

THE BREWER TIMES

The Newsletter of the Brewer Public Library

Summer 2004

Library Hours

Brewer Public Library

Mon.-Thurs. 10 AM – 8 PM

Friday 10 AM – 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM

PHONE: (608) 647-6444

EMAIL: richlandcenterpl@swls.org

Web: www.rc.swls.org

Brewer Health & Science Library (Upstairs)

Mon. – Fri. 9 AM – 5 PM

Wednesday open until 7 PM

PHONE: (608) 647- 6513

EMAIL: drbrewer@mwt.net

Web: www.mwt.net/~drbrewer

Richland County History Room (Upstairs)

Mon. – Fri. 10AM – 4:30 PM

PHONE: (608) 647-6033

EMAIL: richlandctyhistory@yahoo.com

Brewer Times Newsletter submissions can be
e-mailed through the webpage:
<http://www.rc.swls.org/newsletter.html>

Friends Book Sale A Big Success

The recent Friends Book and Bake Sale, held at the library on April 30th and May 1st, netted over \$540. The money was used to enlarge the library's audiovisual collection.

A warm thank you to all library staff, Friends of the Library, RCHS Key Club members, and members of the community who helped in any way to make this event a success. To quote the old proverb, "Many hands make light work."

The Friends received positive comments about the organization of the book sale. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future book sales.

Science Meets Philosophy: Edward O. Wilson's *Consilience* and *Biophilia*

Edwin O. Wilson, one of the greatest living scientists can be discovered at your library.

Wilson, who was introduced to the community in a lecture by Dion Kempthorne, held a passion for biology and believed biological science was a direct means to understanding a fundamental unity of all knowledge.

Wilson's two books, *Consilience* and *Biophilia*, offer proof that everything in our world is organized in terms of a small number of fundamental natural laws; laws that comprise the principles underlying every branch of learning. In his book *Consilience*, Wilson shows how and why the intellectual mastery of our universe has its roots in an ancient Greek concept of the orderliness that governs the cosmos in general, and the human species in particular.

Unified theories of knowledge were set as goals of learning throughout history, reaching their highest articulation in the philosophy and philosophers of the Age of Enlightenment. Although these theories have been disregarded in the last few centuries with the increasing specialization of knowledge, Wilson believes the goals of the Enlightenment are surging back to life.

In *Biophilia*, Wilson takes the reader into the intricately ordered world of the leaf-cutter ant colony as an example of his philosophy. With gripping, fascinating, and meticulously recorded observations, Wilson makes both the ant's world and his own theories come to immediate life.

You will find E. O. Wilson's *Consilience* and *Biophilia*, in the library. It is heavy, but rewarding reading. *Biophilia* is an easier, but no less rewarding. Wilson gives his readers a double pleasure, leaving them both informed and entertained.

An excerpt from *Biophilia*

Describing research in Fazenda Esteio, Brazil:

"The insect I most wanted to find made its appearance...literally at my feet. It was the leaf cutter ant...prime consumer of fresh vegetation, a leading agricultural pest in Brazil...They were brick red, about a quarter inch in length and bristling with short, sharp spines. Within minutes several hundreds had arrived and formed two regular files on either side of our shelter, with their paired antennae scanning right and left. Within an hour, the trickle expanded into twin river of tens of thousands of ants running ten or more abreast. They came up from a huge earthen nest a hundred yards, crossing a clearing, and disappeared into the forest...they found a tall tree bearing white flowers and streamed up the trunk, scissored out pieces of leaves and petals with their sharp-toothed mandibles, and headed home carrying the fragments over their heads like little parasols...bobbing and weaving past each other like little mechanical toys."

Submitted by Ruth Graf

A Big Special Thanks

Dr. L.M. Pippin's name was left off the recent list of the helpers involved with Friends of the Library's book sorting. Dr. Pippin has given many hours to the FOL restocking the store and helping in the store room. A big thank you, Dr. Pippin!

Children's Room News

Summer Reading Program Starts June 15

All children ages 3 through grade 7 are invited to attend the Brewer Library Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Discover New Trails @ Your Library." Children will come to the library, have a story read, do crafts and play games and other activities. A snack will be provided. The older children will participate in hikes and other field trips.

The program times and days are these:

Ages 3-6	Tuesdays	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Grades 1&2	Tuesdays	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Grades 3&4	Thursdays	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Grades 5-7	Thursdays	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This program is FREE and open to everyone. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not mandatory. Contact the Children's Library for more details by phone 647-6444 or in person.



In addition to the "In-the-library" program, we also sponsor an "at-home" reading program where children of all ages earn prizes for reading books over the summer. Stop by the Children's Library to sign up!

Brewer Book Reviews

The Damned Human Race by Mark Twain

I found Mark Twain's social criticism in *The Damned Human Race* to be as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. His words on patriotism ring in my heart and speaks its truth -- "the only rational patriotism is loyalty to the nation all the time; loyalty to the government when it deserves it." Twain believed there is no such thing as a just war and explores this theme in the stories "The War Prayer" and "War Monuments." His view on the hypocrisy found in religions is explored well in other stories. I strongly recommend this book for the library.

Submitted by: Rock Chamberlain

(A copy of *The Damned Human Race* was purchased by the library and added to the collection)

The House on the Mound

by August Derleth

When were you last at Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien? If you have not been for many years, you are in for a treat when you see the restored country estate built on the banks of the Mississippi in the 1890's. This is the home of Hercules and Jane Dousman. The vast reach of the fur trade of John Jacob Astor drew Hercules to Prairie du Chien where he built himself a fortune.

Which brings me to the fascinating edition of August Derleth's *The House on the Mound*, which was published in 1958, now available at the Friendshop. This book is not in good condition; it has weathered many years and is retired but it makes for fascinating historical reading.

This is an historical novel about the lives and loves of the real people who lived in the Villa Louis. Follow the details, imagining Hercules Dousman the railroad builder, grain shipper, Wisconsin's first millionaire and most influential figure of the Upper Mississippi Valley. Dousman knows and secretly loves Jane Rolette but she is married to "King Joe" Rolette, another tycoon in the Astor fur brigades. When Joe dies, Jane and Hercules are married and the story begins. All is not happy; Hercules has a secret and struggles with his conscience. Should he protect his family? How must he do justice to his indiscretion?

The fun of this novel is the reader never can untangle the history from the fiction. You can find *The House on the Mound* and other fascinating books in the Friendshop today!

Submitted by: Ruth Graf

Friendshop News

Have you taken a look lately at the Friendshop Annex? More shelf space has been added, and the many good used books have been rearranged, thanks to Kathy Bastian's hard work and organizational skills. Others have donated time on this project, or to the Friendshop in general, including Carole Troxel, Ariel Ferguson, Ruth and Fred Graf, L. M. Pippin, Marilyn Nielsen, Shirley Steiner, Colleen Muldowney, Virginia Bruckner, Cindy Crofton, and Asenath La Rue.

So, if you can't find a used book to purchase in the regular Friendshop space, check in the Annex, located on the 3rd floor, where all hard cover books are 50 cents each, and all paperback books 25 cents.

Judith Strasser's Love of Learning Lecture

On April 12th, Judith Strasser shared her memoir, *Black Eye: Escaping a Marriage, Writing a Life*, in a Love of Learning lecture co-sponsored by UW-Richland and Friends of the Brewer Library. Articulate and open, Judith interwove themes of marriage gone wrong, individual history, and sociopolitical context in recounting her personal journey, and she also stimulated thought on the genre of memoir. Judith is well known for her work as a producer and interviewer on National Public Radio, and as a poet and essayist. Her presentation was supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. We are grateful to Judith for her visit to our community, and as always to Dr. L.M Pippin for his support of the ongoing Love of Learning series.

Looking Ahead to the Fall

Music, mystery, and a literary look at small town life are on the schedule for this fall.

On Friday, October 22nd, an evening of classical guitar will be presented at the Brewer Library by Peter Fletcher of New York. Mr. Fletcher is an accomplished musician with a wide repertoire. If you'd like to hear his work in advance of the concert, ask for his CD at the library.

On Thursday, November 11th, Gary Warren Niebuhr will present "The History of Mystery". This will be a family night, suitable for children as well as adults. Mr. Niebuhr is the Library Director for Greendale, WI, and author of *Reader's Guide to the Private Eye Novel* and many other articles and reviews of the art of mystery writing. If you're intrigued, watch for more in the next Brewer Times.

Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time has been selected for this fall's UW-Richland's campus/community Shared Reading Experience. This award-winning book by Michael Perry recounts his adventures after moving back to his small home town of New Auburn, WI. Plans are being made for a lecture by Mr. Perry and other related events. Stay tuned!

Brewer Times Submissions Wanted

The Brewer Times is always looking for submissions from Brewer Library Patrons. Please submit book reviews, news of library events and happenings, or any other information that you feel will be of interest to the Brewer Library Community.

Please leave copies of written material at the library desk or send submissions electronically to the library (richlandcenterpl@swls.org), through the library web page (<http://www.rc.swls.org/newsletter.html>), or directly to the editor (jplusc@charter.net) to be published in the next Times edition.

The next edition of the Brewer Times is scheduled for September, 2004, and submissions will be due by August 31st.

The Brewer Times is edited by John Madden. Thank you, John!