



# NCLS @ccess

North Country Library System - 22072 County Route 190 - Watertown, NY 13601 - [www.nclsweb.org](http://www.nclsweb.org)



May/June  
2010

*The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.*

~Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

## Public Library Districts

These are tough times for libraries. State funding has been cut. County funding has decreased in many areas or has, at best, remained flat. Municipalities are struggling in the current economic climate and libraries frequently suffer as a result. Yet the costs involved in operating a library continue to increase. In response, many libraries are turning to voters for additional support. Some use the school ballot referendum to accomplish this, while others are forming library districts.

**What is a public library district?** It is the establishment of the public library as an individual taxing district which allows the residents of the district to vote on the library's budget and elect its trustees.

**Why consider a public library district?** There are several reasons:

**Improved and predictable funding** - Statistical data show that libraries that have a public vote on their budgets and trustees are better funded than those that do not. Libraries funded by public vote tend to have a per-capita support that is twice that of libraries depending on appropriation. Once a budget is approved by the voters, the level cannot be decreased.

**Improved services** - Libraries that are well-funded are better able to meet the needs of their communities. Offering a range of customer-oriented services attracts more people to the library. As more people use the library, they are more likely to vote for increases in funding. It is a "cycle of success" all libraries should strive to achieve.

**Accountability** - Libraries that have their boards and trustees approved by public vote are more accountable to the public. Communities have a greater sense of ownership of the library. Taxpayers have direct control over the library's budget.

(Continued on p. 7)

## New York State Construction Grants

In March, New York State Librarian, Bernard Margolis, announced the recipients of the 2009 Construction Grant Awards. Eight NCLS member libraries applied for and received awards under the \$14 million application. Construction must begin within 180 days of the award letter. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2012. If you have any questions regarding your award, or if your library is interesting in applying for a grant, please contact Dawn Vincent at NCLS.

Congratulations to all recipients and good luck with your projects!

Library:	Grant Amount:	Library:	Grant Amount:
Canton Free Library	\$7,272	Ogdensburg Public Library	\$43,800
Carthage Free Library	\$311,472	Parish Public Library	\$8,175
Central Square Library	\$5,456	Bodman Memorial Library	\$20,888
William H. Bush Memorial Library	\$5,450	Potsdam Public Library	\$13,750

## NCLS Calendar of Events

[www.nclsweb.org/events](http://www.nclsweb.org/events)



### May

- 11th- Facebook and Libraries,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 14th- Facebook and Libraries,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NNYLN, Potsdam
- 17th- Get Your Game On!  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Meeting Room
- 18th- Care and Repair of Books,  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 19th- Care and Repair of Books,  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Potsdam Public Library
- 25th- NYS Construction Grant Workshop,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 28th NYS Construction Grant Workshop  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NNYLN, Potsdam
- 27th- NCLS Board of Trustees Meeting  
10:00 am, NCLS Board Room
- 31st- Memorial Day  
NCLS Closed - No Delivery

### June

- 1st- Utilizing the NCLS Web Template for Libraries,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 3rd- Genealogy Prime Including HeritageQuest Online,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 4th- Utilizing the NCLS Web Template for Libraries,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NNYLN, Potsdam
- 7th- Genealogy Prime Including HeritageQuest Online,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Pulaski Public Library
- 9th- Genealogy Prime Including HeritageQuest Online,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Reading Room Association of  
Gouverneur

## Calendar of Events Continued...

### June

- 10th- Genealogy Prime Including HeritageQuest  
Online, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Lyons Falls  
Library
- 11th- Round Table Discussions with Cookout,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 16th- What's the BIG Idea? Making Math and  
Science Come Alive for Children and  
Families, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm,  
NCLS Service Center
- 17th- Helping Homeschoolers in Your Library,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Lowville Free Library
- 18th- Helping Homeschoolers in Your Library,  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Reading Room  
Association of Gouverneur
- 22nd- Databases: NOVEL and Beyond  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 25th- Databases: NOVEL and Beyond  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NNYLN, Potsdam

## Art Literally

The third annual *Art Literally* exhibition will run from Monday, May 31st through Saturday, June 12th at Flower Memorial Library in Watertown.



The show consists of works donated by local artists and include paintings, sculptures and textile arts. New this year will be Roswell P. "Flower" pots, hand painted flower pots by some of the area's finest artists.

Artwork may be purchased at a Gala Art Sale to be held on Friday, June 4th, from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$75 per couple.

The event will benefit Flower Memorial Library and the American Red Cross of Northern New York. For more information contact Flower Memorial Library at 785-7705.

## Tip for Today

*Permanent Lists* in the e-Library (formerly iBistro, the public access catalog) is a catalog feature that many patrons may find useful. The *Permanent Lists* feature allows users to create lists of saved record items.

These lists are called “permanent” because they are retained between e-Library sessions.

Users must be logged into e-Library to create *Permanent Lists* or access them. At least one list must be created before a user can save an item.

Once a *Permanent List* has been created, users may add items by simply checking +*My List* from a Search Results hit list or from the Details display. Records are saved to the Currently Active List. Marked items can be unmarked by clicking -*My List*.

Items will remain on the list until the user removes them or they are purged automatically after a certain time interval of inactivity.

Permanent Lists may be helpful for tracking “Books I’ve Read” or for planning “Future Reads.”

## NCLS Welcomes New Staff



Meet Debbie Wilson, the latest person to join the NCLS family. She has been hired as the business manager and is set to take over when Linda Lawler retires later this year.

A native of the North Country, Debbie currently resides in Adams. She attended school at Carthage Central and Jefferson Community College. Prior to her position at NCLS, Debbie worked at Black River Generation for nearly 18 years.

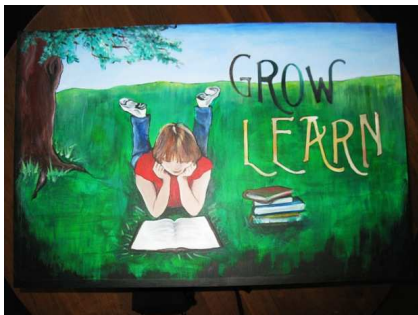
Debbie is very active and has a passion for golf. She enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and hunting, playing all kinds of games and spending time with her family.

Cross-stitch is another of Debbie’s hobbies, if she can slow down long enough to finish a project! She is a fan of romantic movies and her favorite books are the *Work and Glory* series. Sheri Dew is one of her favorite authors.

Welcome Debbie!

## NCLS WPBS Auction Chest

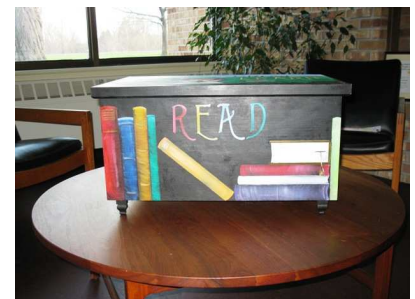
For the second year, NCLS member libraries very generously made donations of books, toys, games and activities to add to the WPBS Auction Treasure Chest. The chest design and artwork was completed by NCLS staff member, Paulette Roes. The chest raised \$600! Thank you to all who donated.



Artwork on lid



Chest overflowing with treasures



View from the side

## Member Library News

### Carthage:

Library Associate, Brenda Greenwood, has left Carthage Free Library to take a position at McEwen Library on Fort Drum. Brenda was with Carthage for more than ten years, first as a volunteer, then as a staff member. Best wishes to Brenda at her new job! Joining the staff as a new associate is Donna Barber. Donna has worked at the Library under the Experience Works program and as a substitute. Welcome, Donna!

### Central Square:

Join Central Square Library on Tuesday, May 18th, at 6:30 pm for a presentation by area psychic, Coleen Shaughnessy. Colleen's talk will be, *Developing Your Psychic Abilities*. She will not be doing readings that evening, but you may contact her through her web site at [www.coleenshaughnessy.com](http://www.coleenshaughnessy.com). You may also catch Colleen on HOT 107.9 with Marty & Shannon in the morning on the last Wednesday of each month from 8 am to 9 am, with call-ins. Admittance to this library event is free, but donations will be gladly accepted. Contact the library at 668-6104 for more information.

### Chaumont:

The Book Discussion Group meets at the library on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The Quilting Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. For more information on these and other programs, contact the library at 649-5454.

### Clayton:

Hawn Memorial Library welcomed new staff member, Susan Kelley, in November of 2009. A native of Pennsylvania, Susan has been a summer resident of the Thousand Islands since childhood. She decided to make the North Country her permanent home this past fall. Susan earned a BA in Art Education from Marywood University in Scranton. Susan wears many hats at Hawn. Her responsibilities include clerical duties, grant writing and she is the programming director. Welcome, Susan!

## Techie Teens Have Fun



The Rensselaer Falls Library Teens Group took an active part in learning more about computers by taking one apart to see how everything works.

Armed with screwdrivers and their wits, teens dismantled the entire computer right down to the inside of the power source.

After identifying the basic parts of the computer, including fans, memory, power, Internet and sound cards, and of course, the motherboard, the question became -- *how does all this computer stuff fit inside a Netbook?*

## FLLS Library Director to Retire



Karen Creenan will retire in early June after serving 10 years as Finger Lakes Library System Director. Many may remember that Karen

worked as a consultant for several years at NCLS before heading to the Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca. She was Assistant Library Director at the library for five years before moving next door to the library system.

A contingent of former North Country colleagues attended a retirement party held at the Tompkins County Public Library on May 6th to wish Karen well. She is looking forward to her retirement and has several travel plans in mind, beginning with a trip to Italy in September.

Pictured above from left are Joan Pellikka, Sandy Lamb, Karen, Steve Bolton and Mike Jeziorski.

Best wishes to Karen for happy, healthy retirement!

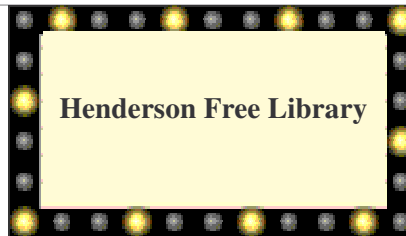
## Public Library Directors Honored

Library Directors, Vicky Brothers and Marcia Murray were recognized at the Norwood-Norfolk *Student of the Month* Assembly. Both women are active in promoting the importance of literacy with NNCS students. Their assistance has benefited many children and families in the community and their efforts are truly appreciated.

Pictured from left are Vicky Brothers, Director of Hepburn Library of Norfolk, and Marcia Murray, Director of Norwood Library. Congratulations and well done!



*Room for relaxation*



Henderson Free Library sits next to a lovely brook right in the center of town. It is run under the direction of the very capable and delightful Cheryl Shutts, who has served as director for 25 years.

While the library has been serving the community since 1922, it has been Cheryl who has been so instrumental in helping it evolve into the gem it is today. Technology has always been a priority for the library, which was one of the first of the smaller libraries to provide a public access computer with no grants or other outside assistance. The library has also moved to an automated circulation system.

The library has the great fortune of sharing building space with the Henderson Fire Department. There is plenty of room for programming activities such as the recent visit from poet, Michael Czarnecki, and zumba classes that began in April. The library partners with other groups as well and is working to bring authors to *Art in the Park* on July 27th where the library will also hold its annual quilt show.

Children's programming and resources also receive a lot of attention at the library. Along with many programs offered throughout the year, the library has created a basket of activity packets to keep kids occupied either during their library visit or at home.

Henderson Free Library is constantly working to improve services to its community and clearly it shows.



*At right, Library Director, Cheryl Shutts with her assistant, Stephanie Race*



*Public access computers sit on beautifully crafted oak tables built by Gary Shutts*



*New books on display at front of library with comfortable seating*



*Children's corner*



*Large table for board meetings and other groups*

## Carthage Free Library Capital Campaign Kick-Off



*Pictured from left, Camelia Moses, Maria Roche, Larry Hasseler and Gino Zando*

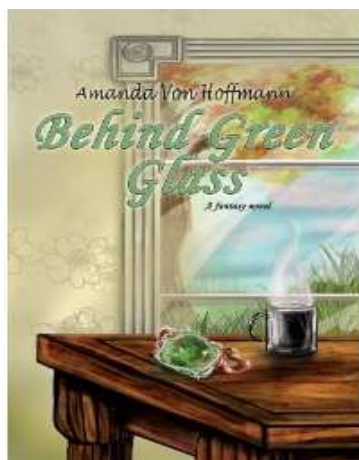
Carthage Free Library kicked off its Capital Campaign with a grand celebration on May 5th. The library is embarking on a renovation and expansion project to better meet the community's growing needs.

Library Director, Linda McCullough, welcomed the group of more than 70, which included Representative Gino Zando of the Jefferson County Legislature. Library Board President, Camelia Moses, introduced the project, explaining how it will benefit the community. Building plans were on display for public viewing.

Campaign Co-Chair, Larry Hasseler, introduced the Campaign Steering Committee and emphasized the need for community support and involvement in this endeavor. Campaign Co-Chair, Maria Roche, announced that nearly half of the library's goal of \$1.1 million has already been raised and cited Slack Chemical, the Hirschey Family and Carthage Federal Savings and Loan as Leadership Donors.

The weather was absolutely lovely and the refreshments fabulous. The evening was perfect as Carthage Free Library moves forward in its effort to begin building new traditions.

## New YA Book For Your Consideration



*Behind Green Glass* is the debut novel from Amanda Von Hoffmann. The book is a fairytale, something not commonly seen in YA literature. YAReads.com describes it as "an engaging and captivating story."

From the Product Description at Amazon... "Isolde is a shy and artistic sixteen-year-old who moves into a house rumored to be haunted. When she discovers a shard of green glass, a new world opens for her. Through the glass she sees Lyric, who mistakenly believes that he is a ghost, and other ethereally beautiful creatures. As their mystery unfolds, Isolde learns that they are not ghosts, but The Forgotten Ones, fairies cast out of their realm, labeled imperfect for their physical and mental differences. Isolde's friendship with Lyric and The Forgotten Ones teaches her that sometimes our imperfections can also be our greatest strengths."

The author is well known to many of us in the NCLS community; she is Canton Free Library's own Amanda Jones, Circulation Supervisor!

## Potential Problem?



Now that Easter is over many libraries, such as Canton Free Library pictured here, have experienced an influx of peeps. As seen at left, they often travel in large groups. While most peeps are cooperative and well behaved, there are those who are defiant and flagrantly ignore library rules. While they can be a challenge, be tolerant.

Welcome peeps into your libraries. Remember, they are future taxpayers. They need our understanding... and sometimes our protection. In fact, shortly after these photos were taken, a group of hungry teens devoured the peeps!

For more on library peeps, visit the Canton Free Library Facebook.



## **Library Districts** (continued from p. 1)

Simplified funding - A public vote on the library budget provides a simplified funding stream. It reduces the need to obtain funding from multiple sources such as villages, towns, school districts, etc.

Increased autonomy - Library boards elected by the public have more control over library operations than those appointed by town or village boards. The library becomes completely autonomous and separate from the town or village government.

Elimination of “unserved” populations - Creating a library district provides an opportunity to increase the library’s boundaries, more accurately reflecting service areas. There are often people who live outside the chartered service area of any library, pay little if any taxes, yet enjoy the library and its services. Formation of a library district may eliminate or reduce these pockets of “unserved” populations.

Bonding authority - Boards of certain public library districts have the ability to place bonding propositions on the ballot for capital projects, enhancing the ability of libraries to expand, renovate and improve facilities.

### **What are other issues to consider when forming a library district?**

The library may be taken off of the municipality’s tax roles, but people may question the addition of a new tax.

Money for legal fees must be budgeted.

Trustees must be elected.

Civil service may be required and the library may need to assume functions currently provided by municipality.

State minimum standards may be higher due to increased population.

The library board must be unanimous and enthusiastic in their support in this process.

### **What types of library districts are there?** The two most common are:

School District Public Library - This serves the residents of a single school district. It is created by school district voters and uses the same boundaries as the school district. The library operates independently and the school district collects the taxes.

Special Legislative District Public Library - State legislation authorizes local election to establish and fund a new library. The legislation specifies the service area and election process. Boundaries of the library are freely drawn to more accurately reflect user base. The library is separate from any municipality and has the ability to bond for capital projects.

### **Are any NLCS member libraries district libraries?**

Oswego Public School District Public Library and Potsdam Public Library are both school district public libraries.

*In the next issue, more questions answered on public library districts.  
Plus, hear from those who have been through the process.*

## North Country Storywalk Project



*NCLS staff members promoting North Country Storywalk*

Twenty-nine NCLS member libraries are participating in *Reading is Recreation*, a North Country Storywalk Project. StoryWalk™ is a program developed by the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition in 2007. It consists of a children's book taken apart and laminated page-by-page, then placed along a walking trail.

Storywalks help families and children connect to literature and their environment. The *Reading is Recreation* project will take place at 29 sites throughout the NCLS service area.

NCLS promoted *Reading is Recreation* at the American Heart Association Heart Walk held on April 24th in Watertown. Gift baskets with a recreation theme were raffled off. Several NCLS staff members participated in the Heart Walk, raising money for the Heart Association.



*Adams Free Library patron was the winner of the girl's gift basket*

NCLS is partnering with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Kripalu Yoga and Wellness Center to offer these storywalks. The project is partially funded by a Special Legislative Grant from the NYS Assembly. For more information contact Emily Owen at NCLS.



*NCLS staffers participate*



*Gordon Cronk and family on the move at the Heart Walk*

If your library has newsworthy information to share in *NCLS Access*, please contact Joan Pellikka at NCLS: 782-5540 or [jpellikka@ncls.org](mailto:jpellikka@ncls.org)

## Automation Update

Thirty-four NCLS member libraries are now fully automated and that number is growing!

The following libraries are currently barcoding their collections and preparing to automate using the SIRSI circulation system:

Central Square Library  
Croghan Free Library  
Harrisville Free Library  
Williamstown Library

Phoenix Public Library is planning to start the automation process later this Spring.

If your library is interested in automation, please contact your Consultant at NCLS.

