

# Keeping Lakes in the Family

## Sharing the Magic Through Stories

Compiled by Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Stevens Point

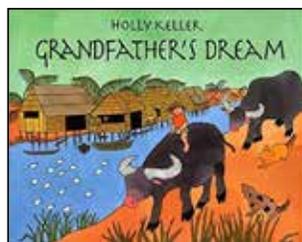
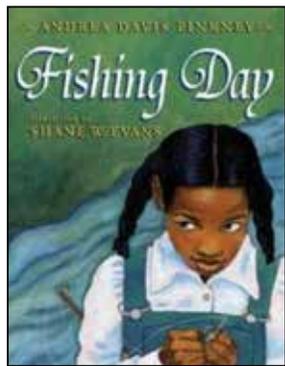
### Tradition

*Our recommended books this year focus on keeping our family and community lake traditions alive. For some, those traditions include swimming, bird watching, paddling, tubing and waterskiing, or other recreational activities. Others depend on their lake traditions like fishing and wild rice harvesting to feed their families. What lake traditions do you want to keep alive? Are there special plants and animals that you and your family value? Think about what you can do to make sure those creatures have a good home into the future.*

### A Different Pond

*Ages 6-9  
Written by Bao Phi  
Illustrated by Thi Bui*

A Vietnamese American boy's predawn fishing outing with his dad is the subject of a narrative shaped by an exquisite accounting of details. The boy's dad recalls fishing at a similar pond as a child in Vietnam with his brother, who died during the war. Running through this story is the boy's happiness in their time together, a pleasure that extends feelings about his entire family when they gather at day's end. The evocative art masterfully and movingly conveys details of character, setting, and action while superbly reflecting the warmth and intimacy of the story. At volume's end, both the author and illustrator share memories of growing up in Vietnamese families that came to the United States when they were children. *Winner, 2018 Charlotte Zolotow Award ©2017 (Review by Cooperative Children's Book Center)*



### Muskrat Will Be Swimming

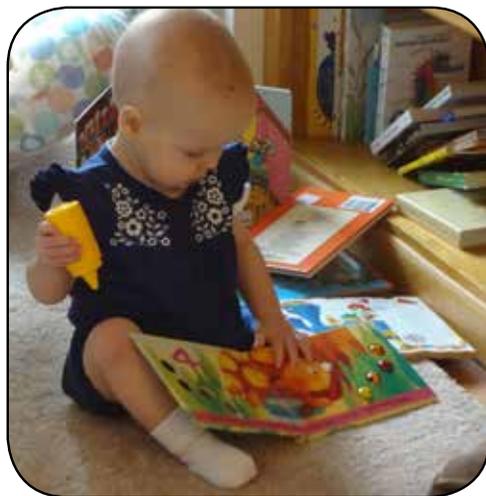
*Ages 4-8  
Written by Cheryl Savageau  
Illustrated by Robert Hynes*

This exquisite, multifaceted tribute to the power of story incorporates issues of cultural diversity, empathy, the environment, and most universally inter-generational guidance and love. A Native American girl is ostracized because she lives in "shanty town," a collection of trailers and abandoned vacation cottages along the lake. It is the gentle guidance of her grandfather that finally brings Jeannie from shame to appreciation. Beautiful illustrations show natural shoreline with plants and animals that the girl comes to appreciate.

### Fishing Day

*Ages 5-9  
Written by Andrea Davis Pinkney  
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans*

Reenie and her mama love to go fishing down by the river, but the peace of their idyllic fishing spot is often marred by the appearance of Peter Troop and his daddy. Peter is "up-jumpy" and loud, scaring the fish away. Peter and his daddy are fishing for food; Reenie and Mama fish for fun. The Troops are white; Reenie and Mama are black. And in the Jim Crow South, it is this last difference that is most significant. One day, when the Troops' fishing reel breaks, Reenie overcomes their mutual fear and mistrust to help Peter - an act that holds the promise of friendship and understanding. This is a moving story about two children crossing boundaries of race, class and gender, and about small acts that make a big difference.



Erin McFarlane



## Grandfather's Dream

Ages 4-10

Written and illustrated by Holly Keller

Nam lives with his parents, his grandfather, two lively puppies and assorted other animals in a small village in the Mekong delta. Before the Vietnam War, this area was home to the Sarus crane, considered to be a symbol of long life and happy families, but during the fighting, canals were dug to drain the wetlands and the cranes disappeared. In Keller's carefully crafted story, Nam's grandfather hopes that the building of new dikes will restore the wetlands and prompt the return of the birds that he remembers so fondly from his youth. The relationship between Nam and his grandfather is an affectionate one, as they share a love for animals and stories. After the monsoons come, the wetlands are restored, and eventually the cranes return and their magnificence wins over even the most practical villagers. This is a beautiful book with many layers of meaning and an important message. *(Review by School Library Journal on Amazon)*

## Fish Hotel Kit for Educators

The Fish Hotel Kit contains a variety of instructional materials designed to help children and adults learn about the benefits of leaving trees in lakes. Trees in lakes not only provide areas for fish to spawn, but also offer shelter to help some species protect their incubating brood. Large submerged trees can host entire fish communities!

The Fish Hotel Kit includes the 30-page hardcover picture book, 20 companion booklets, lesson plans, posters, educator resource booklets and video links.

For more information or to order a kit, go to: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/Fish-Hotel-Kit.aspx>



## We All Live Downstream

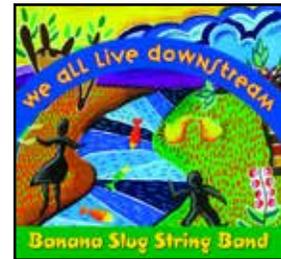
All ages

by Banana Slug String Band

If there's anything that the Banana Slug String Band knows how to do, it's to communicate sometimes complicated scientific ideas through the medium of song to school-aged children. This album includes 10 fun, water-related songs. Highlights:

- We All Live Downstream
- Thankful for the Watershed
- Storm Drain Blues

Available as a CD, MP3 file or streaming.



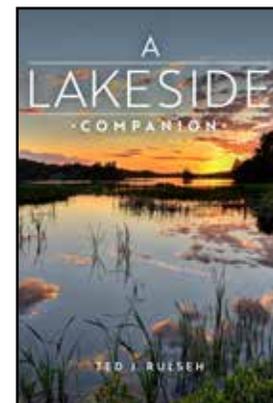
## Books for adults

### A Lakeside Companion

Written by Ted Rulseh

“Delivers the magic of lake living while conveying water science topics in a clear and engaging way. Whether you are on the lakeshore or far away, it will bring you back to the waters you love. A great read.”

- Michael Engleson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes

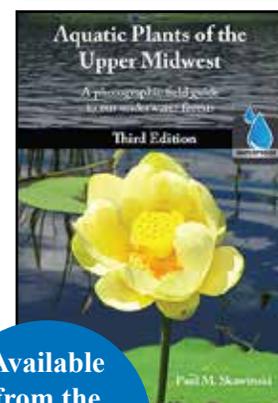


### Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest: A Photographic Field Guide to Our Underwater Forests

Waterproof 3rd Edition (2018)

Written & Photography by Paul M. Skawinski

Over 570 high-resolution, color photographs fill this easy-to-use field guide. Beginners to the world of aquatic plants will enjoy the easy descriptions and abundant photographs, while more advanced biologists will appreciate the comprehensive treatments, dichotomous keys and other resources.



Available from the UWEX Lakes bookstore!

### My Lakeshore Field Journal

Written by John Haack

Create a new family tradition at the lake! Find fun facts about plants, insects, and wildlife in and around Wisconsin's lakes. This unique, interactive journal invites youth and adults to explore lakeshore life by collecting plant samples, recording observations of fish and other animals and considering the basic issues of shoreland habitats.

