



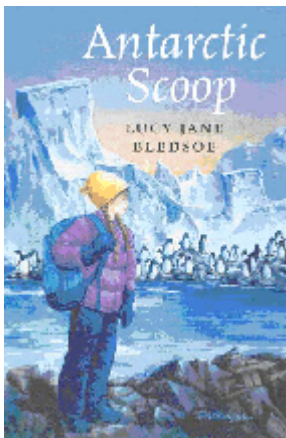
The Network News

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Recent Publications from the LTER Network

Palmer LTER Site Participates in Publication of New Children's Book

by Dawn Rawls, Palmer LTER



This novel for middle school students grew from Bledsoe's time as the NSF/OPP 1999 Writer in-Residence in Antarctica. Cover illustration is by Carol Newsom/ Artworks.

Fiction can be an important tool for engaging a student's interest in scientific subjects. When research scientists and the author collaborate during the early developmental stages of creating fiction, the reader's experience of the underlying science is greatly enriched.

The Antarctic Scoop by Lucy Bledsoe (October 2003; Holiday House) grew out of the author's visits to McMurdo in Antarctica as part of the NSF Artists and Writers Program which is also sponsoring her current trip to Palmer Station. Her introduction to LTER and long-term science was initiated at a San Diego Antarctic Storytelling Workshop sponsored by Palmer LTER last summer.

This middle-grades novel features an 11-year-old girl who wins a science contest and the prize is a trip to Antarctica, where she eventually learns that her sponsors have used her to gain access to the science continent. Not only does she expose these foes of science but she solves a problem that has been keeping the South Pole Telescope, built to detect Cosmic Background Radiation, from receiving first light.