



PRESS RELEASE

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“WINTER WEEKEND” ANNOUNCED AT BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE FOR FEBRUARY 2-3 Award-Winning Childrens’ Author featured that Saturday

BUFFALO, NY (January 10, 2008) - The Buffalo Museum of Science will welcome **Jacqueline Briggs Martin**, author of the award-winning children’s book, **Snowflake Bentley**, to hold a presentation and book signing at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 2nd as a part of its upcoming “**Winter Weekend**”. Winter Weekend, a two-day ‘cure for cabin fever’, will take place on Saturday, February 2nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, February 3rd from noon until 4 p.m. at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway in Buffalo.

“Winter Weekend,” built around the Museum’s current *SNOW* exhibition, will feature hands-on indoor and outdoor activities for families and children including snowshoeing in Martin Luther King Park (weather permitting); casting animal tracks in plaster and other fun winter-related crafts; learning about groundhogs and the story behind their special day on February 2nd, Groundhog Day; the winter sky; ice cream making; winter storytelling; and entertaining games such as Penguin Shuffle races. Demonstrations and exhibits from Hawk Creek, Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo Astronomical Association, Literacy Volunteers of Erie County, Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, and others will also be onsite.

Jacqueline Briggs Martin’s **Snowflake Bentley** won the 1999 Caldecott Award for its illustrations by Mary Azarian and the 1998 Lupine Award. The book is based on the true story of Wilson Bentley, a Vermont-born farmer-scientist who, in the early days of the new science of photography, figured out how to microscopically photograph the intricate structure of snowflakes. His life’s work of thousands of photographic plate negatives of snowflakes, plus meticulous daily weather logs of each winter for the rest of his life, are a unique treasure highlighted in the Museum’s *SNOW* exhibit which will be open during “Winter Weekend” at the Buffalo Museum of Science. A book signing with Martin will be taking place from 12:15pm to 1:00pm on Saturday, February 2nd at Chauncey’s museum shop followed by a brief commemoration of Bentley’s February 9th birthday will take place in the Museum’s main hall. Copies of **Snowflake Bentley** will be available for purchase at Chauncey’s throughout “Winter Weekend”.

Admission to the Museum on February 2-3 includes all “Winter Weekend” activities, the ***SNOW*** exhibition, and newly arrived visiting exhibit, ***The Zula Patrol: Mission Weather***. Museum admission is \$7 adults, \$6 senior

citizens, \$5 children over age 3 and students, and free to children age 3 and under. Members of the Science Museum are admitted free.

Mark Mortenson, Buffalo Museum of Science President and CEO, said the he is delighted that Briggs will be able to attend “Winter Weekend” to talk about her work and the Museum’s much-loved Snowflake Bentley. “In addition to this noted author, we will also provide fun, engaging winter activities and demonstrations that everyone, big and small, can enjoy,” Mortenson added. “Our exciting *Zula Patrol: Mission Weather* exhibit will offer all Winter Weekend guests the opportunity to explore different weather phenomena that affect our world in a fun, friendly environment.”

About the SNOW Exhibition

SNOW tells the story of how animals and people have over time adapted to WNY’s winter climate. The exhibit includes a number of interactive discovery activities about the science behind winter in its “SnowLab” – test your insulating powers, add to our crystal-growing station, try your hand at simulated ice fishing in Lake Erie, or even indoor carpet skating! SNOW will run through February 24, 2008. General Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tuesdays are reserved for school & pre-booked groups and the Museum is closed on Mondays.

About The Zula Patrol: Mission Weather Exhibition

The Zula Patrol: Mission Weather features the wacky characters from popular *Zula Patrol* television show currently airing on WNED’s ThinkBright station. Along with the Zula Patrol characters, “Winter Weekend” attendees will explore what weather is, how it works, what affects it, and how it affects us. The exhibit is made of five freestanding, interactive stations that combine to create the colorful cartoon world of Zula and teaches young explorers about key science concepts as they encounter the strange and wild weather of our planet. Visitors will apply the scientific method as they explore the exhibits and learn all about clouds, precipitation, wind, temperature, and other weather phenomena. The Zula Patrol exhibit will run through March 2, 2008.

About Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Jacqueline Briggs Martin is the author of Snowflake Bentley, winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal, and The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish, an ALA Notable Book, a Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book, Riverbank Review Finalist, Notable Social Studies Trade book and winner of The Golden Kite Award for Illustration. She grew up on a farm in Maine much like the one in this story. She lives in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo’s East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. The Museum also operates Tiffi Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land, and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Byron, NY, one of North America’s richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.

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