

July 18, 2017

Contact: Gail Madziar, 517-394-2774

Michigan Library Association Names Doc Fletcher Michigan Author Award Winner

LANSING – Michigan Library Association (MLA) is pleased to announce Doc Fletcher as the 2017 Michigan Author Award Winner. The award will be presented at a luncheon during the MLA 2017 Annual Conference in Lansing on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Fletcher's published work includes six books about the joy of paddling Michigan's rivers, "Weekend Canoeing in Michigan", "Michigan Rivers Less Paddled", "Paddling Michigan's Hidden Beauty", "Michigan's Pere Marquette River: Paddling Through Its History", "Paddling Michigan's Pine: Tales From the River" and his latest book, "Canoeing and Kayaking College Campuses in Michigan".

A selected group of MLA members determine the award recipient on overall literary merit. To be eligible, authors must be a current resident of Michigan, a long-time resident of Michigan, recently relocated or an author whose works are identified with Michigan because of subject and/or setting.

"The committee selected Jeffrey "Doc" Fletcher for this year's award because of his passion for the state and what it offers in natural beauty," said Michigan Author Award Work Group Chair James Pugh. "We felt that as an author he captures what it means to be a Michigander through adventures up north on the river. Michigan is lucky to have such an adoring fan of its great outdoors who shares his affection through authorship and advocacy."

Fletcher was born 1954 in Detroit, Michigan near the Main Branch of the Rouge River. He is a 1976 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, the school where he met and fell in love with his future bride, Maggie. They were married August 8, 1981 on the banks of the Huron River in Ypsilanti. Fletcher took his first canoe trip in 1978 on the Pere Marquette River and ever since then gets back into a canoe or kayak whenever possible. For Michigan-Out-Of-Doors segments, he joined co-host Jimmy Gretzinger in paddling the length of the Sturgeon River and the headwaters of the Pere Marquette River.

The Michigan Library Association (MLA) is Michigan's oldest and largest library association celebrating 125 years of library support. MLA's membership is comprised of more than 1,250 individual and organizational members from public, academic, private and special libraries. Guided by the belief that free and open access to information is the cornerstone of a free society, the Michigan Library Association advocates for libraries and the free access of information on behalf of the state's residents.