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WENDELL BERRY and his wife Tanya farm with horses near the farms of their son and their daughter. His essays, his collections of poems and stories and his novels have established him as one of America's leading prophetic voices devoted to the advocacy of a loving stewardship of the land.

JUDY COOPER was raised in Lexington with roots in Menifee County, Kentucky. She now lives in northern Kentucky where she taught composition and literature at Northern Kentucky University for over twenty years.

T. PAIGE DALPORTO has just released an album of original tunes entitled, *Solid Pearl*. He is a life-long West Virginian and the author of *It's Still a Wonder Just Being Here: Photographs and Poems*.

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VALERIE NIEMAN, after a career as a West Virginia journalist, now teaches writing at North Carolina A & T State University. She is the author of two novels, a short story collection and a poetry collection. Her work has appeared in journals including *Poetry* and *Kenyon Review*.

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HERSHELLA SMITH is an East Tennessee native who currently lives on seventy acres of recovering cove hardwood forest on a mountainside near Mars Hill, North Carolina. She works as an instructional designer. This is her first published work.

CHARLES A. SWANSON is a native of Virginia who has a strong farming background. He continues to plant gardens, dry apples and milk a cow as he writes poetry, teaches high school English and pastors a small Baptist church.

GITHE BLOCH THOMSEN grew up in Denmark but attended Warren Wilson College for one year in the mid-sixties. Her M. A. thesis at Aarhus University in Denmark focused on Billy Edd Wheeler's writings, including his songs and his poetry. She is the office manager, the jill-of-all-trades, at her husband's heart clinic in Copenhagen, Denmark. She and her husband travel extensively, and she makes it a point to visit an art museum in practically every place she travels to.

ERIC TRETHEWEY is the author of five books of poetry. His fiction, essays, poetry and reviews have appeared in many magazines including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *The Kenyon Review* and *The Sewanee Review*. He teaches at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

BILLY EDD WHEELER is a native of Boone County, West Virginia, and a graduate of Warren Wilson College and Berea College who attended the Yale School of Drama. He is a singer/songwriter whose many contributions have earned him a place in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame. He is also the author or co-author of two poetry books, two novels, and several humor collections. As a visual artist, Wheeler's work has appeared in numerous gallery shows.