

**Librarian's Report**  
**Freedom Public Library**  
**May 5, 2010**

I've had three professional development opportunities since the last trustees' meeting. First was the quarterly meeting of the Carroll County Library Co-op. This meeting included the annual BVLA meeting, our audio and video cooperative. Ossipee dropped out of BVLA so in April I had the daunting task of dividing up the materials from the extra group between the remaining 11 libraries. I was grateful to Marilyn Swan, librarian in Effingham, who came over to help me with that.

Last month I also attended the first Small Libraries Summit put on by NHLA for libraries serving populations under 3000. I spoke on a panel about how we market our library. Each of the panelists spoke for five minutes and then discussion was open to the group. This was the format for the entire day, so I got to hear ideas from many librarians. I found the labor laws workshop very helpful as well as the talk and discussion about the importance of vigorous weeding of library materials to improve the appeal of the collection and to increase circulation.

Last week I attended a small hands-on workshop on downloadable e-books. This is a new offering included in our membership in the NH Downloadable Audio Book program. Bobbi Slossar of the State Library met with several area librarians at the Met in North Conway and showed us how to download e-books to our computers. We got to see and use a Sony e-Reader, a B&N Nook and a Kindle (which is not compatible with the downloadable e-books).

Summer is snapping at my heels and I am busy firming up programs and plans. Although I have not yet worked out the details, I intend to change the way the children's summer reading program works. Instead of earning tickets for the library store, the children will set an individual reading goal. Water Country Water Park in Portsmouth has generously agreed to give each child who meets his or her reading goal a free ticket to the park. I have submitted a written request to SAU 13 for a bus and driver for a field trip to the park at the end of the summer reading program. If this falls through, I will look for parent volunteers to drive. I hope to sell the piles of leftover library store items at the town wide yard sale next month. We will no longer be accepting donations of toys at the library. That will help the clutter situation in the workroom considerably!

I am very fortunate to have some volunteers who have expressed an interest in helping with the summer programs. Sarah Groleau has offered to lead four teen and four Fun Friday craft activities this summer. Sue Stamm and Pet Plunges have also offered to help with the children's programs. I am in need of volunteers to solicit prizes for weekly drawings that we will have for children, teen, and adult reading programs. I *had* been told that information for the Old

Home Week Schedule was due near the end of May. Yesterday, I heard it's due at the end of this week. I have a lot of decisions to make before then!

The Care and Feeding of Reptiles workshop was a big hit. Marie Leighton offered to do the workshop for free, but I asked the Friends of the Library for \$50 to help pay for her travel expenses. She refused even that amount. I have written a rave review of her program to the librarian's email list and hope that she will get many bookings for the summer. If you haven't already checked out the photos from the workshop, go to the Photo Album page on the website and check them out.

Rebecca Rule will be coming to the library on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. I will be reminding the Friends of this event so that they can get moving on publicity and refreshment planning. We have received the check from the NH Humanities Council which pays most of her fees.

The Freedom Public Library has been selected to receive a Kids, Books and the Arts Grant for summer programming. It will pay \$400 of John Porcino's \$550 fee for the summer reading program kickoff. Freedom Elementary has agreed to help pay for his visit as well. I will be asking the Friends of the Library to fund the magician Norman Ng's Old Home Week performance at the library.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer  
Library Director