



# Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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MAY, 2006 - Published by the Northeast Library System  
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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## **Connect. Click. Listen.**

The six Nebraska Library Systems have received LSTA funding to circulate MP3 /iPod players to libraries in their systems.

### **Why MP3s?**

Within 5 years, futurist Steven Abram forecast there would be limited to no support for existing technologies, such as DVD, VCR, audio-cassettes, and CDs. The format will switch to downloadable formats such as MP3 and iPod. (Steven Abram will be speaking at NLA this October.)

If you want to start experimenting with the newer technologies, where do you start? Unfortunately, there is no single interface that works with all vendors. One stop shopping does not exist.

The systems have joined together to make this technology available to your library. Libraries can choose to circulate the players or simply have the staff experiment with

them. Each year more and more people are getting the players as Christmas gifts and the first place they visit in order to download podcasts will be the public library. They may not know where to get started and will ask for your help.

### **Who Uses MP3's?**

Have you walked down your street recently and seen someone walk by with cords hanging out of their ears? It's not the invasion of the pod people, but a MP3/iPod player user.

It's more than teenagers using the players to download music. Conference presentations are available as podcasts if your travel budget isn't big enough to let you attend in person. Colleges are placing popular reserves and lectures on podcasts. Younger students are creating podcasts as a way to share what they've learned. Weekly radio programs such as NPR are available as

podcasts. And have you taken a look at Amazon lately? You can now purchase the latest bestseller in downloadable form.

### **Why Downloadable Books?**

There are some very significant advantages of digital audio-books.

Digital audiobooks cannot be damaged, so your library can spend less on replacing books, and more on adding new titles to the collection.

They are easy to share and can be delivered to you instantly. A book can be returned by a patron in Lisbon, and five minutes later it's available for download by users at any participating library.

Digital audiobooks don't require



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any shelf space, which allows your library to add hundreds of new titles.

No more tapes or CD's to switch - no more changing tapes while cruising down the highway or while on a long run. Your entire book (and likely more than one) can easily be stored on your digital audiobook player.

No more skipping, which is common in some auto and portable CD players.

No more damaged or mangled tapes

More portable – since you can store multiple audiobooks on a single player it's easier to take them anywhere.

#### June 1st Presentation

Come to the Annual Institute on Thursday, June 1st where you can learn how to get involved with the project.

#### Grants Available

**Youth Service America Announces Literacy Grant Opportunity for Young People**

Deadline: June 9, 2006

Youth Service America ( <http://www.ysa.org/> ) and Lions- gate ( <http://www.lionsgate.com/> ) have announced the "Bee" the Change Community Service Grant for literacy. This grant opportunity offers \$1,000 to one young person to implement a sustainable community

service project that increases literacy in his or her community and uses the movie "Akeelah and the Bee" as inspiration. ( <http://www.akeelahandthebee.com/> ) <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002207/ysa>

#### Libri Foundation Offers Children's Book Grants for Rural Libraries

Deadline: July 15, 2006

The Libri Foundation ( <http://www.librifoundation.org/> ) was established for the sole purpose of helping rural libraries in the U.S. acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Since 1990, the foundation has donated more than \$2.8 million worth of new children's books to over 2,200 libraries in 48 states. <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002208/libri>

#### WebJunction Library Award

##### Little Priest Tribal College / Winnebago Public Library

has been named WebJunction's Library of the Month! Congratulations to Gretchen and all her staff for a job well done! You can read the article about the library at: <http://www.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=13299>.

**Note:** This is the second Northeast Library noticed by the folks at WebJunction. **Meadow Grove Public Library** won the Technology Planning Award in 2004.



## I Won the Lottery!

I often dream of winning the lottery: the euphoria, the excess, the responsibility, and the sheer joy of winning. Well, I won! Being a Gates rural librarian and attending the Public Library Association Convention in Boston is the stuff of which dreams are made. I had the most wonderful time, met the most wonderful people, listened to my hero in person, and learned enough to keep my brain whirring for months and months. PLA was the experience of a lifetime.

We, Evy Ost and I, left Sunday morning in a 4-wheel drive pickup in order to make our Monday morning flight. What a relief it was to put that storm worry behind us and focus on Boston. The Gate's Foundation took care of everything upon our arrival. Our hotel was luxurious, complete with a rubber ducky in the tub.

After we had settled in, we set out on the subway with directions in hand, to The Union Oyster House, the oldest continually operating restaurant in the U.S. where we ate lobster beneath Daniel Webster's portrait. We actually found our way back via the E train to our hotel, thus began my Bostonian adventure.

The rural library workshop began with breakfast at 7:30. The day was intensive, informative, and invigorating and by 5 o'clock my brain was filled to overflowing with ambition and new ideas.

There were 11,000 librarians and vendors galore at the Public Library Association's convention. There were seas of librarians everywhere and vendors eager to showcase and give away their products. I mailed three boxes of free books back to Neligh. And authors, let me tell you. The women mystery writers of America were autographing free books, Bruce Coville, Peter Abrahams, Susan Vreeland, Jon Scieszka (rhymes with Fresca), and Julia Spencer-Fleming were all signing their books. It was magnificent.

The highlight of the week was listening to Dr. Wiesel. While waiting in line to have lunch with a thousand of my new friends and Dr. Wiesel's fans I stood with the director of the Cambridge Public Library. We sat at the same table with the Director of the San Francisco Public Library, the Director of the Pittsburgh Public Library, and three librarians from Ketchum, Idaho. We dined on chicken and listened to Elie Wiesel. His speech was powerful and moving; an experience I will never forget. I wept. PLA was the stuff of which dreams are made and my forever jackpot.

**Editor's Note:** Every other year, PLA members from across the country come together to attend a conference devoted strictly to public librarianship. The PLA National Conferences have developed a reputation for excellence. Each offers you more than 100 top-quality continuing education programs from which to choose, several social events, and a bustling exhibits hall, providing you with an excellent opportunity to see the latest in products and services. Let's have a strong Northeast Nebraska representation to the next PLA Conference - PLA's 12th National Conference March 25-29, 2008, Minneapolis, MN!



### Free Posters

Need extra posters for the summer reading program? Check out: <http://raintreelibrary.com/resources/posters.asp>. Two free color posters are available to download and print out.

### NLS Fine Survey

Recently Lauran Lofgren from Wayne Public Library conducted a survey regarding how much libraries charged fines. She graciously shared her results which are listed below:

Library	Pop.	Books	Audiobook	Magazines	Movies	Music CDs	Notes
Genoa Public	981	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$3.00	\$.00	DVDs only, no fine cap
Osmond Public	810	\$.00	\$1.00	\$.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	
Albion Public	1,797	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	
Battle Creek	1,158	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$3.00	\$1.00	Capped at replacement cost
Orchard Public	391	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.50	\$.05	
Pender Public	1,148	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	
Pilger Public	378	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.25	\$.25	
Schuyler Public	5,371	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$1.00	\$.05	Cake pans \$.50
Spencer Public	758	\$.05	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	Capped at \$1
Stromsburg Public	1,232	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$1.00	\$.05	Video cap \$5, others at \$1
Wayne Public	5,583	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.25	\$.05	Capped at \$5 or replacement (lower)
Winside Public	468	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	\$.05	Capped at \$2
Bloomfield Public	1,126	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	Must purchase media card \$5/6 months
Columbus Public	30,090	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$1.00	\$.10	
Emerson Public	817	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$2.00	\$.10	\$2 charge per week, \$6 cap
Madison Public	2,367	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$1.00	\$.10	
Norfolk Public	23,516	\$.10	\$.10	\$.00	\$1.00	\$.25	Capped at \$5
Plainview Public	1,353	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$1.00	\$1.00	
South Sioux City	11,925	\$.10	\$.10	\$.10	\$1.00	\$.10	
Newman Grove	797	\$.25	\$.25	\$.25	\$1.00	\$.25	



### Google Tips & Tricks Poster

Google has released a free, downloadable poster with tips and tricks to help you and your customers get better Google results. Poster is available at: <http://www.google.com/librariancenter/newsletter/0604.html>.



**Straight-Talk** is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)-564-1586 (Voice) (402)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

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### **"Between Fences" to tour six Nebraska communities in 2007-2008**

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) is seeking six communities interested in hosting the 2007-2008 statewide tour of "Between Fences," a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES).

If you know of a small-town museum or other community organization that is interested and would like to apply, contact NHC Senior Program Officer Raymond Screws at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or at ray@nebraskahumanities.org. The application deadline is **June 1**. An application form can be downloaded and viewed by going to: <http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/admin.htm>

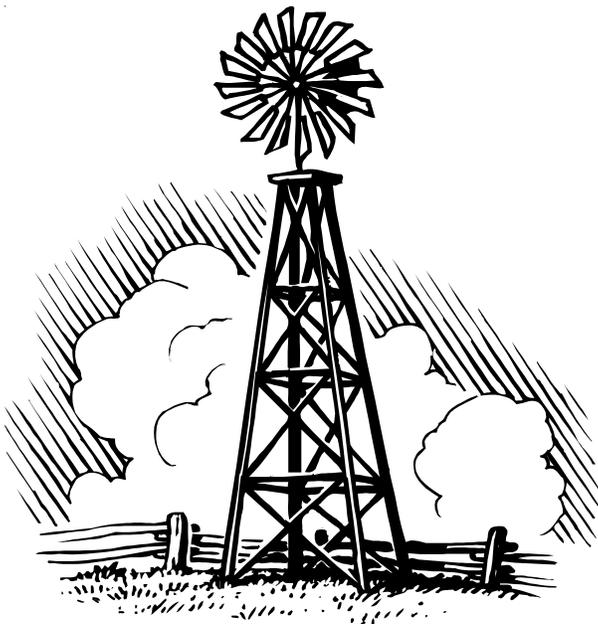
"Between Fences" is a visual cultural history of fences and land use that examines how neighbors and nations divide and protect, offend and defend through the boundaries they build. Focusing on every region of the United States, the exhibit's subjects include the defining of home, farm, and factory; the settling of the United States; the closing of the range in the South and its meaning to former slaves; and the making of fences, including a look at why Abe Lincoln became known as a rail splitter.

"Between Fences" examines human relationships on an expanding scale: Neighbor versus neighbor; gated communities, and the Mexican and Canadian borders of the United States. The exhibition tells American stories through diverse fence types.

To host "Between Fences" a community must have a facility with at least 600 square feet of floor space and 7½-foot ceilings. Each hosting organization is required to develop public humanities programming that will coincide with the theme of "Between Fences," such as lectures, displays, exhibits and contests. Sites also will develop events and activities to encourage public participation during the exhibit.

The exhibition will tour Nebraska between September 2007 and June 2008.

Part of the SITES Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, "Between Fences" is designed for rural audiences and small museums that do not have access to traveling exhibits because of space and cost limitations.





### Check Your Calendar

May 17 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Atkinson Public Library at 10:30am.

May 19 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln starting at 9:30am.

May 25 - **Gaming @ your library**, NLA Public Library/ TUFs section joint spring meeting at La Vista Public Library at 9:30am.

May 25- 28 - **Mayhem in the Midlands** - 7th Annual Mystery Convention at Sheraton Hotel, Omaha. For more information, contact: Maggie Tarelli-Falcon, mtarelli-falcon@omaha.lib.ne.us

May 29 - **Memorial Day Holiday**. System office closed.

June 1 - **Annual Institute & Membership Meeting** at Wayne State College. Workshops begin at 9:30am.

June 20 - **Fiction Connection Training** at the Nebraska Library Commission starting at 9:30am. Contact Jeanette Powell at 1-800-307-2665 for registration information.

July 4 - **Fourth of July** holiday. Office closed.

July 10 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at North Platte High School starting at 9am.

July 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Lied Pierce Public Library at 10am.



### Computer Prevention During Electrical Storms

It's that time of year again when thunderstorms lurk at the end of every summer day.

It is best to shut down and unplug your computer and any peripherals (printer, monitor, etc.) during electrical storms. Unplug the phone line to the modem if you have one.

Your computer should never be plugged directly into the wall - even on a sunny day. Standard electricity is 120 volts, but the acceptable range is from 103V to 132V. You should always use a surge protector (not just a power strip!) to remove any power spikes before they can reach the computer, printer, etc. Some surge protectors include jacks for your phone line or cable modem connection, too. (A nearby lightning strike could send a surge of power

through your phone line to the modem, or through the cable TV line to the cable modem, and damage the computer.)

Even better, invest in a UPS (uninterruptable power supply) instead of a surge protector for the PC and monitor.

Note: It's not only electrical storms that can cause computer problems. Construction projects near your library can play havoc with your computers. Kathy Brettschneider, Battle Creek Public Library, said recently that due to the Highway 275 project near Battle Creek, power was interrupted several times during a very short time span. The power supply to her server was burned out due to the power going on and off.



**NEW  
@  
NLS**

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

**"Extreme Library Make-over: One Year Later"** by Joan E. Bernstein and Kathy Schalk-Greene, *American Libraries*, April 2006, pp. 66-69.

Part interior redesign plus an increased emphasis on customer service netted this New Jersey library a 39% circulation boost.

## NORTHEAST NEWS

Congratulations to both **Rising City** and **Clearwater Public Libraries** for completing the annual Public Library Statistical Report. For their efforts, the Nebraska Library Commission has awarded them \$250! Last year the Nebraska Library Commission instituted a 'Dollars for Data' program to encourage unaccredited public libraries to turn in their statistical report.



It was an exciting day in Ponca on Saturday, May 6. The groundbreaking ceremony for the **Ponca Carnegie Library's** new addition at was held. The board raised \$320,000 for the new addition and construction is slated to begin on May 15th.



Congratulations to Elizabeth Odell as the new librarian at the **Clearwater Public Library**. Elizabeth recently completed her first Basic Skills class - Organization of Materials.



Maggie Huetig, from the **Laurel Community Learning Center**, has returned from work after having undergone a liver transplant.



Calling all quilters!!! Nebraska author, Stephanie Grace Whitson will be leading a book discussion group on her novel, Sarah's Patchwork, at the

**Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library** on May 25th at 3pm. In the evening, she will present a program entitled, Time Travel the Calico Trail, which includes textiles, quilts, and quilt tops to illustrate pioneer stories.



Camp Read A Lot: Let the Book Bugs Bite was the theme for successful Scholastic Book Fairs in Bloomfield and Fullerton. At the **Bloomfield Public Library** local artist Connie Peterson painted a lovely mural on the children's room window. A tent popped up in the Fullerton Public Library's children's area where local celebrities read to the kids.



Protecting your identity was a recent topic at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library's** 'Food for Thought' program. Jim Van Lent, Risk Management Officer of the First National Bank spoke on how Americans fell victim to a variety of identity theft scams.



Students at **Platte Center Elementary** who met their reading goals took part in various Easter theme activities which included making bunnies, egg tosses, egg hunts and dying eggs.



Stop by the **O'Neill Public Library** to view the future at

the Invention Convention. Students from the 4th - 6th grade entered the contest and entries will be judged on May 9th.



**Wayne Public Library** held a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, April 29. Organizations that rely heavily on volunteers set up booths and answered questions to people who may be interested in volunteering.



It was a grand celebration on May 9th at the **Northeast Community College Library**. A reception was held to honor Northeast's first Library Technical Assistant graduates: Lynn Hans, Lori Juhlin and Jed Miller. Peggy Leiting and Patrice Lippert were also honored for having completed the core coursework for the program. Kudos also go to Deb Robertson, Northeast's Library Director, who spent endless hours getting this program off the ground!



Book bags of Alex Kava's One False Move are available from your **Northeast Library System** office (1-800-578-1014) or can be scheduled for your book discussion group. Check out the web site: [onebookonenebraska.org/gnomemap.htm](http://onebookonenebraska.org/gnomemap.htm) to see where the book has been discussed throughout the state.



## Basic Skills: Organization of Materials

Spring 2006



"Now this field...." Marilyn Liedorff, Jill Tolstedt, Emerson Public Library and Elizabeth Odell, Clearwater Public Library.



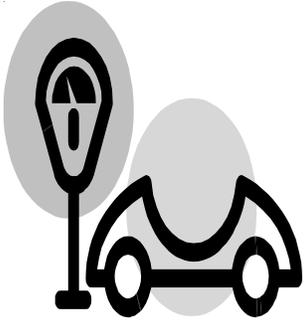
"I think this field should..."Marilyn Liedorff, Rita Wemhoff, Schuyler Public Library and Sharon Stephens, Albion Public Library.



Marilyn Liedorff, Instructor, explaining the mysteries of MARC.



Congratulations to Basic Skills graduates: Cathy Risch,Howells Public Library; Sharon Stephens, Albion Public Library and Linda Michaelis from the John A. Stahl Library in West Point.



## Wayne State College Driving/Parking Directions

The City of Wayne is undergoing several construction projects which may affect your travel through Wayne. Main Street is being renovated to change it from a two lane to a three lane road. All traffic will be diverted to Logan Street, one block east.

Here are directions to get to Wayne State College.

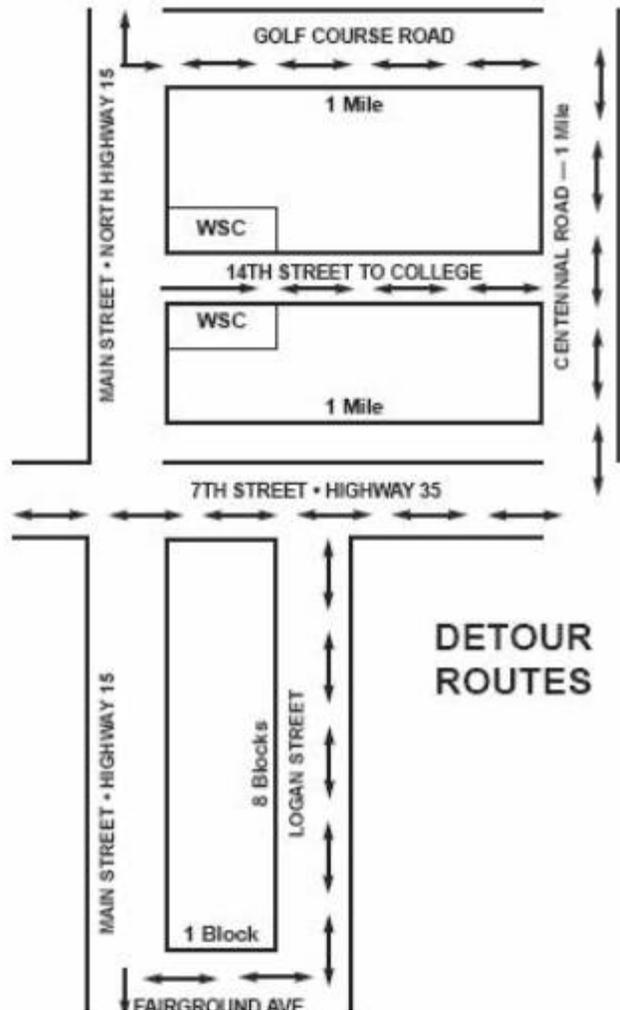
Those coming from the south:

When entering Wayne on Highway #15, follow the detour signs at Fairgrounds Avenue to Logan Street. Proceed north to Logan Street to 7th Street (Highway 35); turn right (east) to Centennial Road (by the Shell gas station). Turn left (north) on Centennial Road to 14th Street. Turn left (west) and proceed to Walnut Street. Lot #10 is located at that corner or you can go a block further to Lot #6. Lot #6 is a new lot located next to Gardner Hall where most of the meetings will be held.

From east or west on Highway 35: Turn north at Centennial Road (at the Shell gas station) and follow the directions above.

From the north (Highway 15): Turn left (east) at the Wayne Country Club corner. Go east one mile to Centennial Road. Turn Right (south) and go to 14th street. Turn right (west) and proceed to Walnut Street. Lot #10 is located at that corner, across the street from the tennis courts. You can go a block further to Lot #6. Lot #6 is a new lot located next to Gardner Hall where most of the meetings will be held.

**Note: The intersection of 14th street and Highway #15 will be closed during construction. There will be no exit from campus at that intersection.**





**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
**NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 12TH ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2006 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.**  
**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER**  
801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, & the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association—Free admission for current members of the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association.

***FEATURING AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS:***



**\*KEIKO KASZA\***

**2007 Golden Sower Award nominee for *MY LUCKY DAY***  
**Also author of *THE PIG'S PICNIC, DON'T LAUGH, JOE!, HE WOLF'S CHICKEN STEW, A MOTHER FOR CHOCO, WHEN THE ELEPHANT WALKS, THE MIGHTIEST* and more...**



**\*MARTY CRISP\***

**2007 Golden Sower Award nominee for *WHITE STAR: A DOG ON THE TITANIC***  
**Also author of *TOTALLY POLAR, PRIVATE CAPTAIN, MY DOG, CAT, BLACK AND WHITE, RATZO, BUZZARD BREATH* and more...**



**\*MICHAEL O. TUNNELL\***

**2007 Golden Sower Award nominee for *WISHING MOON***  
**Also author of *MAILING MAY, CHINOOK!, THE PRYDAIN COMPANION, BROTHERS IN VALOR, THE CHILDREN OF TOPAZ, HALLOWEEN PIE, SCHOOL SPIRITS* and more...**

ALSO: 2006-2007 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Kasza, Crisp, & Tunnell; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Keiko Kasza, Marty Crisp & Mike Tunnell; Door Prizes; 5 Continuing Education Hours (for all day attendance) from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians; 5 Professional Growth Points (for all day attendance) for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

(For registration and contact information, see page 15.)



## Database Roadshow June-August Schedule

We are pleased to announce that the ninth annual Database Roadshow has been scheduled for summer 2006. The five-hour Database Roadshow will provide Nebraska librarians and media specialists with an overview of the state-funded databases available through NebraskAccess. The Roadshow will also include a tour of the Librarian's Toolbox, which contains promotional and training material about NebraskAccess. As in past years, the Roadshow will be divided into segments, with each focusing on a particular database. During each segment we will discuss and demonstrate a database, and then the class will have hands-on time to practice what they've learned. Please bring any questions you may have and we will help you work through them during the hands-on time.

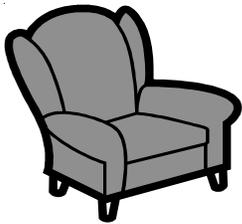
All sessions will run from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. There will be a one hour lunch break at approximately 11:30. Lunch is on your own. For your comfort, you may wish to bring a sweater, or dress in layers, as we are unable to make any adjustments to the temperature of the computer labs. There is no cost to attend the Database Roadshow. Continuing Education credits of 5 hours can be earned by attending the Roadshow.

### Roadshow Locations:

- Auburn - July 25
- Bassett - August
- **Columbus - July 27**
- Elkhorn - August 17
- Kearney - June 28
- Lincoln - August 25
- Scottsbluff - June 20
- **Wayne - August 2**

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/roadshow.html>.

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ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



# The Reviewer's Chair

## ***Little Duck Lost***

By Erica Briers

This is a beautiful springtime book about a little duck who hatches far from home and with the help of several animals finally finds his way home. The illustrations make this book—and they are embossed which adds a tactile way to further enjoy the book.

It would be best for children 2 to 5, but anyone would enjoy it in any collection. The pages are very sturdy due to the embossing.

~~Heather Reid, parent, Omaha, NE

## ***A Packet of Seeds***

By Deborah Hopkinson

The pioneer family was moving to a new land so the neighbors and family gave mother packets of seeds to start in her new home. This book has a good story line and would make an excellent addition to teaching history and pioneers.



Recommended for preschool through upper elementary in both school and public libraries.  
~~Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

## ***Wake Up, It's Spring***

By Lisa Campbell Ernst

This is a story about the first day of spring. It starts with the sun warming the earth, which causes a chain reaction from insects, animals, and humans. Until they all cheer outside for the first day of spring. This is a good book to read on the first day of spring. The students could predict who is going to be told next in the story that it is now spring.

This book is recommended for Kindergarten through 1<sup>st</sup> grade in any library.

~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

## ***The Little Spotted Cat***

By Alyssa Satin Capucilli

What do many youngsters do when it is time to take a nap? They run and jump and do whatever they can to avoid such a fate. Children will relate to this story of the Little Spotted Cat who does the same thing. He jumps on the window sill, he tangles up the yarn, and plays outside in the water, and hides from his mom. However, in the end he has to clean up after himself and then he is ready for a nap.

This picture book is great for reading to preschoolers, but it is also suitable for beginning readers who have help. There are adorable illustrations by Dan Andreasen, sure to please children and all cat lovers. Youngsters can also participate with the story telling by repeating the refrain of The Little Spotted Cat.

~~MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

## ***Honey in a Hive***

By Anne Rockwell

This is a book about bees and how they work together making honey and living in their hive. It has good information about bees and their hives. There are very good illustrations. It would be a good book for a child to use for a school report.

Recommended for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade in school libraries.

~~Angie Vavra, Lied Public Library, Pierce, NE

## ***Bad Boys***

By Margie Palatini

This is a funny book about two wolves, Wally and Willy. They are bad boys and very tricky, but they meet up with a herd of sheep that they can't trick. The story and illustrations are great. You'll laugh at the expressions on Wally and Willy's faces when they think they are being bad boys.

It is recommended for ages 6-9 in both public and school libraries.



~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

### ***Beegu***

By Alexis Deacon

A small three-eyed rabbit-like creature from another world crashes and is marooned on Earth. She thinks that she hears her mother calling, but it wasn't her. She tries to be friendly. No one seems to listen, until she finds some children at a playground. Will someone from her world find her?

Young children may identify with Beegu's feelings of being lost. This is a simple story with accompanying illustrations.

~~Claudette Wielechowski,  
North Platte, NE.

### ***Zoe Sophia's Scrapbook: An Adventure in Venice***

By Claudia Maurer & Elisa Smalley

Join a little girl and her great aunt on an adventurous trip in Venice, Italy. There is good detail about Italy and its traditions. It is both amusing and educational.

This book is recommended for ages 8-10 in both public and school libraries.

~~Angie Vavra, Lied Public Library, Pierce, NE

### ***A Camping Spree With Mr. Magee***

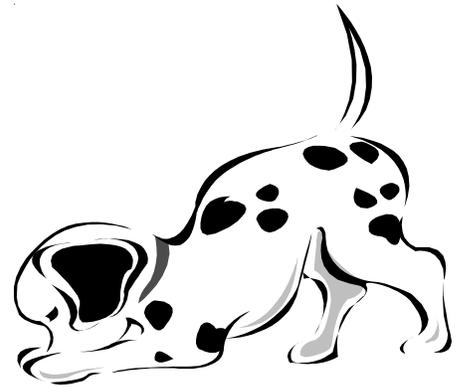
By Chris Van Dusen

Mr. Magee and his dog Dee go camping. A hungry bear with a

taste for marshmallows interrupts their camping trip by inadvertently causing their camper to careen down a hill and lodge on the edge of a 50 foot waterfall. The story is written in rhyme which gives the perfect lilt to this read aloud.

This book is recommended for Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in any library.

~~Latricia Olson, Randolph Public School



### **Dalmatian Cupcakes**

Yes, these cupcakes look like those famous spotted dogs. The chocolate cake has a hidden creamy filling and chocolate chip "spots."

2 packages (3 ounces each) cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

1 egg

1 1/2 cups miniature or regular semisweet chocolate chips

1 package Betty Crocker® SuperMoist® devil's food cake mix

1 1/3 cups water

1/3 cup vegetable oil

3 eggs

1 tub Betty Crocker® Rich & Creamy or Whipped vanilla ready-to-spread frosting

**1.** Heat oven to 350°F. Place paper baking cup in each of 24 regular-size muffin cups.

**2.** Beat cream cheese, sugar and 1 egg in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Stir in 1 cup of the chocolate chips; set aside.

**3.** Beat cake mix, water, oil and 3 eggs in large bowl on low speed 30 seconds. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes.

**4.** Divide batter among muffin cups (1/4 cup in each). Top each with 1 tablespoon cream cheese mixture.

**5.** Bake 21 to 26 minutes or until tops spring back when touched lightly. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Remove from pan; cool completely, about 30 minutes.

**6.** Frost tops with frosting. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate any remaining cupcakes.

How about a Dalmation-themed party? Serve cupcakes with chocolate chip ice cream, play 'pin the spot on the dog', and send kids home with a doggie bag full of dog-themed treats and prizes.



## **NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM**

March 15, 2006

The Northeast Library System Board met on March 15, 2006 at Central Community College-Columbus Campus in Columbus, Nebraska; Dee Johnson hosted. The meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Liedorff.

Board members present were: Ann Bachman, Lucy Cooper, Dee Johnson, Jolene Klein, Marilyn Liedorff, Linda Risinger, Sally Stahlecker, Luran Lofgren, Carol Becker, and Sharon Jones. Also in attendance: System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton and System Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, And Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission. Duane Munson was an approved alternate for Laurie Rehnstrom. Approval of minutes from the January meeting (MS: Munson, Becker); motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS:**

Financial: Shelia shared budgets as of March 8, 2006 - checking: 3,370.42; savings: 21,563.45; and CDs: 43,096.69.

A 15-month CD is due for renewal in April. It was approved that the board would have its budget committee select the new interest rate when the updated rates come out later this month (MS: Lofgren, Johnson) – roll call approved.

Winter workshop – total expenses for the workshop came in at 1,559.38

Motion to accept the report (MS: Risinger, Cooper). Roll call vote with unanimous approval.

Commission: Richard Miller reported on the following topics: Gates rural library sustainable workshop, Basic Skills – organization of materials, Disaster preparedness workshops, WebJunction online courses are available at no cost; the website to register is [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtrainingreg.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/libdevtrainingreg.html)– feedback should be directed to Pam Scott at the Commission. Digitization workshop will be held on July 17-18 in North Platte; \$10 fee includes lunch. Summer LTA course are Introduction to Children and Young Adult Services and Reference Services in Library and Information Environments. Continuing education and training grant applications will be available starting May 15 and due back by August 1, 2006. Call TBBS at 800.742.7691 or NLS office to get the new promotional poster for the Talking Book & Braille Service. NLC has an enhanced search option – the first icon on the left-hand side of the page. A new video list was created to help library staff with seeking professional development via video format. A Trustee continuing education reporting form can be found on the NLC Trustee page. For additional information on these topics and others please visit the Nebraska Library Commission's website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Administrator: Your system's administrator has been very active with library visits, attending and conducting workshops, the Winter Workshop in Norfolk, and other library related activities. Kathy has kept busy with preparations on the summer reading, the Really Good Library Group, a system technology plan, trustee manual revision, LSTA grant, and continues to work on the AccuCut directory.

### **Committee Reports:**

Personnel: No report

Budget: No report

Continuing Education: A number of wonderful training opportunities are available. Please check the system website or newsletter for a listing of events, dates, and locations.

Strategic Planning: No report

Nominating: Carol Becker and Jolene Klein will call library members to seek names for the nomination form for next year's board.

Technology: No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Kathy Jacobs, Director at South Sioux City Library, will give a presentation at the Library Leadership Institute later this year.

The Northeast Library System has a nice selection of periodicals that can be borrowed by member libraries. In reviewing titles, a motion was made to remove Library Journal from the System's list; it is costly and only being used by one or two libraries (MS: Johnson, Becker) motion carried. Several additional titles will be added to the selection.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sam's Club membership – a motion to approve a NELS subscription for basic membership to Sam's Club was made and approved by roll call vote.

Board meeting sites for the next year were discussed and some locations identified; Kathy will follow up with those site directors.

A start time of 10:30 AM was approved for the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting in Atkinson.

Claims of the day: motion to approve (MS: Lofgren, Klein) roll call vote with unanimous approval.

Next Board meeting is at Atkinson on May 17 at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dee Johnson



**Norfolk Literature Festival continued...**

TICKETS: Youth (18 & under): \$5.00/advance & \$7.00/door Adults: \$15.00/advance & \$20.00/door Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with full payment (make checks payable to "Norfolk Library Foundation—Literature Festival") to:

**Literature Festival  
Norfolk Public Library  
308 Prospect Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701**

**For more information, contact Karen Drevo at NPL by phone (402/844-2108) or e-mail: [kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us](mailto:kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us)**

**A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER DAY!**

**The Northeast Library System serves the following counties:  
Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota,  
Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,  
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"  
—Robin Williams

**Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>**



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