

FOLTC

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY

Summer 2020

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**Friends of the Libraries of
Towns County**

P.O. Box 159

Young Harris, GA 30582

www.mountainregionallibrary.org/foltc

Email: foltc7@gmail.com

[Facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLibrariesOfTownsCounty)

Be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook because it helps to spread the word.

Everyone is happy to have our libraries open again! This means our new director Heath Lee is busy helping everyone maneuver through this unfamiliar, challenging time of the pandemic.

New temporary rules and hours are in place for our libraries. We were excited to reopen the FOLTC Bookstore in July, with new pricing and a new payment procedure. More details are included in this newsletter.

So much has changed this year, and we have all learned to be a little more flexible. Together we are staying on the course of supporting our libraries as they do their jobs. Staff has adapted well and continues to put the patrons first. Let's each thank them when we next see them.

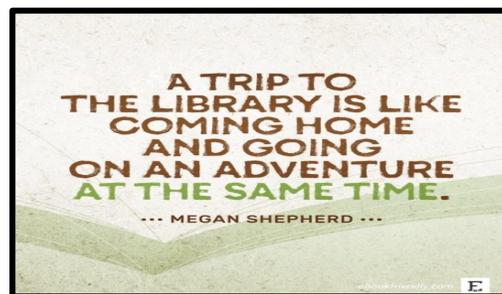
FOLTC Earns Matching Grant

(R to L) Sole Commissioner of Towns County Cliff



Bradshaw, MRLS Director Heath Lee, and FOLTC President Elaine Roberts.

Lee is accepting the matching grant check earned from Towns County because FOLTC was successful in raising the required matching funds. It takes everyone doing their part to grow our libraries. Together, we are better!



Meet and Welcome Your New Director Heath Lee

Written by Heath Lee



“I grew up in the foothills of South Carolina, which is only about 90 minutes from Young Harris. The mountains are my home and comfort zone. I am happy to be back in the part of the country I know best.

After completing graduate school at Florida State University, I accepted a position with the Ocmulgee Regional Library System as their Public Services Librarian. This was such an important step for me in my career. This position, while not glamorous in any way, introduced me to so many aspects of being a librarian. On any given day, I may fix technical problems, solve reference questions, catalog a book and implement forms of staff development. I truly worked across the entire library system spectrum. I also worked very closely with the Director and gained valuable knowledge

into not just the front line workings of the library system but administration as well. Working with Director Whigham was when I decided I wanted to someday become a library director.

In August 2014, I accepted the position of Branch Manager of the Gilmer County Library. Gilmer County and the Sequoyah Regional Library System offered up some new challenges. Both organizations were focusing heavily on the outward facing services, which is a vital component for today’s libraries. In addition, I began to work more closely with the county’s leadership, which was a valuable learning experience. I hope to put all the knowledge and experience I have been fortunate enough to be exposed to and acquired in the past 15 years to the best use at MRLS.

Systems and organizations perform best when they are able to move forward with similar goals, objectives and purpose. This is what I want for MRLS. Change in general is difficult and yet often necessary. We have already been making adjustments to turn the system from operating less as individual branches and more as a regional library system. All of the branches in the system will be experiencing changes to our public services and closed services operations. But the focus will always be on our patrons and how we can best serve them and remain responsive to their needs. Improving patrons’ experiences will be the key to growing the individual branches and subsequently the library system.”

New Library Hours

Most counties in Georgia have one public library. Towns County is fortunate to have two libraries, one in Hiawassee and one in Young Harris. Because of the pandemic, the libraries have made adjustments to continue providing great service. New temporary hours:

MRL is open **only on** Mondays and Thursdays 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.

TCPL is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 am to 5:30 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Staff Changes at the Libraries

Debbie Phillips is now Branch Manager for both TCPL and MRL. Her duties include staffing schedules and other administrative duties for both libraries. You’ll see new faces in familiar place as all Towns County branch staff will be working at both libraries.

Marlene Cannon has been promoted from MRL Branch Manager to Public Service Coordinator for MRLS (Towns, Union, and Fannin libraries). Part of her responsibilities includes keeping the public informed of happenings at all libraries. Both Debbie and Marlene remain focused on keeping our libraries current and great places to visit and use.

New Books

Due to shipping delays, only a few new books have arrived recently. We hope that will be back up to full speed very soon. Here are a few titles coming soon, which you can place on hold.

- *Killing Crazy Horse* by Bill O'Reilly
- *Live Free or Die* by Sean Hannity
- *The Silent Wife* by Karin Slaughter
- *Walk the Wire* by David Baldacci

- *The 20th Victim* by James Patterson
- *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand
- *Choppy Waters* by Stuart Woods
- *Daddy's Girls* by Danielle Steel

We know you love being inside these facilities surrounded by all the many books, audio books, DVDs, and periodicals. There is so much to explore and so little time. Go and enjoy your libraries knowing the staff is doing all they can to keep the libraries open, up to date, and safe for you.

New Little Free Library Coming Soon

Later this summer, FOLTC will be installing a Little Free Library at the Towns County Beach and Playground. It will have FREE books for children and adults to take, share, and replace. We hope the beach and playground patrons will enjoy taking and sharing these books, grow into using our libraries, then consider becoming a member of FOLTC. Feel free to help stock this library when you can. Together we can promote reading which has many benefits.

New Payment Procedures for FOLTC

You will see red metal lock boxes in the TCPL and the bookstore inside MRL. This is a new, easy, and secure way for you to pay for book purchases, submit your FOLTC membership form with dues, or make monetary donations to help FOLTC support your libraries. There is no method to provide change (library staff members are no longer allowed to make change or accept FOLTC funds). You may write a check to FOLTC or pay with cash.



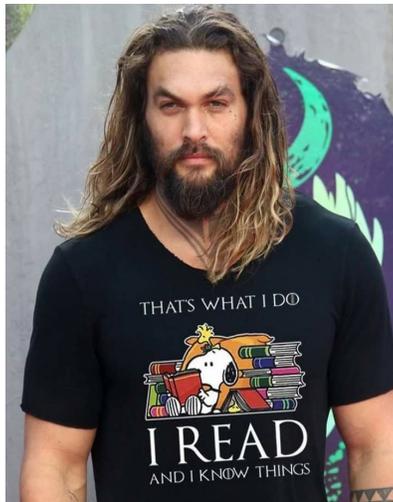
Browse our MRL Bookstore

The FOLTC Bookstore has many great items waiting for you. The price list for bookstore items is clearly displayed throughout the bookstore. There are great bargains for all.

Adult Hardbacks - \$3.00; Adult Paperbacks - \$1.00; Juvenile/Young Adult Books - \$1.00;
Children's Picture Books/Early Readers - 2/\$1.00; DVDs/CDs - \$1.00

Currently we **cannot** accept donations for our bookstore. If possible, please save your items for us in a cool, dry location. Book categories that shoppers love are history, military, autobiography/biography, gardening, cooking, crafts, and science and nature.

Membership News



FOLTC members--what a strange year this has been. FOLTC usually has its Fall Book Sale where members renew their memberships and encourage others to become members. Because of the pandemic, fundraisers will be limited in 2020. *That means your Towns County libraries need FOLTC members more than ever! **100% of your membership dues go to support the libraries.*** Can we count on you to either renew or become a first time member?

Membership forms are available at both libraries and on the last page of each FOLTC newsletter. Either mail your membership forms & dues to the address on the form or place in the red FOLTC box at either library. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Wells at gospelthecat@yahoo.com.

Together we are making a difference. Thank you for doing your part.

2020 Dates to Remember

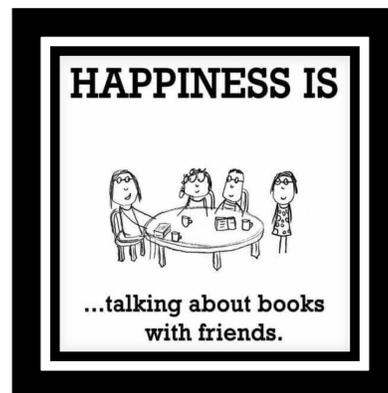
- FOLTC board meeting, Aug. 11th - 1:00 Hamilton Gardens Pavilion (Fairgrounds)
- Nov. — Fall newsletter published
- Dec. — Annual meeting and election of officers, Dec. 8th - 1:00 Location to be decided

Book Bunch 'n Lunch

The Book Bunch 'n Lunch book club is once again meeting at Daniel's Restaurant in Hiawassee. *Sweet Danger* by Margery Allingham will be discussed on Aug. 19th at 11:30, led by Georgia Norton. Pick up a schedule at the libraries for future titles to be read and discussed.

Other Ways to Help

Honor a loved one with a donation to the library. Shop Smile.amazon.com. Call MRL 706-379-3732 or TCPL 706-896-6169 for more details.



The pandemic prevents our kind volunteers from helping.

Patron Level Business Donor (\$100+ level):



Blue Ridge Mountain EMC
 P.O. Box 9
 875 Main Street East
 Young Harris, GA 30582

Fax: 706-379-4836
 Office: 706-379-3121
 Toll Free: 800-292-6456

Website: <http://www.brmemc.com>

Jennifer Marshall
 Branch Manager

5734 Robinson Rd.
 Young Harris, GA 30582

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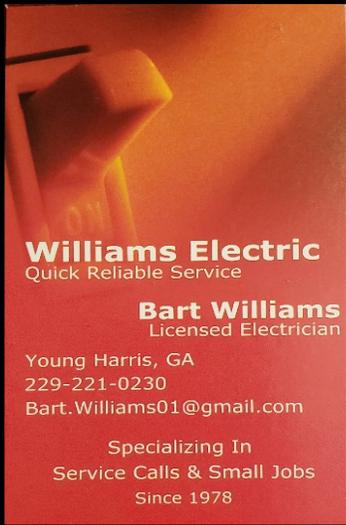


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Charles Coxe & Liza Strub

Nancy Brewer
North GA Golf Carts
Mary & David Welken
Betty Seckinger

FOLTC Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is to provide financial support for the Mountain Regional Library and the Towns County Public Library and to advocate for public libraries. FOLTC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.

FOLTC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Date _____ Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE *New Member* _____ *Renewal* _____ *Gift/Other* _____

Individual \$12 ___ Family \$24 ___ Sponsor \$30 ___ Donor \$50 ___ Patron \$100 ___ Gift \$ ___

Business Member \$35 _____ *Business Donor \$50* _____ *Business Patron \$100* _____

PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES are for one year of membership; renewal is the anniversary of your joining date. Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible as FOLTC is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization. Business Members will receive a thank you letter. Business Donors will receive a letter and a framed certificate of appreciation. Business Patrons will receive a letter, a certificate, and a copy of their business card included for one year in the FOLTC newsletter that is published quarterly and distributed by email or mail to all members.

Make checks payable to FOLTC. Membership forms and payment may be handed in at Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee or Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, or mailed to FOLTC, P O Box 159, and Young Harris GA 30582.