

# **NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2008/2009**

**Chris McArthur  
Spotlight on Books  
April 3 & 4, 2009**

Northern Lights Library Network:

No matter whose directions I use, no matter how closely I watch the signs, no matter how many times I practice my left vs. my right – I get lost. Every year, I get lost. But Spotlight is well worth a wilderness ramble.

Luckily, once I'm at Sugar Lake Lodge I don't need directions. The sounds of talking and laughter draw me to the large and inviting conference room. The wonderful smells of delicious meals pull me into the dining room. The large windows in the "Book Store", light the book displays, as well as the hall outside the door – hard to miss, even for me.

At Spotlight, I network with old friends, make new friends and meet authors. I preview book award nominees, and listen to authors talk about their work. What a great way to spend two days. Best of all, I'm able to work in the Book Store. As book store clerk, I see and visit with most of the attendees. But I don't just sell books, I buy them too. My students are always impressed when I show them books which contain author signatures and dedications written especially for them.

In spite of Spotlight's somewhat out-of-the-way location, it's always a joy to learn about book programs, Minnesota authors, reading interventions and the latest titles. Thank you for providing the funding I needed to attend this event.

Chris McArthur  
Waubun Schools  
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