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Author Illustrator Claudia McGehee to Speak at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

West Branch, Iowa – On Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. local author and children's illustrator Claudia McGehee will speak about her latest book, *My Wilderness An Alaskan Adventure*.

Claudia McGehee is an illustrator-author living in Iowa City. Her creative inspiration comes directly from nature, especially the regional prairies and woodland around her, and the Pacific Northwest, where she grew up. McGehee pairs her main illustration medium, scratchboard, with vivid watercolor to create earthy, wood-cut like images. Some days she writes about pictures. Some days she draw about words. It's all in telling a story.

McGehee's lyrical nonfiction story, *My Wilderness An Alaskan Adventure*, recounts the 1918–1919 winter spent on Alaska's Fox Island from the point of view of nine-year-old Rocky, son of the American painter Rockwell Kent. In 1920 Kent wrote *Wilderness*, an edited and illustrated compilation of his letters home and McGehee drew from this to write her children's story about the adventure. The book uses vivid scratchboard-style illustrations to echo the rugged subject matter with enchantment as Rocky explores the wilderness and becomes accustomed to island life. This engaging book shows Alaska from a young boy's appreciative and imaginative point of view.

Following the presentation McGehee will autograph copies of the book which will be available for purchase in the museum Gift Shop. Currently on display in the museum galleries is the exhibit *Alaska and The Voyage of Understanding*. For more information please contact the museum at 319-643-5301 or visit the website, www.hoover.archives.gov.

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