

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Lori Neid, Friends of the Library Board***

Pulitzer Prize winner to give library program

Pulitzer Prize winner and former U. S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser is coming to Columbus next Sunday to discuss his novel, “Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps.” Anyone who appreciates literature, poetry, the craft of writing, or simply being in the presence of a celebrated artist should plan to attend this special “Summer Sundays” event, sponsored by Friends of the Columbus Public Library. Kooser will speak at 3 p.m. at the Library.

Though “Local Wonders” is a book of prose, Kooser is one of America’s most highly regarded poets and served as the United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004 - 2006. He is the author of numerous full-length collections of poetry, including the 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning “Delights and Shadows.”

Last year, “Local Wonders” was selected by the One Book One Nebraska coalition as the 2011 statewide reading choice. If you have not read this book or any of Kooser’s other works, this is a wonderful opportunity to do so. He is a delight. In this novel, Kooser describes with exquisite detail and humor the place he calls home in the rolling hills of southeastern Nebraska—an area known as the Bohemian Alps. Nothing is too big or too small for his attention and everything is richly described. “Local Wonders” has won numerous literary awards, including the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction in 2003 and Third Place in the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award in Nonfiction for 2002. Copies of “Local Wonders” will be available for purchase at the event.

The One Book One Nebraska statewide project is designed to demonstrate how books and reading connect people across time and place. As author of the One Book One Nebraska 2011 selection, Kooser is traveling throughout the state this year to speak about his novel and Columbus is lucky to host this celebrated author. The Columbus Public Library collection has several Kooser works and I encourage you to become familiar with his works. For those who have not read much poetry (or who may not want to read much poetry), I urge you to read some of Kooser’s works. You will be pleasantly surprised... and perhaps inspired. He is a gifted writer.

Please join the Friends of the Columbus Public Library in welcoming Ted Kooser on Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at the library. Bring along a friend to the event and let’s show Mr. Kooser that Columbus is home to many great readers!