

UW-Stout professor writes children's book on local landmark

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Keeping up with the lumberjack theme of this week's homecoming, we should all take some time to appreciate Menomonie's own lumberjack; Jake, the inspiration for the children's book "The Lumberjack And The Eagle."

Written by University of Wisconsin-Stout's own David Tank, *The Lumberjack and the Eagle* is a 12-page fully illustrated storybook for ages 4-8. The book was inspired by the wooden lumberjack carving overlooking Lake Menomin off of Hwy 12/29.

The story follows Jake the lumberjack who comes to the forest to chop down all of the trees and return home with his riches to live a life of plenty. After chopping down all but one tree, a clever eagle tricks Jake into becoming one with the tree, so that he can never hurt the forest again.

Tank came up with the idea of the story while driving past the sculpture one day. "Everything has a story," Tank explained. "I just made one up while I was driving, and when I got home I thought it sounded pretty cool."

Jake the lumberjack personifies the logging industry from over one hundred years ago. Back then, lumberjacks would come and chop down all the trees without any regard for the environment. Once they were done, they would leave to go spend their wealth.

At UW-Stout, Tank teaches Freshman Composition and Writing for the Media, along with other journalism and communications classes. He is also the adviser of the Stoutonia (You may have heard of it).

Although most of his books have come out in the last four years, he has been writing books since 1977. Examples of his work include *The Magic of 3D Photography*, *Wisconsin Wildflowers in 3D* and *River of Hope*. Tank started his own independent press called Planert Creek Press because he believes that "the independent printing press is really the way to go." Although he is not working on any new books at the moment, David says that he "has a couple of ideas in the works."

On Nov. 1, Tank is having a children's story time at the Menomonie Public Library. There, he will be reading the story aloud, singing a song he wrote based on the book and demonstrating a limberjack (a wooden, dancing puppet lumberjacks used to make for their kids).

The Lumberjack and the Eagle is available locally at the Mabel-Tainter Center for the Arts and the Rassbach Heritage Museum. It is available online at www.lumberjackandeagle.com and Amazon.com.

A video of *The Lumberjack and the Eagle*, voiced by Tank, can be found on Youtube.