



BENZONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

News From the Top of the Hill

Volume 8, Issue 1, Winter 2013

Coming Soon—Authors Talks of Benzie County

Darcy Library and Benzonia Library are coming together on a new endeavor—a series of author presentations. From June to October, regional authors will be interviewed by guest hosts. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from recognized (and perhaps some new) authors, journalists, and story-tellers—without leaving Benzie County.

The Friends organizations of both libraries have committed financial support to assist with stipends for

visiting authors and promotional costs. Other sponsors are being sought, and free will donations will be requested at the door—but everyone is welcome! The programs will be held at Darcy Library unless additional space is needed.

Mark Your Calendar

On **Friday, June 14** mystery writer, Bryan Gruley, comes to Beulah. Gruley is author of *Starvation Lake: A Mystery*, *The Hanging Tree*, and *The Skeleton Box*. He lives in Chicago and is reporter-at-large for Bloomberg News and worked for over 15 years with The Wall Street Journal.

Mardi Link includes Benzie County in the introduction of her new book, *Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm* on **July 19**. Link is known for her true crime

books based in Michigan, *When Evil Came to Good Hart* and *Isadore's Secret* and writes a column for the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

On **August 9**, Heather Shumaker will share her philosophy of “letting kids be kids.” Shumaker’s book, *It’s OK to Not Share & Other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent & Compassionate Kids*, has been on the Northwestern Michigan bestseller list for several months.

A pre-Halloween program is scheduled on **Friday, October 4**, with three authors who contributed short stories to *Ghost Stories: Us Haunting You*. Joining us on Friday, **October 4**, are Keith Taylor, editor of the book; Anne-Marie Oomen of Interlochen Center for the Arts; and Elizabeth Schmuhl.

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LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday & Wednesday

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Murder in the Library—Again?

Murder in the library...Rescheduled to April! Friends of Benzonia Public Library will be having fun with a fund-raiser Murder Mystery Event on Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m. at the library.

"Murder at Gooseneck Lake" has 10 suspects (played by members of the Benzie County community). When the corpse of Stella R. Skoop, the notorious, award-winning journalist, is found during a private party in the small Maine community of Gooseneck Lake, it's up to you and your teammates to solve the murder using the clues provided by the Detective.



The suspects seem mostly harmless. But are they? During the Event, they will interact with the audience and drop clues which the audience uses to vote on whodunit. The program is improvisational and very interactive; it is *not* a play performed on stage in front of a quiet audience.

Was it Geri N. Benz [Meredith McNabb], the “Dairy Princess of Vermont” and businesswoman? Was it Aulden Vintidge [Andy Mollama], a painter who is much-admired for his sentimental portrayals of American life past and present? Or one of the other suspicious characters?

Tickets will be available starting in April by calling the library at 231-882-4111. Tickets must be obtained in advance and will NOT be available at the door. The requested donation is \$20 per person attending. Space is limited so that everyone gets to chat with the suspects. The audience will be divided into teams, so sign up with friends if you want to be on the same team. You will be given (by email or at the library) a short biography of the suspects.

It's fun to participate even if you don't crack the case!

Light refreshments will be served.

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891 Michigan Avenue
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P.O. Box 445
Benzonia, MI 49616
Phone: 231-882-4111
www.benzonia.lib.mi.us

(Author Talks, continued from page 1)

Working Together

Bringing a sense of community to the pastime of reading is the goal behind this joint effort. By joining resources and patrons, we want to improve the quality and frequency of programs and bring authors "up close and personal." We also want to explore different genres and encourage reading of new books.

Your recommendations on potential authors or guest interviewers are welcome. If you are interested in helping with the presentations or have questions, contact Sara Boven, director of Benzonian Library at bovens@benzonian.lib.mi.us; Heather Doran, director of Darcy Library at (231) 882-4037 or ; or Leah Serrine, Darcy board member, at lserrine@sbcglobal.net.

Show your Support-Join the Friends

During the past year the Friends of Benzonian Public Library fundraising activities included: a Strawberry Social, a Used Book Sale, a Used Jigsaw Puzzle, a Holiday Book Sale, and the Ongoing Book Sale in the library. These events were not only fun, they were also lucrative bringing in \$3,563.27. Membership dues generated an additional \$635.00. Plans for 2013 include the Murder Mystery in addition to the events listed above.

Friends efforts helped the Benzonian Public Library obtain 3 Kindle eReaders for loaning; expand the Children's collection through a Libri Grant match; pay for a Michigan State Computer Grant match; contribute toward the Author Program; assist with staff training expenses; print newsletters; support the Summer Reading Program; and pay for a variety of other needed items. Library support totaled \$2,991.48. For 2013 the Friends have already dedicated \$300 to the Author Program and \$500 toward Youth Services AV & Tech materials.

Friends' membership dues, donations, and fundraising proceeds support programs and gifts to the Library. Your support makes that possible. If you have not already joined or renewed your membership for 2013, applications are available at the library or on the website at www.benzonia.lib.mi.us

The Friends of Benzonian Public Library meet the third Monday of each month at 10 AM in the library. Please join us as we strive to enhance our library.

Happy 8th Anniversary to MeLcat

Melcat celebrated it's 8th Anniversary last month. The shared statewide catalog & interloan service of the Michigan eLibrary has become an indispensable library service for all Michigan residents, another great testament to the DNA of libraries to collaborate for the common good. Kudos to the Library of Michigan and MCLS! Visit www.benzonia.lib.mi.us/ & select MeL then MeLcat to check out this wonderful resource.



Volunteer Paul Michalek works two mornings a week sending out MeLcat requests.

Benzonia Public Library Board of Directors

The Library is governed by a six member Board of Directors. The new contract between the libraries and the Township requires that four members be elected by the township electorate, one appointed by the township & one appointed by the village. There is a preset rotation to be followed to assure there would be no more than two new members in any cycle.

However, due to filling of vacancies in the past, four of the six positions needed to be filled this past November. Three of the four choose not to seek reelection. This led to an effort to find candidates who would represent diverse areas of the township. We feel we have done quite well.

Current Board members, their board positions and street addresses are:

Genny Bowman, Trustee
Orchard Hill Road, Beulah,
Helen Dewey, Secretary
Crystal Drive, Beulah
Paula Lake, Vice-chair
Deadstream Road, Honor
Roxane Miner, Chair
Walker Street, Benzonian
Mary Peters, Treasurer
Homestead Road, Benzonian,
Helen Scott, Trustee
Traverse Avenue, Benzonian

Miner and Scott are "hold-overs" from the previous Board. Genny Bowman was appointed in March 2012 to fill a vacancy.

If you have questions or concerns relating to the Library, please call a Board member. The Library (882-4111) can provide phone numbers. Or bring your concerns to a Board meeting. All meetings are open to the public. They are held at the Library on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:30 am. As your representatives on the library Board, we appreciate and value your support as we strive to improve the library and its services.