

Kim Ridley

I'm a science writer, essayist, editor, and children's book author who has been writing about nature, science, health, and the environment for more than 25 years.

My passion is "inciting wonder" by sharing my love of nature and science with children and adults through my award-winning books, essays, and teaching. I love doing author visits and have taught nonfiction writing workshops in dozens of elementary schools in Maine and the northeast based on my books. In addition, I teach nature writing workshops for families and adults and present special talks and programs at libraries and other public venues.

Whether I'm writing for children or adults, my work comes from my deep love for the natural world!

www.kimberlyridley.org

Andrea Lani

After working in the environmental field for more than fifteen years I left my cubicle in 2016 to hike the 500-mile Colorado Trail with my husband and sons, twenty years after my husband and I first hiked the trail. Over the next two years, I wrote a book about the two hikes, the changes that had taken place in Colorado and in myself during the intervening two decades, and the environmental history of the Southern Rockies. That book, *Uphill Both Ways*, is now out on submission.

Through my writing, I explore the connections between humans and nature, embrace the extremes of the motherhood experience, and confront the emotional effects of environmental contamination. My essays and short stories have appeared in *Orion*, *Brain*, *Child Magazine*, *Saltfront*, *Snowy Egret*, *The Maine Review*, *Zoomorphic*, and *About Place Journal*, among other publications.

I received a BA in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic and an MFA in Creative Writing from the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine. I've also trained as a Maine Master Naturalist and am a member of the Maine Master Naturalist Program board of directors

I provide writing and editing services, teach workshops in nature writing and nature journaling, and I'm a senior editor and Literary Reflections co-editor at Literary Mama. For part of the year, I work for Revisor of Statutes of the Maine Legislature, proofreading bills.

I live with my family in Central Maine, but my heart lives in the mountains and deserts of the West. www.andrealani.com

Alison Dibble

I paint outdoors year round. Often some crows will arrive, wanting to be in the picture.

I have been drawing and painting since I was a small child. As a teenager, I studied at the Boston Museum of Fine Art School (summer session), and then attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY (B.A. in English Literature, Art Minor). I went on to a career in conservation biology and botany, while still drawing and painting, and worked as a pollination ecologist and forest ecologist.

Since 2008, I have taken classes and workshops with excellent teachers (Louise Bourne, Frank Sullivan, Donald Demers, Jerry Rose, Amy Hosa, Marsha Donahue, Olena Babak; thank you to my teachers!). I have mounted six solo exhibitions, been juried into group shows, and participated in art society exhibitions, galleries, coops and art fairs. My emphasis is on painting and drawing in an ever expanding creative realm. I study this every day even though my attention might be diverted to real world practicalities.

I like to paint in remote places. Under the open sky, I focus in on my self-assigned challenge of the day, grateful that once again I can explore what the paint will do in my hands.

https://adibblepaintings.com/?page_id=512

I also amuse myself by writing fiction (pen name "A. D. Morel"). Alison's creative writing blog for insomniacs and aspiring writers is at

www.writermanna.com

Laurie Murray

Laurie J. Murray is an avid bird watcher and self-taught naturalist, and received instruction in natural history illustration through the University of Newcastle, Australia via edX and in nature journaling and field sketching through The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Bird Academy online course.

Currently, Murray is a resident of Rockland, Maine, but will be joining the faculty at Bryan College in Tennessee as an assistant professor of English in the fall of 2021.

Jill Osgood

Jill is a book artist who enjoys illustration, hand lettering, and making all kinds of fun paper creations. She studied Fine Arts at the School of the Worcester Art Museum and Portland School of Art. Currently she is happy to be a student again and will receive a BA from USM in 2016 with a concentration in Painting and Drawing and a minor in Book Arts. Her work and life are deeply influenced by the natural world and the beautiful state of Maine. She lives and works in Portland's West End.

Catherine Schmitt

Author of three books of nonfiction.

Journalist and writer of articles and essays published in newspapers, magazines, and literary journals. While these outlets and their respective audiences are diverse, the content is always related to science/nature/

environment/place, and is informed by undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental science, a Stonecoast MFA in creative nonfiction, and extensive field experience with lakes, streams, wetlands, forests, shorelines, and beaches throughout the Northeast.

Professional work includes science communication for Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, co-author and editor of the Maine's Climate Future reports, writing about science and directing communications for Maine Sea Grant, serving as managing editor for *The Catch: Writings from Downeast Maine* (2013-2018), teaching in the University of Maine Department of English, and presenting lectures and workshops on communication to scientists, natural resource managers, and students.

On the Board of Directors of the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance and the Somes Pond Center. Member of the Ecological Society of America and National Association of Science Writers.

Lives in Bangor, Maine.

Karen Zimmerman

Karen O. Zimmermann is a Maine Master Naturalist and author of *Nightwalk, Using All Your Senses To Explore the Natural World*

Rich MacDonald

Rich MacDonald is a lifelong birder, naturalist, field biologist and author. Rich began his career in the natural sciences at the age of 10 when he started banding birds. His research has included investigating the effects of acid rain and climate change on montane forests and studying the waterbirds of Lake Champlain. Today, Rich lives in Bar Harbor and runs The Natural History Center, offering nature and adventure tours in Acadia National Park, Downeast Maine, and beyond. His book, *Little Big Year: Chasing Acadia's Birds*, recounts his year-long journey to document the birds of Acadia National Park and Downeast Maine. Reading his book feels as though you are sitting in Rich's living room as he shares his adventures in a captivating, story-telling style

Jessie Muhlin

Jessie Muhlin is an Associate Professor of Marine Biology and chair of the Corning School of Ocean Studies. Her research interests focus on the reproductive ecology, population genetics, and food web ecology of furoid seaweeds (=rockweeds) in the northwestern Atlantic. She is actively involved in citizen science projects (i.e., Signs of the Seasons: A New England Phenology Program) as well as art-science collaborations using marine algae as inspiration. She is committed to educating the public on the importance and fascinating aspects of the algae. Her B.A. in Biology with a concentration in marine sciences is from Boston University and she received a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Maine.

Tracy Haskell

Tracy has been a curious explorer of the natural world ever since she was a young girl growing up in rural New Hampshire. She received a BA in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic and a MSW from the University of Maine. She is a Maine Master Naturalist and a Certified Interpretive Guide. She has worked as a psychotherapist, a professional dog trainer and is a committed social justice advocate and naturalist volunteer. She lives in Bar Harbor, Maine with her husband Larry and Milo, a year old Yellow Labrador Retriever.

