



The Library Lookout

April 2003 Tel: 474-9072

News From the Children's Librarian

On March 29 we received 50 books from the Children of the American Revolution. Thanks to all the kids who collected books!

We saw a great deal of response for the adult craft activities that were held on Thursdays during the month of March. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated. We hope to be able to continue to offer these types of programs in the future. Please contact someone at the library if you have a particular craft or talent that you would like to share.

On April 9th I will be visiting North Elementary to go over the Summer Reading Program. This years program will be "Laugh it up at your library". I will be speaking with the reading teachers and parents to encourage the use of the library this summer and hopefully to help the children maintain an interest in reading and continue to develop their skills.

On April 10 and 24 the Bloomfield Garden Club will be presenting "Building Blocks of Gardening. Please contact the library if you would like to attend because space is limited.

April 24 will also bring back a favorite speaker, Tim Gould will be here to present "Treasures in your Attic" He will begin at 7:00 and those of you who have seen Tim in the past have seen the crowd that gathers. Please come early to get a seat.

May 1 Lee Granville will be presenting "Alternative Potted Plants, it's not only Geraniums" from 5:30 to 7:00.

May 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 and May 10 from 11-1 we will have Dad and Me Mother's Day Crafts.

May 15 is National Chocolate Chip Day and we will have cookies for all in the Library all day.

It looks like Spring is turning into a busy month for the Library, I hope that you can join us for some or all of the scheduled events.

MARY DAVIES

We are all saddened to hear of the death of Mary Davies, and extend our sympathies to her family. From its beginning, Mary was a valued member of the Friends, and wholeheartedly contributed her talents and energy to the library. She was our first Vice-President. She was the person who started this newsletter in the summer of 1998, one of her many excellent suggestions adopted by the Friends.

She also served on the board of the Bloomfield Trustees. We are indeed fortunate to have had the benefit of her wisdom and enthusiasm.

LATEST NEWS

FOL DUES

May is the month for annual dues. Please send your check to Kathy Hughes.

APRIL 12 LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Please come to the National Library Week Open House from 11 to 2 on Saturday, April 12 at the library. There will be refreshments, entertainment, and fun crafts for the kids. You'll be able to enjoy an exhibit of poetry organized by SAMS teacher, Kathy Evans, and a display of posters by SAD 54 elementary grade students. See you there!

NEW FOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome two new members to the Friends' Executive Board. They are Veronica Wright and Maureen Calder. We know they will contribute many new and creative ideas in our effort to "support and promote" the Skowhegan Free Public Library.

MAY FOL MEETING

The Friends Meeting on May 14 will feature a talk by Lee Sharkey, poet and Women's Studies teacher at UMF.

Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library Secretary's Report for Wednesday, March 12, 2003

President, Corrilla Hastings, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Secretary's Report was accepted as written. In the absence of the Treasurer, Corrilla reported that we had \$1623.25 in the checking account, \$6659.66 and in the savings account and \$7000 in an 18 month CD.

Fund-Raising Chair, Marcia Granville, spoke briefly about the fund-raisers currently being worked on; Library Bag Lunches on April 25th, the Lawn Sale on May 17th and the Garden Tour and Art Show planned for June 28th.

Corrilla announced that the Library would celebrate National Library Week with an Open House from 11 to 2 on Saturday, April 12th. There will be a poster contest for grades k-12, a poetry exhibit by SAMS, crafts and entertainments plus refreshments supplied by members of the Friends of the Library. Please come visit your library, eat a few cookies and look at the children's artwork. You will be glad you did.

It was announced that the Library would soon be getting new shelving for the Children's section. The Friends had voted unanimously to foot the bill of \$6,719.49.

New Executive Board Members, Veronica Wright and Maureen Calder were introduced.

The Library now offers programs each Thursday at 5:30. March was devoted to crafts such as knitting, scrap booking and tole painting. In April, the programs will be devoted to gardening. At 7:00 p.m., April 24th, "Treasures from Your Attic" will be presented by Tim Gould.

The next Friends of the Library meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., May 14th. A new Secretary and Treasurer will be elected. Annual membership fees are due in May.

The program for the evening featured the work of Skowhegan Area Middle School (SAMS) students with their laptop computers. Jean Butler gave a brief history of the State of Maine laptop program. Governor Angus King first proposed it in 1999. It is his belief that students need to keep abreast of the technology in order to compete successfully for jobs in the future. State provided laptop computers for every student would provide statewide equity for the students. Governor King wanted our youngsters to have the computers as accessible as pencils-on the desk everyday. He believes that ready access to and knowledge of computers will help our youth to be the most technologically advanced in the world.

Contrary to the warnings of some skeptics, teachers have found that the program works well. The students respond better to discipline, are more interested in their lessons and are doing a lot of reading on the Internet. In fact, the children are learning the technology more readily than their instructors are.

Ms. Butler then introduced Laura Richter who is the coordinator of the seventh grade laptop program at SAMS and two of her students, Ben Doty and Brian Pratt.

Ms. Richter explained that her class wanted to do a project

based on local history. She first contacted Steve Bromage at the Maine Historical Society and learned about the Maine Memory Network. Museums and historical societies are scanning old pictures and documents and entering them into the Maine Memory Network. This was a project her students could do with their computers.

A visit to the Skowhegan History House yielded a wealth of old photos and other material. Curator, Lee Granville, and photographer Lynn Perry volunteered to work with the students, showing them how to handle the old materials and how to enhance the scanned photos. After the students had scanned, enhanced and saved the images, they uploaded them to the Maine Memory Network and catalogued them. As one of the boys said, "We got to see what Skowhegan looked like before we were born." As part of the project they also transcribed some letters written by a Civil War soldier and uploaded images of the originals plus the transcriptions. Ms. Richter showed a movie the students created from the old photos and music. To see the results of their work, go to mainememorynet.net.

FUND RAISERS:

Do you have favorite recipes that your families ask for frequently? Would you like to share them? Copy them out and deposit them in the box on the librarian's desk for the first ever Skowhegan Free Public Library Lover's Cookbook. Plans are to have it ready by Thanksgiving.

The Library Brown Bag Lunch will be available to everyone who gets his or her order (and the money) in by Thursday, April 17th. The lunches will be delivered on Friday, April 25th. Menus and order forms will be in the library or at your workplace by April 14th. The fee of \$6.00 is payable in advance.

The Library Lawn Sale will be held at the Hastings' farm on Malbon Mills Road on Saturday, May 17th. We will have everything from books and clothing to dishes, old jewelry and electrical gadgetry, some old, some new. We also serve the best hotdogs on the whole six-miles of lawn sales that day. Donations for the sale will be greatly appreciated.

The Skowhegan Area Garden Tour and Art Show is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th. The tour will start from the Tewksbury Building, located behind the Federated Church on the island. A silent or Chinese auction will take place at the same time. The tour is \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door. Lunch, by reservation only, is \$6.00. Good weather has been requested for the day.

Trouble at Serenity Pond, a mystery in three acts will be presented in October. Serenity Pond is a small Maine community located (you guessed it) on the shores of Serenity Pond. What could possibly be the trouble?

Book Reviews

by Marcia Granville

For you fantasy lovers, I can think of no author I enjoy more than Anne McCaffrey. For more than thirty years she has been writing about the dragons of Pern. Unlike other dragons, the dragons of Pern are actively cultivated for they are invaluable in fighting 'thread', a substance that eats through any living thing, leaves, wood, dragonhide and human. Often the novels feature a child who is a misfit in his home environment but has a particular talent; in communicating with dragons, healing, bardic qualities, etc. Look for titles such as: *Dragonflight*, *Dragonquest*, and *Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern*. These are available through Ballentine Books.

Another series by the talented Anne McCaffrey concerns the far future, when space travel is a common occurrence. When a healthy brain which is attached to a ruined body may be used as the central nerve system of a space ship. The only other thing needed for a well run vessel is a 'brawn', a human who does the physical labor on board. It sounds Macabre, but Ms. McCaffrey makes it all seem quite plausible, as well as writing gripping stories that incorporate futuristic technology along with the menaces of human and other space creatures.

LIBRARY HOURS

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10-6 | 10-6 | 10-6 | 10-7 | 10-6 | 10-2 |

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MEET A LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

She loves books and libraries! What better qualifications can you think of for a valuable library volunteer? A ninth grade student at SAHS, Shantelle Forgue is happy to spend her afternoons doing a variety of jobs at the Skowhegan Free Public Library. She works on cataloguing, stamping books and handling check-outs. Previously she has volunteered at both the SAMS and the Norridgewock libraries. She also gives time to the Norridgewock Historical Society where she is a champion seller of raffle tickets. At school, Shantelle enjoys keyboarding and theater, and won fifth place in ensemble at the State Speech competition this year. In addition to reading, her hobbies include knitting. She lives in Norridgewock with her parents and twin brother. As for future plans, Shantelle is leaving her options open but thinks it may be in the business field. The library is very fortunate to benefit from this volunteer's talents and enthusiasm. Thank you, Shantelle!

BECOME A FRIEND OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, a not for profit group dedicated to supporting and improving the library for all members of the community, invite you to join us. Dues are \$10. individuals, \$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corilla Hastings (474-3949).

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, 175 James Road, Comville, Maine 04976.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

Tel. # _____
E-Mail Address _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 9 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
April 10 Bloomfield Garden Club Presentation "Building Blocks of Gardening" at the Library
April 12 Library Week Open House, 11-2 at the Library
April 16 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
April 17 Library Lunch
April 23 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
April 24 Bloomfield Garden Club Presentation "Building Blocks of Gardening" at the Library
Tim Gould, Treasures From Your Attic, 7:00 pm at the Library
April 30 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
May 1 Lee Granville, "Alternative Potted Plants, It's Not Only Geraniums" 5:30 at the Library
May 5-10 Book Sale
May 7 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
May 8 Dad and Me Mother's Day Crafts 5:30-7 at the Library
May 10 Dad and Me Mother's Day Crafts 11-1 at the Library
May 14 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room
Friends Annual Meeting 7 at the Library Program: Lee Sharkey, poet and Women's Studies teacher
May 15 National Chocolate Chip Day, Chocolate Chip cookies in the Library
May 17 Friends Yard Sale at the Hastings
May 21 Wednesday Morning Story and Craft Hour, 10 am in the Children's Room

Visit Us on the Web at

www.friendsofmainelibraries.org/organizations/fosfpl



The Library Lookout

Friends of the Stowhegan
Free Public Library
c/o Stowhegan Free Public Library
Elm Street
Stowhegan, ME 04976

Your Librarians Are:

Library Director Blynn Currier,
Assistant Librarian Françoise Labonte,
Children's Librarian Katherine Connell,
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Mary Davies, Lee Granville,
Toni Jo Blaisdell and
Carol Jarvis

Friends Officers Are:

Corilla Hastings, Pres.;
Jim Foster, V.P.,
Marcia Granville, Sec.
and Kathy Hughes, Treas.