

### **Civic Stories, Changing Stories: Teaching the Butterflies and Their Questions**

**TALMAGE A. STANLEY**

*Birmingham Ballroom*

Tal Stanley invites you to join him in an exploration of the hearing, writing, telling, and teaching of the civic stories of a place. Like place itself, civic stories from a place are riven with conflict and ambiguity, with the tensions and questions of quotidian life, calling us to live within those ambiguities and questions. Drawn from his own life and work, this keynote will offer a consideration of the ways that the art and craft of storytelling from a place can reshape and change how we think of ourselves as citizens and the shared, relational work of citizenship in the places of our lives.



A tenth-generation Southwest Virginian, Tal Stanley grew up in Dublin, in Pulaski County. He is a writer of fiction, essays, history, and creative nonfiction. He lives and works at Emory & Henry College where he is the Director of the Appalachian Center for Civic Life, Director of the College's Interdisciplinary Program in Civic Innovation (a BA degree program), and Director of the Bonner Scholars Program. He helped plan and implement Emory & Henry College's Master of Arts program in Community and Organizational Leadership and is its director.

Tal graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Emory & Henry College, magna cum laude. He was a Woodruff Fellow at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he earned a Masters of Divinity. He earned a Ph.D. in American Studies in the Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory University, where he was a Mellon Dissertation Fellow in Southern Studies.

His book, *The Poco Field: An American Story of Place*, was published in March 2012 and is available from the University of Illinois Press. He has also written articles, reviews, and commentaries that have appeared in the *Appalachian Journal*, the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Studies in American Culture*, *Diversity and Democracy* (publication of the American Association of Colleges & Universities), and various other academic and general interest publications. His essays on civic engagement and teaching for civic life appear in *The Engaged Campus*, Dan Butin and Scott Seider, eds, and in *Deepening Community Engagement in Higher Education: Forging New Pathways*, Ari Hoy and Matthew Johnson, eds. He is currently at work on another book, tentatively titled, *American Road: Place, Racism, Resistance, and Civic Memory*.

Tal and his wife Susan have two children. He takes immeasurable pride in his family and their accomplishments. He enjoys cooking, canning, cheese making, beekeeping, woodworking, working in his orchard, and gardening. He takes inordinate, some would say delusionary, pride in his orchard of heirloom apple trees, bee hives, vegetable garden, flowerbeds, and flock of laying hens.