

Sarah Andrews
Author of the Em Hansen Forensic Geology Novels

Art Meets Science on the Cold Continent

Interpreting geology to the lay reader is a collaborative process that has opened some interesting doors for me. In creating the Em Hansen forensic geology mystery series, I have worked with the USGS, FBI, NASA, DOE, DOD, Smithsonian, National Gallery of Art, six state geological surveys, uncounted industry colleagues and university contacts, and now the National science Foundation. This talk shall focus on this process and especially the most recent (NSF) escapade, which took me to the coldest, highest, driest, and least populous continent on Earth: Antarctica. Fraught with red tape, screaming penguins, white-out blizzards, and 24-hour sunlight, this research trip was the closest thing to going into space I expect to experience in this lifetime, but the geology--and the landscapes it forms--was worth every ounce of effort it took to get there and back again.

Biography: Just back from the icy continent of Antarctica, Geologist **Sarah Andrews** is the author of ten mystery novels about geology and geologists. Not surprisingly, here core readership lies among her colleagues. While working for the USGS, the oil business, environmental cleanup, and teaching geology, Sarah developed her **Em Hansen forensic geology series** to help build a bridge between geoscience and the public it serves. Her many awards include a 2005 grant from the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program to travel to Antarctica to research the eleventh novel in the series. Her novels cover applications of geology to oil and gas, environmental services, paleontology, mining, seismicity, government research, and forensic science. She has been interviewed on radio, and in print media, and frequently lectures on science. In addition articles she has written have appeared in *Geotimes* (*Why Study Geology?*) and the Association of Engineering Geologists (*The mind of the geologist*). She received her M.S. degree in Geology in 1981 from Colorado State University, and is licensed in California as a Professional Geologist. Visit her website at: <http://www.sarahandrews.net/index.htm>