

Directors Report April 2009

Museum Passes

The Friends approved up to \$1,000 worth of museum passes at their meeting on April 8th. I have purchased passes to the Currier Art Museum, Squam Lakes Science Center, The Fells, VINS, Shaker Village and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum so far. I am looking into the Montshire Museum and the McAuliffe Planetarium as well. I plan to start loaning the passes in May. Each pass program is structured differently so the staff needs to be clear on what each pass entails before we start distribution. I will be holding a staff meeting on April 30th to brief the staff.

Kindle Update

The Kindle's started circulating on March 11, 2009 and we have had 10 patrons who have used them so far and another 10 people are on hold for the devices. The response to them has been mixed. Several of the users said they still preferred a book for their daily reading and others found reading off the device comparable to a book. The biggest frustration to date is the short loan period because many of the borrowers can't finish one of the books in just one week. I anticipate that in the fall we should be able to extend the loan period to two weeks. Many users liked the feature that allows you to enlarge the text. Most users felt the Kindle would be very convenient when traveling. Although several patrons were not interested in using the device for their weekly reading they were pleased the library did have them available for use.

PSNH Kill-O-Watt Meter Program

According to Janet Eklund at the State Library, PSNH is expecting to start The Kill A Watt meter program in May. PSNH will distribute energy monitors to libraries to circulate that will help you figure out how much power your computer, washing machine, Wii, and other electrical devices are using, and with this information you can then figure out and how much they're costing you on your utility bill.

New Hampshire Astronomical Society Library Telescope Project

A local retired resident, Michael Saffarewich met with me recently regarding the Library Telescope project through NHAS. He has asked if the library would be willing to purchase a StarBlast telescope that could be loaned to library patrons. The cost is under \$300 including shipping and he would be willing to help teach interested patrons on how to use the telescope and he is also willing to help maintain it for library. It could be used during summer reading or other programs with the kids as well. If the board is agreeable to this project I could approach the Friends for funding.

New Website using Wordpress

We are making good progress on our new website but it has taken longer than I initially anticipated. I hope to have the site up and running in early May. I would like the site to be complete before it is rolled out. If time allows I would like to give a demo of the site at our meeting on the 21st.

State Report

I submitted our annual State Report electronically this month. We give the state information regarding our collections, circulation, funding and staffing. I will send out a pdf version for everyone to view and I have a hard copy available for viewing in the library.

Vacation

I will be on vacation from May 14-24 so I will not be able to attend the May board meeting. I will submit a written report before I leave.

Respectfully Submitted,

John S. Walden, Director

