

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

June 2000

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Marion City Library wins award

The Marion City Library has been awarded the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) T-21 Enhancement Reimbursement Program to restore the Santa Fe Depot and renovate it into the library. The award will equal approximately \$600,000; \$151,000 will be raised by the library.

The money will cover the expense of a new tile roof, repairing the masonry walls, all other repairs, new interior structures, and landscaping to include a small park at the depot.

The library intends to raise funds for its share of the restoration costs with cookbook and T-shirt sales, and with commemorative bricks to be used in the landscape. Library fund raising efforts will continue until the goal has been reached.

In early 1911, construction began on the Santa Fe Depot, with building costs of \$11,000. On June 17, 1912, the depot was dedicated and officially opened. The depot was used to transport passengers and merchandise from Florence to Lyons. Called the "Doodlebug," the two-car motor train ran this route until May 17, 1952.

Since then the building has been put to various uses, including as a

youth center and a flourmill. The City of Marion purchased the building in 1998. Since 1999 the Chamber of Commerce has had its office in a section of the depot.

When construction has been completed, current library space will be used by the Chamber of Commerce for meeting room space and to expand other city offices.

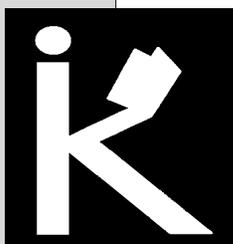
Budget time and professional development

As libraries work to develop their budgets for 2001, keep in mind the area of professional development. Does your library purchase memberships in professional organizations for your library director and/or staff? Is your library board a member of KLTA (Kansas Library Trustee Association)?

It only takes a small amount to purchase a Kansas Library Association membership for the first year – because it's half price! At the minimum membership level, that translates to \$10 for the first year in our statewide library organization.

Membership provides another link to library activities and legislative action. It also offers the opportunity for continuing education grants for members, and discounts on conference registrations.

For further information or a membership form, visit the KLA website at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KLA/>. Print off a membership form, send along with dues, and choose your areas of interest. Committees, roundtables and sections are eager to put your skills to good use, and get you plugged in to THE POWER OF KLA.



ALSC grant goes to SCKLS

The South Central Kansas Library System, Hutchinson was the recipient of one of the 20 **Between the Lions** grants sponsored by The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). SCKLS will partner with Wichita's PBS station, KPTS Channel 8.

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), selected 20 recipients of a \$2500 mini-grant to participate in the *Between the Lions* outreach campaign. The grant money is part of a \$230,000 award from the WGBH Educational Foundation, ALSC's partner in this educational outreach collaboration.

Between the Lions is a multi-media initiative geared for 4- to 7-year-olds, which began airing on PBS stations on April 3, 2000. The daily half-hour series takes children and their families "between the lions" that stand on either side of the doors to an infinitely large, imaginary library where books come to life, prefixes have personalities and vowels sing their own sounds.

Between the Lions is a coproduction of WGBH, Boston public television and Sirius Thinking, Ltd., a company that brings together some of the top creative talent from Sesame Street, The Electric Company and Jim Henson Productions.

Between the Lions is funded in part by a Ready to Learn grant from the United States Department of Education through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Major support is also provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Park Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, the Charles H. Revson Foundation and the Institute for a Civil Society. National corporate sponsorship is provided by Cheerios and eToys.

2000 White Award winner announced

White Water by P.J. Petersen has been named the winner of the 2000 William Allen White Children's Book Award according to Dr. Jud Copeland, Director of the William Allen White Library at Emporia State University and Executive Director of the

White Award Program. The White Award Program, which was the first statewide reader's choice award, is directed by Emporia State University and is supported in part by the Trusler Foundation.



P.J. Petersen

White Water was published in 1997 by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers in New York City. Fearful Greg and

his younger half-brother, James, are tested in this survival story of a white-water rafting trip which turns tragic when their father is bitten by a rattlesnake. The Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Committee of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, selected *White Water* for the 1998 List of Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

In discussing his writing, Petersen stated, "I can't remember when I didn't want to be a writer...I began seriously writing when I was still in high school.... My novels deal with the difficult ethical problems that young people face." *Rising Water*, an adventure novel, is scheduled to be published by Simon & Schuster in May 2002.

More than 46,000 boys and girls in the fourth through eighth grades in Kansas schools participated in the voting for the forty-eighth annual White Award.

Catalyst

—by Eric Hansen
Executive Director
Kansas Library Network Board

Members of the KPLACE III class found out that "The Digital Truth Is Out There" in the one-day class I taught them at Emporia University on May 16th with the very



Kathryn Hatfield, Marysville Public Library (l.), gets some help at KPLACE from Thomas Reddick, Automation Consultant at Southeast Kansas Library System.

capable help of SEKLS automation consultant Thomas Reddick. The class handout is available on Blue Skyways at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/presentations/KPLACE2000/cover.html>.

John and Susan Howell received some much deserved recognition for their work with Kansas communities at a luncheon at the Boeing site in Wichita on May 23. Jeff Hixon and I represented the division of Library and Infor-



Michael Gourman (l.) presents John Howell a plaque in commemoration of his work with his wife Susan in helping Kansas libraries create and maintain community web sites.

mation Technology and the Network Board respectively at this event.

The Blue Skyways web site was reviewed along with other state library web sites in the April/May issue of *MuniNet Guide & Review* (vol. 4, issue 4). *MuniNet's* audience is primarily professionals who work in state and local government, municipal finance, and libraries. A copy of the issue is available from the Kansas State Library.

Committee decisions regarding KLNb grants were approved by the board at its meeting in Overland Park on May 26th. Applicants should watch their mail boxes for hardcopy notification within the next two weeks. All others can check the KLNb web site (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNb/klnb.html>) in about two weeks after announcement letters have gone out.

For more about the Kansas Library Network Board, contact Eric Hansen, KLNb Executive Director, at 785/296 3875 (erich@ink.org), or point your Web browser to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/KLNb/klnb.html>.

Arbor Day in Dodge City

—by *Rosanne Goble*
Director
Dodge City Public Library

When Dodge City Mayor Gerald Schmidt declared April 28, 2000 Arbor Day in Dodge, the community rallied to plant trees and beautify grounds on property owned by public entities. The Shade Tree Commission donated many trees for the plantings to take place all over the city. Plans for the events of the day included burying a time capsule in front of the Dodge City Public Library along with planting a new burr oak tree. The staff at the library was asked to provide items for the time capsule, which is to be dug up and opened in one hundred years.



Arbor Day at the Dodge City Public Library

After a short brainstorming session, the staff decided on the following items: A Dodge City Public Library card issued to “Time Capsule”; a paperback romance (with a steamy cover, of course!) checked out to the Time Capsule—due date April 28, 2100; a printout of the MARC record for the book (neatly folded and placed in the date due pocket); the current date due cards for that day (one week and two week checkouts); a disk containing the zipped up digitized holdings of the current collection; a hard copy of the current homepage of the library, and a bookmark with the URL to the homepage. Other items provided by the Shade Tree Commission included every version of \$1.00: paper, silver, Susan B. Anthony, Sacagawea, etc.; and a Pez dispenser. Each member of the staff signed the inside of the capsule with a permanent marker. The media was

present to record the event for broadcast on local news that evening. The Board Chair, David Shultz, had the honor of planting the tree, lowering the time capsule, and along with the Mayor, throwing the first few shovels of dirt, which drew cheers from the crowd!

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.



MPLA call for papers

—by Patti Butcher
Library Development Coordinator
Northeast Kansas Library System

MPLA's Academic Section is announcing a call for papers to be presented at the joint Nebraska/MPLA conference in Omaha, Nebraska on October 25-28, 2000. Authors whose papers are accepted will present them at the Professional Forum.

Previously called the Research Forum, the Professional Forum is for the purpose of presenting new ideas and innovations which have been discovered and which would be for the benefit of the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. School and public librarians, as well as those from academia, are encouraged to submit their papers before June 16, 2000. A first prize of \$300 will be awarded to the winning paper.

Guidelines for papers are as follows: problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed; description may be locally implemented experiences (successes or failures), theoretical models, or state of the art reviews. Although papers do not require formal research methodology, they should develop clear positions or concepts.

Abstracts for the papers will be judged on: significance of topics (15 points), development of concept and quality of organization (20 points), clarity of ideas and objectives (10 points).

Final presentations will be judged at the annual conference by the section officers or substitutes based on the following criteria: objectives are evident, with clear ideas and concepts (15 points), quality of organization (15 points), quality of presentation, use of visuals, etc. (15 points).

Guidelines for submission: authors must be current members of MPLA, papers must be original (not published or presented elsewhere), selected authors will make 30 to 40 minute presentations at the conference, an abstract must be submitted of 1 ½ to 4 pages in length.

Deadline for abstracts is June 16, 2000. Abstracts that do not meet the above guidelines will not be considered by the jury.

Send abstracts to: Betty Dance, Reference Librarian, Merrill Library, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-3000. Selected authors will be notified in July, 2000.

Johnson County book sale

Johnson County Library and Friends of the Johnson County Library will hold their annual 2000 Sizzlin' Summer Used Book Sale, Thursday-Friday, June 8-9, Mission Center Mall (crossroads of Shawnee Mission Pkwy., Johnson Drive and Roe) in Mission, KS 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Over 100,000 books in a variety of categories will be available. Prices will be pocket-size paperbacks for 50¢; larger paperbacks and hardback books for \$1.00. Some books will be specially priced.

Members of the Friends of the Johnson County Library may attend the Friends Only Preview Night, Wednesday, June 7, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Friends memberships can be purchased at the Preview (\$15 Individual, \$20 Family). Call (913) 261-2330 or (913) 261-2326 for more information.

An invitation

Do you have news items of interest to other librarians? An especially successful program or grant project, for instance? Let us know so that we can tell your colleagues in *Kansas Libraries*.

Kansas Children's Forum conference

—by Barbara Stransky
Library Services Coordinator
Northeast Kansas Library System

They're coming to your library....and they expect you to educate, entertain, and enlighten them. Parents with newborns in arms look expectantly to you for guidance in how to introduce their young geniuses to books. Families, cast adrift in a polarizing electronic sea, gather at the library to rekindle that lost art of sharing stories among generations. And teenagers running in packs noisily announce their presence, sizing up the place to see if there really *is* anything there for them.

The cries of Kansas librarians echo across the plains (and hills), from Dodge City to DeSoto, from Bird City to Baxter Springs: "What do we *do* with them?"

Never fear, the Kansas Children's Forum has heard your cries, and will provide some much needed help in answering this age-old question. You need only attend an upcoming one day conference: "What do we DO with them?—Infants, Families, and Young Adults" on Friday, October 20, 2000 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Salina Holidome. The registration fee of \$25.00 includes lunch. Registration forms coming soon. The keynote speaker will be Susan Roman, Executive Director, Association for Library Service to Children.

What is the Kansas Children's Forum, you may ask? It is a group made up of children's librarians like many of you, who meet regularly to discuss library services for children throughout Kansas.

Infants, families, young adults...they're coming to your library. Children's librarians and administrators had better be ready!

In Memoriam Rachel Sowers

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

The Topeka library community was saddened in May by the passing of Rachel Sowers, daughter of Bill Sowers, State Library, and Diana Sowers, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Rachel, whose birth was joyously announced in *Kansas Libraries* in 1992, had been diagnosed with leukemia shortly after school started last fall. Hopes of the family and their many colleagues, friends and well-wishers ran high following a bone marrow transplant in December.

Many were shocked to learn of Rachel's passing after she had again been hospitalized at Children's Mercy Hospital and treated for pneumonia. Parishoners at St. David's Episcopal and Assumption Catholic churches in Topeka, classmates at Assumption school where Rachel was in second grade, friends of her brother Kenny and sisters Amanda and Emily, employees from Children's Mercy Hospital, and staff from many of the libraries where Diana and Bill have worked or whose libraries have been affected by their professional efforts, filled Assumption Church sanctuary on Monday, May 22 to express their support and condolences. We wish the best to the Sowers family and assure them that Rachel will live on in our memories.



Check out the Topeka libraries online
"ATLAS" catalog at:
<http://lib.wuacc.edu/>

Kansas books

—by Roy Bird
Library Consultant

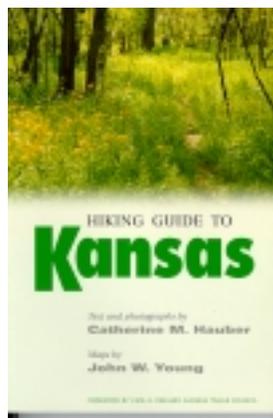
The Earth Between, by G.B. Chase. Order from: Third Story Window, P.O. Box 91011, Mobile, Alabama 36691. 5" x 8" softcover, 248 pp. 2000. ISBN 1-58169-046-0.

Is it the past, the future, or the present? In this Christian sci-fi novel by a long-time Topekan, a genius scientist, a small-town law enforcement officer, a nurse, a local doctor and his pastor, an investigator of ancient prophecies and a middle-school aged boy are caught in the web of a mysterious time machine. Starting as a science fiction novel, *The Earth Between* becomes frank proselytization. Using skillful language and careful research, including a liberal sprinkling of scriptural quotes from the King James version of the Bible, G. B. Chase spins a tale that, in his own words, "includes scenes of how the events of future history could possibly unfold." He also warns readers to "keep straight what is fiction and what is prophecy."

Chase is a retired carpenter who spent 12 years with the Kansas State Historical Society and now resides in Topeka. This first novel is unique: It concludes with an afterword that encourages readers to decide about their faith, yet it presents a possible picture of the Biblical Armageddon. This adult story will appeal to readers of Christian science fiction and fantasy.

—by David Pappas, guest reviewer
Library Director
Friends University

Hiking Guide to Kansas, by Catherine M. Hauber. Maps by John W. Young. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1999. Soft cover, \$24.30, ISBN 0-70060-947-4.



At long last the first guide book devoted exclusively to recreational hiking trails in Kansas. After 3 years of hiking across the state with friends, Hauber has put together a moderately comprehensive compilation of 56 trail descriptions. Accurate detailed maps compiled by John Young accompany many of the entries.

Kansas is a state with a rich legacy of thousands of miles of historical trails, a legacy the substance of which has nowadays all but been buried beneath concrete, pavement and an uncommon zeal for private land ownership over public welfare. Today Kansas may arguably have the fewest miles of recreational trails per capita of any state in the country. Hauber makes a valiant, and on the face of it a credible effort to dispel this impression. She does this by filling the pages with extensive trail descriptions, flowing flora and fauna narrative, a smattering of historical background, and stories of personal experiences along the trails.

However, Hauber makes what one must assume is the deliberately wise choice of not defining her working parameters of what might constitute a viable hiking trail. Who would have ever thought there are as many as 56 hiking trails in Kansas? The answer is there probably aren't. At least 27 of the 56 sites she includes in the book describe trails of less than 3 miles in length and/or are paved urban area bike paths. It would be difficult for anyone who is serious about their recreation to equate hiking trails with something that may take less than 30 minutes to complete, may give an exclusive view of housing or industrial areas along its length, and may be entirely concrete or asphalt. For example, it took me one and one quarter hours to drive to the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge from Wichita and then twelve and one half minutes to jog the Gypsum Creek Nature Trail. An excellent trail, what

there is of it, extending as it does over small hills and along a scenic stream. Hauber devotes three pages to this trail. The question is, does twelve minutes of exercise justify a two and one half hour drive? Although, outside the scope of the book, a more important question might be, why isn't this trail five or even ten miles long? There are certainly plenty of public lands available in Kansas for such purposes.

The author says they explored every corner of the state in their quest for hiking trails. Even while including what this reviewer would consider a questionably large number of non-hiking trails, a number of trails were omitted, such as the Osage Nature Trail, The Ft. Leavenworth trails, Dornwood Park and the Switchgrass Trail. The trail maps are excellent, on the other hand the locator maps are nearly useless unless you have all the counties of Kansas memorized. To compound the problem of poor locator maps there is no index. Be sure to get out a good road atlas before you open the book.

A solid first effort on a subject generally lacking attention or perhaps more accurately, interest. At best, for those who are familiar with Kansas, the book is a good supplement to one's working knowledge of the trails in Kansas. The trail maps are particularly helpful. At worst the book may be misleading particularly for the uninitiated or out-of-state trail enthusiast who expects longer soft-surface trails than most of the trails represented here.



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Please route to

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