

Lunsford speaks at library

By Gary Strohm
Publisher

Author Mike Lunsford visited the Marshall Public Library on November 10th.

"We're all story tellers," said Lunsford. "I always liked to tell stories - even before I became a writer... Stories make us immortal. Your stories outlive you."

Mr. Lunsford outlined several aspects of writing.

He said that an author must write from a sense of place. He quoted Scott Russell Sanders, who said, "No matter where we go, our memories of places go with us."

Secondly, you need to find your "voice" as a writer. He said that while Mark Twain moved away from Missouri as an adult and seldom returned, but he took the Mississippi with him wherever he went.



Mike Lunsford.

Lunsford said that he and his wife Joanie, who accompanied him to Marshall, both received Lilly Foundation grants for teacher creativity. This allowed him to build a cabin behind their home which is the same dimensions as Henry David Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond.

He said that there are three common themes in his

writing:

1) That we are rooted people.

2) That we should learn to appreciate nature.

3) That we need to be explorers.

"If you spend time observing people, you'll find life's fabulous realities," said the author.

Mr. Lunsford read a story from his first book, *The Off Season*, which shows how far parents will go to help their kids. He also read a story from his book, *A Bridge That Carries You Over*.

Lunsford teaches history and English at Riverton Parke. He also writes a column for the Tribune Star entitled "The Off Season."

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