

Science writer to deliver H.O. Burdick Memorial Lecture

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Sue Hubbell, the author of eight books and numerous articles published in national magazines and newspapers, will deliver the 14th annual H.O. Burdick Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center on the Alfred University campus. The topic of her lecture is "Writing Science in the Post-Secular Age." Hubbell was a bookstore manager, an academic librarian at Trenton State and Brown University, and owner and operator of a "progressive Ozark apiary for 25 years" before "accidentally" becoming a writer in 1980 at the age of 45. "I found I could go on wondering about things and asking questions of people who had the answers and that sober, serious editors would pay me to do it," Hubbell explains. Among her works is *A Book of Bees: And How to Keep Them* (Mariner Books, 1998). David Quammen, writing in the *New York Times*, said, "The real masterwork that Sue Hubbell has created is her life. This book is, like its author, a unique achievement. (She) writes about bees to be sure, but also about other things: the important difference between loneliness and solitude the accommodating of oneself to nature." In *A Country Year; Living the Questions* (Mariner Books, 1999) Hubbell talks about how she began to write, "challenging herself to tell the absolute truth about her life and the things she cared about," according to Amazon.com. "The result is one of the best-loved books ever written about life on the land, about a woman finding her way in middle age." Hubbell explores sponges, sea urchins, horseshoe crabs and the sea mouse known as Aphrodite in *Waiting for Aphrodite: Journeys into the Time before Bones* (Mariner Books, 2000). In *Shrinking the Cat: Genetic Engineering Before We Knew About Genes*, published in 2001, Hubbell advances the argument that humans began creating new species long before "genetic engineering" became part of the vernacular. In addition to her books, Hubbell has written articles for several national publications including *Smithsonian* magazine, *New Yorker* magazine and *The New York Times*. Born in Kalamazoo, Mich., Hubbell attended Swarthmore, the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California and Texas Western University. She earned a master's degree from Drexel Institute of Technology. She is now a resident of Downeast Maine. The annual H.O. Burdick Memorial Program, which usually features a noted speaker in the fields of biology or medicine, is named in honor of a former biology professor and researcher who taught at Alfred University for a number of years.