

*dedicated to the memory of
Jerry Leath ("Jake") Mills*

GENRE CONVENTIONS

with a HALF-TWIST:

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES FRAZIER

BY MARGARET D. BAUER

In November, 2012, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and the Historical Book Club of North Carolina presented Charles Frazier his second Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, this one for his newest novel, *Nightwoods*. This North Carolina book award is presented each year during the evening event of the annual meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the organization that founded and co-publishes the *North Carolina Literary Review*. Charles Frazier received his first Raleigh Award at my very first "Lit & Hist" meeting, back in 1997, for, of course, *Cold Mountain*, which also received the National Book Award that year. At that meeting back in 1997, Frazier also gave a reading from *Cold Mountain*. I had not yet read the novel and during the question and answer period that followed his reading, somebody in the audience asked a question that gave away the novel's ending (spoiler alert – I'm about to do the same, but at this point, does anyone *not* know how this novel ends?). I don't remember the question, but we can imagine it: "Why did you have to kill Inman in the end?" – or something to that effect. There was a resounding group gasp as those who had already read the still-new novel



PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG MARTIN

ABOVE Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*, *Thirteen Moons*, and *Nightwoods*

NCLR Editor MARGARET D. BAUER has also interviewed (with Fiction Editor Liza Wieland) Eastern North Carolina writer Kat Meads for NCLR 2008 and, for *Southern Spaces*, Louisiana author Tim Gautreaux, about whom she has also written *Understanding Tim Gautreaux* (2010) for the University of South Carolina Press's *Understanding Contemporary Literature* series.