks, and Buck O’Neil. He later played for the semi-pro Omaha Rockets, and the New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs farm teams.

Linda Black’s book, *A Legend Among Us: The Story of William “Youngblood” McCrary*, tells McCrary’s story—including his life as a baseball player, devoted family man, business owner, and very generous contributor to his community. A member of the Village Writer’s Club and the National League of American Pen Women, Black is also the author of children’s books and a prize-winning poet.

Corbet Deary, outdoor writer and photographer, will speak on the topic “A Journey into the Forest” at our January meeting at noon, Tuesday, January 20, at the Garland County Library. “A Journey into the Forest” is a compilation of photos Deary has taken during his excursions throughout the Ouachitas. The program highlights the diversity of wildflowers, native wildlife, and beautiful scenery in the Ouachita Mountain Region.

Deary’s photographs and articles have been published in an array of publications, including *Arkansas Wildlife*, *Arkansas Fish and Game Finder*, *Get Out*, *Real Outdoor Sportsman*, *Outdoor Guide*, *Ozark Mountaineer*, *Country Discoveries*, *Outdoors in Arkansas*, *Hot Springs On The Go*, *Kayak Angler*, and *Dog Fancy* magazines. He writes racing articles on a regular basis for K&N Filters’ web site. His award-winning photography has been featured on post cards, billboards, brochures, and in galleries.

The co-owner of Hot Springs Photography Studio, Deary writes a weekly outdoor destination article and a weekly outdoor column for the *Sentinel-Record*. He has previously served as a staff photographer for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and was the editor for *Outdoors in Arkansas* magazine. He also teaches photography classes, conducts photo workshops, and leads nature walks several times annually.

Our officers for 2015-2017, headed by President Renee Lucy, will be installed at the meeting.

In the last month we have received a grant from the Elisabeth Wagner Foundation with which we will purchase archival storage supplies. We also gave programs to the Kiwanis Club of Malvern and to Hot Springs Master Gardeners. Our project to digitize our photograph collection continues to go well, and our volunteers are busy each day helping researchers.

Thank you for your support! I hope to see you on Monday and Tuesday!

Sincerely,
Liz Robbins, Executive Director