

# Keeping Lakes in the Family: Children's Books Help Us Share the Magic of Lakes

As we prepare again for the holidays, here is a second installment of lake-related books to share with that special child in your life. See pages 14-15 of the Fall 2008 Lake Tides for more children's books about lakes. Curl up to read some of these wonderful stories together and reveal your own lake experiences. While these books may have been designed for children ages 4-8, they're a great fit for anyone who enjoys wonderful illustrations and fun stories. These fun, educational options also make great gifts for your local library or school, where many people can enjoy the magic of lakes.

## Fishing at Long Pond

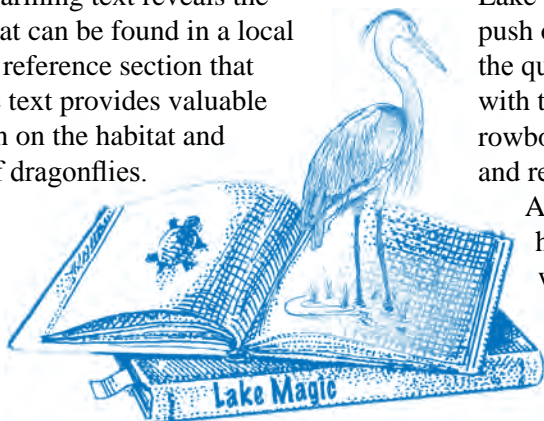
Written by William T. George and illustrated by Lindsay Barrett George

Katie is fishing with her grandfather on Long Pond and her anticipation of catching her first bass is further enhanced by the enchantment of all that they see around them. The exquisitely detailed paintings in this book treat young readers to a realistic glimpse of the flora and fauna that surround a pond. As Katie patiently awaits that first nibble, both she and her grandfather quietly watch the water come alive with the sights and sounds of the animals' activity before catching a single bass, just enough for dinner. Also see Beaver at Long Pond by the Georges.

## Eliza and the Dragonfly

Written by Susie Caldwell Rinehart and illustrated by Anisa Claire Hovemann

When a dragonfly lands on her toothbrush, Eliza journeys with her Aunt Doris -- who happens to love all manner of bugs -- to a nearby pond. Although Eliza's initial reaction is a none-too-enthusiastic "Eeeewwww!" she and Aunt Doris are soon swept up in the hidden world of dragonflies. Every day, Eliza visits the baby dragonfly, wondering when it will crawl out of the pond and fly away. The author's charming text reveals the wonders that can be found in a local pond. The reference section that follows the text provides valuable information on the habitat and lifecycle of dragonflies.



## The Raft

Written and illustrated by Jim LaMarche

At first Nicky isn't excited about spending the summer with his grandma in the Wisconsin woods, but he changes his mind after discovering an old raft in the water near her cottage. He soon realizes that his grandma is marvelously unconventional in unexpected ways. Being a solitary artist among her other gifts and talents as an independent spirit, Grandma allows Nicky to ease into what he will enjoy in his own way. When he learns to pole the raft, Nicky notices faded images of birds and animals on it. He begins to realize the variety of wildlife moving nearby in the water and along the shore by day and also by night. Later on, his grandma provides art materials so the boy can sketch what he observes. LaMarche's exquisite paintings illustrating this handsome, singular story evoke a quiet, secluded Wisconsin river during summertime and encourage more than one type of observation.



## On Sand Island

Written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by David A. Johnson

Young Carl lives with his sister and fisherman father in a close community on Lake Superior's Sand Island. He longs to push off in his own boat to a place where the quiet is "filled with water and sky," and with the help of his neighbors, he builds a rowboat, enjoys a blissful day on the lake, and returns to a "newest boat" celebration.

A subtle, beautifully crafted story about hard work, simple joys, and the small, warm communities of the historic upper-Midwest.



(Continued on page 14)

(Children's Books, cont.)

### [Ducks Don't Get Wet](#)

Written by Augusta Goldin and illustrated by Helen K. Davie

After explaining briefly how ducks waterproof themselves by preening their feathers with oil, this well-designed book goes on to discuss how and why ducks live near water, with particular attention to how different species find food under water. The text is well focused throughout and discusses the habits of several types of wild ducks. Children who have an opportunity to observe ducks firsthand in the wild will now be able to recognize and understand various aspects of their behavior, and may even start distinguishing between species, thanks to Davie's accurate, realistic watercolor paintings.

### [Henry the Impatient Heron](#)

Written by Donna Love and illustrated by Christina Wald

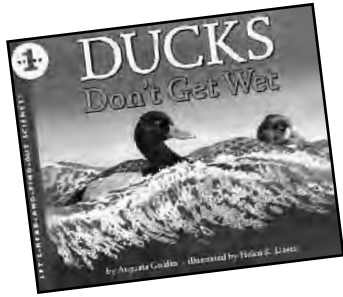
Great blue herons catch their food by standing quietly in shallow waters. But as hard as he tries, Henry, a young, impatient heron, just can't stand still. So Henry chases after fish, frogs, and salamanders, but they all escape before he can catch them. Luckily, Henry meets an older heron that explains the trick to catching a fish is to pretend you are a

stick. Following the wise heron's advice, Henry finally learns how to stand still and catch his own food. This book is filled with fun facts about great blue herons. It also teaches kids the importance of being patient and calm. Love's simple text imparts an important lesson, while Wald's fun, playful, yet realistic illustrations complement the narrative. Fact boxes and information about herons are appended. Lesson plans, quizzes, and additional support are all available at [www.sylvandellpublishing.com/TeachingActivitiesPage.htm](http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/TeachingActivitiesPage.htm)

### [Touch the Sky Summer](#)

Written by Jean Van Leeuwen and illustrated by Dan Andreasen

Narrated by five-year-old Luke, this book tells of a vacation taken with his parents and older brother. Every summer they visit the grandparents at their cabin by the lake, noting with quiet satisfaction that "everything is just the same." They swim to the raft, fish from the dock, spend a rainy day playing games by the fireplace, sleep out in a tent, and watch for shooting stars. Children who have visited lakeside cabins will enjoy the vicarious experience, related in a natural-sounding text that rolls along enjoyably from one small adventure to the next. The gracefully executed oil paintings lend an air of nostalgia.



### [The Magic Goggles: Discovering the Secrets of the Lake](#)

Written by Lynn Markham (Center for Land Use Education) and illustrated by Anne Horjus from Baraboo, Wisconsin



Maggie and her little brother Tate are visiting their grandparents' lake cabin when they discover two pairs of really weird, old goggles with leather straps in a dusty old trunk in the attic. Down at the lake with their goggles, the kids discover the magic goggles make them as light as a damselfly and let them see right through lily pads to the underwater forest below. When a mother wood duck befriends the duo and sees how they like exploring the shoreline, she takes them for a flying ride around the lake to get a bird's-eye view. From this viewpoint they see that the deep blue jewel of a lake is surrounded by a forest of green, a summer camp, and a few houses located way back from the water. Based on what they've seen, Mama Duck explains how all the trees make the lake a good spot to raise a family. This book's descriptive text and rich, detailed illustrations will boost readers' understanding about the importance of forests around lakes, while luring them into discovering their own magic at the lake.

[The Magic Goggles](#) will be available in November through the UW-Extension Lakes on-line bookstore at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications/](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications/) 