

Marathon County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER

2008



SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CENTRAL WI DIGITAL PROJECT

SHARYN HEILI—LIBRARIAN

What was life like in central Wisconsin in the days when steam train engines, horses, and hard-working lumbermen filled our area? Now we have an opportunity to "hop aboard" the recently digitized Railroad Collection and take a virtual tour of the history of railroads in central Wisconsin.

The Railroad Collection, furnished by the Central Wisconsin Digital Project, includes hundreds of photographs, maps, letters, and other documents relating to the history of railroads in Lincoln and Marathon Counties. Many popular photographs are a part of this collection, including many from the collection of the Marathon County Historical Society, as well as images from private collections.

See logging and passenger trains, sawmills, logging camps, and many remarkable views of central Wisconsin—people, buildings, bridges, railroad cars and engines, depots, and events are documented in this collection. This collection gives us a glimpse into the daily life of people who lived and worked in this community that we call home. See early railroad depots in Wausau, Fenwood, Edgar, Elderon, Eland, Marshfield, Brokaw, Athens, and Marathon City. View passengers waiting to board trains, railroad workers laying railroad ties, railroad cars being loaded with the help of horses, railway mishaps, and the devastation of the 1912 flood.

The digital Railroad Collection is provided by mem-



Engine #764 with passenger train at the Wausau Depot, c. 1900-1919, from the Central WI Digital Project.

bers of the Central Wisconsin Digital Project, a consortium of libraries, genealogical societies and museums. The Railroad Collection is one of the collections on the Wisconsin Historical Society's website known as Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO). The railroad digitization project was chosen as a pilot project of WHO, and funded by the Marathon County Public Library, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, and the T.B. Scott Library in Merrill.

Explore both the recently added Railroad Collection and the Libraries and Schools in Marathon and Lincoln Counties Collection from the Marathon County Public Library's website, www.mcpl.us. Click on "Research," "Online Resources," and "Central Wisconsin Digital Project (CWDP)."

You can almost smell the smoke. Have an enjoyable trip!

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visit us online at www.mcpl.us

MCPL'S QUICK TIPS:

- **New! Pre-Overdue Notices**—Email reminders 3 days before your library items are due! Sign up at your local MCPL today!
- **Don't like waiting in line?**—Next time you're at MCPL Wausau or Rothschild, try our self-checkout machines!
- **Questions? Ask us online!**—Basic questions can be sent to info@mcpl.us; research requests: ref@mcpl.us.
- **Reserve a Computer**—Avoid having to wait for an available computer. Make a reservation at mcpl.us under "Quick Links," or call ahead: (715) 261-7200.
- **Do You Like Video Games?**—Browse our collection online via our TeenZone webpage!
- **Stories-to-Go Boxes!**—Reading and entertainment kits for children, available to adults who work with small groups (teachers, daycare providers, etc.). Call our Children's Dept. at (715) 261-7220 for details!

DRIVE-THRU GRAND OPENING! (WIN \$100 IN FREE GAS!)

The drive-thru at the MCPL - Wausau Headquarters is open and ready for business! Stop on by and give it a try!

Express services available include picking up items on hold, fine and fee payments, call-ahead item holds, and a 24/7 book-drop!

Plus, at our Grand Opening this July 21-25, you can register to win a \$100 gas card, donated courtesy of Riiser Energy!*

Drive-Thru Hours:

Monday—Thursday 7:30am—6:30pm

Friday 7:30am—5:00pm

The MCPL Drive-Thru is accessible via the lower-level parking lot on the west side of the building, just off Washington street.

Call (715) 261-7200 for more information, or to request that your library items be made available for pickup!



* (limit one entry per customer per day)



LIBRARIES CONTRIBUTE \$750 MILLION/YEAR TO THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY / PHYLLIS CHRISTENSEN — LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Friends of Marathon County Public Library and our library customers have long recognized that libraries are valuable community resources. A recent study by

NorthStar Economics Inc. of Madison quantified the economic value of Wisconsin libraries.

NorthStar's study showed that Wisconsin public libraries:

- contribute more than \$4 for each dollar taxpayers invest
- have a total annual economic contribution of more than \$750 million
- create more than 3,200 jobs directly and more than 3,000 indirectly through economic activity.

"This study clearly tells us that public libraries are a valuable tax-supported institution," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Quantifying the economic impact of libraries on the local, regional, and state economy adds another important piece of information regarding the value of public libraries. Our public libraries nurture young readers, support K-12 students, and provide access to information and technology necessary for lifelong learning. Public libraries are centers of their communities and daily make invaluable contributions to local and regional economic development."

The research further indicates that Wisconsin public library users place a high value on the resources and services available and that as library users age, they value the library services not only for themselves but also for their children and grandchildren. Libraries are considered a very good value by library users and non-users alike, according to this and other studies.

The Department of Public Instruction contracted with NorthStar to conduct a study to determine the economic impact of public libraries and library sys-

tems in Wisconsin and the taxpayer return on investment. DPI funded the study through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The research consisted of analysis of quantitative data, including library spending; library services; lending activities; and facility, equipment and technology use at Wisconsin's 388 public libraries and 17 public library systems. Information on the library use and perceived value was collected through an on-line survey and 29 focus groups held throughout the state. One focus group was held at Wisconsin Valley Library Service in Wausau.

"As we work to sustain public libraries in an increasingly competitive economy, we have proof of the solid economic contribution our libraries make and the value the people of Wisconsin place on library services," Burmaster said. "Our libraries truly make a difference in our quality of life."

The report "The Economic Contribution of Wisconsin Public Libraries to the Economy of Wisconsin" is available on the Department of Public Instruction's Economic Impact of Public Libraries webpage: <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/>

MARATHON CO. READS! RUTH GRAUVOGL

Marathon County Reads (MCR) is a county-wide program designed to promote reading and literacy throughout our communities.

This year's book is *HOOT* by Carl Hiaasen. We hope everyone in Marathon County will join us in reading *HOOT* and coming to our many fun and exciting events and programs throughout September and October!



BOOK SALE REPORT BOB REID—LIBRARY FRIEND



The April, 2008 Friends of the Library Book Sale was very successful thanks to several wonderful volunteers and to buyers from at least 16 different Wisconsin cities.

The net profit was \$5,269.50, \$940.92 more than the April, 2007 Book Sale, which netted \$4,328.58. In addition, seven singles, couples, or families became new Friends members.

Taking advantage of the usual opening to every Book Sale (5-8pm Thursday) which is reserved for Friends' members only, 62 singles, couples, or families shopped before the public was admitted at 9:30am on Friday.

The next Wausau Book Sale is Thursday, August 14 (5-8pm), Friday, August 15 (9:30am-4:30pm), and Saturday, August 16 (9:30am-12 noon).

The traditional and very popular Bag Day will be on Saturday due to the Library being closed on Sundays during the summer.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETINGS FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



All Friends of the Library board meetings are held at the MCPL—Wausau Headquarters in the 3rd floor meeting room (the Wausau Room).

Meetings start at 4 pm, preceded by a pre-meeting "social" from 3 to 4 pm.

Anyone may attend, especially prospective members!

Remaining 2008 Meetings:

- Monday, July 28th
- Monday, August 25th
- Monday, September 22
- Monday, October 27th
- Monday, November 24th
- December (no meeting)

TEENZONE: *EXTREME MAKEOVER!*

TRISTAN KELLY — CUSTOMER SERVICES

The time is **NOW** for the **TeenZone EXTREME MAKEOVER!** The MCPL—Wausau Headquarters has plans to initiate a “METAMORPHOSIS” in the TeenZone area on the 2nd floor.

Staff will be using the Teen SLP Program this year as a theme to engage in the planning and execution of the makeover process.

MCPL staff selected five area teens to attend an all-day planning event on June 20th based on nominations from teachers, staff, and family. These teens were presented with current resources and planning options, and they were encouraged to consider the functionality, aesthetics, and rules of the space being created.

Preliminary plans include defining three distinct areas within the current teen area—a gaming area, a reading/study area, and a place to “hang out.”

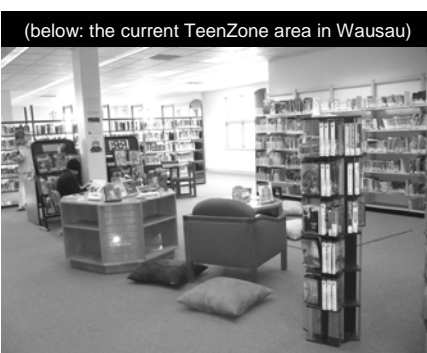
This EXTREME MAKEOVER has been made possible by a generous donation

of \$4500 by the Friends of the Library for the launch of our “Re-Imagination Project” that will seek to improve the entire layout and atmosphere of the MCPL—Wausau Headquarters.

There’s still plenty of planning and designing left to do! Teens, if you have ideas and talents you’d like to share, please contact us today!

Phone: (715) 261-7200

Email: TeenZone@mcpl.us



SUMMER READING: JOIN AN MCPL BOOK CLUB!

DEB KINDLER—CUSTOMER SERVICES

Every month, book clubs meet at most MCPL locations to discuss and enjoy great books! The Wausau Library has three book clubs that meet regularly:

Women’s Night Out meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. August’s featured title is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Hosseini Khaled.

Members of the **Readers of Classic Literature** get together the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon in the 1st floor rotunda. In August, the group will be discussing *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Wausau’s **Mystery Book Club** is a newly-formed club that meets at the library. Members get together the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the 1st floor conference room. August’s selection is *The Naming of the Dead* by Ian Rankin.

Remember: Our branch libraries



have regular book discussions as well. Call your local MCPL for details!

Anyone interested in joining a book club at any location is welcome to attend. There are no fees or membership requirements. Simply read the book and come to the discussion.

For a complete listing of book clubs, titles, dates, and times, visit our “Book Clubs & Advisory Services” webpage: www.mcpl.us/services/bookclubs.

THE METAMORPHOSIS REVIEW

TEEN SUMMER READING ACTIVITY

In addition to the usual “Summer Reading Club” prizes, Marathon County teens have an opportunity to double their rewards for reading this summer by contributing to the “Metamorphosis Review”!

Named for the 2008 Teen Library Program theme (“Metamorphosis”), the Metamorphosis Review is an online collection of book and video game reviews written by teens, for teens.

The writers of the first 150 reviews will receive coupons for a free snack or soda at the MCPL—Wausau Headquarters!

Additionally, a random entry will be chosen every week for the option to pick the next game for our growing video game collection, with first rights to check it out for an extended period of 28 days!

Reviews may be submitted online via our Summer Library Program webpage (mcpl.us/slp) under “Metamorphosis.”

There have been many reviews submitted already! Check them out, and feel free to leave a comment or two. You might find some interesting recommendations, or points for discussion!

Requirements: Reviews should be at least 200 words long, represent original work, give the item a rating, include recommendations for age-appropriateness, and mention at least one good and one bad thing about the book/game. Entries are limited to two per person per week.



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS @ YOUR LIBRARY™

(FOR THE VERY LATEST EVENTS INFORMATION, CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.MCPL.US/SERVICES/EVENTS)

For additional info. about the events listed here, please call the location hosting the event(s) that interest you.

ALL MCPL LOCATIONS:

CLOSED: 7/4/08 (Independence Day);
8/30—9/1/08 (Labor Day Weekend).

"Summer Hours" began 5/26/08. Our
"Winter Hours" will resume on 9/1/08.
(Call or visit www.mcpl.us for how this affects the schedule of your local MCPL.)

ATHENS (715) 257-7292

7/15—Mary Tooley, "Art in a Suitcase:
Going Buggy," 2pm

7/22—Rob Reid, Stories & Music, 2pm

EDGAR (715) 352-3155

7/15—Rob Reid (@ Edgar Public
School), Stories & Music, 10:30am

8/6—"Create a Bug!" Crafts, 2pm

8/6-7—Women's Club Book Sale

HATLEY (715) 446-3537

7/15—Rob Reid, Stories & Music, 1pm

7/21—Mary Tooley, "Art in a Suitcase:
Going Buggy," 1pm

8/12—Picnic & Scavenger Hunt, 11am

8/12—Book Club: *Barefoot Heart* by Elva
Trevino Hart, 3:30pm

MARATHON (715) 443-2775

7/16—Rob Reid, Stories & Music, 10am

MOSINEE (715) 693-2144

7/16—Mary Tooley, "Art in a Suitcase:
Going Buggy," 10am

7/23—Rob Reid, Stories & Music, 10am

ROTHSCHILD (715) 359-6208

7/15,22—Read to a Therapy Dog!, 6pm

7/24—Chris Langenfield, "Critterrrrman,"
11am & 1:30pm

7/29 & 8/5,12—Read to a Therapy Dog!,
6pm

8/14—Summer Program "Grand Finale,"
bug games, crafts, and snacks, 1pm

SPENCER (715) 659-3996

7/29—Curt Strutz, "BassMeister," 10am

8/7-8—Library Book Sale

STRATFORD (715) 687-4420

7/16—Rob Reid, Stories&Music, 1:30pm

7/21—Book Club: *One Thousand White
Women* by Jim Fergus, 1pm

7/29—Curt Strutz, "BassMeister" 1:30pm

8/19—Book Club: *A Thousand Splendid
Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, 1pm

WAUSAU (715) 261-7200

7/15—Magician Bruce Hetzler, 10:30am

7/17—Read to a Therapy Dog!, 1pm

7/17—Book Club: *Wild Indigo* by Sandi
Ault, 7pm

7/21—Book Club: *The Zookeeper's Wife*
by Diane Ackerman, 7pm

7/21-25—Drive-Thru Grand Opening,
register to win a \$100 gas card!

7/22—"Creepy-Crawly Craft Day!," 1pm

7/23—Book Club: *The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck, 1pm

7/24,31 & 8/7,14—Read to a Therapy
Dog!, 1pm

8/18—Book Club: *A Thousand Splendid
Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, 7pm

8/21—Book Club: *The Naming of the
Dead* by Ian Rankin, 7pm

8/27—Book Club: *Crime and Punish-
ment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, 12pm

9/15—Book Club: *The Brief History of
the Dead* by Kevin Brockmeier, 7pm