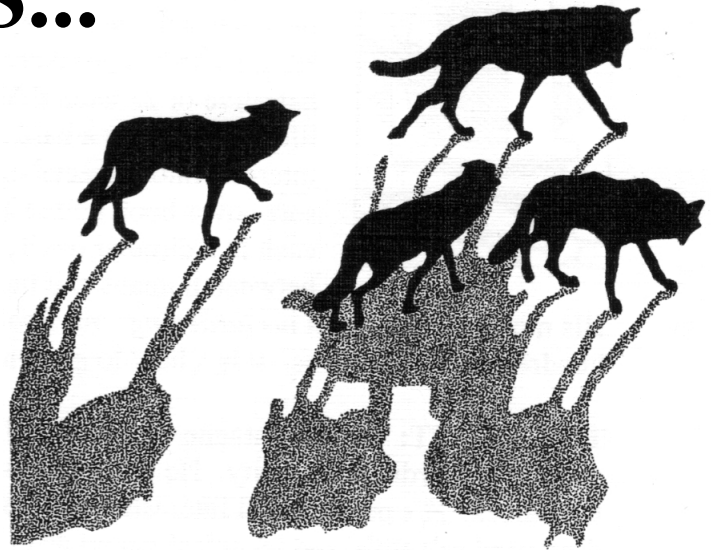


Fred Montague  
Wildlife Biologist, Artist, Author, Lecturer

# IN WILDNESS... IN INK...

*Original drawings, limited edition prints,  
illustrations, and handmade books*

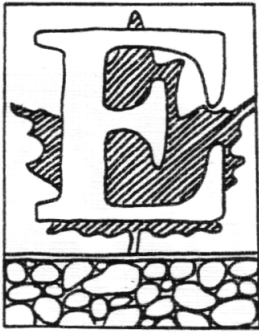
**THE PHILOSOPHY:** An indication of an aware and responsible society is its concern for vulnerable and aesthetic values. Wildness, wildlife, and wilderness are such values, and their appreciation and preservation are ecologically and culturally significant aspects of current affairs. Montague's activities in art, writing, and university teaching have centered ultimately on fostering environmental awareness and ecological consciousness. The foundation of his artwork is the ink image-- usually in the form of a carefully rendered pen-and-ink drawing or a hand-lettered paragraph. His goal, in this fast-paced, quickly changing, more complicated world, is to offer a revitalizing link to our ecological context-- Nature.



**THE DRAWINGS:** The endangered tradition of rendering images in ink with pen is a discipline of many demands. The medium, in all its black and white starkness, requires much, and there is little room for error. Furthermore, the artist states, "The greatest challenge is producing the effects of form, space, texture, and color merely by making black marks on white paper." Montague accomplishes these feats by painstakingly deliberate stippling and intricate cross-hatching. Some drawings have taken more than 200 hours to complete. The plants and animals come alive, and the habitats grow in space and detail as each ink dot and line is applied. The finished work becomes a window to the natural world.

Montague collects ideas for the drawings during field trips. His field notebooks are littered with sketches of birds, mammals, insects, plants, rocks, clouds, and landscapes. Photographs by the artist provide reference material for animals that are in motion. After composing the drawing in pencil and solving problems such as lighting, texture, color patterns, postures, and animal expressions, he transfers the drawing to heavy archival illustration board for the final ink rendering.

**THE LIMITED EDITION PRINTS:** Fred Montague prints most of his editions on a 1913 Golding hand-fed, platen letterpress. He prints some of his drawings from engraved plates. He learned printing by doing it-- after a printer-friend in Indiana gave him a vintage press. Montague moved the massive cast iron antique to his Utah studio from his Indiana studio in 1992. Printing is an interesting craft, and few people who create their own ink drawings print them on letterpress presses. The interplay between paper texture, ink density, image detail, and image pattern all come together as the large balance wheel spins and the platen holding the paper closes against the inked plate. The resulting embossed impression, almost carving-like, sometimes literally adds another dimension to the graphic work. He also uses this printing press to print his limited-edition woodcuts. He carves the woodcut masters from maple blanks that he modifies to fit the printing press.



**THE HANDMADE BOOKS:** Fred Montague writes, designs, illustrates, prints and binds books. These artists' books represent a uniquely individual and personal statement-- especially in this time of electronic media. Of the several editions he has produced, *Rambling* is the most ambitious. It is a personal narrative of 22 natural history accounts, each accompanied by a verse and an illustration. It is a hard cover book that blends his science, teaching, and art interests into a special exhibit in book format. Another book, *One Earth*, is a soft-cover book bound in the Japanese style. It contains 21 original illustrations, each in a circular motif, that relate the author's views about the relationship between humans and the Earth.

These two occur in limited editions of 880. His most recent project is *Gardening: An Ecological Approach* with its 400 hand-lettered pages and hundreds of illustrations. It is a how-to gardening manual, an ecology textbook, and much more.

**THE ARTIST:** Fred Montague was born and raised in the Midwest and earned a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology at Purdue University. He taught there for 18 years in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. His professional interests spilled over into the realms of art as he produced various illustrated scientific and technical materials in association with his teaching responsibilities. He has studied art on his own, from books, from other artists, and from the design lessons inherent in the natural world. He has a strong desire to share with others those delights and dramas, tragedies and joys he experiences as a biologist and teacher. He endeavors to incorporate art into his teaching, and teaching into his art. In 1992 he moved west where he taught wildlife ecology, environmental science, and organic gardening at the University of Utah until 2010. He is currently Professor (Lecturer) Emeritus of Biology.

**THE RECOGNITION:** Montague's drawings, books and prints occur in collections in 50 states and 30 countries. He has exhibited at over 160 art fairs, including such prestigious events as the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Park City Art Festival, the Kansas City Country Club Plaza Art Fair, the Wisconsin Festival of the Arts, the Cincinnati Creative Arts Festival, and many others. His work has earned numerous awards and prizes. He was commissioned by Purdue University to create a special commemorative print for Marlin Perkins (Mutual of Omaha's *Wild Kingdom*). He has had numerous solo exhibits-- at the University of Utah, at Purdue University, at the Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio, and other galleries throughout the country. He has exhibited in the Indiana Wildlife Artists Exhibit at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, at the "Nature Interpreted" Exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, and at the Mendicino (California) Book Fair. The National Park Service commissioned him to illustrate a monograph describing the ecology of wolves and moose in Isle Royale National Park (Lake Superior). Macmillan commissioned him to illustrate an outdoor recreation textbook. His commemorative drawing "Silent Snow" was commissioned by the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. His drawing "Wood Ducks" earned recognition in the Indiana Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp competition. Most of that print edition was donated to Ducks Unlimited to assist with fund-raising for waterfowl habitat acquisition.

---

## Fred Montague's MOUNTAIN BEAR INK

An art studio and independent press dedicated to promoting environmental awareness, ecological consciousness, and the twin gifts of cultural and biological diversity.



1851 North Ridge Road, Wanship, Utah 84017 // 435-336-1213

More information at  
[www.mountainbearink.com](http://www.mountainbearink.com)