

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Sarah S. Uthoff received both her history education BA and her Masters of Library Science from the University of Iowa. Currently, she is a reference librarian at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Sarah is an active Wilder researcher.

- Sarah is the featured speaker at the annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Remembered Day – Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch.

She has also spoken at:

- Laura Ingalls Wilder: New Perspectives Conference in De Smet.
- Ingalls Homestead in De Smet, SD
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Girl Scout Patch Day at Ushers Ferry Historic Village in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Days in Pepin, Wisconsin.

She has also taught continuing education classes on Wilder at two community colleges and a training session for the staff at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak, Iowa.



Crafts Session - Twisting Haystick

Sarah can customize her programs for the type of group (adults, children, mixed) and type of presentation desired (scholarly or crafty).

One funding option is Humanities Iowa, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington D.C. They provide grants to aid other non-profit organizations and conduct their own programs in support of the humanities across Iowa.

As a member of the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau, Sarah is pre-approved for their community group grants. If your group's event is approved, you pay \$50 and Humanities Iowa will cover most other expenses. Humanities programs are for adult, family, and mixed age groups only. Children only programs won't be approved.

For more information check out their webpage at: <http://www.humanitiesiowa.org>

Or contact them at:

Humanities Iowa
100 Oakdale Campus N310 OH
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000
Phone: 319-335-4153

Contact Sarah for available dates. Programs do NOT have to be funded through Humanities Iowa, but it is a good deal for your group.

For more information, please contact Sarah at:

info@trundlebedtales.com
(319) 351-2100

Visit <http://www.trundlebedtales.com> for longer descriptions of the programs and possible additions to add to the program, plus information on all of Sarah's projects.



Trundlebed Tales



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Living With Laura

It all started a long time ago in a little white house made of boards that Sarah discovered Laura Ingalls Wilder's books. Before anyone knew what was happening, she was "playing Laura," visiting the Laura sites, and learning how to do the things Laura did around her family farm. In the words of one cousin, "Laura took over her life and everybody's who knew her."

When Sarah grew up, she got her degree in history education, got actively involved with living history and historic foodways, and began to research the history and life around Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Now she wants to share all that knowledge with you!



Choose the type of presentation that is right for you!

Sarah can speak either as a modern day researcher or costumed as either a young or older Laura.

Available programs include:

General Laura Program (Slides)

This basic Laura program gives a general overview of Laura's life. It features slides taken at all the Laura sites and is good for any age group.

Packing Up (Slides)

This twist on the general program has us looking in on Laura as she is packing up to move to Missouri. Each artifact in the old chest holds a story. (Young Laura of 1894 only)

Laura's Life in Mansfield (Slides)

This in-depth program answers the question "What happened next?" and picks up after her books. It examines Laura's roles as farmwife, businesswoman, beginning writer, and famous author.

Following in Laura's Footsteps (Slides)

Having visited many of the Wilder sites multiple times, Sarah gives you the inside information about what there is to see at the main Wilder sites and the best way to see it. (Can't be presented as Laura)

Inside the Covers (Slides)

This in-depth program looks at Laura Ingalls Wilder's books as objects and how decisions about design, illustration, and production have affected how we see Wilder's work.

A Visit With Laura (No Slides)

Have an interactive visit with Laura using some of Laura's own words and questions culled from actual letters written to her.

Writing Isn't Perfect: Lessons from Laura

Everyone thinks of Laura Ingalls Wilder as someone who sat down late in life and wrote nearly perfect books that didn't need much editing. However, learning to write was a long process for Wilder and rejections and changes in her books, almost meant they weren't published. Delve into Wilder's writing process and take it as an example. (This program works best as a PowerPoint, but can be done without it.)

What's My Story? (Storytelling)

Who doesn't like a good story? This session shares some stories of Laura's life. Audience members are invited to pick an object from the table and hear its story. Depending on the size and organization of the audience there are lots of opportunities for everyone to take part.

Stories from Pa's Big Green Animal Book (Storytelling)

Similar to the "What's My Story" session, this specialized storytelling session focuses on animal stories. These stories come from Laura's life and other historic animal tales. Also, a copy of *Polar and Tropical Worlds (Pa's Big Green Animal Book as identified by William T. Anderson)* will be brought along for everyone to see.

Presentations on other topics include:

A Day in a One-Room School

A set of slides takes you through a typical day in a one-room school around 1900.

One-Room School Museums

This presentation will look at the development and current status of one-room schools museums. Included will be time to look over available resources for one-room school use.

Electric Salad Bowls in Your Museum

You might not think you have electric salad bowls in your local museum, but you might be surprised. This session has been presented at several conferences and a version appeared in the scholarly journal *Thresholds* from the University of Northern Illinois. Now Sarah will bring this hour long training session to your museum to help volunteers, staff, and board members take a new look at what they've been doing.