



**P.O. Box 159
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Comments from FOLT Co - Presidents, Barbara Hale and Marilyn Pierce

The February FOLTC meeting was well attended, and we would like to extend a special "thank you" to all who made the effort to participate. A number of issues were addressed, especially those involving renewed attempts to increase membership in our organization.

Those present determined that FOLTC would purchase a laptop computer for use by the membership chairs. It will be updated with the latest spreadsheet program, in order to help keep our membership list current. In addition, the Membership Chair will now send out welcome letters to new members, acknowledging their specific areas of interest and relaying that information to the appropriate person. In addition, she will send "reminder" letters to members, letting them know that it is time to renew their memberships. Our E-Coordinator has been sending out reminders via email to those choosing that venue.

FOLTC believes that these extra letters are justified not only because they provide a more personal response to members, but are also more affordable because of the extra savings our organization has realized due to the introduction of an online Newsletter and the subsequent savings on postage. At last count, those receiving the online newsletter have reached 108, and our E-Coordinator has placed sign-up sheets on the counters of the libraries, so that members can provide their email addresses or update them if necessary. Please don't forget to give Jane or Jan your latest information about a change of address, telephone number or email address—email addresses change frequently and we are less likely to think of them!

Our Publicity Chairman, Janice Cochran, has placed a number of articles in the local newspapers, as part of the effort to increase publicity for FOLTC. We hope that these articles will help provide additional interest in our group and also highlight the need for a vigorous "Friends" organization.

You may have noticed new display boards at both the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris and the Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee, citing the reasons for joining FOLTC. The FOLTC brochure has also been updated and has an application form and "interest" section, allowing individuals to specify in what way they might be most interested in helping out.

Comments from FOLTC Co-Presidents, Barbara Hale and Marilyn Pierce continues

Our libraries have been particularly fortunate this year in receiving unexpected funding, and you are already aware of the challenge grant made by Commissioner, Bill Kendall. In addition, a much beloved former member of FOLTC, Norma Mullican, who passed away in 2009, has recently left a bequest of \$3,300 to the libraries. Each book purchased by the libraries with this money will contain an inscription recognizing Norma's generosity.

There will be no April book sale this year, because the meeting room at MRL will be storing equipment for the Union County library, which is currently undergoing an extensive renovation. For this reason, we plan to extend the hours of the August Book and Bake Sale, and further details about it will be forthcoming.

BAKE SALE MANAGER NEEDED: *We will need someone to manage the Bake Sale in August. Interested parties may contact Jan Roberts at: aggie37@windstream.net.*

Officer Roster

Co-President	Barbara Hale	706-379-3296	bhale@brmemc.net
Co-President	Marilyn Pierce	706-379-6672	abetree@windstream.net
Vice President	Doris Tilly	706-379-1306	wdtilly@windstream.net
Recording Secretary	Melanie Beighley	770-633-3765	mhbeighley@aol.com
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Treasurer	Jim Reynolds	706-379-6601	retiredjim@gmail.com
Membership	Jane Farrell	706-379-3897	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
E-Coordinator	Jan Roberts	706-994-0958	aggie37@windstream.net
Scrapbook	Shirley Heide	706-379-3861	dbsty@windstream.net

Book Bunch 'n Lunch Info from Barbara Hale, Chairman

Book Bunch 'n Lunch is working out well. We are enjoying eating and discussing while we digest. We will be meeting on Wednesday, March 16, at Moschetto's at 12 noon for lunch and 1:00 P.M. for book discussion. Marilyn Pierce will lead the discussion of *In My Father's Garden* by Lee May.

The April gathering is on Wednesday, April 20, same times, same place. *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett is the book for April and Candy Schlarb will lead us in discussion.

Our numbers are building and we welcome new members.

Jan Roberts, E-Coordinator

CCARING FOR YOUR BOOKS. The most common book-related questions that we receive repeatedly involve how to care for books. While "the best" way to store any valuable is in a vault or safe, we assume the questioner wants to enjoy his/her collection while protecting their books from damage. Our answer is "Books will be most comfortable where humans are most comfortable." You wouldn't be comfortable in a dusty attic or a damp cold basement - nor will your books. If you are planning to store books in your basement or attic, our advice is to "discard them now"! They will only be junk later when you get around to revisiting them.

If your collection is of limited size, an old fashioned glass front cabinet is a great way to keep dust and dirt at bay while still allowing your books the pleasure of your company. These cabinets, however, are getting hard to find, rather expensive, bulky and of limited capacity. For most of us this leaves the common book shelf. Shelves too tightly packed will often cause tearing of the dust jackets when removing books. Too loose and you are risking warping. Place markers can be a major source of damage. Under no circumstances use paper clips or rubber bands as markers and, it should go without saying, that folding corners is to be considered criminal behavior. A book mark should never be thicker than a business card. Shelves should not be placed above heating vents

(or heating units) nor should books be exposed to direct sunlight during any part of the day. Also be aware that fluorescent lights are six times more destructive to paper than common incandescent bulbs. So keep those new-fangled twisted fluorescent bulbs away from your books. Did you ever wonder why our shop has incandescent spotlight bulbs rather than the so-called money saving commercial fluorescent fixtures? Now you know.

Preservation of dust jackets seems to be the single biggest concern of most book lovers. Dust jackets can comprise up to 90% of a collectible book's value. Mylar sheets are recommended as a wrapper for dust jackets. Mylar is totally transparent and chemically inert. It will "brighten up" faded dust jackets and keep the cover from soiling, tearing and snagging. Ed and Dot Quinn recommend this so highly that they will Mylar any book purchased from them for free. They will also Mylar books brought into their shop for a nominal fee of \$1 to \$2, depending on the size of the book. Saturday is the best day to take your books in to their shop.

Reprinted with permission from E. Quinn - Bookseller in Blue Ridge. In fact, if anyone wants to be on his Newsletter mailing list, just let him know: E. Quinn - Bookseller, 691 E. Main Street, Blue Ridge, GA 30522, phone 706-258-2775. It is free.

Notes on the Butterfly Garden from Vice-President, Doris Tilly

Daffodils and Johnny-jumpups are in bloom, perennials are coming up and the garden needs work.

Soon it will be time to remove weeds, trim perennials, add mulch, purchase new plants and ready the Butterfly Garden for the coming season. If you have extra ajuga for groundcover, we can use it as it has been suggested to try and keep the weeds under control. Herbicides are not recommended for a butterfly garden but we may have to use them.

If you would like to help with this endeavor please call at 706-379-1306 or write me at wdtilly@windstream.net.

From Director Donna Howell's Desk

Welcome Spring!! Yes! There are daffodils blooming in my yard – a sure sign that I have survived winter. Another sign is planning for the library's summer reading program. We're making plans for a fun-filled summer of reading for all ages! The theme this year for children is "One World, Many Stories", and for adults it is "Novel Destinations" – both are travel related. I hope you and your children and grandchildren will find time to participate at some level. Children's story-times will be at 11 AM on Wednesdays at MRL and 11AM on Thursdays at TCPL – but be on the lookout for special programs too!

Our library users in Towns County now have the ability to get a Zoo Pass for Zoo Atlanta – free. Anyone with a valid Georgia public library card can check out a Zoo Atlanta Family Pass DVD and upon its return, receive a receipt for free zoo admission for two adults and two children, an \$80 value. One DVD is available for checkout in each library for up to seven days. There will be no holds or waiting lists and families can take advantage of the program one time per year, per card and per household. The visit to the zoo must be made within seven days of the issue of the pass, so planning is important. But this is a great opportunity for a family adventure! We appreciate the assistance of Georgia Public Library Services Director of Communications David Baker with this program.

Did any of you get an e-reader for Christmas? Well several million Americans did! Due to patron demand, our libraries are now offering e-books through the same Georgia Download Destination (GADD) website where you have been able to download digital audiobooks for over a year. Just visit our web site at <http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org> and click the GADD link. There is a Quick Start guide available on the site and a printed brochure is available in the library. Right now, the number of titles is a bit limited as it is a new venture, but the number is growing and our users get access to the holdings of all GADD member libraries – not just the ones we have purchased. One thing to keep in mind, Amazon's very popular Kindle has restrictions on content that make it illegal for us to lend Kindle e-books through GADD at this time. That is sure to change as demand increases. However, there are many sites where free e-books are available, including some for the Kindle, and you will find links to many of those sites on our website. Happy reading, and listening, whatever your format of choice!

Towns County residents will be voting on the countywide Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) on March 15. Early voting opened February 22. The referendum includes the local match portion of \$100,000 each for the Towns County Public Library and the Mountain Regional Library. Making this commitment of local funds will allow the library to be eligible for \$900,000 for each library for renovation and additional projects! We had originally planned for a \$750,000 project at MRL, but with the increased local match, we will be able to increase the scope of the project to \$1 million for each library. If the SPLOST passes it will move both libraries up in the state bond priority list as there will be a firm commitment of local funds and a time limit on spending the money. Please thank Commissioner Kendall when you have an opportunity for his far-sighted leadership in including these projects in the SPLOST where they can be funded outside the property tax rolls.

Our wonderful Friends have risen to the occasion by raising \$5,000 to accept the Commissioner's Challenge Grant issued by Commissioner Kendall! Congratulations! We plan to use these funds to do a few great things. One is to continue to buy materials to meet the needs of our Towns County citizens. Another is to upgrade the 12 year-old children's computers at MRL (TCPL just doesn't have anywhere to put them right now!) with new touch-screen computers loaded with an array of learning software. And we also plan to fund some special programs and events for the summer reading program for our children this summer. I think you will agree that these are great projects. We are making labels to put on materials and other items that will show that they were paid for with the Commissioner's Challenge Grant and Friends of the Libraries of Towns County. We want people to know what great library supporters we have in Towns County! Thank you all for your work and commitment to our communities and our libraries.



**Accepting Challenge Grant in
Commissioner Kendall's Office**

L-R seated – MRLS Director Donna Howell, FOLTC Treasurer Jim Reynolds, Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, TCPL Branch Manager Debbie Phillips; L-R standing – FOLTC Past President and Book Sale Chair John Roberts, FOLTC Past President and E-Coordinator Jan Roberts, FOLTC Co-President Barbara Hale, FOLTC Co-President Marilyn Pierce, FOLTC Publicity Chair Janice Cochran, FOLTC Corresponding Secretary Maureen Gustafson.

~~~ REMINDER ~~~

Next Friends of the Libraries Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 10:30 am

Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone _____ **Email** _____

Choose one: New Membership Renewal Membership

Please select membership type:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$10.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$25.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business (\$30.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$50.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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