Boone has been a special place for Lisa ever since visiting here as a child. Lisa graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a bachelor’s in art with concentrations in graphic design and photography. She has worked as a graphic designer and photographer for small businesses in Florida. However, her heart was in Boone with its charm and friendly people, and she decided to move here. Friends are thrilled that Lisa has agreed to be our editor. Welcome Lisa, and we look forward to working with you.

The Friends of the Watauga County Public Library are community members who value the service of libraries and volunteers to help them. We are most fortunate to have a cadre of knowledgeable, dedicated people who work together to coordinate and accomplish the goals of the friends.

We are always recruiting and welcoming "new talent" (such as Lisa). If you are a library patron and are interested in working with the friends, we would like to meet you. I look forward to seeing you at our events and at the library. Regards,

Don Olander

Her MFA is from University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she also served as Assistant Editor of the literary magazine, Ecotone, and worked for the literary imprint Lookout Books. She lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where she is the Assistant Director of Hub City Writers Project and Press.

She designs all of Hub City Press's national literary titles. Find her on twitter @megireid. Ms. Reid's most recent work, "Carolina Writers At Home," was released in November of 2015. This is a collection of essays by twenty-five North and South Carolina authors whose homes stretch from Beaufort, SC to Boone, NC. For example, Clyde Edgerton and Jill McCorkle describe their comfort zones when writing—their homes, the particular rooms or environments which inspire them to write. Joseph Bathanti writes about Linville Creek Road in Vilas, making us Watauga residents grin in appreciation of our good fortune in living here.

The twenty-five essays are accompanied by Rob McDonald's black and white photography, each a work of art in itself. McDonald visited these writers in their homes, and he gives readers a glimpse into what makes each author "tick."

"Carolina Writers At Home" is a fascinating read for anyone interested in Southern authors and their craft. Friends of the Watauga County Public Library invite the public to attend this event. For more information, call 297-3568.

---

"Annual Meeting of the FOLder"
By: Mary Sue Morgan

Meg Reid, author and editor at Hub City Press, will speak on Sunday, April 17th, at 2 p.m. at the Watauga County Public Library. The public is invited to attend this free event, which is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

---

Letter From the President
By: Don Olander

Dear Friends:

Suzanne Thompson has edited the Friends news letter for the past year. Thank you Suzanne for a job well done. Lisa Hyman is the new editor of the newsletter.
Watauga Library  
“Book Brewers”

The Watauga Library “Book Brewers” Book Club meets every other month, on the third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm at Pepper’s Restaurant.

Selected Books and Meeting Dates:
March 16th: Above the Waterfall: A Novel by Ron Rash
May 18th: Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin
July 20th: Heathen Valley: A Novel by Romulus Linney
September 21st: Galileo’s Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love by Dava Sobel
November 16th: Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life by Alison Weir.

Historical fiction, nonfiction, local authors, and historical biographies are favorites of this group.

Western Watauga Branch Library News
By: Jackie Cornette

Library Hours:
Monday-10:00-5:00
Tuesday- 10:00-7:00
Wednesday-10:00-5:00
Thursday-10:00-7:00

On Your Mark, Get Set……READ

The Branch Library is gearing up for our Summer Reading Program set to start in June! Some of the programs planned for the summer are:

Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute- Lee’s Merrie College
Mad Science
Dakota & Friends Puppets Flow Circus
North Carolina Museum of Natural Science-Animals & Constellations
The Game Truck

The Branch Library book club meets monthly. Beginning in February, the book discussion will be the third Wednesday of the month at 2:30 pm!

Book Selections are:
March: Price of Honor: Muslim Women Lift the Veil of Silence on the Islamic Word by Jan Goodwin
May: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
July: The Borgias

“Cook the Books” Mystery Book Club [Angela]
“Cook The Books” meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Watauga County Library meeting room. We are a mystery book club with a twist! We have snacks each month based on clues from the book.

Upcoming Book Selections Include:
Tuesday, April 5th: Sworn To Silence by Linda Castillo
Tuesday, May 3rd: The Good Girl by Mary Kubica
Tuesday, June 7th: Those Who Wish Me Dead by Michael Koryta.

Please contact Angela Constantino at (828) 264-8784 ext. 1 or email aconstantino@arlibrary.org if you would like to be included on the email list for announcements. Everyone is invited to attend!

ARLY our regional mascot, is a sly gray fox, so keep an eye out for him as he travels throughout the counties of Ashe, Watauga, and Wilkes.

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!
By: Judith Winecoff

You can also keep track of ARLY through his Facebook page and his website. Go to Watauga County’s home page and click on ARLY’s Den! During National Library week, the branch library will have a special preschool story time with Sharon Clarke “The story/lady” Thursday, April 14 at 9:30 am!! And …..ARLY our Appalachian Regional Mascot will be at the Branch Library that morning too!!!!

Readers of all ages will explore all thing sports and fitness this summer as Watauga Library and Western Watauga Library present “On Your Mark, Get Set, READ.” The 2016 summer reading program, starting in June, is open to young people, preschool through young adult. Activities may include games, physical challenges, art projects, and magic shows. And don’t forget the Watauga Library has Family Story Time every day at 11 am and Baby Lap Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am. As it gets closer to June call us for more information at (828) 264-8784, ext 3.
Third Thursday Movie Group
By: Ross Cooper

Third Thursday is a movie group that meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Watauga County Public Library in the meeting room. The group is informal, and all are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the reference desk (828) 264-8784 ext. 2 or email Darren Smith at dsmith@arllibrary.org

Upcoming Third Thursday movie selections for the spring/summer of 2016 include:

On Thursday, April 21st, we will view *Rushmore* (1998). The film is rated “R” by the MPAA, and the approximate runtime is 93 minutes.

On Thursday, May 19th, we will view *Cool Hand Luke* (1967). The film is “PG,” and the approximate runtime is 126 minutes.

On Thursday, June 16th, we will view *Tea With Mussolini* (1999). The film is rated “PG” by the MPAA, and the approximate runtime is 117 minutes.

On Monday, June 13th, we will view *The English Patient* (1996). The film is rated “R” by the MPAA, and the approximate runtime is 162 minutes.

High Country Lifelong Learners Movie Group
By: Ross Cooper

The High Country Lifelong Learners is a community organization which has partnered with the library to host a movie discussion group that meets on the second Monday of each month from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Watauga County Public Library in the meeting room. The group is informal, and you don’t have to be a member to attend. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, please email: high.country.lifelong@gmail.com
Attention: De

On Monday, April 11th, we will view *The Hundred Foot Journey* (2014). The film is rated “PG” by the MPAA, and the approximate runtime is 122 minutes.

Book Bunch Book Club
By: Ross Cooper

The Book Bunch Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the each month at 1:30 pm in the Watauga County Library meeting room. Please contact the Reference Desk at (828) 264-8784 ext. 2 or email wataugalibrarynews@gmail.com if you would like to be included on the email listserv for announcements. Everyone is invited to attend!

Upcoming book selections include:

Tuesday, March 29th: *The Mountaintop School for Dogs and Other Second Chances* by Ellen Cooney.

Tuesday, April 26th: *The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson.

Tuesday, May 31st: *Necessary Lies* by Dianne Chamberlain.
2016 Annual Reading Challenge
By: Darren Smith

If you are a bibliophile who loves to connect with others, then the “2016 Watauga Reading Challenge” is for you! There are 52 challenges. One for each week of the year, that cover a wide array of genres. Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate. Challenges can be completed in any order and participants are encouraged to write a short review (1 or 2 paragraphs) and post it, along with their email address, in the comments section for that category. For every review written, a contributor will earn a ticket to be used in a prize drawing at the end of the year.

For the “2015 Watauga Reading Challenge,” we had 11 participants who read a combined total of 94 books and completed 43 challenges. At our wrap-up party on January 4th, Josephine Sorrell, who completed a whopping 35 challenges, walked away with all three of our prize baskets filled with goodies from local business community sponsors such as Mast General Store, Stick Boy, Macado’s, Art Mart, and Watsonnatt. Jealous?

Remember, the more reviews you write, the more tickets you earn and the better your chances of winning! So get started today by downloading a checklist!


Check Out Hotspot Devices at the Library

Beginning this spring, the Watauga County Public Library will be offering T-Mobile Hotspot devices to be checked out. This is part of our five year plan to offer non-traditional items for check out. The hotspots will enable patrons to gain access to the Internet through T-mobile cell system where it is available.

There is no cost to check out the hotspots, and you may keep them for two weeks with no renewals. They will be available to patrons who are 18 years old or older. Just turn on the hotspot and look for the connection on your device’s wi-fi connection list. Parents should be aware that there are no filters on the devices and will need to monitor what their children access on the Internet.

We hope this is a new way for the library to help patrons access information. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Lisa Flanigan
Library Scavenger Hunt 2015
By: Judith Wineoff

In a whirlwind of ever changing times, the library as place is an evolving concept, and one may notice a sense of community at Watauga Library. Sometimes it is those little things, small moments that shine and continued actions of care that demonstrate a commitment to reading, education, and to our community. It takes a community to raise a reader, and Lisa Flanigan, youth services specialist is a person who embodies this community spirit in the library. When one walks into the doors of the youth area, an eternally smiling Big Bird is there to greet the children as well as staff to aid with patron’s needs and placed nearby is a library scavenger hunt implemented by Lisa.

Over the past several years, Lisa Flanigan has developed a monthly scavenger hunt that invites youth to participate in educational endeavors, that not only encourage reading and writing but are also an engaging way to learn the location of materials and books in the library. Every month a new scavenger hunt is created in the youth area with various themes, such as gemstones, wildflowers of North Carolina, and the importance of bees.

Children pick up their laminated scavenger hunt list and marker, then make their way through the youth area in search of images from the scavenger hunt. At the end of the hunt, they may bring their finished sheet to the youth services desk and receive a small prize from the treasure chest, but beware they may also be asked a question regarding the information on the scavenger hunt before they receive their prize.

Watauga Library not only promotes knowledge and encourages life-long learning but is a vital component in the community. The monthly library scavenger hunt developed by Lisa recently won the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association award for Best Program for Children in 2014-2015. Lisa Flanigan positively contributes to this sense of life-long learning. The scavenger hunt perhaps presents a glimpse into how libraries are evolving from book based places to community spaces. Not only does the library have book resources, which are financially supported by the Town of Boone and the Friends of the Library, during cold wintry days, children have a place to learn.
The work of saving these important snapshots of local history was proceeding well through the help of UNC, but many local people felt that it might be possible to begin doing this kind of work right here in our own community.

The Watauga County Historical Society, with much help from retired Appalachian State University professor Betty Bond and historian Eric Pfaug, participated in a series of talks on how the local public library and the historical society could work together on projects of this kind.

Since the grant was awarded, the necessary equipment has been purchased, and Maria Hale, who recently completed a certificate in Archiving from East Tennessee State University, has been hired as Digitization Technician. Maria has a great interest in and dedication to historic preservation and the efforts to make historical records available to a wider audience, through the medium of the Internet.

A new web site has been set up at digitalwatauga.ljomeck.net to share the items that this project is collecting, scanning, and sharing. So far, the largest collections scanned are a postcard collection donated to the historical society by Boone native Bobby Brendell and the archives of the Junaluska Heritage Association, chronicling the life of Western North Carolina’s perhaps oldest historic African American community.

This project supported by a generous grant from a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) EZ Digitization Grant. Grants are federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that are awarded by the State Library of North Carolina to eligible North Carolina Libraries. Digital Watauga is also supported by the generosity of Barbara Kinsey, in memory of Dr. Winston Kinsey.
Friends Support
From 2015
By: Monica Caruso

Reading & Rolling
Summer Program:
- The volunteers take books to children who can’t get to library
- Literacy Magazine with local students’ writings
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- Arly, our regional fox mascot Adult Reading
- Challenge prizes
- Writing Club for teens and tweens
- Regional in-service program for library staff
- Books, Audio books, and DVDs for adults and children
- Adult Spelling Bee registration and Bee Bucks
- Children’s Department supplies for craft programs, fish tank supplies and maintenance
- Program refreshments
- Caleb the Magician, Young Adult Author visit Katherine Erskine

Summer Reading Programs:
- Ice Cream Social, Zootastic, NC museum of Natural Science – “Animal Tracks” program,
- Drive-In Movie Night Supplies, Schiele Museum - Animal Dissection, Dylan Rowe Balloon Twisting,
- Scitellers, Magician Sigon, Transactors, Doc’s Rocks Gemstone Mining, Big Bang Boom, prizes for summer reading
- “Eggstravangza” Easter egg hunt with Lisa Baldwin
- Reception after Boone Christmas Parade
- Book clubs: Watauga Book Brewers, Mystery, and Book Bunch, Teen/Jr. Teen
- Book Club
- Guest speaker/Poet Laureate Sharyn McCrumb at FWCPL Annual Meeting
- Support for Adult Services Librarian to attend Watauga Leadership Challenge
- Support for staff continuing education in Library Science

National Library Week:
- a) Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- b) Refreshments for Library Open House
- c) Laura Donovan – Music

Genealogy Programs - refreshments
- Community Poetry Event
- Printing of our Library Brochure
- Boone Boo and Caitlyn’s Face Painting
- Performances by Peter Fletcher, King Bees, and Creekside Grass
- Musical Storytime with Laura Donovan

Sound Traveler:
- Bob and Patty Tatum’s presentation on songs and meanings
- Prizes
- VITA (Volunteers for Income Tax Assistance program) Supplies, snacks, lunch
- Movie License
- Refreshments for Programs
- Constant Contact subscription for E-Newsletter
- High Country Festival of the Book/Graphic Novels workshops

THANK YOU for your support!
Save the dates and times:
Thursday, May 19th, 4pm - 9pm
Friday, May 20th, 9am - 9pm
Saturday, May 21st, 9am - 3pm

Here's a chance to use your benefit as a Friends member. On Thursday, the book sale is open to Friends members only. Members will get first choice of the thousands of books and other materials on sale. The prices will be the same as last year: most hardbacks $2; most paperbacks 50 cents; Videos, DVDs, CDs, and audio books $1; children's hardbacks 50 cents; and children's paperbacks 25 cents. There will be higher priced "coffee table" and other special books. "Oldies but Goodies" are individually priced. The books for sale are all donated, and all proceeds from the sale go to the Main and Western Branch libraries.

The range of topics is wide due to the varied interests of the folks who live in Watauga County. We accept donations of books, magazines less than two years old, audio books on CD, movies on DVD, and music CDs. Please do not donate mildewed, damaged, or heavily marked materials, computer manuals more than two years old, encyclopedias, cassette tapes, or videotapes. These can be recycled at the old landfill. Please bring donations to the circulation desk.

We rely on lots of volunteers to make the book sale a success. Tasks include moving boxes of books at the mall, placing books on the tables, cleaning up during and after the sale, and spending a three-hour shift at the sale tables. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jackie Cornette at the Western Watauga Branch at (828) 297-5515 or email jcornette@arlibrary.org. Thank you for your help.