

ACTIVITIES

ONGOING EVENTS

Every year Friends purchases books, magazines, and supplies for the library, helps to fund the summer reading program for children and other needs of the librarian.

PAST EVENTS

2017

- We began providing a monthly publication called BookPage to the community. It resides on a table outside the Friends' door in the library, and it has proved to be very popular, usually gone by the time the month ends.
- We continued with the spring and fall bake sales as our main fundraisers.

2016

- We were founded 20 years ago and to celebrate, we had a lunch for our members and special guests in the restored Choestoe Schoolhouse south of Blairsville. Among our guests were Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris; City of Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley; Donna Howell, former director of the Mountain Regional Library System and speaker for this event; and Ethelene Dyer Jones, who began her successful education career in our area as a teacher at the two-room schoolhouse.
- We began using a ballot box with a new question to be voted on each month. The most successful of the year was "Do you prefer Cats? Or Dogs?" Dogs won by a landslide, and as the voting was done with money, this has been a small but successful part of our fundraising.
- We began having a spring and a fall bake sale to raise funds and were very successful, thanks to our membership of bakers and also the buyers in the community.
- We began supporting the Ferst Foundation with a yearly donation. This is part of our mission to promote childhood literacy.

2015

- Our raffle this year included 5 different choices of items to win, including \$500 in cash.

- The picnic in May was well attended and after a delicious BBQ/potluck lunch, the attendees played bingo and cakewalk and won prizes. Fun was had by all who attended!
- The Christmas luncheon was held again at Brasstown Valley Resort. This lovely venue has become a tradition for the Friends.

2014

- We had a very successful raffle that included three drawings won by Blairsville residents or those with Blairsville ties.
- We had a grand book and bake sale that raised lots of money for the library.
- In December, we co-sponsored a play, "A Christmas Carol," with the library that was put on in the library by the Hampstead Players from New Hampshire.

2013

- Sponsored two fundraising raffles and participated in the Butternut Creek Festival.

2012

- Sponsored a Quilt and Basket of Goodies Raffle and a Book & Bake Sale.
- Staffed booths at the Strawberry Jubilee, the Tri-State Business Women's Expo, the Butternut Creek Festival, and the Sorghum Festival.
- Held a membership event at Joy of Learning, featuring a guest violinist and "Reflections on Learning" by Dr. Rhonda Joy Vansant.
- Participated in Mountain Appraisal Night at Antonietta's Grill and the library benefit tour of Misty Mountain Model Railroad.

2011

- Celebrated our 15th Anniversary with a BBQ Potluck Picnic.
- Purchased equipment and furnishings for the children's room of the renovated and expanded library.
- Helped to fund the automatic, wheelchair-accessible entrance doors to the library.
- Sponsored a Trash & Treasure Sale, "A Mile of Pennies," and a Quilt, Basket, and Jewelry Box Raffle.
- Participated in Mountain Appraisal Night at Antonietta's Grill and the library benefit tour of Misty Mountain Model Railroad.

2010

- Participated in the Varsity Day for Public Libraries in Atlanta and the strategic planning of the Mountain Regional Library System.

- Sponsored a Trash & Treasure Sale, "A Mile of Pennies," and a quilt raffle.
- Participated in a Brother's Restaurant in Young Harris community night.
- Accepted with gratitude and pleasure the *first* Fabulous Friends Award from Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL).

2009

- Advocated for state funding of the library renovation and expansion.
- Sponsored "Miles of Pennies," a Trash and Treasure sale, a Bass Fishing Tournament, and a Benefit Auction & Raffle as fundraisers.
- Participated twice in Brother's Restaurant Community Night for 15% of the restaurant earnings.
- Assisted the library staff at their Book and Bake Sale.

2008

- Campaigned for passage of the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and its benefits for the library.
- Sponsored a book signing and a gift basket raffle, "A Mile of Pennies," a Trash and Treasure sale, a Bass Fishing Tournament, a Pat Aube' Gray limited edition print raffle, and a live and silent auction as fundraisers.

2007

- Were represented at the Library Legislative Day at the capital.
- Sponsored a "Sips & Snippets Day" at the library, candle, book bag, and literary basket fundraisers, a bake sale, and a trash and treasure sale.

2006

- Sent a representative to the Library Legislative Day.
- Celebrated our 10th Anniversary with an afternoon tea.
- Renovated the multi-purpose room kitchenette.

2005

- Sponsored a fundraiser raffle.
- Held a "Cakes Galore Friendathon" as a fundraiser and membership solicitation.
- Co-sponsored an open house and reception for Teresa Haymore, retiring system director.
- Sponsored a reception in honor of the new system director, Donna Howell.
- Helped gather fans when the library's air conditioner failed.

2004

- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Established the Pattie Hamilton Memorial Reading Nook.
- Sponsored a membership table at the Union County Interagency Fair.
- Established the Pat Scott Memorial Kids' Corner.

2003

- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Helped clean up after the Great Library Flood.
- Honored retiring staff members.
- Sponsored four "Sunday Coffee House" socials, a literary basket fundraiser, and a membership table at the Butternut Creek Festival.

2002

- Sponsored a Trash and Treasure fundraiser and membership tables at the Butternut Creek Festival and the Union County Interagency Fair.
Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
Funded the Birthday Book Club for children and the Wilma Ash Scholarship for advanced study in library science.
- Honored a retiring staff member.

2001

- Sponsored a Sunday "Meet the Writers" program and a membership table at the Butternut Creek Arts Festival.
Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.
- Established a memorial shelf plate program and a new library fund.
Funded the Birthday Book Club and the Wilma Ash Scholarship.

2000

- Established the Birthday Book Club, Books for Babies, and the Wilma Ash Scholarship.
- Helped to fund a new bookmobile for the system.
- Sponsored a membership table at the Butternut Creek Arts Festival and the third "Spring Thing" fundraiser.

1999

- Funded the landscaping in front of the library sign and the renovation of the multi-purpose room and foyer.
- Sponsored the tenth anniversary celebration of the library at its present site.

- Hosted a Chamber of Commerce "After Hours."
- Designed and distributed memorial book program cards to the Chamber of Commerce, nursing homes, and funeral parlors.

1998

- Sponsored the second "Spring Thing" and Sunday "Coffee House" program.

1997

- Initiated and helped to fund the purchase of a new library sign.
- Purchased furnishings and built shelves for a reference room.
- Moved the reference books into the new reference room.
- Sponsored "Spring Thing" and a Sunday "Coffee House."
- Sent a representative to the annual Library Legislature Day in Atlanta.

1996

- Sponsored a membership table at the city's "White Christmas on the Square."
- Co-sponsored the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Mountain Regional Library System.