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Summer reading 2002

By Suzette Lowe, with excerpts reprinted with permission from Woman's View, July 2002.

Children around the state have flocked to their libraries this summer to participate in summer reading programs. Some libraries are following the state theme, “Hog Wild About Reading,” and others have chosen their own. Children win either way with maintained or increased reading skills and lots of safe, summer fun.

Over 200 kids are going “Hog Wild” over reading in Roane County this summer. The Library and its branches chose to follow a dual theme of farm-related stories and crafts and just being hog wild crazy about books.

Each week storytellers and performers have come to Roane County Library and its Walton and Geary branches to share wonderful stories, jokes, songs, and cartoons. We’ve been privileged to have Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein; J. D. Williamson with Cartoons to Go; Lynn Mills, a storyteller from Wyoming County; and Mountain Echoes, a storytelling team from Morgantown. Our branch librarians, Debbie Greathouse and Sandy Morton, also told stories at their own libraries. Crafts and theme-related snacks like pigs in a blanket, along with "pig snouts”, cow patti (cookies), and other piggy goodies round out the summer program.

“Book a Trip...Reading Across the USA” is the theme for the Vienna Public Library this summer. Young readers earn a coupon from a local restaurant and a chance to win prizes for every 10 books read (or 20 books listened to by younger library lovers). Programming includes sing-a-long storytimes, a visit from the Fairytaler, and creating tie dye t-shirts.

The Parkersburg/Wood County Library encourages kids and adults to go hog wild about reading this summer. Programs for kids include real farm animals to pet, churning butter, egg decorating, candle dipping, cross stitch, and crafts. New director Brian Raitz wants the county to go hog wild about reading, and has promised to kiss a pig if 5400 books are read this summer. Readers who complete eight books or unabridged books-on-tape are rewarded with a double dip of Tebay ice cream.

The Kanawha County Library celebrates their “Naturally Wild!” Summer Library Club for children with programs featuring live raptors and reptiles, puppets and pets, cartooning, snakes, science marvels and martial arts.

Kanawha County adults have a summer reading club all their own. The Britton summer reading program theme revolves around dining, with categories of appetizers, soups, salads, entrees, desserts, and coffee or tea. Readers choose a book by topic for each of five categories and read any book for their sixth selection. Those who complete six books are invited to a special reception.

The Cabell County Public Library is celebrating their 100th anniversary with special events throughout the year. The Summer Reading Program reflects the anniversary celebration with the theme, Cabell County Counts on Us. The Summer Reading Programming and Game, designed by the Cabell County library staff, provides a look at the county’s legacy of farming, rivers, railroads, multicultural roots and West Virginia culture and art. The Summer Reading Program also features a game that presented interesting facts on the location and history of the branches of the Cabell County Library.

A national traveling exhibit, GO FIGURE!, will be at the downtown library August 15 through September 26. A public reception is scheduled for August 17 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. GO FIGURE! is an interactive, “hands on” math literacy exhibit based on five popular children’s books. The exhibit targets families with children from age two through seven years of age.

GO FIGURE! was created by Minnesota Children’s Museum in collaboration with the American Library Association. This project was supported though a major grant from the National Science Foundation and additional support from Cargill and 3M.
The weather outside is hot and humid as I write this, but I must admit that I have a vivid mental picture of bright oranges, golds, and reds in the valley below Pipestem Resort at the Fall Conference. The Conference is set for October 16th – 18th, which the hotel management assured the Conference Committee was the height of the fall foliage season. After a preliminary visit by the Committee in May, I can only say that the view is gorgeous, and if the weather cooperates, this may well be a conference where you will be stopping to gaze out the windows in wonder or sitting in the cool sun admiring the scenery from the hotel's decks.

There will be ample time to admire nature's bounty while visiting the vendors, hobnobbing with your cronies, or walking through this beautiful state park. One warning—the rooms are limited at Pipestem to only around 150, so it would be in your best interest to make reservations early. The conference packet is scheduled to be mailed around the middle of August, but you may not want to wait until then to make your reservations.

My mind thus is preoccupied with preparations, since October is not far off. The Conference Committee is already making some creative changes. Last year’s Halloween Party will be replaced with a laid-back West Virginia style luau courtesy of Julie Spiegler; so instead of a costume, bring your bright Hawaiian shirts and be prepared to party on opening night. Bil Lepp, the “Liar Guy,” will provide his own version of reality as he entertains us at the banquet, and conference members will have a chance to see a showing of “A Beautiful Mind” during the convention.

Of course, we also plan to work at this conference. I am in the preliminary stages now of sorting through proposals for programs, and we have some excellent ideas including how to write the history of your library, what to do when the computer won’t work before you call the tech, 60 sites in 60 seconds, and “you know your collection’s old when.” There are programs by several West Virginia authors, one on audio books of West Virginia material, another on technology assessment, and others on topics such as interlibrary loans, consortia, pay equity, responding to book challenges, young adult services, holiday books, advocacy, and social security. Hopefully, all these programs will be able to be scheduled at a convenient time for all, but it is a juggling act.

On another note, Tim Balch, the Secretary of the Association resigned from his position on June 12, 2002, and has been replaced by Judy Duncan for the balance of his term. Dottie Thomas has also resigned from her position of editor of “West Virginia Libraries” effective May 31, 2002, and anyone interested in the position please email me at save@bridgeportwv.com. There have been a lot of changes, but I am happy to see the issues of “West Virginia Libraries” gracing my mailbox. I extend my thanks to Tim and Dottie for all their past work, and look forward to working with Judy and our new editor.

And we owe a debt of gratitude to Pam Coyle and Jennifer Soule for serving as contributing editors on these last few issues.

Anyone with ideas for the conference, please contact me at the above email, and everyone have a splendid summer and look forward to our beautiful convention.

People in the News

Pam Coyle, former Director of South Charleston Public Library, has accepted the position of Director at Martinsburg-Berkeley Co. Public Library. Coyle served as Director at South Charleston for 10 years, and as Director at the Alexander Hamilton Public Library in Waynesboro, PA, prior to that. Pam holds an MLS from Clarion University, and has been an active member in the West Virginia Library Association.

Yvonne Farley, Reference Librarian at Kanawha County Public Library, was named a 2002 Mover & Shaker by ALA for her activism in an article published in a Supplement to the March 15, 2002, Library Journal. Farley’s efforts as a leader for intellectual freedom and in the fight for pay equity and better salaries for librarians were cited.

After 31 years of service, Ann Lorentz, Director of Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library, will retire on June 30. Lorentz began her career at the library in July 1971 as a reference librarian at the former Carnegie Library on Green Street in Parkersburg. She was named director in 1989 when former Director Dorothy Chittum retired. She looks forward to retirement and plans to volunteer at the library and with other community agencies, travel, and catch up on her reading.

Merle Moore, former librarian at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy Technical Information Center and Library retired this Spring. Before working at the NMHS Academy Library in Beaver, WV, Moore was Director of Clarksburg-Harrison Co. Public Library for many years. Moore also has served at Commissioner of the West Virginia Library Commission since 1990 and will serve as President of the Commission for a new term beginning July 1, 2002.

Brian Raitz, former Reference Librarian at Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library, has been named its Director as of July 1, 2002. Formerly Assistant Director at Granville County (NC) Public Library, Raitz accepted the position of Reference Librarian at Parkersburg in November 2000. Raitz received his MLS from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1996.
‘Basbanes Bash’


Noted author and book reviewer Nicholas Basbanes, a Massachusetts native, majored in journalism at Pennsylvania State University. After service with the U.S. Navy during Vietnam he joined the Worcester Evening Gazette as an investigative reporter. His love of books, however, led him to write frequent book reviews, and he eventually became the paper’s main reviewer.

Taking to heart the advice of his predecessor, Basbanes always took a copy of the author’s book to his interviews. Over 13 years he acquired about 2000 autographed books from important contemporary authors.

After losing his job to cost-cutting at the newspaper, Nicholas took a gamble and became—a continued on page 6
Flag Day, June 14, dawned dismal and rainy, not the usual start of a report about a successful event scheduled for the outdoor plaza at Martinsburg-Berkeley Co. Public Library. And definitely not the weather envisioned last winter when a representative of the garden club (while dismantling a display of miniature hats destined for The Greenbrier) suggested an outdoor environmental fair. The local Shenandoah-Potomac District Garden Clubs had decided to refocus their energies on environmental education for children and voted monetary support. They offered to find activities, coordinate and fund an environmental fair—a librarian’s dream. All we needed to do was some preparation for activities, publicity, display books about nature and supply a sunny day. On the last count, we were failing miserably.

We had advertised a “sunshine only” event, but what were we to do with 100 bullfrog tadpoles donated by a local aquatic nursery, some well on their way to frog-hood; the 200 plus seedlings crying out for repotting; or the volunteers already on their way? By 8 AM, the decision was made to have an indoor, downsized fair. Cancelled events were the compost-adopt a worm display and the erosion demonstration using Oreos and Kool-Aid.

At about 10 AM, the advertised opening time, about 50 children of all ages were at the door. Each child was given the opportunity to participate in the following free activities:

- Create an anatomically correct butterfly
- Style a butterfly hat
- Re-pot a root-bound seedling
- Learn about flying squirrels by making a flying squirrel glider
- Invent a new species of bug
- Plant and grow a beanie necklace
- Eat a “host plant” sandwich at the Butterfly Café
- Have a favorite butterfly or bug painted on his/her hands or face
- Explore the connection between weeds and butterflies
- And yes, adopt a tadpole and grow a frog, with all the appropriate information to keep it alive, presented in graphic novel format.

By 2 PM, an hour after the fair was originally to end, we had hosted more than 150 young people. (We actually lost count.) We are happy to report the Internet generation still is enthralled by the simple wonders of repotting a plant, the feel of a tadpole, and the taste of fresh herbs, caterpillar food. So few of the kids had actually done any of these things. Were the older, urban kids too cool for the events? No, not at all. Many called their parents for permission to bring home a tadpole. They are in fact, not that much different than we were as kids.

By acclaim, we will try to make this an expanding yearly event. Next year, sunshine!
Libraries and individuals in West Virginia work hard to bring informational materials and services to the citizens of the state. At each annual conference, the opportunity presents itself to recognize outstanding leadership in providing service. Several awards are available, along with resolutions to honor individuals who have helped the progress of library service.

As the annual conference approaches, consider individuals or libraries within the West Virginia library community who might qualify for the following awards. To nominate an individual or library for one of the awards, send a letter of nomination detailing the person or library's qualifications to receive the award to: Judy Duncan, St. Albans Public Library, 602 4th Street, St. Albans, WV, 25177 by September 15.

A. Certificate of Merit for service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

B. The Dora Ruth Parks Award for long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship.

C. Literary Merit for an outstanding publication or body of work. It has been the Association's policy to present this award to a West Virginia author. However, exceptions may be made for contributions to Appalachian literature.

D. Frederic J. Glazer Library Innovation Award for demonstrated success in planning and execution of an innovative service, project, or program which has significantly impacted the patrons of the library. This award should recognize an innovation from the previous calendar year.

Restriction: This award should not recognize individual accomplishments; honor routine operations, functions, or programs; or advance a particular agenda (political, religious, philosophical, etc.).

Resolutions recognize significant contributions to libraries, and are especially appropriate for voicing appreciation of an individual’s dedication at his or her retirement or upon the individual’s death. Typically, resolutions mark the efforts of library staff, board members, volunteers, or Friends. Resolutions are read into the record of the annual meeting and honorees or their families receive a copy of the resolution. To honor someone who has had a significant impact on your library, send information about your honoree to: Judy Duncan, St. Albans Public Library, 602 4th Street, St. Albans, WV, 25177 by September 15.
The West Virginia Library Association, hoping to increase the number of qualified ALA-accredited librarians in the state of West Virginia, established a scholarship fund for graduate work in 1990. To date, a number of scholarships have been awarded and we are extending the opportunity once again. The money in this fund, donated by members of the Association and others, has been used to assist WVLA members engaged in the pursuit of an ALA-accredited MLS degree.

Successful applicants must complete an application form and submit all supporting documents. Scholarships will be awarded thereafter. The West Virginia Library Association Scholarship deadline is September 15, 2002. Scholarship materials should be sent to: Judy Duncan, St. Albans Public Library, 602 Fourth Street, St. Albans, WV 25177.

The Scholarship Procedure

1. Applicants must have been a member of the West Virginia Library Association for at one year prior to the application deadline.
2. Applicants must submit the names of three references, at least one of whom is a professional librarian.
3. Applicants must submit a 250-word essay stating their professional goals.
4. Applicants must submit an unofficial copy of their library school transcript, if coursework has been completed.
5. Applicants must submit proof that they have been officially admitted to an ALA-Accredited MLS program.
6. Applicants may submit a short statement detailing undue financial hardship.
WVLA Scholarship Application

Name ___________________________________________________________      WVLA Member____________________ years/months

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone ________________________________________      Work Phone _____________________________________________

Current Position ______________________________________      Organization/Agency _________________________________

EDUCATION:

High School (Name, City, State) _____________________________________________

College(s) (Name, City, State, Degree received, date degree received)_________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Library School (Name of School and Year Admitted) _____________________________________________________________________

How will this scholarship assist you: _________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

List any wards, affiliations, and non-WVLA activities: ___________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

WVLA Activities (including, but not limited to, conferences attended, presentations made at conferences, committee services, roundtable-division activities, offices held): __________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

REFERENCES

Name, address and phone number of three references (One of which must be a professional librarian):

1.__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2.__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3.__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

To be considered, the information must be received by January 1, 2003 and include: the application, three references, essay, proof of admission to a MLS program, unofficial transcript of coursework completed, and statement of financial hardship – if applicable.

Return to: Judith A. Duncan, Chair, Scholarship/Continuing Education Committee, St. Albans Branch Library, 602 4th Street, St. Albans, WV 25177
A note from the editors

West Virginia Libraries welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3-1/2" disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:
January 15 for February issue
March 15 for April issue
May 15 for June issue
July 15 for August issue
September 15 for October issue
November 15 for December issue

WVLA Membership Information
To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

Myra Ziegler
Summers County Public Library
201 Temple St. • Hinton, WV 25951-2330
Phone: 304-466-4490
e-mail: zieglerm@raleigh.lib.wv.us

Events

August
8  Meet the candidates for WVLC Secretary and hear their public presentations • 10 AM to 2:45 PM at the Cultural Center in Charleston.
  • West Virginia Library Commission August meeting begins at 3 PM.

September
22-27 Library Basics at Jackson’s Mill—sponsored by WV Library Commission
30- Rural Libraries Conference in Oct. 2 Columbus, OH

NOTE: West Virginia Library Commission meetings are set monthly and dates will vary. Please check the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes each month at http://www.wvlc.lib.wv.us

October
11-12 West Virginia Book Festival in Charleston
16-18 WVLA Conference at Pipestem

November
9  Ohio River Festival of Books in Huntington
17-23 Children’s Book Week

December
  • National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
  • Bingo’s Birthday Month—Celebrate the birth (in 1929) of the game of Bingo.
  1 United Nations World AIDS Day
  1-7 Cookie Cutter Week—Join the international cookie cutter collectors’ club in celebrating…with a cookie.

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