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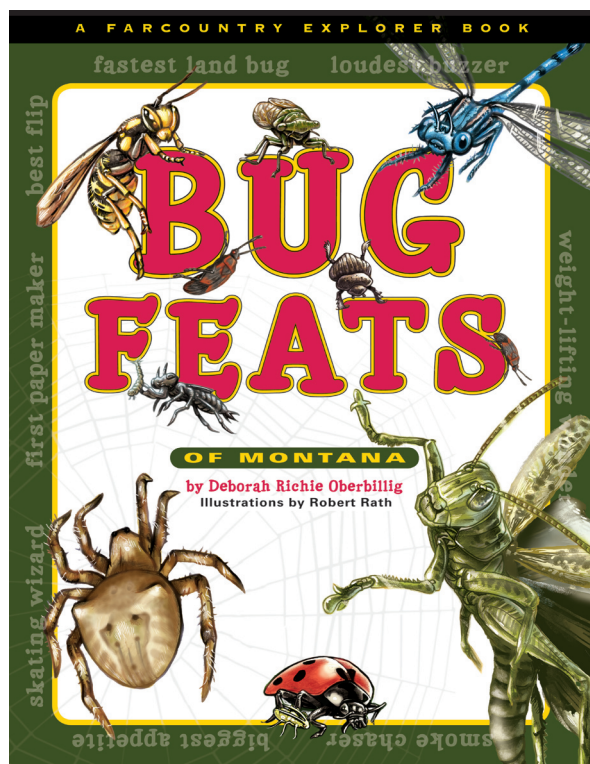
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## LOCAL BOOK SELECTED FOR NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The Montana State Library has announced that it has selected *Bug Feats of Montana* (\$14.95, Farcountry Press, 2009) as the lone book representing the state at the ninth annual National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., on September 26, 2009.

The popular festival takes place on the National Mall and is hosted by the Library of Congress. The National Book Festival will feature such authors as Judy Blume and Mo Willems.

The Montana State Library will display the book in the Pavilion of States, which expects to receive more than 25,000 visitors. Visit [www.loc.gov/bookfest/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/) for more information on the event.

State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt explains that “each year when the National Book Festival comes along, my staff visits the local book stores and brings back to the office several of the new Montana children’s or young adult books, which are then read and reviewed by a staff committee and we each independently vote on our choice.”

The State Library chose *Bug Feats of Montana*, Staffeldt says, because “it is a fun, active book [with] wonderful

illustrations. It would appeal to the adults as well as the young crowd that comes to the event each year.”

Author Deborah Richie Oberbillig of Missoula is “delighted by the selection,” crediting the book’s success in large part “to artist Rob Rath, whose illustrations are so interpretive, fun, and wild”—as well as to bug experts Byron Weber and John Acorn and student editors from the Rattlesnake School’s fourth and fifth grade class in Missoula.

Written for kids ages 8 to 12, the *Bug Feats of Montana* introduces young “bugsters” to 40 of Montana’s most mind-boggling bugs and their incredible feats. Readers meet a giant, swimming bug that attacks fish and frogs, injecting its digestive juices then sucking out the liquefied organs; a small, purple bug that has antifreeze in its blood, allowing it to live on the snow in winter; a tiny, hopping bug that lives inside a home made of “spit”; and many more.

For instance, readers might be surprised to learn that the larval form of an antlion hides beneath the sand at the bottom of a small pit, waiting for another bug to fall in. As the bug tries to scramble back up, the antlion uses

its shovel-like head to toss sand at the struggling prey. The bug loses its hold and slides down into the terrible jaws. The antlion then injects a dissolving juice, so it can suck up its meal.

"I hope that people of all ages will appreciate bugs instead of squashing or fearing them," says Oberbillig, who adds that she would like to see people turning to bugs to help us solve problems. "Scientists are studying the snowflea's antifreeze protein to figure out how to improve the success of heart transplants."

**Bug Feats** is a "Who's Who" of Montana's insect elite, including the fastest land bug, a master of disguise, high jump and long jump champs, the first paper maker, a weight-lifting wonder, the best drummer, and many more.

"I like to imagine people reading each bug feat and saying, 'Oh wow! That is so cool!' and then taking the next step of going outside and looking at the bugs that populate their own backyards," says Oberbillig. "That would be a great measure of success—if reading this book sends kids and adults alike outside to explore nature."

Artist Robert Rath's beautiful illustrations bring these amazing creatures to life, giving readers a bug's-eye view of the world. The giant water bug is Rath's personal favorite. "I had no idea there was such a big and mean critter lurking in our ponds!" he says, learning about them for the first time while working on **Bug Feats**. "They look very cool, and I sure wouldn't want to mess with them."

In addition to its astounding facts about Montana bugs and their feats, the book offers bug-finding tips for each creature, guiding kids on how to spot them in their yards, on the playground, or while camping, fishing, boating, or hiking.

**Bug Feats of Montana** is available at local bookstores and gift shops, through online retailers, or from Farcountry Press at 1.800.821.3874, [www.farcountrypress.com](http://www.farcountrypress.com).

### **Praise for *Bug Feats of Montana*:**

"Superbly illustrated on every page by Robert Rath, Deborah Richie Oberbillig's 'Bug Feats Of Montana' provides children and their parents with information on commonly encountered insects in Montana's yards, gardens, and fields. Of special note are the Bug Finding Tips to guide young and inquiring minds in their pursuit of finding and identifying the insects listed in 'Bug Feats Of Montana.' Each insect is showcased with background information that is

informed, informative, and thoroughly 'kid friendly'. 'Bug Feats Of Montana' is enthusiastically recommended for family, school, and community library collections -- and would serve wonderfully well as a template for similar compendiums on insect life in other sections of the country."

—DIANE C. DONOVAN, EDITOR, CHILDREN'S BOOKWATCH,  
MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

### **About the Author and Illustrator**

**Deborah Richie Oberbillig** writes about nature from her Missoula, Montana, home that she shares with her husband Dave, son Ian, dog Luna, gopher snake Slither, and gecko Blue Fire. She credits her love of the natural world especially to her father, Dave Richie. She has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Montana-Missoula and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Oregon. She is the author of ***Bird Feats of Montana***.

**Robert Rath** is a book designer and illustrator living in Bozeman. He illustrated the book ***First Dog: Unleashed in the Montana Capitol*** and ***The Great Monte Mystery***. Although he has worked with Scholastic Books, Lucasfilm, and Montana State University, his favorite project is keeping up with his family.

### **Other Books in the "Feats" series:**

***Bird Feats of Montana, including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks***, by Deborah Richie Oberbillig

### **About Farcountry Press**

**Farcountry Press** is the descendant of American and World Geographic Publishing, the book-publishing arm of Montana Magazine. The company was formed in 1980 and is based in Helena, Montana.

Farcountry specializes in softcover and hardcover color photography books showcasing the nation's cities, states, national parks, and wildlife. Farcountry also publishes several popular children's series, as well as guidebooks, cookbooks, and regional history titles nationwide.

The staff produces about 25 books annually; the backlist has grown to more than 300 titles.

[www.farcountrypress.com](http://www.farcountrypress.com), 800.821.3874

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