

Author unveils Christmas-themed children's book



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Pamela Quinlan's love of the outdoors may have others staying in their homes reading.

Quinlan, a Baraboo author who volunteers as a tour guide at Durward's Glen Retreat Center, has written 41 books in the children's Spring Pond series, which focuses on the beauty of nature.

Quinlan's latest two books: "A Starry Night at Spring Pond" and "A Silent Night at Spring Pond" are available for readers in paperback.

"I've had a lot of requests to put my books in paperback because people want to have that book in their hands," she said.

Readers also may want Quinlan's books in their hands because the series shares experiences that help reassure children that things in life happen for a reason. That was true for Quinlan, who decided nearly 16 years ago it was time for her and her son to place their turtle in a pond at Durward's Glen because it needed more than the "blue plastic tub" it was in.

That was the impetus for her first book, "A Sunny Day at Spring Pond" in which children learn the message of adapting to change like Herman the turtle and his owner, who let his turtle go in the pond rather than keep it in a small tub.

Her newest book, "A Silent Night at Spring Pond" features Mr. White Paws the Cat, Owen the Owl and Huey the Hummingbird, who are some of Herman's closest friends, in a story that includes a Christmas Eve miracle for the characters.

Quinlan said some of her stories are funny and others are serious, but all of them have a message for children, which parents can help explain and discuss with their children.

"My series of books have been prepared to share enlightening experiences that reassure children of the goodness and beauty of nature," she said.

Chris Dreyer, a graphic designer who lives near Durward's Glen, has worked with Quinlan for the past two years because of his familiarity with the area and his love for nature.

"'Silent Night' was a refreshing book to work on because it reminds of us why we come together and celebrate the holidays," he said.

Quinlan said she did all of the photography for her books, but Dreyer keeps his camera nearby just in case one of the animals in Quinlan's books happens to make an appearance.

"She is so enthusiastic about her writing it's infectious," he said.

Quinlan's books can be found at her website at <http://www.pqcompany.net> or Corner Drug Store and Book World in Baraboo.

She will host a book signing during Baraboo's Holiday Fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at 319 Water St.

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