Dear Fellow Book Lovers,

As president of the Friends of Pickens Library, there is nothing quite like the feeling of stepping into our library. It is a treasure trove of knowledge, a haven for quiet contemplation, and a vibrant hub for our community that enriches the lives of everyone in Pickens County. Here, a love of learning flourishes for all ages, from curious youngsters to seasoned readers.

That is why I am reaching out today to invite you to join us, the Friends of Pickens Library. Your membership, whether you are a longtime supporter, or just discovering the library’s magic, is vital. It allows us to continue fostering these wonderful resources and events that make the library so special.

Here is why your membership matters:

• **Exclusive updates**: Be the first to know about exciting upcoming events, book sales, and author talks! We will keep you informed through our member email list.
• **Direct impact**: Your contribution directly supports the programs and resources that make our library a cornerstone of Pickens County.
• **Community of readers**: Connect with other passionate individuals who share your love for reading and lifelong learning.

Beyond membership, the library offers even more!

• **Bargain hunters, rejoice**: We have a fantastic book sale area right inside the library, with many treasures at unbeatable prices! For your convenience, we have a self-serve payment area that accepts credit cards, cash, and checks.
• **Little Free Library**: Our Little Free Library at the Pickens County Administrative building is a vibrant exchange of books for all ages. Stop by, take a book (or two!), and leave some of your own to share the love of reading.

**Ready to join our community of book lovers?** Visit our website at [https://friendsofpickenslibrary.org/](https://friendsofpickenslibrary.org/) to learn more and become a member today!

Together, we can keep the magic alive at Pickens County Library.

Kindest Regards,

Brent Turbeville

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**Mystery Letters on the Outdoor Statue**

By Carol Hagadorn

Our outdoor parking area is graced by a lovely marble statue by Bill Sunderland. In January of 2018, I wrote an article about the statue, the sculptor’s generous donation to the people of Pickens County, and how the stature came to be placed in front of the Pickens Library. On a recent trip to the library, I decided to revisit the “Learning is Fun” statue for some additional close-up photos. Nearing the end of the photo shoot with my very cooperative model, I spied a small carved turtle with random letters carved into its “shell.” Does anyone know the meaning of the letters, and why they are carved on the statue? If you have information about the letters carved on the “Learning is Fun” statue, please leave your contact information at the circulation desk at the library. I would love to contact you to gather information to solve this this “Learning is Fun” statue mystery!
Recent Events at the Library: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party

By Carol Hagadorn

The Friends of the Library board lent a hand during two recent events at the Pickens Library. On March 16, we were pleased to provide money for the snacks and décor at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party. The guests were encouraged to make their own whimsical costumes and model them in front of a backdrop depicting an Alice in Wonderland theme. All of this was part of the “Disney Con Day” sponsored by the library. Many delighted tea party participants enjoyed the event immensely!

Photos by Sandy Tatum

Mark Warren

Text and Photos by Carol Hagadorn

Another recent event, held on April 25th, and sponsored by the Friends of the Pickens County Library, was a lecture by author, Mark Warren. He is the Dahlonega-based author of numerous books which include historical fiction, a memoir, and many nonfiction selections. His assistant, Sue, was kept busy with book sales. His hour-long talk covered a wide range of topics, including how the first people who lived in this area used tree bark to make useful containers, how slightly bending each section of river reeds helped arrows fly straighter, how the inner bark of the common Tulip Magnolia tree made strong rope, and much, much more. We also learned how the natural world provided everything that the first people needed to live. Mr. Warren’s presentation made for a fascinating evening in which we were both educated and entertained.

A special “thank you” goes to Kathy Hanofee and her committee for organizing this event and supplying goodies.
Books for Summer Reading

By Carol Hagadorn

Library board members were asked to suggest a book which could be classified as a “Beach Read.” Here are a few of those suggestions. Happy Summer reading!

Kathy Hanofee suggested *Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton.

Paula Adams and Susan Gooch recommended *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

Carol Hagadorn thought *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy was interesting.

Paula, Susan, and Carol also recommended *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

All books can be found at your local library, some as ebooks, or on the Libby app.

The Friends’ Board is Actively Supporting the Library

By Sue Appleton

Your Friends of Pickens Library board members volunteer to keep the Book Sale shelves at the front of the library well stocked and organized. Each member has a two-week period when they oversee the area. Sales of books from these shelves are used to provide funding for books and materials for our library. The last donation from the Friends’ sales totaled $5,000!

The Friends of the Library board accepts donations of good quality hardback and paperback books (fiction, nonfiction, children, and biographies) anytime the library is open. We ask that the books be placed in a box or a bag for easier handling. We do not accept magazines, reference books, (i.e. encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.) or textbooks.

Also, the Little Free Library (LFL) at the Pickens County government building is maintained by our board members. Each board member volunteers to restock the LFL for a month. In another article in this newsletter, read about two other events supported by the Friends of the Pickens Library board. The next time you see a board member, thank him or her for what they do to get books into our community.

Thank you, Karen Webster and BrickHouse Design!

By Carol Hagadorn

Karen Webster, the very talented editorial layout designer of the Friends of the Pickens Library Newsletter deserves a heartfelt thank you for her work with the board for the last six years. If it weren’t for Karen’s expertise, this newsletter would be a Word document, with maybe a picture or two placed at the end of each article. That is the extent of my skills. Karen makes each newsletter look better than the last. You are amazing! Thank you from the readers and me!
The May Queen

You must wake and call me early, call me early, Mother dear; Tomorrow’ll be the happiest time of all the glad new year; Of all the glad new year, Mother, the maddest, merriest day, For I’m to be Queen o’ the May, Mother, I’m to be Queen o’ the May.*

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*Being crowned May Queen was an honor. It usually coincided with May Day, a celebration of spring’s arrival. The young woman chosen to be the May Queen exhibited positive qualities. She would have presided over all of the festivities associated with May Day.

Wild Azelea. Photo by Carol Hagadorn

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was an English poet who lived during Queen Victoria’s reign. A famous line found in the 1850 poem “In Memoriam” reads “’Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.” This often recognized line made him famous, as well as his poem, “The Charge of the Light Brigade.”