



Bay-Arenac Reading Council's 2010 Winter Program



If you're looking for a way to beat the winter blahs, have a great evening out, meet Bay City's accomplished author/illustrator Mary Blocksma, and receive two hours of professional development, then the Bay-Arenac Reading Council has just the program for you. Come join us fireside at the Stein Haus for a warm evening event in beautiful downtown Bay City, Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

The Presenter: Author/artist Mary Blocksma, Bay City, has two books out for children in her *What's What Outdoors?* series, both of which are nonfiction, centered right here in the Great Lakes. You may know about her relatively new book *What's on the Beach? A Great Lakes Treasure Hunt*, but her very latest book is *What's in the Woods? A Michigan Treasure Hunt*. Mary planned both books as means to help children develop skills as readers of nonfiction. In her writing career, Mary has authored quite a few informational books for children in her writing career. These two latest books, in our estimation, represent a culmination of her awareness about teaching children to read and enjoy nonfiction. We know Mary, of course, for her adult Great Lakes books, her journals, her artwork on Lake Michigan (now completed around the entire year), her art posters, her note cards, jewelry, and crafts. But probably a rare teacher in the area knows Mary as a source of books for children on Great Lakes plants and animals.

(See Mary's web site: <http://www.beaverislandarts.>)

The program: Mary thought it would be relevant to suggest ten ways both to teach basic reading skills (Benchmarks), and reading for information (more Benchmarks), to grades 1 through 8 using her Michigan Treasure Hunt books: *What's on the Beach* and *What's in the Woods*. She will also describe her U of M Press book, *Great Lakes Nature*, a wonderful reference for teachers as well as for more advanced middle school students.

Mary will be offering free *What's on the Beach? crossword puzzle posters* to all participants and will have all of her in-print books for sale including her best-selling book *Necessary Numbers*, which in it's first edition made Scientific American's List of Best Science Books for Young People: all books 25% off to teachers and 50% for purchases of 6 or more of any one title.

Audience: Intended for classroom teachers grades K-12, Title 1 teachers, teacher trainers, administrators, education students, and paraprofessionals.

Location: Fireside at the Stein Haus
1108 North Water Street
Bay City, MI 48708

When: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Time: 4:30 p.m. Check-in for event
(Spinach artichoke dip and seasoned bread)
5:00 p.m. Dinner (Three-pizza choices buffet, garden salad, beverage)
6:00 p.m. Mary Blocksma Program

****Two hours of professional development****

Contact Sandy Payne, skysandypayne@yahoo.com, 989-662-4628

Registration deadline Friday, 19, 2010

Name _____ Phone _____

School _____ Email _____

MRA Member _____ Exp. Date _____

IRA Member _____ Exp. Date _____

_____ \$20 Dinner, program, new membership

_____ \$18 Dinner, program, BARC meeting members from 10-2009

_____ \$15 Dinner, program, student membership

_____ \$15 Dinner, program, retiree membership

Send check (made out to BARC) and registration form to:

Sandy Payne: 701 Seidlers Rd, Auburn, MI 48611