

Alan E. Sparks is (or has been) an engineer, writer, actor, and teacher. He graduated from the University of Maine with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Physics, and from Stanford University with a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Alan has also completed post-secondary courses in philosophy, sociology, psychology, art, acting, exercise physiology, film making, and writing at the University of Colorado, Merrimack College, and Naropa University. He was employed for over twenty years as a software engineer developing new technologies in the telecommunications industry, including nineteen years as a member of technical staff at Bell Laboratories.

An avid walker, hiker, backcountry skier, and animal tracker, Alan has lived, worked, and trekked extensively in the wilds of Central and Eastern Europe. He is a voracious reader and enjoys studying the natural and cultural history of the places he visits. To supplement his indoor studies, he has completed courses in mountaineering with the Colorado Mountain Club, mountain ski touring/expedition leadership with the National Outdoor Leadership School, and winter ecology/animal tracking with renowned animal tracker Dr. James Halfpenny.

Alan currently divides his time between Krakow, Poland and Boulder, Colorado. He continues to write (working on the sequel to *Dreaming of Wolves* about The Way Of The Wolf expedition), and teaches English (in Poland), and occasionally seizes an opportunity to perform as an actor or percussionist.