



**P.O. Box 159
Young Harris, GA 30582
706-379-3732**

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Web: <http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org/>

E-mail: mountain@mountainregionallibrary.org

Comments from FOLTC President Marilyn Pierce

The year is drawing to a close and with it my position as president of FOLTC. It has been a privilege to serve and it has proved interesting, enjoyable and challenging. Now I must turn my attentions elsewhere, but I hope that someone else in our organization will be willing to “take the helm.”

We have had a very successful year, with two book sales and a bake sale which was extended from one weekend to two. As a result of that change alone, we raised over \$850—much more than we did in just one weekend last year. I would like to extend a special “thank you” to all those who assisted directly with our book and bake sales, as well as to those who bought books and enjoyed our baked goods. Thanks are also due to all of those new and renewing members who continue to be the basis for much of our revenue. Please don’t forget our book cart in the Mountain Regional Library, since it is also a year-round source of revenue and some great books!

As a result of our efforts, we have, to date, been able to give \$5,000 towards the purchase of library materials and equipment for the libraries of Towns County, in an effort to offset the continuing budget cuts.

Some new innovations this year include: plans to begin an online newsletter; posting the minutes on our website, as well as sending them to all members wishing to receive them online; and having a communications person who will send out meeting notices, a members’ survey, and notifications of upcoming events.

The “Friends” were represented at the first public library advocacy day at the State Capitol in February, as well as at the annual Friends of Georgia Libraries meeting in April. We also gained a new Membership person, Jane Farrell; a new Treasurer, Jim Reynolds; and a new Communications position, which Jan Roberts volunteered to take. Thank you, Jan Roberts, for serving in yet another way and for all your past services; and thank you, Jane Manuszak, for your many years of service as our past treasurer and bake sale coordinator!

My “thank you” list would not be complete without remembering the purpose of all our efforts—our libraries—and the wonderful library staff we have the privilege of working with: our incomparable leader, Director Donna Howell; Branch Managers Debbie Phillips and Sandi Vaughn; and all those who make our libraries function so well and our library experiences so pleasant. I include our Library Board and Commissioner Bill Kendall in that number and I wish to express my gratitude for all that they do.

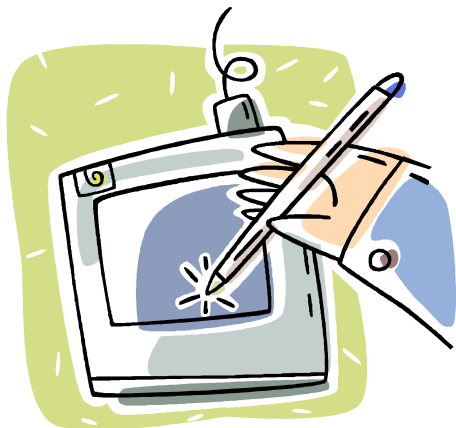
The final FOLTC meeting of the year will be held at Moschetto’s Continental Café in Young Harris, with a luncheon at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 7th.**

Please join us for future meetings which take place at **10:30 am** in the conference room at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris on the **first Tuesday of the month** on alternate months, beginning in February. **In 2011 the meeting dates are: February 1st, April 5th, June 7th, August 2nd, October 4th, and December 6th.**

Officer Roster

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Marilyn Pierce | 706-379-6672 | abetree@windstream.net |
| Vice President | Doris Tilly | 706-379-1306 | wdtilly@windstream.net |
| Co-Recording Secretary | Maureen Gustafson | 706-379-2637 | maureengustafson@hotmail.com |
| Co-Recording Secretary | Christine Thompson | 706-379-2330 | jimchris.thompson@gmail.com |
| Corresponding Secretary | Maureen Gustafson | 706-379-2637 | maureengustafson@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Jim Reynolds | 706-379-6601 | retiredjim@gmail.com |
| Membership | Jane Farrell | 706-896-7254 | farrellj@windstream.net |
| Book Sale | John & Jan Roberts | 706-994-0958 | aggie37@windstream.net |
| Book Bunch | Barbara Hale | 706-379-3296 | bhale@brmemc.net |
| Newsletter | Linda Dye | 803-230-2571 | ldye29730@yahoo.com |
| Publicity | Janice Cochran | 706-379-3419 | janicecochran@brmemc.net |
| Scrapbook | Shirley Heide | 706-379-3861 | dbsty@windstream.net |

Jan Roberts, E-Coordinator



FOLTC is going to join the 21st century by going electronic--at least as much as possible. These e-mailings will include notices of meetings, minutes of minutes, information about book sales and many other interesting items. I am collecting e-mail addresses from all members who have one and want to use this method. I have sent the minutes of the October meeting as our first item. If you did not receive the minutes, I need your e-mail address. Please send it to me at aggie37@windstream.net.

Soon I will be sending a survey via email. This will be similar to the one that, if you are a member, you recently received from ICL. I will also have hard copies available at the front desk of the Mountain Regional Library. If an out of town member with no email, call for a copy to be mailed. Please return this survey to me. *[I have the return figures from ICL and would like to beat that!]*

As you can guess, our first goal will be postage savings. Every newsletter costs us 46 cents postage (we don't have enough to qualify for bulk mail rates). The more we save, the more we can help the Towns County libraries. We also are considering paper, labor and convenience. Please send comments and/or suggestions that you have about this method of communication and don't be bashful, aggie37@windstream.net. Say what you think. We really want to know.

Thanks for your interest and cooperation.

MRL News from the desk of Sandi Vaughn, Branch Manager

I extend a HUGE thanks to all the Friends who gave so freely of their time and backs to help with the Book Sale. What a great thing to know that in spite of our budget woes, we are so lucky to have the Friends to back us up!

Also, our Summer Reading Program was so much fun! Lynn Bartlett is now our Children's Services coordinator for MRL and she did such a great job. Not only did she seem to have a great time, the kids loved her. They warmed up to "Miss Lynn" quickly and hugs and kisses were frequent all summer long. Each child felt proud when she compared them to her grandkids, or even her own "boys". She even let me help a little with the storytimes with songs and finger plays, which I love to do. We had a very respectable number of children every single week, ranging in the littlest ones (one hanging in a snuggle on Mom and even one still waiting the last few weeks to be born!!) up to a 14 year-old big brother that seemed to enjoy the stories and crafts every bit as much as his little sister.

Our end of the year party was a hit! We held it across the street at Mayor's Park where there was face painting by our wonderful summer student, Ada Thompson; bubbles and games, and lots and lots of prizes. We had relay races and lots and lots of squirt gun games. That sure helped with the heat! Pizza (courtesy of Moschetto's) and popsicles topped it off and though we were thrilled at how much fun everyone had, we felt a little sad to see the summer end and our "big" kids go back to school. Our first regular storytime went well, with Lynn and me teaming up again for songs and stories.

We would like to thank our Summer Reading Club sponsors: Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation (thank you Matthew Atkins), Moschetto's Continental Café of Young Harris, and Cary D. Cox, PC. Our special summer programs were sponsored by a Federal Library Services and Construction Act grant administered by Georgia Public Library Services.



Miss Lynn and Miss Sandi having fun with the kids

We'll be planning other programs and will be working on building our collection, both Adult and Juvenile, as well as hopefully adding a Young Adult section. We need those teenagers!! Our fall storytimes have begun and we welcome all preschoolers every Wednesday morning at 11 a.m.!

Our Vice President, Doris Tilly

The Butterfly Garden is doing quite well at this time (early November) with yellow roses and yellow zinnias still in bloom. New flowers for the fall-spring season were planted with the help of Suzanne Carter and Linda Jones. This year we have several flats of a new "panola" (a cross between a pansy and a viola) donated by Mike and Sally Clark of English Country Gardens. Yellow snapdragons and two butterfly weed plants also were planted. Can you tell that yellow is the main color in this garden as butterflies are attracted to it more than any other color. The usual need for weeding and mulching continues. If you would like to help to maintain the garden, please call me at (706) 379-1306.

Any and all comments concerning the Butterfly Garden are appreciated. It looks great for the amount of care given and many library patrons have commented on the garden.

TCPL News from the desk of Debbie Phillips, Branch Manager

It has been a wonderful summer at the library as 263 children enjoyed stories and crafts related to the "Make a Splash...READ!" theme. With the warm temperatures outside, the water theme was a welcome one. The



Miss Sandy does summer storytime at TCPL

children received prizes each week by "picking up ducks" from a pool of water. We also had 44 children to sign up for the Vacation Reading Program. These children kept track of the books they read all summer and received a certificate for their reading efforts. Sandy Wood took over children's services responsibilities at TCPL beginning this summer. Miss Sandy had a wonderful time and the children loved her! Thank you to our 2010 sponsors: Zaxby's, United Community Bank, Bank of Hiawassee, State Farm Insurance, Noblet's 5 & 10, Stephens Federal Bank, and Papa's Pizza. A Fall & Winter storytime at Towns County Public Library started September 9th at 1 p.m.

For the first time ever, TCPL had an adult summer reading program – the theme was "Water Your Mind ... Read!" Seventeen adults signed up and read a lot of water and gardening themed books. Master Gardeners did a program to wrap up the program – a good time was had by all! Thanks for a great summer!

Book Bunch Info from Barbara Hale, Chairman

Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson will be the Book Bunch's topic of discussion for November 17th, led by Barbara Hale. At that time the group will also select the five books for the second half of 2011. The first five, which were chosen in October, are: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, I, James McNeill Whistler by Lawrence Williams, In My Father's Garden by Lee May, The Help by Kathryn Stockett and Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by C. Alan Bradley. Thanks to Donna, bookmarks with information about all ten books will be available shortly after the November meeting.

~~~ REMINDER ~~~

Next Friends of the Libraries Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 12:00 noon

Moschetto's Continental Café, Young Harris

Attention My Fellow Friends:

As we approach that special "giving" time of year, please keep our libraries in mind as recipients of your generosity. This can be expressed in a number of ways: a contribution to honor the memory of a loved one; a gift membership to FOLTC; an unspecified contribution to be used at the discretion of the library directors; a contribution for the purchase of specific books/materials, i.e., children's books or books dealing with specific subjects. Another way to assist the libraries is to "Adopt" an author, magazine, or books pertaining to specific subjects—genealogy, historical novels, gardening, etc. You might, for instance, agree to purchase—at the much lower library rate—all books written by a particular author, or just the books written in a specific year by that author. Your gift can be as creative as you like and will be greatly appreciated however large or small it may be. Thank you, Marilyn Pierce, President of FOLTC

From Director Donna Howell's Desk

As we approach Thanksgiving holidays, we have much to be thankful for!

We have been holding our collective breath to see whether budget cuts from the Towns Board of Education would cause us to have to cut hours in our libraries, but thanks to grants from Commissioner Bill Kendall to make up that \$23,000 shortfall we will not have to cut hours or services. In addition to providing these funds for staff and operations, Mr. Kendall has offered a matching grant to the Friends. In calendar year 2011, the county will match up to \$5,000 in contributions from the Friends! What a great offer! Mr. Kendall has also put the local match portion of \$100,000 for the renovation and addition project for Towns County Public Library into the proposed SPLOST that will voted on in spring 2011. We are so blessed to have a Commissioner who knows the value of our libraries and cares so deeply about our beautiful and special Towns County! Please make time to let him know how much you appreciate his support.

We were fortunate this summer to have had the services of Lyn Hopper, former Assistant State Librarian, to help us complete the strategic plan for the library system. The plan involved many people providing insights and suggestions. Copies of the plan are available at the libraries and on our website. My thanks to all of you who participated in the planning and to Lyn for her hard work planning, organizing, collecting, and compiling all the information for our plan. Our staff is currently working on action plans to help put all that planning into practice to improve services for our library users and our communities. Debbie Phillips and I have been closely involved in the Towns County Comprehensive Plan and we appreciate Commissioner Kendall and Plan Committee Chair Jounida Bradley for inviting us to participate. Our own planning process allowed us to put our plans into the county plan.

We welcome back Peggy Keys-Burrell from her medical leave. We missed her, but we were truly blessed to have had Curtis Spiva available to work for us this summer. Curtis is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina with his Masters in Library and Information Science and he has done a great job for us. After Peggy returned, Curtis has been hard at work cataloging much of the uncataloged materials on our shelves. I hope you get a chance to meet Curtis.

Finally, I am thankful for all the people visit us and use our libraries every day - it is our pleasure to serve you. Our library staff extends our wishes for a truly blessed Thanksgiving to every one of our Towns County Citizens.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Choose one: ___ New Membership ___ Renewal Membership

Please select membership type:

___ Individual (\$10.00) ___ Family (\$20.00) ___ Sponsor (\$25.00)

___ Business (\$30.00) ___ Donor (\$50.00) ___ Patron (\$100.00)

Please make check payable to FOLTC and mail to Friends of the Libraries of Towns County, P.O. Box 159, Young Harris, GA. 30582.

Friends of the Libraries of Towns County

PO Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582-0159