

July – August
2003

LIBRARY NEWS

POCKET EDITION

Marionettes Tell Aladdin's Tale



The famed Stevens Puppets marionettes come to the downtown library at 2, 3:30 and 7 p.m., Thursday, July 31, in free performances of Aladdin for school-age children.

One of the oldest and most enchanting performance art forms—string-activated puppets called marionettes—takes to the stage on **Thursday, July 31**. Performances are scheduled for **2, 3:30 and 7 p.m. p.m.** at the downtown library.

The free performance of the classic *Aladdin* for school-aged children will be presented by Stevens Puppets, a troupe that's been recreating fairy tales and children's stories since 1933. The production features hand-carved puppets made by the company's founder, Martin Stevens, and costumed by his wife, Margi.

"Besides the story itself, children love the pageantry of the production," says Youth Librarian Carol Stults. "They're also fascinated by how the puppeteer moves the marionettes so gracefully and skillfully. This

will be intriguing to youth on many levels."

The event also is a perfect way to wrap up participation in the Summer Reading Club, which ends that day.

Get Your Free Tickets

To assure sufficient seating, tickets are required for the free Stevens Puppets performances of *Aladdin* for school-age children on **Thursday, July 31**.

Performances are at 2, 3:30 and 7 p.m. at the downtown library.

Beginning Monday, July 28, call 429-0119 or stop by the downtown library to pick up tickets.



Prizes, Events Ahead

Summer Reading Club activities continue at both libraries through July 31.

As you "Paws to Read" in July, pick up your prizes! Prizes for youth enrolled in the Summer Reading Club include admission tickets to Great Skates and food coupons from local restaurants. Attend a program and you may receive passes to Columbian Park or the Indiana State Fair. And teens and adults who enrolled in the program also can collect prizes.

Our calendar is packed with fun events for all ages, from Thursday Specials and Brainfoods for youth to computer sessions for adults. Head for the library this summer. You'll find great opportunities!

For details on programs for children, teens and adults, keep reading this newsletter. You may also pick up the Summer Reading Club flier at the library, visit our website at www.tcpl.lib.in.us, or call 429-0100.

Inside

Turn The Pages With A Book Club • Teens List Their Favorite Reads • On The Road With The Mobile Library
One Great Read Strikes Again • Free Internet Classes • And More

Paws For Fun At Youth Programs

The library is abuzz with exciting activities for youth this summer. Come to one, a few or all of these programs.

Thursday Specials

Thursdays are special days for school-age children at the downtown library. Get your free tickets for each program beginning the Monday before by calling 429-0119.

Paws for Wolves!

Thursday, July 10, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Get ready to howl! Paula Woods of the Lafayette-West Lafayette Convention & Visitors Bureau presents a dynamic program on Tippecanoe County's Wolf Park.

Paws for Exotic Animals!

Thursday, July 17, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Not your cat or dog! Mark Denhardt of the Tippecanoe Exotic Animal Sanctuary discusses the keeping and care of exotic animals.

Paws for a Weather Alert!

Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Live and in person! Weatherman Mike Prangley of WLFI TV-18 will talk about weather and what it can mean for animals.

Brainfoods: Feed Your Brain

Youth ages 8 to 12 are invited to expand your brain and have a good time, too, at these programs. Registration is required; please call 429-0119 to reserve space.

String Games

Monday, July 14, 2 p.m., campus

Tuesday, July 15, 2 p.m., downtown

Learn to entertain yourself—and others—with just a piece of string!

Pet Scrapbooking

Monday, July 21, 2 p.m., campus

Tuesday, July 22, 2 p.m., downtown

Looking for a way to display cute pet photos? Bring a couple that can be cropped along with your creativity to this program on making pictures tell a story that will last.

Friends Lend A Helping Hand

When it comes to helping out, your library has a special group that frequently steps forward with assistance: the Friends of the Tippecanoe County Public Library.

Today, we can thank the Friends for funding this newsletter, our Summer Reading Club, author visits, book-drop bins at Pay Less Supermarket and many more much-appreciated resources.

Used Book Sales Raise Money

Much of the financial support provided to the library comes via the Friends' used book sales, held four times a year. The first was held in 1969, netting \$125.80. By 2002, those revenues had skyrocketed to more than \$74,000 raised at four sales.

"We are all inspired by the wonderful facility that our community has," says

Friends President Nancy Mancing. "For the Friends to be able to help with giving financial assistance wherever needed is motivation for us all."

The group's purpose, she says, is to work with the director and staff to make the library the best it can be. Its official mission as a nonprofit organization is "to provide programs and financial assistance to the Tippecanoe County Public Library."

Membership Open To All

Currently, Friends has about 800 members, and always welcomes more. Memberships begin at \$10 for a family.

For more information, visit the Friends' website at www.tcpl.lib.in.us/friends or call the Friends office at 429-0170.

Contribute Your Used Books

If you have books, videos, DVDs and CDs that you no longer want to keep, consider contributing them to Friends of the Library for its next sale.

Contributions for future sales are accepted year-round and should be dropped off at the circulation desk of the Tippecanoe County Public Library, 627 South St., Lafayette, during regular operating hours. If you're bringing more than a box-full, please take them to the loading dock on the west side of the building and ring the bell for assistance.

Friends Fall Sale September 12-15

The Friends of the Tippecanoe County Public Library's next used book sale is in September. Mark your calendar now to stock up on books, most selling for just 50 cents to \$1.

The sale's events:

- **Friday, September 12, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**, Friends-Only Night, with memberships starting at \$10 available at the door
- Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Sunday, September 14, 1 to 6 p.m.**, books are half-price
- **Monday, September 15, 9 a.m. to sellout**, books are \$1 a bag.

The sale also includes a silent auction of out-of-print and rare books.

Bringing The Library To You



The Mobile Library brings books, storytimes, Summer Reading Club prizes and more to 39 different stops around Tippecanoe County. Be sure to visit when we're in your neighborhood.

Visiting the downtown or campus library is a great adventure, but not always possible for residents who live in outlying areas. So, we bring library services to you with our colorful, well-stocked Mobile Library.

This summer, we're stopping at 39 places, from Battle Ground to Clarks Hill and Dayton to Stockwell. We travel around the county at stops open to everyone.

Whatever you checkout is due back the next time we stop, two weeks later.

For a full list of where we go when, visit our website at tcpl.lib.in.us or pick up a Mobile Library Schedule at either the downtown or campus library. For more information on our Outreach Department, call 429-0169.

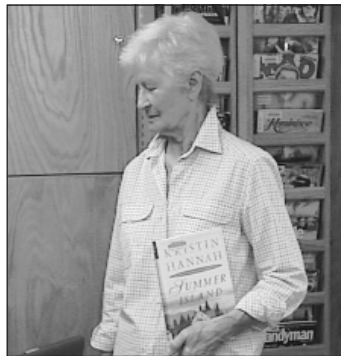
When you visit the Mobile Library, be sure to bring a photo of your pet for our Paws to Read mural.

Join The Mobile Summer Reading Club

It's easy to win rewards for reading from the Mobile Library.

When youngsters visit, tell us what you've read, and we'll hand out a prize—one per stop.

Teens and adults earn an Arni's personal pizza coupon after reading two books, and get to enter a grand prize drawing every time you read two books. The end-of-summer prizes—one for teens and one for adults—are courtesy of Wal-Mart.



It's a library on wheels! If you've never climbed aboard our Mobile Library, you're in for a treat. It's roomy, well stocked and a great place for a summer outing. It even has an outside awning and roll-out carts. Here, reader Mary Hoagland discusses her selections with the mobile library staff.

Storytimes On Mobile Library

Restless children are quickly soothed by a story, so head to the Mobile Library stop near you for our Paws to Read Summer Storytimes:

- **First and third Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**
Mobile Library at Ingersoll Child Care Center
3905 Soldier Home Road,
West Lafayette
- **Second and fourth Mondays, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.**
Mobile Library at Grace United Methodist Readiness & Day Care
615 N. 22nd St., Lafayette
- **First and third Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.**
Mobile Library at Bethel Child Care Ministry
2541 U.S. 52 West, West Lafayette

Welcome, Outreach Staff

There are some new faces on the Mobile Library this summer:

- **Christy Beaver** is our Outreach Librarian.
- **Tabitha Flournoy** and **Michelle Perry** are Outreach Aides.

Our Head Outreach Driver, Linda Shaw, has earned her Class A commercial drivers license, putting her behind the wheel of the new Mobile Library the library purchased last fall.

Director's Notes



by Jos N. Holman,
County Librarian

The Tippecanoe County Public Library strives to provide good library service on a daily basis. The achievement of this

objective can primarily be attributed to the skill, creativity, and experience of paid staff that believe in what public libraries do. Another measurable and contributing factor to the success of this objective is directly linked to volunteer efforts. Yes, the library and its supporting organizations utilize a good cadre of volunteers. Certainly our Friends of TCPL volunteer their many skills, TCPL Board members volunteer their energies and leadership, and TCPL Foundation Board members volunteer their financial stewardship and time as well. However, in this writing, I would like to bring attention to the helpful assistance of our "workforce based" volunteers who handle repetitive tasks for TCPL pretty consistently on a monthly basis. These contributions are displayed through the numerous volunteer hours of a group of people who individually commit their efforts to directly assist TCPL in the delivery of its mission.

Individual volunteers perform a number of tasks for the library. They help label and process new library materials, post the library's weekly meeting room schedule, clip and file for the library's

vertical file, and a variety of other routine tasks. Last year, almost 50 individuals donated almost 3,700 hours of their time working at TCPL with four individuals giving more than 200 hours each. In computed dollars, the library received more than \$20,000 worth of actual labor from dedicated, enthusiastic, community oriented individuals. Their efforts are not only outstanding, but also extremely commendable in an American society where very few people have enough time to do what they really need to, let alone take time to help someone else.

Recently, TCPL's volunteer coordinator hosted a luncheon to recognize and honor the volunteers for their admirable efforts on behalf of TCPL. Though the luncheon was rewarding and enjoyable, it is just one way we are able to show our appreciation for all the hard work the volunteers do for TCPL. Through this column, it is my intention to once again let you know we really appreciate everything the volunteers do for the library. By assisting us, they are really assisting the library's customers, as the library is better able to provide top-notch services because of their help.

I wanted to take time and publicly let you know I appreciate what you are doing. Thank you for a job well done. Thank you for your dedication to TCPL and the work we do. Thank you for understanding how valuable your time is and still choosing to generously share some of it with TCPL. As county librarian, I am indeed grateful and proud you are a part of our organization! Thanks.

Employee, Page Of The Quarter

Two library employees are being recognized for their contributions.

Youth Aide Polly Roush

A 15-year employee, Polly Roush is a familiar face during storytimes and tours of



Polly Roush

the downtown library. A Jefferson High School graduate, she's an administrative aide in the Youth Department.

She produced this year's Summer Reading Club video and designs library flyers. Roush has been cited as "a fantastic resource and hard worker."

Outside work, she enjoys reading, time with friends and family, movies and playing with her cat, Tigger.

Page April Quarles

Nominations from her peers, supervisor



April Quarles

and staff in other departments all agree that April Quarles deserves a salute as Page of the Quarter. Co-workers say she's friendly, enthusiastic, hard-working, knowledgeable and accurate in her work.

A home-schooled 12th grader, Quarles says, "I like the many people I meet and help." Her pastimes include reading and drawing.

Spotlighting Volunteer Kathy Senft



Kathy Senft

For the last five years, Kathy Senft has been a volunteer extraordinaire for the Tippecanoe County Public Library's Outreach Department. At the library, she checks in magazines, pulls books for the Senior Center, makes decorations for the Mobile Library, sorts videos and handles many other tasks.

She's also a volunteer for the Wabash Area Lifelong Learning Association and enjoys quilting, cross stitching and reading.

New Look To 'Holds' Notice

Letters advising you that an item you've put on hold is now available have a new look these days. They used to look like overdue notices, which created some confusion. Now they're a computer-generated letter listing each item. Questions? Call Circulation at 429-0123.

Summer: Book It @ Your Library

Teens Read For Fun

Looking for a good book? Besides the wildly popular Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling, these series get a thumbs up from members of the library's Teen Advisory Board: *The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot and Anna Pigeon mysteries by Nevada Barr.

The teens also recommend these authors: Anne McCaffrey, Robin McKinley, Tamora Pierce, Terry Pratchett and Ann Rinaldi, among others.

Some specific titles they've recently devoured:

A Door Near Here, Heather Quarles
All-American Girl, Meg Cabot
Beauty Sleep, Cameron Dokey
Betsy in Spite of Herself,
Maud Hart Lovelace
Ella Enchanted, Gail Carson Levine
Green Rider, Kristin Britain

Just As Long As We're Together,
Judy Blume
Katarina, Kathryn
Winters
Letters of a Nation,
Andrew Carroll
Night Work, Laurie King
Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson
The Woman in the Wall, Patrice Kindl



Books, Conversations Headline Summer

A lively exchange after reading a good book is like whipped cream on your ice cream. Top off your reading by joining in one of these gatherings.

Bilingual/Bilingue

Meets **12 noon, Friday, August 22**, downtown library, for English and Spanish discussions of *Deep Rivers/Rios Profundos*, Jose Maria Arguedas.

Book Clique

Online discourse. Signup at www.tcpl.lib.in.us. July's title is *Watership Down*, Richard Adams, the community's current One Great Read; in August, it's *A Girl Named Zippy*, Haven Kimmel.

Eclectic

Meets at **10 a.m.**, third Thursday of every month, downtown library, Meeting Room A. Registration is not required.

- **July 17:** *Sons and Lovers*, D. H. Lawrence.
- **August 21:** *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel.

Fiction

Meets at **7 p.m.**, first Tuesday of every month, downtown library, Meeting Room A. Registration is not required.

- **July 1:** *Watership Down* by Richard Adams
- **August 5:** *Unless* by Carol Shields

Murder by the Book

Meets at **10 a.m.**, fourth Wednesday of every month, campus library. Registration is not required.

- **July 23:** *Endangered Species*, Nevada Barr.
- **August 27:** *The Big Sleep*, Raymond Chandler, and *Perchance to Dream*, Robert B. Parker.

One Great Read

Read Richard Adams' fantasy, *Watership Down*, then join in the conversations. Library events (see enclosed flyer for more details):

- Book discussion, **Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m.**, campus library
- A topic at Teens Night In, **Tuesday, July 22, 7 p.m.**, downtown library
- Movie viewing, **Thursday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.**, Ivy Hall at Ivy Tech.

Teens Night In

Head for the downtown library to enjoy Teens Night In, Tuesdays at **7 p.m.**:

- **July 8:** Bead Jewelry
- **July 15:** Origami
- **July 22:** Let's Talk Books
- **July 29:** Comic Art: From Pencils to Pixels

These are informal nights where teens can "Paws" to explore topics and areas of special interest. Join the fun!

Wanted: Advice From Teens

Just when teens might think no one is listening to them, your library is all ears! We're interested in teen input via our Teen Advisory Board, which next meets at 7 p.m., Thursday, August 7 at the downtown library.

What will you do? Advise the library on teen issues and concerns, says Librarian Kelley Lethgo. "Questions our board members try to answer include, 'How can we make the library more teen-friendly?' and 'How can the library attract more teens through services, special events and other ways?'"

If you'd like to join, contact Kelley Lethgo at klethgo@tcpl.lib.in.us or 429-0119.



Downtown Library
 627 South Street • Lafayette, IN 47901-1407
 Telephone (765) 429-0100 • www.tcpl.lib.in.us
 Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Fri. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun., 1 - 6 p.m.

Campus Library
 3101 S. Creasy Lane • Lafayette, IN 47909
 Telephone (765) 772-9380
 Mon - Thurs., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Fri. - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun., 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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The Pocket Edition is a free newsletter published six times a year by the Tippecanoe County Public Library.

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Paws To Learn: Programs for Adults

Besides bringing young ones to the library, adults, too, can enjoy programs of their own this summer.

At Your Library

Sample these treats:

- **Critter Clues:** A session by local animal rescue and conservation organizations, with time for your wildlife and pet questions, **Monday, July 14, 6 p.m.**, downtown library.
- **Adult Summer Reading Club:** For every two books you read and record through July 31, you get an entry in our drawing for prizes. A great way to set an example for youngsters and get a little reward of your own!
- **Internet Classes:** The campus library, 3101 S. Creasy, hosts a repeating series of free, two-hour

classes, with no registration required. Upcoming dates:
WWW102: 10 a.m., Thursday, July 10
Pre-Internet: 10 a.m., Wednesdays, July 16 and August 13
E-mail: 1 p.m., Thursday, August 7.

At Purdue Library

The Tippecanoe County Public Library, West Lafayette Public Library and Purdue University Libraries are collaborating on three free computer workshops, all to be held in Room G959 of the Hicks Undergraduate Library at Purdue:

- **Online Health and Drug Information, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday, July 12**, to be taught by Vicki Killion, Associate Professor, Purdue Pharmacy, Nursing & Health Science Library

- **Online Investing, 1 to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, July 12**, taught by Hal Kirkwood, Professor/Instruction Coordinator, Purdue Management and Economics Library
- **Why Isn't This Search Engine Working Right?, 1 to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, July 19**, taught by Scott Brandt, Technology Professor/Trainer, Purdue Libraries.

Funding for the programs was provided by Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union.

Registration is required; each session is limited to 20 people. Register at the downtown library Reference Desk or call 429-0115.

Calendar

July 2003

- 1 Fiction Book Club, 7 p.m., downtown
- 7 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
- 8 Toddler Times for children 24 to 24 months old, 10 a.m., downtown
Sea creatures stories for children, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
Teens Night In, 7 p.m., downtown
Library Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 p.m., downtown
- 9 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
- 10 Paws for Wolves for school-age children, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., downtown, registration/tickets required
WWW102 Class, 10 a.m., campus
- 11 Stories 'N Stuff for children of all ages, 10 a.m., downtown
Reader Dog Reading Buddies continues, 2 p.m., downtown, registration required
Kids Book Club continues, 3 p.m., campus, registration required
- 14 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
String Games for children ages 8-12, 2 p.m., campus; registration required
Critter Clues adult program, 6 p.m., downtown
- 15 Toddler Times for children 24 to 24 months old, 10 a.m., downtown
Australian animal stories for children, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
String Games for children ages 8-12, 2 p.m., downtown; registration required
Teens Night In, 7 p.m., downtown
- 16 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
Pre-Internet Class, 10 a.m., campus
One Great Read Discussion of *Watership Down*, 6:30 p.m., campus
- 17 Eclectic Book Club, 10 a.m., downtown
Paws for Exotic Animals for school-age children, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., downtown, registration/tickets required
Bilingual, Spanish/English stories for children, 7 p.m., campus
- 18 Stories 'N Stuff for children of all ages, 10 a.m., downtown
Reader Dog Reading Buddies continues, 2 p.m., downtown, registration required
Kids Book Club continues, 3 p.m., campus, registration required
- 21 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
Pet Scrapbooking for ages 8 to 12, 2 p.m., campus; registration required
- 22 Toddler Times for children 24 to 24 months old, 10 a.m., downtown
Jungle animals stories for children, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
Pet Scrapbooking for ages 8 to 12, 2 p.m., downtown; registration required
Teens Night In, 7 p.m., downtown
- 23 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
Murder by the Book Club, 10 a.m., campus
- 24 Paws for Weather Alert for school-age children, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., downtown, registration/tickets required
- 25 Stories 'N Stuff for children of all ages, 10 a.m., downtown
Reader Dog Reading Buddies continues, 2 p.m., downtown, registration required
Kids Book Club continues, 3 p.m., campus, registration required
- 28 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
- 29 Toddler Times for children 24 to 24 months old, 10 a.m., downtown
Swamp creatures stories for children, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
Teens Night In, 7 p.m., downtown
- 30 Lapsit Storytimes for children birth to 24 months, 10 a.m., downtown
- 31 Stevens Puppets, 2, 3:30 and 7 p.m., downtown; registration and tickets required
Last day to redeem prizes in the Summer Reading Club

August 2003

- 5 Storytime with Stacy, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
Fiction Book Club, 7 p.m., downtown
Library Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 p.m., downtown
- 7 E-mail Class, 1 p.m., campus
Teen Advisory Board, 7 p.m., downtown
- 12 Storytime with Stacy, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
- 13 Pre-Internet Class, 10 a.m., campus
- 14 One Great Read, *Watership Down* movie and discussion, 6:30 p.m., Ivy Hall
- 19 Storytime with Stacy, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
- 21 Eclectic Book Club, 10 a.m., downtown
- 22 Bilingual Book Club, 12 noon, downtown
- 26 Storytime with Stacy, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., campus
- 27 Murder by the Book Club, 10 a.m., campus

No storytimes are scheduled in August downtown. They resume in September.

Downtown Library
627 South St.
Lafayette, IN 47901
765/429-0100



Campus Library
3101 S. Creasy Lane
Lafayette, IN 47905
765/772-9380

All library programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required unless noted.
If you need special assistance while attending a program, please call 429-0100.

Watership Down @ Your Library

The Tippecanoe County Public Library is well-stocked with copies of *Watership Down* by Richard Adams, the summer One Great Read in our community. It's also available in large print and as a talking book, video and DVD.

Book Chosen By Diverse Group



KATHY: This drawing is of Big Wig. Leon said they used a different one in the paper. Do you want a caption here?

The *Journal and Courier* facilitated selection of *Watership Down* as this summer's One Great Read, which was

chosen by this committee of 12:

Community: Tim Burchill, St. Andrew United Methodist Church pastor.

Educators: Angelica Duran, Purdue English professor; JoAnn Vorst, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy director.

Librarians: Jos N. Holman and Sherri McGlothlin, Tippecanoe County Public Library; Anastasia Gensic Krutulius, West Lafayette Public Library.

Retail: John Fisher, Barnes & Noble Booksellers; Leon Johnson, Twice Turned Pages.

Students: Cicely Cobb, Purdue doctoral candidate; Jordan Giles, Jefferson High; Joanna Farris and Elizabeth Skvarenina, West Lafayette High.

Some 43 different books were suggested by the community. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Kent Haruf's *Plainsong* were also finalists. Among others considered: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *The Crisis of Islam* by Bernard Lewis, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich, *Stupid White Men* by Michael Moore and *Travels with Charlie* by John Steinbeck.

Library Hosts Events

Is *Watership Down* a complex allegory about freedom and ethics or a swashbuckling fantasy for young readers? Does it portray females as objects or are its characters honorable and courageous?

Bring your thoughts to these free One Great Read events hosted by the Tippecanoe County Public Library:

- Book conversation, Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m., campus library
- Throughout July, online exchange through Book Clique. To sign up, go to www.tcpl.lib.in.us.
- Teen chat about this and other titles at Teens Night In, **Tuesday, July 22, 7 p.m.**, downtown library
- Movie viewing of the 1978 film and discussion, **Thursday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.**, Ivy Hall at Ivy Tech.

Events Through Labor Day

Watch the *Journal and Courier* for announcements of other One Great Read events. The exchange continues through Labor Day, September 1.

Watership Down and Richard Adams

Like many parents, author Richard Adams, a 1948 master's graduate of Worcester College, Oxford, and then a British civil servant, often made up stories to tell his children. That's how the *Watership Down* tale of rabbits escaping a developer's destruction began.

After his children encouraged him to write the story down, Adams spent two years on the manuscript, his first book. It was published in 1972, when he was 52. Two years later, he turned to writing full-time.

Adams' other novels include *Shardik*, *The Plague Dogs*, *The Girl in a Swing*, *Maia* and *Traveller*. He's also published several nonfiction books and story collections, including his autobiography, *The Day Gone By* and *The Unbroken Web: Stories and Fables*.