


Northwest Wisconsin



**Children's Book Conference**

**October 2 & 3, 2008**

## **Descriptions of Workshops, Activities and Bios of Presenters**

### **Thursday, October 2 & 3, 2008**

**2:00 PM – 5:30 PM** *Conference Registration in the Telemark Resort Lobby*

You will receive a tote bag at registration filled with information regarding Cable area shops and directions for you to visit the unique Drummond Public Library and Historical Museum, Cable Natural History Museum, and the Cable/Namakagon Historical Society.

**12:30 PM – 3:30 PM** *Pre-Conference Workshop – “You Can Write a Story”*  
*– Presenter Lisa Bullard*



This session introduces a practical yet playful approach to narrative writing that fosters crucial literacy and problem-solving skills. Developed by children's book author Lisa Bullard this approach evolved over the course of Lisa's many years experience teaching writing to students during school residencies in both elementary and secondary classrooms. Lisa will demonstrate a variety of “kid-tested and teacher-approved” activities that have proven effective in turning even reluctant writers into successful authors. She will discuss her tactics for modifying the activities based on the ages of the students involved and for engaging students with learning and physical challenges. Lisa will also share her experiences helping educators integrate these story-writing activities into the curriculum beyond language arts instruction, adding depth to content areas such as science and social studies. Join Lisa for this creative, hands-on workshop, where you'll gather a “cookbook” full of ideas for spicing up your classroom. You might even stir up your own writing ambitions!

**4:30 PM – 5:30 PM** *Reception – Network with your peers*

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM** *Dinner*

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM** *Cooperative Children's Book Center – CCBC Choices 2008*

CCBC librarians Merri Lindgren and Megan Schliesman will give a preview of CCBC Choices 2008, highlighting outstanding books for children and young adults, published to-date in 2008. The three sessions will focus on books for pre-K through high school age. All books will be available for hands-on display. In addition, the CCBC will bring additional books that have received starred reviews in 2008. Our sponsor Redbery Books will have books for sale.



**Merri Lindgren** is a librarian at the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She coauthored *CCBC Choices* during the years 1990-1993, and from 2002 to present. She edited *The Multicolored Mirror: Cultural Substance in Literature for Children and Young Adults* (Highsmith, 1991). She also compiled and edited the *CCBC Resource List for Appearances by Wisconsin Book Creators* (2nd edition, 1990, and 3rd edition, 1993). She is a regular contributor to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, writing about books for children and young adults. Merri has worked as a youth services librarian at the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library in Lombard, Illinois, and as an instructor of Adolescent and Young Adult Literature at Edgewood College. She served on the 2001 Charlotte Zolotow Award Committee and chaired the 2002 Charlotte Zolotow Award Committee. Merri graduated from UW-Madison with a B.A. Degree in Psychology and has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Megan Schliesman** is a librarian at the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With Katy and Ginny Moore Kruse, Megan coauthored *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults, 1991-1996*. She is currently a columnist for *Library Sparks* magazine, and contributes to the CCBC monthly column for the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Megan served on the 2005 Newbery Award Committee. She has also served on the 1998, 1999 and 2002 Charlotte Zolotow Award committees and chaired the 2003 committee. She was a member of the committee that created the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Planning Curriculum in English Language Arts (DPI, 2001) and created the bibliography for DPI's *Teaching Character Education Using Children's Literature* (DPI, 2001). She has a B.A. degree in English from UW-Whitewater and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

## *Vendors Displays*



*Thursday & Friday - Telemark Lobby*

**Friday, October 3, 2008**

**7:30 AM – Continental Breakfast – Telemark Lobby**

**Session 1 – 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM**

***So You Want to Be an Author?***

Do you have a great idea for a book of your own? As a long-time writing instructor, Lisa Bullard has worked with many educators, parents, and others who want to shape their stories into

manuscripts. Drawing on her background as both the author of over thirty children's books, and as a sixteen-year publishing industry "insider," Lisa shares some of her tips and writing tricks with participants.



**Lisa Bullard** is the author of over thirty books for children, including *You Can Write a Story!* and *Not Enough Beds*. Her awards include a Teacher's Choice Award, an International Reading Association/Children's Book Council Children's Choice Award, a National Parenting Publications Children's Resources Silver Award, and an honor title for the Storytelling World Award.

Lisa does week-long school writing residencies for the COMPAS "Writers & Artists in the Schools" program throughout Minnesota, and has made numerous one-day visits to schools in a variety of locations.

She also teaches writing classes for adults and for children at the Loft Literary Center, a national leader among writing organizations.

Lisa's background also includes sixteen years experience as a publishing professional working for nationally renowned publishers Graywolf Press, Coffee House Press, New Rivers Press, and Lerner Publications. Lisa is a past president of the Minnesota Book Publishers Roundtable and is a graduate of the University of Denver Publishing Institute.

Lisa grew up in different small towns throughout Minnesota and now lives in Minneapolis. You can learn more about her and her books by visiting her web site at [www.lisabullard.com](http://www.lisabullard.com).

### **Make 'em Laugh, Make 'em Cry**



We all have tales worth telling and memoir writing is hotter than ever, but how do we tell our tales in such ways that even strangers will laugh and weep?

**Katie McKay** taught for 23 years and used storytelling in every subject. "Stories are how kids best understand their world," says Katie. One day, her principal said, "I know you love to teach. It's obvious that the kids love having you as their teacher, but as it is now, only kids in your room get to hear your stories. You should consider becoming a writer and professional storyteller." So, after a stint at Harvard and working as the storyteller for Big Sister of Great Boston, Katie became an author. She has 4 published books and another 12 under contract. And as much as she loves traveling to schools in the Midwest and entertaining kids, she loves teaching writing even more. "I love to see the most reluctant writer pick up a pencil and write with delight," she says. Katie combines storytelling and writing workshops for students when she visits schools. Since she consulted for various Boston schools out of Harvard, she also does writing workshops for teachers and delivers in services on creativity for teachers. [www.katiemckay.com](http://www.katiemckay.com)

### **Great New Books for Older Children and Teens**

CCBC Librarians Merri Lindren and Megan Schliesman.

### **History: Touching our Lives in New Ways**

How historical fiction, both writing and reading it, can speak to our own personal history.



**Loretta Ellsworth** has been writing all her life but only considered writing a book when she had four children and had to juggle writing, working as a middle-school Spanish teacher, and being a soccer mom. Loretta will discuss what she learned about her own family history while writing her novel, *The Shrouding Woman*, and will share other author's experiences. She will relate the power of reading good historical fiction, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and how it can influence our own personal history. [www.lorettaellsworth.com](http://www.lorettaellsworth.com)

*Door prizes donated by Redbery Books,*

*Thank You!*

## **SESSION II – 9:35 AM – 10:25 AM**

### **ABC's Naturally**

Using projected images, props, handouts, and – weather permitting – an outside hike with digital cameras, we'll show participants how to use our book with kids in grades 1 – 6. Topics will include: the story of the book, alphabet hunting with or without a camera, simple photography techniques, activities using digitized images, and poetry activities. [www.abcsnaturally.com](http://www.abcsnaturally.com)



Jann Kalschur teaches Language Arts at Stoughton High School. She lives in Oregon, Wisconsin, with her husband, their two sons and dog, Thor. When she isn't busy teaching, she enjoys reading, traveling and nature photography. She has been alphabet hunting for 20 years, and most of the early hunts were with her sons. From her large collection of natural alphabet photos, she and Lynne Diebel created *ABCs Naturally*, published by Trails Books. She's recently expanded her hunts to include the numbers, and is working on another book with Lynne Diebel that will showcase nature's numbers.

Lynne Diebel lives with her husband and one of their four children in Stoughton, Wisconsin. She taught English at Stoughton High School until 1998 and coached a middle school Destination Imagination team until 2003. She and Jann Kalschur created *ABCs Naturally* (Trails Books, 2003). Lynne and her husband, Bob, canoed and kayaked almost 3,000 miles of Minnesota rivers and lakes to write *Paddling Northern Minnesota* (2005) and *Paddling Southern Minnesota* (2007), both published by Trails Books. She's currently working with co-author Pat Dillon on *The Green Travel Guide to Wisconsin*, to be published by Trails Books in Feb, 2009. Another work-in-progress is a second children's book about nature with Jann Kalschur.



### **What Makes a Good Young Adult Novel?**

Students today have so many more choices in YA novels than in the past that it can be a challenge for teachers to choose among them. We will discuss what makes a compelling Young Adult novel and the process a writer goes through of working with an agent, an editor, a senior editor, and an art director to make the best YA novel possible. We will also discuss which books appeal to which students and how to find books that address the genuine interests of students.



John Coy is an award-winning author, who worked as a dishwasher, mattress maker, and tour guide before taking up writing. He's active in sports and is a member of the NBA Reading All-Star Team as part of the Read to Achieve program. John has traveled to all fifty states as well as to many countries internationally. His work includes *Night Driving*, a Marion Vannett Ridgway Memorial Award winner and a Horn Book Fanfare title, *Strong to the Hoop*, an American Library Association Notable Book, *Two Old Potatoes and Me*, a Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book, a Nickelodeon Jr.'s Best Books of the Year, and a featured book on Reading Rainbow, and *Vroomaloom Zoom*, a book of excellence on the Children's Literature Choice List. His newest picture book *Around the World* is about international basketball, and his YA novel *CRACKBACK* is set in the world of high school football. *CRACKBACK* focuses on the high stakes world of high school football and the choices a young player must make. John's experience as a defensive back on his high school team brings an authentic voice to the subject. "I loved playing football," says John. "It was one place where smashing into people was not only okay, it was rewarded. He grew up in Eau Claire and now lives in Minneapolis. [www.johncoy.com](http://www.johncoy.com)

### **Great New Books for Younger Children – Birth Through Grade 5**

CCBC Librarians Merri Lindgren and Megan Schliesman.

### **Exploring Art with Award-Winning Children's Books**

Inspired by the book *Teaching Art with Books Kids Love* by Darcie Clark Frohardt, professional artist Diana Randolph will present two fun activities: reading and art. In this session you'll explore Art Appreciation and one of the Elements of Art: Line. You'll take a close look at the artistic styles of fine artists; and the works by award-winning artists who create book illustrations. Then you'll have the opportunity to express yourself by creating fun art projects exploring Line. No drawing experience is required! Materials will be supplied. This playful session will stretch your imagination and appeal to the inner child. You'll be able to scoop up project ideas for the classroom, home or library programs. You may even be inspired to write and illustrate a story of your own sometime!



**Diana Randolph** writes and paints in her home studio in rural Drummond, Wisconsin. A professional artist for 28 years, Diana has exhibited her landscape paintings nationally. Her art has been published in numerous publications including *Cross Country Skier Magazine*, *American Artist Magazine*, *Creative Painting with Pastel* by Carole Katchen (North Light Books), *The Best of Pastel and Landscape Inspirations* (Rockport Publishers). Diana teaches art workshops and classes through Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College's Continuing Education; the School of the Arts in Rhinelander and Shell Lake Arts Center.

She is represented by Whispering Pines Gift and Gallery of Cable, Purple Pelican Gallery of Spooner, Art Beat of Hayward & Stone's Throw Gallery of Bayfield. Diana's home studio – Once in a Blue Moon Studio – is open by appointment. Her paintings may also be viewed at the on-line gallery [www.portalwisconsin.org](http://www.portalwisconsin.org). Diana's poetry and non-fiction articles have appeared in numerous publications. One of her fiction short stories won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Wisconsin Press Women's 2003 Literary and Visual Arts Contest. She has also written several children's stories (not published yet).

## SESSION III – 11:10 AM – 12:00 NOON

### History: Touching our Lives in New Ways

How historical fiction, both writing and reading it, can speak to our own personal history

#### What Makes a Book Good?

We all recommend good books to the people in our lives, but what makes a book good? What criteria do you use to select books in your media center? library? classroom? home? Steve and Vicki Palmquist will talk about books that are good for different types of readers and what makes those books good. Acquire more confidence in making book selections for reading, teaching, and giving gifts.



Vicki and Steve Palmquist are children's literature enthusiasts who work with authors and illustrators providing literary services in their company Winding Oak. In 2002, they began Children's Literature Network, a national collaboration of teachers, librarians, authors, and illustrators who are dedicated to encouraging children of all ages to develop a passion for reading that will last a lifetime. Their love for reading science fiction and fantasy brought them together.

**For more information regarding Children's Literature Network go to [www.childrensliteraturenetwork.com](http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.com)**

### Politics and Presidents: A Fresh Approach from their Pets

Kathryn Gibbs Davis will share with you a slide presentation and description of her writing workshops for children. This workshop will address the power of research in opening doors (literally) and in your imagination. Learn how to both entertain and inspire kids to tap into their own story bank.



Kathryn Gibbs Davis is an award-winning author of 24 children's books - picture books to YA, series and single titles and also co-writer of a children's film. She was "discovered" in 1980's by superstar editor Richard Jackson while attending a popular children's writing workshop at the New School for Social Research in NYC. She loves schools visits. One of her most recent trips was to Texas for the first annual Reading Discovery Event. Barbara Bush read

Kathryn's latest book titled WACKIEST WHITE HOUSE PETS in which Mrs. Bush and Millie were featured. Kathryn is "Mid-Coastal" living in both her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and NYC. She can be contacted for school visits by email: [gibbsdavis@juno.com](mailto:gibbsdavis@juno.com)

### Hooking Your Audience from the Get-go!

Do you want 100% attention when you teach? When you tell stories? Perform? Read? Well, you can have it, by joining Katie McKy in this fascinating workshop. You can have every child, whatever their age, leaning into you, hungry for more. Successful teaching, storytelling, and performing don't require innate charisma. They just require a bag of tricks. In this workshop,

you'll fill your bag with tricks that work as well in libraries as they do in classrooms as they do on stage! And you'll have fun filling that bag!

## **12:00 Noon – Lunch and Keynote Nancy Pearl**

### **The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading**

Nancy Pearl will share the origins of her love of reading and libraries, how the *Book Lust* books came to be written, what she has discovered some of the perils of a life of reading can be, and, along the way, of course, she will suggest some good books to read. [www.nancypearl.com](http://www.nancypearl.com)



The *New York Times* calls her “the talk of librarian circles.” Readers may have heard her on NPR’s “Morning Edition.” Bookstores and libraries offer standing room only whenever she visits. Since the release of the best-selling *Book Lust* in 2003 and the Librarian Action Figure modeled in her likeness, Nancy Pearl has become a star among readers and a heroine among librarians as she promotes reading and has a recommendation for every person. Her knowledge of and stumping for books have made the world of reading more interesting for all. Her recent book, *Book Crush* sorts out the seemingly endless choices of books for young people. She has read widely in all genres and then points the way. She will offer new ways to stimulate young readers. Nancy will also offer a breakout session “title.” Pearl is a winner of the Women’s National Book Association Award for her extraordinary contribution to the world of books. She lives in Seattle with her husband Joe.

This speaker is brought to the conference with support from Northern Waters Library Service and Indianhead Federated Library System

### ***RAFFLE following lunch ~ Featuring a Sara Balbin Sculpture***

**1:15 PM Dessert – Visit the Vendors and Author Signing**

## **Session IV – 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM**

### **Leading Children’s Book Groups – Nancy Pearl**

Here are all the tricks and tips you need to organize a successful book discussion group for kids and teens, including what to look for in the books you select, how to keep all participants involved and the discussion lively, and how to do all this without making it seem like school.

**Featured Authors’ Panel:** John Coy, Katie McKy, Loretta Ellsworth with moderators Vicki Palmquist from Children’s Literature Network

The day will wrap up with an opportunity to hear our featured authors interact with one another on the current topics in the literary world of children. Expert Vicki Palmquist, from the Children’s Literature Network, will moderate the panel. This promises to be enlightening, entertaining and educational.

***Don’t forget to complete your evaluation form!***

**Have a safe drive home and see you next year!**