

SKOPEC, MARY is the Executive Director of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Dr. Skopec earned her B.S. and M.A. degrees in geography from The University of Iowa, and in 1999, she completed her interdisciplinary Ph.D. in environmental science at The University of Iowa. Mary is also a National Water Quality Monitoring Council member and the National Advisory Committee on Water.

SEMKEN, STEVE started the Ice Cube Press, LLC in 1991 and this year received an Iowa Governor's Art Award for the Press. Along the way Steve has authored six books including the Kansas Book Award winner, *Soul External: Rediscovering the Great Blue Heron*. Steve is a publisher that works with authors and bookstores. He can speak on all aspects regarding writing, publishing, promoting, business operations and books.

SHARP, MARY Mary has worked as a science writer in Berkeley, Calif., and as a newspaper reporter and editor in Cedar Rapids, Ottumwa, Burlington, Iowa, and in Champaign-Urbana, Ill. She has written four non-fiction books and edited more than 30, mostly non-fiction and memoirs.

ROH SPAULDING, CAROL is a Professor of English at Drake University where she teaches courses in fiction writing and multi-cultural American literature and directs the Drake Community Press. Her award-winning short stories and essays have appeared in many journals, including the Pushcart Annual, and a 2019 essay received a Notable Mention in Best American Essays. Her collection due out in September 2023, *Waiting for Mr. Kim & Other Stories*, won the Flannery O'Conner Award for the Short Story. Her new book, *Helen Button*, won the Eludia Award for the Novel from Hidden River Arts and will be published in early 2024.

***STONE, LARRY** has a passion for Iowa's outdoors, rooted in the creeks and woods on the southern Iowa farm where he grew up. He has explored the state for 50 years, including 25 years as an outdoor writer/photographer for *The Des Moines Register*. He has written five books and his work has appeared in several conservation magazines. He is a member of the Clayton County Conservation Board. Now semi-retired, Larry still roams Iowa doing occasional freelance writing, photography, and public speaking. (larrystonesiowa.com). Larry is a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative: <https://lstone.substack.com/>

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***SWANDER, MARY** is a multi-genre writer, the former Poet Laureate of Iowa, the artistic director of Swander Woman Productions, and the Executive Director of AgArts. Her latest theatrical work is a drama called *Squatters on Red Earth*. Mary is a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative: <https://maryswander.substack.com/>