

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 4: NUMBER 5.....MAY, 2009

Into Something Rare and Strange...

Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* resonates with reference to *King Lear*. *West Side Story* is, of course, *Romeo and Juliet* transported to the New York City of the 1960's. Our featured work this month is recognizable in part as *Hamlet*. However, even Shakespeare borrowed some of his plots, and one reads the Bard not so much for the story but for the language and the insights into life and human nature—and so it with *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*.

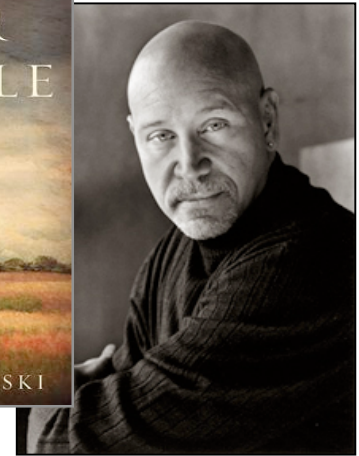
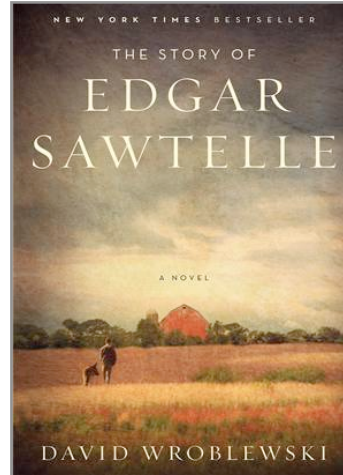
Featured This Month:

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

The story begins with the image of a dog, the earliest memory of Edgar Sawtelle, the young son of Gar and Trudy Sawtelle, dog breeders in mid-twentieth century rural Wisconsin. Edgar, an only child, is born with a strange inability to speak, unexplained by physical causes, but it is his very silence that seems to wrap him and his parents and their dogs in an exquisite intimacy. Uniting them also is the family's generational pursuit of a seemingly impossible objective in their breeding program, a quality in their dogs beyond intelligence and intuition that would make a "Sawtelle dog" the ultimate companion animal. Edgar's life seems idyllic until the arrival of his Uncle Claude, his father's estranged brother, who brings insidious innuendoes of darkness in the family's past, and intimations that the breeders' goal may be even beyond nature's design. When Edgar's father dies suddenly, Edgar's suspicions begin a cascade of tragic consequences for the family and their dogs.

While it is intellectually intriguing to follow and guess at the metamorphosis of the plot lines of *Hamlet*, what engages the reader's sensibilities is how gracefully the writing folds one into Edgar's world, how vividly the author lays out the perception of the events in the Sawtelles' various points of view, and especially how convincingly Wroblewski imagines the interior life of his canine characters. In one of the most affecting chapters of the story, as Edgar's own dog, Almondine, searches for the missing boy, Wroblewski's prose transitions to sheer poetry. Without a doubt, **The Story of Edgar Sawtelle** takes its plot skeleton from the closet and gloriously fleshes it out as a living, breathing thing.

Review by Mary Anne Ciancia



Library Board Notes:

The Community Garage Sale is May 9! Donations for the Library's table will be most appreciated.

Another way to contribute is at the Music Festival's Silent Auction. Just specify that proceeds from your item will go to the Hillsboro Community Library.

Come and visit the newly reorganized Betty Reynolds Reading room where you can enjoy the Southwest history collection, the magazines, and the reference materials in comfort and quiet.

A correction from the April Newsletter: Fax available at **25¢ a page**.

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 6:30 – 8:30pm Wed. 1:00 – 4:00pm
Thurs: 6:30–8:30pm Fri: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–2:00pm

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit

<http://www.zianet.com/hbolib>

Bookmobile: Wednesday, May 20,
Hillsboro, 1:00–2:00 pm Kingston, 2:30 – 3:30pm

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New Additions at the Library:

Fiction

Above the Human Landscape

(Science fiction by various authors)

The Winemaker's Daughter by Timothy Egan

The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye by A. S. Byatt

Eccentric Neighborhoods by Rosario Ferre

The Ghost Writer by John Harwood

The Bear Went over the Mountain by Wm Kotzwinkle

In the Fall by Jeffrey Lent

The Echo Maker by Richard Powers

The Antelope Wife by Louise Erdrich

After Hannibal by Barry Unsworth

Family Album by Claribel Alegria

Slow River by Nicola Griffith

The Life of Insects by Viktor Pelevin

Mystery

Tripwire by Lee Child

Echo Burning by Lee Child

Without Fail by Lee Child

Bad Luck and Trouble by Lee Child

Dark of the Moon by John Sandford

Dead Watch by John Sandford

Certain Prey by John Sandford

Bones to Ashes by Kathy Reichs

Deadline by John Dunning

Films (DVD)

Long Haul: a short documentary ... The Conflict

Guilty Conscience ... Last of the Belles

Films (VHS)

At First Sight ... Buena Vista Social Club

Doo Wop 51: Volume 1... Doo Wop 51: Volume 2

Ed Wood ... Erin Brockovich ... The Other Sister

Primary Colors

Music CD's

Traveling Home by Dan Levenson

Acoustic Folk Poet by Sean Smith

Classics

Life's Little Ironies: A Set of Tales, by Th. Hardy

Cactus Thorn by Mary Austin

The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

Buccaneers by Edith Wharton

The Mother's Recompense by Edith Wharton

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

Non-Fiction

The Great International Paper Airplane Book by

Jerry Mander, George Dippel and Howard Gossage

The Court Years, 1939-1975, The Autobiography of William O. Douglas

Aldo Leopold's Southwest by Aldo Leopold

Plan of Attack by Bob Woodward

A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity by Bill O'Reilly

The Ancient Southwest: Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, and Mesa Verde by David Stuart

Cinders & Smoke - A Mile by Mile Guide for the

Durango to Silverton Narrow Gauge Trip by Doris Osterwald

Medicine Dance - One Woman's Healing Journey into the World of Native American Sweatlodges, Drumming meditations and Dance Fasts by Marsha Scarbrough

Islamic Ornamental Design by Claude Humbert

Women of the Four Winds by Elizabeth Olds

My Famous Evening-Nova Scotia Sojourns, Diaries & Preoccupations by Howard Norman

A Strong West Wind by Gail Caldwell

Picturing a Different West by Janis Stout

Xerophilia-Ecocritical Explorations in Southwest Literature by Tom Lynch

A Sweet, Separate Intimacy-Women Writers of the American Frontier by Susan Miller

Platicas-Conversations with Hispano Writers of New Mexico by Nasario Garcia

The Rise of Barack Obama by Pete Souza

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir by Bill Bryson

Juvenile Fiction

Runner in the Sun, by D'Arcy McNickle