



Chapbook...

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Quarterly Journal of the Children's Services Section
North Carolina Library Association

Message from the Chair by Loree Kelly

Manager of the Fletcher Branch of the Henderson County Public Library

Hello Chapbook Readers,

I attended my first North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Executive Board Meeting as the Children's Services Section (CSS) Chair on January 27, 2006. The meeting was held in Raleigh at the newly renovated Cameron Village Regional Library. What a beautiful facility! This library is a bright, open, two-story facility. There's a huge computer lab area on the second floor, great teen spaces with café tables, drink and snack machines, and a spacious children's section. If you're in the Cameron Village area of Raleigh, treat yourself to a tour of this library.

I want to share with you the four goals that our new NCLA President, Robert Burgin, Associate Dean and Professor at North Carolina Central University, outlined at this first Executive Board meeting of the 2005-2007 biennium.

1. Increase membership in NCLA by 15%.
2. Balance the budget and restore financial stability to NCLA.
3. Find out what members value from membership in NCLA and why nonmembers don't join.
4. Tighten procedures. (Chairs of sections, roundtables, and committees need to submit reports on time).

President Burgin also stated that recruiting new members to NCLA is the responsibility of each member, section and/or roundtable of NCLA. So as CSS Chair I am taking this opportunity to appeal to everyone reading this message to join NCLA if you are not a member and choose CSS as a free section if you're interested in children's library services. If you have let your membership lapse, please rejoin! And if you are a member of NCLA and CSS, please encourage nonmembers to join. We currently have only 129 members in the Children's Services Section so I know there are many more potential members out there! With your

membership in NCLA you get subscriptions to *North Carolina Libraries* and *Tar Heel Libraries*. You get reduced rates for workshops, conferences, continuing education and NCLA listserv membership. And you are connected to a group of people as interested in children's library services as you are. I believe it's important for all of us who value or work in libraries to support the state association dedicated to promoting libraries and library services that we believe are so vital to our communities. If we don't support NCLA, who will? Strong membership in NCLA reflects and confirms our belief that libraries are valuable as well as the work we do. To join, go to www.nclaonline.org and click on **Join Us** (at the top of the screen) and then click on **Membership**. Support NCLA and CSS today!

Chapbook...

....Quarterly Journal of the NCLA/Children's Services Section

The mission of Chapbook is to inform those involved in Children's Library Services about:

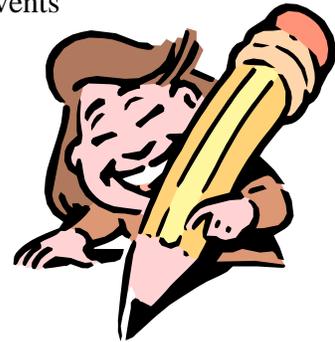
- Statewide trends in Youth Services
- Workshops for professional development
- Successful programs and upcoming events

From the Editor.....

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook; to share your tried and true special programs, or interesting projects, or upcoming events whereby all readers may be informed or even motivated to try something new. There is no deadline.

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Spotlight on North Carolina Children's Book Award

by Sally Baron, NCCBA Co-chair

Overview

The North Carolina Children's Book Award (NCCBA) is a children's choice award. Each year, North Carolina children nominate the titles, and vote to select the winners. The main goal of the program is to expose children to quality contemporary books and to excite children by involving them in the nominating and voting procedure for their favorites. A committee of NC librarians assists the program by fine tuning the final lists of nominations. There are two categories: Picture Book and Junior Book. The picture book list includes 15-20 titles suitable for children in grades K-3. The junior book list includes 10-20 titles and is aimed at children in grades 4-6. Voting always begins March 1st and continues throughout March. The winners are announced during National Library Week in April.

Guidelines for Participation

- Children vote during the month of March from the list of nominated books.
- Children must be *exposed to* at least 5 titles in their category (Picture or Junior) before voting.
- Qualified voters may vote once at their school library and once at their public library.
- Voters may cast a vote in each category (Picture and Junior) if they have met the 5-book minimum requirement.
- Preschoolers are permitted to vote at the public library.
- Have fun with it!
- Don't get too hung up on the rules!

Who Sponsors the Program?

NCLA's own Children's Services Section (CSS) and the Association of School Librarians (ASL) along with the North Carolina School Library Media Association (NCSLMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), sponsor the NCCBA program. The money is used primarily to purchase awards and NC pottery for the winning authors and illustrators and for travel expenses should an author accept an invitation to one of the sponsor's conferences.

How Does the Committee Select the Final Book Lists?

A committee of NC public and school librarians narrows down the nominated titles to the two manageable, yet well balanced lists. Here's how we do it:

Step 1—Receive nominations

- School and public librarians encourage children to nominate their favorite books by supplying nomination forms or instructing children to use the online nomination form provided at www.bookhive.org/nccba.

Each year year an average of 250 nominations come to committee chairs by Bookhive, email, fax or snail mail.

Step 2—Easy elimination of some titles

- The committee chairs eliminate titles older than 3 years. Nominations for the 2007 award, for example, should be titles published in 2004 or later. Next, we eliminate titles that are very "commercial" or "too widely known". The idea here is that children are going to read them anyway. This program prefers to expose

children to a broader variety of quality literature that is new and hopefully as exciting for them as the trendy stuff. And finally, we eliminate anything that is poorly reviewed or otherwise not suitable for purchase.

Step 3—Email List of Nominations with Reviews to Committee Members

- The committee members are emailed the remaining nominations in April with reviews and are expected to read as many of the books as time permits before our first formal committee meeting in May.

Step 4—The May Book Selection Meeting

- Each year committee members take turns hosting the selection meeting the first Saturday in May. This year the May meeting will be held in Walkertown, NC. The 40-50 members bring as many copies of the nominated books as possible for all to review. During a well-honed procedure, members are asked to narrow down each category list to their top 40 choices considering a variety of reading/audience levels, genres, curriculum areas, and cultures. Anything with NC ties (author or setting) is also strongly considered. We continue by considering only the common favorites from the Members' Top 40 Lists, which usually means about 35-50 books. The 35 to 50 books are then displayed and the group evaluates for balance. We repeat this voting process twice, each time decreasing the number of favorites members may choose. Once satisfied with the list, we select 2 or 3 alternates in case a title or two are out of stock or out of print.

How Can I Promote the Program at My Library?

Each year, the NCCBA committee puts together an activity booklet where teachers and library staff can find the program guidelines, promotional ideas, lessons, activities, games, and lists of related books. The activity booklet can be found at www.bookhive.org/nccba. Check it out!

How Can I Collaborate with the School Media Specialists?

This program is the ultimate collaboration. Allowing votes in both locations fosters the collaboration and strengthens the goals of the program.

Try this:

- Offer to visit the school and present a story time (Elementary)
- Offer to visit and book talk a few junior books
- Work with the local media specialist(s) to organize a kickoff event at the public library, "Meet the Candidates"
- PR--Try to get info about public library NCCBA displays, programs and voting opportunities in local schools through PTA newsletters, web links, bulletin boards, fliers
- Encourage the school to feature a guest reader each week on Closed Circuit TV and offer to be a guest

How Can My Library Register for Voting?

One person per library or library system should assume responsibility for collecting votes. That person should complete the simple online registration form at

www.bookhive.org/nccba where they will be asked to provide an email address for future correspondence and voting procedures.

Timeline

July-August	Order books. Register your library at www.bookhive.org/nccba Prepare story times and programs.
July-March	Read books and share with children. Implement various activities. Introduce the program to teachers and librarians. Encourage teachers to read books aloud to children. Promote the NCCBA Program at meetings, classes, programs, etc. Introduce children to other new books that fit the criteria for the next year's program. Have students fill out nomination forms.
Sept.-Oct.	Attend NCSLMA and NCLA conferences to see winning authors and attend book talk sessions.
January	Make final plans for voting activities.
February	Finish sharing books. Send nominations for next year's consideration list.
March 1st	Nominations due for next year's consideration list. Send in nominations to Bookhive web site or by regular mail.
March	Review books. Vote and send in totals for EACH title by March 31. Students may vote once in Picture Book AND Junior Book categories if they have read the proper number of books in both categories. Students may also vote once at the public library. You may send in vote totals by snail mail, e-mail, fax, or bookhive. Send vote totals only once. Library and school systems may send vote totals as a system. Be careful not to duplicate individual library totals if you voted online at Bookhive.
April	Winner is announced during National Library Week & posted to websites and professional publications. Have a celebration party in your library. Place NCCBA seals on the covers of winning titles.
May	Nominated titles are set by the end of the month and posted to web sites.

How Can I Join the Committee?

Contact one or both of the North Carolina Children's Book Award Committee Co-Chairs:

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Raleigh, N.C. 27615
email: sbaron@co.wake.nc.us

PH: 919-870-4018 (w)

919-554-1289 (h)
919-870-4007(fax)

Or

Lisa Tucker
Middle Fork Elementary School
336-748-4090
3125 Williston Road
Walkertown, NC 27051
email: fooster5@aol.com

Fond Farewell to long time NCCBA chair, Jackie Pierson

Last but not least, the NCCBA committee would like to thank co-chair, Jackie Pierson, for her commitment to this program. Representing the school media sector, Jackie contributed greatly to making this program the success it is today. This year, Jackie relinquished her position on this committee to further her involvement on the NCSLMA board. Farewell to an inspirational librarian and a natural leader!

Caught in the Act: FCPL's Bookmark-eteering Scheme

by

Lara A. Luck

Forsyth County Public Library

Winston-Salem, NC

It's hard to find good programs that work as collaborative efforts, and it's even harder to find ones that pass the test of time. Forsyth County Public Library's **Annual Bookmark Contest** has done both. For over 20 years, the Library has held an annual bookmark contest for all ages to find original artwork and ideas that promote reading. While any youth from preschool age up to 12th grade can enter, the Library reaches a much wider audience by working with teachers and school media specialists to get students involved.

In 1982, FCPL held a "Design A Bookmark" contest, and while it was not the first program of this type the Library had organized, this one was so popular it became an annual tradition. Although we now call it the **Annual Bookmark Contest**, the contest itself has changed very little over the past few decades. In fact the winners' luncheon is still held in the Library's auditorium much the same way it was held way back then. The major change has been in participation which increases almost every year. The 1985 "Design A Bookmark" contest had almost 1000 entries with 33 overall winners. In 2005, there were over 5000 entries with 65 overall winners. I know what you're thinking, this kind of program must be hard to put together, but as I'll explain, once you get it started, it runs very smoothly each year. The hardest part is judging all of the wonderful bookmarks you'll get.



Standing Room Only at the 2005 Bookmark Luncheon

The process is fairly simple. You'll start with an entry form (see the last page for an example) which you can distribute to all of the area schools with an accompanying letter of explanation. (Just make sure you go through the proper channels for this because most school systems need to approve "promotional materials" first.) In the past, we have tried giving them to teachers and school librarians, but now it is more convenient to ask the school media specialists to contact appropriate classes. In fact, there are now several teachers who work this contest into their curriculum every year. Participants have a month to return the forms to the library. We also have entry forms on hand at all library locations, and encourage preschool parents to get involved at story times and other programs.



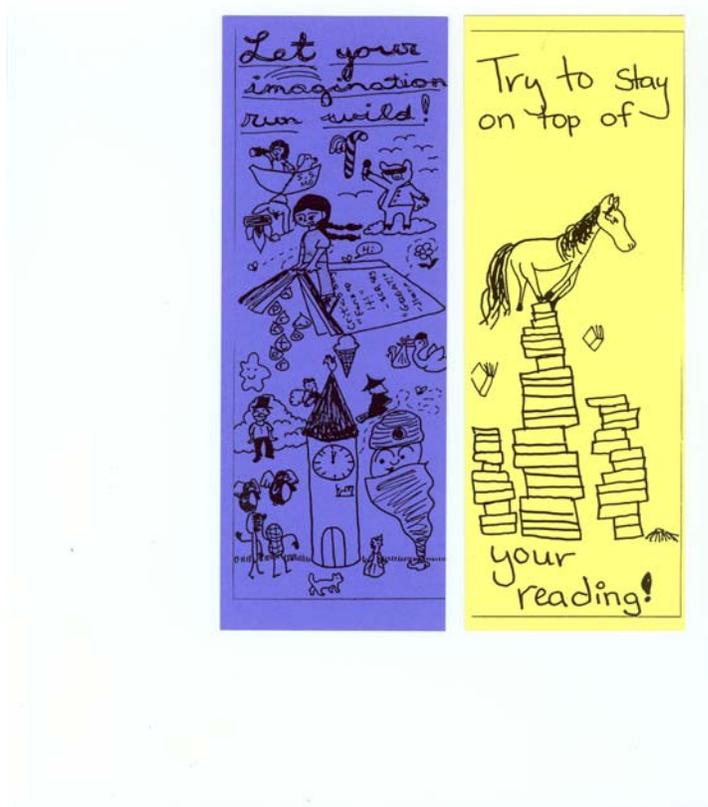
A Preschooler Winner Attending the 2005 Luncheon

It isn't until after the submissions are received that the real challenge begins. A small committee has to go through all of the great entries we receive to find those that stand out from the rest. Bookmarks are judged on their originality, creativity, and artwork as well as their effectiveness at promoting reading. Here is an area where you can be a little creative and introduce a yearly theme, maybe tie-in to your Summer Reading program, or introduce your own topic. For the last ten years or so FCPL has held its luncheon celebration during National Children's Book Week as another promotional connection to reading.

The next step is to notify the winners. The easiest way to do this is to send the schools a list to let them know which of their students have won ,or to send a letter to the child at home if they did not enter through school. An invitation to the winners' luncheon is included in the notification letter, so make sure this is set up well ahead of time. One thing to keep in mind is that the process is much easier if you have documentation, such as entry forms, letters of explanation and winners' notification letters, prepared ahead of time. Then all you have to do is fill them in and send them out.

While the winners are being notified, you'll want to make arrangements to have the bookmarks printed out as soon as possible. We like to make sure the bookmarks are ready for distribution for the big event at the celebratory luncheon. Make sure the back gives information about the bookmark designer; also, we include their name, age, grade and school. Most of these young designers get a big kick out of seeing their names in print.

Bookmark Winners



Finally, the program itself ends with the winners' luncheon. This event is one of the "prizes" for the children's efforts. The other is having their bookmarks published and distributed throughout the library system. For one thing, the winners get to attend the program during school hours, a big plus in their eyes! They get to invite guests plus their school media coordinator and teacher. During the luncheon, the bookmarks are shown, the winners acknowledged, and then they are presented with a pack of their bookmarks (several laminated) to give to family and friends.

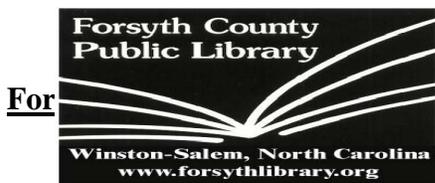
A guest speaker can enliven things up a bit; especially, someone the kids look up to like the fire chief or a TV personality. Then the Library provides lunch (pizza and juice are a big hit) and everyone goes home happy! Remember, the important thing is to plan out what you will do to acknowledge the winners' accomplishments. Make it special so that they tell everyone about it and word of the annual contest **will** spread.



Author and News Anchor Cameron Kent Speaks at 2005 Bookmark Luncheon

One of the best things about this program is the opportunity it gives the Library to market itself to both the school system and the youth in our county. However, the bookmarks are really a great way to promote FCPL with everyone. We can measure this success by the fact that Library staff answers questions year round about this contest. The bookmarks are put out all year long for as long as they last. Kids go through batches of bookmarks to find their favorite ones or to find the one that their friend Johnny or Janie designed. Adults grab them because they are cute or interesting, or to give to their own children. These bookmarks reach many people on so many different levels and it all serves to market your organization.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that this activity gives children a chance to be creative and have fun. Sometimes we focus too much on programming and statistics and forget that the point is to provide our users with what they need. And what does a child want most but to be able to be a child and have fun?



2005 BOOKMARK CONTEST

Youth of all ages are invited to design a bookmark. Our judges will choose several designs from each grade or preschool age group. Winning bookmarks will be printed and distributed at all Forsyth County Public Libraries.

Winning artists and their parents and their school media specialists or teachers will be invited to a special celebration at the Central Library in November to receive the first copies of their winning bookmarks.

IMPORTANT RULES OF THE CONTEST

1. Design your bookmark in the space at right. It can be vertical or horizontal. Marks outside the box cannot be printed, and the box itself will not be printed. You **MUST** use this form.
2. Use **BLACK** marker, pen, or pencil **ONLY**. Marker and pen work best. No colored markers, crayons, etc. Colored entries will be disqualified.
3. Use *your own* artwork. Obvious tracings will not be accepted.
4. Spell your words right! A misspelled word disqualifies your bookmark.
5. Please **PRINT** the information below. We need **ALL** this information if your bookmark is a winner.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____, NC ZIP _____

PHONE _____ AGE _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____

Take your completed entry form to any location of Forsyth County Public Library. **THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Judges are looking for original and creative ideas. You might:

- Illustrate an original slogan about reading or books.
- Draw something from a favorite book or a favorite subject.
- Illustrate why you like the library.
- USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

You may enter as many designs as you like. Copies of this form are available at any Forsyth County Public Library, or you may photocopy this form. Winners will be notified by November 1.

2005 Bookmark Contest Form

Rug Concerts at the Hickory Public Library

By Hannah Owen
Youth Services Librarian



Perfect manners and formal dress are not required at “Rug Concerts” at the Hickory Public Library. The goal is to acquaint children to classical music in an informal, child-friendly atmosphere. For many children, these concerts are their only connection to classical music

The main library serendipitously “lives” next door to the offices of the Western Piedmont Symphony. As the result of several grants (which I helped write) from Chamber Music America, the symphony has had resident string quartets with young, enthusiastic, and outgoing musicians. Every year we put our heads together to come up with ideas on how to connect young children with classical music.

For Dr. Seuss’ birthday the cello player wrote a hilarious story in the style of Dr. Seuss to introduce the different instruments. This Valentine’s Day a local couple dressed in elegant evening clothes demonstrated the waltz and the tango while the quartet played. The children then were invited to get up and dance to the music. We all had a great time.

We have used costumes, rhythm instruments, scarves, etc. to help the children experience the music. The children have drawn with crayons to express their feelings while listening. We have sung “Row Row Row Your Boat” and then listened to Pachelbel’s “Canon in D” to learn about rounds.

Parents tell me that the rug concerts are what made their children interested in learning to play an instrument. If you have a local symphony orchestra near your town, please investigate starting a very worthwhile partnership.



OPEN MIC NIGHTS AT THE HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Tina Stepp, Youth Services Coordinator

OPEN MIC NIGHTS has evolved into a very successful teen program at the Henderson County Public Library. This program began about two years ago at the Main Library in downtown Hendersonville. It started when our former Youth Services Coordinator talked to members of the marching band at one of the local high schools to get the names of a few teen bands that might be interested in playing at the library. A couple of bands agreed to play and this program slowly took off. It is now **the** place for teens to be on the third Tuesday (soon to be Friday) of each month!

For the past two years, the program has been held on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. But because attendance has grown so large over the past year (220 teens attended the program on February 21) and the noise level of the program gets very loud, I am changing the program to the third Friday of each month beginning in March. The library closes at 6 p.m. on Fridays but we will keep our large auditorium (where the program is held) and the library lobby, open until 8:30 p.m.

I schedule no more than 3 bands per program. One band, the "featured band", is paid \$100.00 from Friends of the Library money. The featured band usually brings another teen band or two to play that night but they do not get paid. These additional bands are usually very happy just to get the opportunity to play to a large, enthusiastic teen crowd and could very well be a featured band at a future program.

Most of the teen bands write their own music and lyrics. I set up chairs only around the perimeter of the room to accommodate the big teen crowd that shows up. Attendance

has consistently reached close to 200 or more over the past year. I serve chips and cookies and have a Gatorade cooler that I fill up with lemonade or punch. Refreshments are also bought with Friends money. Dancing is allowed but most teens stand around the auditorium socializing with their friends and listening to the bands.

I now have teen bands that call or email me to ask if they can play at **OPEN MIC NIGHT**. This kind of program is a great way to get teens into the library and talking to you. It's a great way to make the library a regular, important place to go for the teens in your town. And it provides a wonderful venue for teen bands to express themselves creatively. If you have a large meeting room at your library, consider having an **OPEN MIC NIGHT**. It has proven to be a win-win situation here for our library and our teens.

<p>CSS Executive Board 2005-2007 Biennium</p>
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