

T. B. SCOTT FREE LIBRARY

A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR IMPACT

The T. B. Scott Free Library continued to provide valued services and programming to the Merrill area community through outreach and innovative technology as the pandemic continued in 2021. We remained committed to the Library's core objectives: promotion of reading, provide reliable information, encourage life-long learning, and network with the community to provide programs and services.

Adult Program
Attendance
609



Youth Service
Activity Bags
894



Registered
Borrowers = 9,931

Digital Items
Checked Out = 25,102

88

Meetings Held
(536 people)

Program Attendance 1,921

Class Visits 65 (1,188 children)

Total Physical Items
Checked Out
111,925

Outside of V-Cat 128 .114%

Other V-Cat Libraries 8,315 7.429%

County 47,335 42.292%

City 56,147 50.165%

44,309
VISITS
MADE TO
LIBRARY
WEBSITE

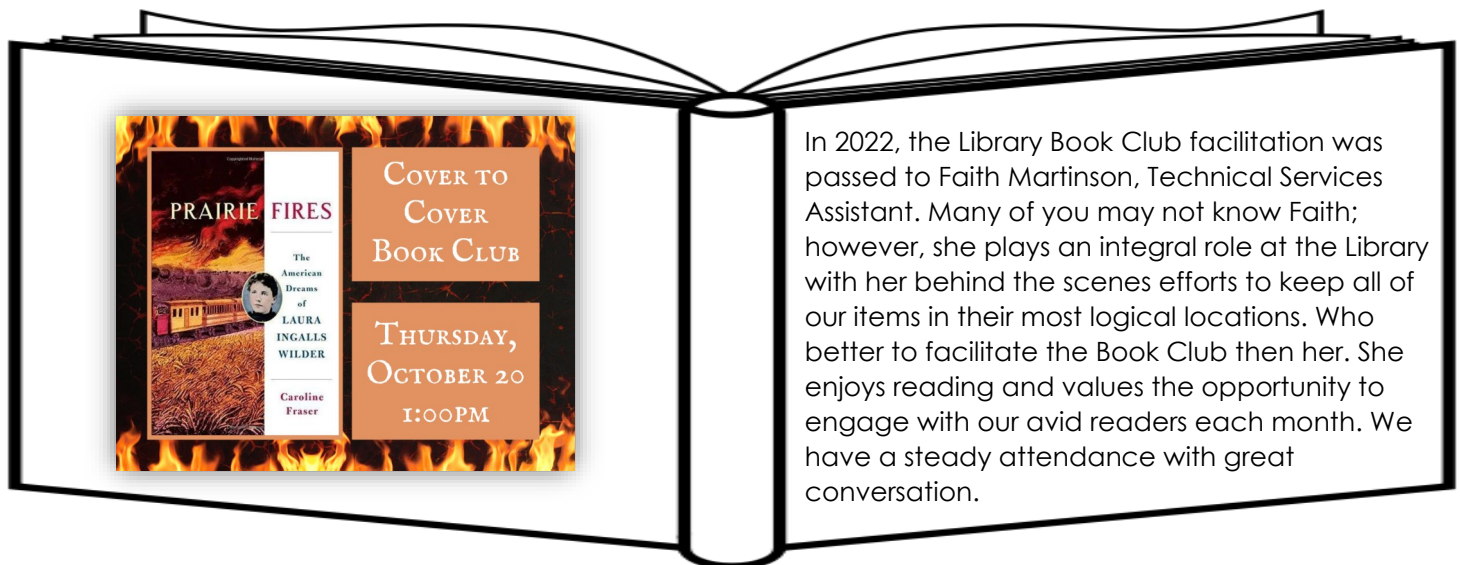
48,362
VISITS
MADE TO
T.B. SCOTT
FREE LIBRARY

92,671 TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Promote and encourage community members of all ages to discover the joy of reading and to become lifelong readers.

COVER-TO-COVER BOOK CLUB GROWS



EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



Youth Services staff worked closely with area educators every year to offer opportunities of classroom extension to the Merrill area community members. In 2022, staff

worked closely with Trinity Lutheran School and their middle school students under the guidance of 7th grade teacher Rachael Waldburger. Students were provided mini canvas and easel kits donated and assembled by the Library with instructions from Mrs. Waldburger to paint their favorite spot in Merrill. The project did not stop there. Students were then asked to write about their favorite spots and share the project stories with their classmates. The finished projects ultimately landed at the Library where they were put on display the month of April as part of the library's Beyond Books Community Artshare.



SEASONAL READING PROGRAMS

Summer 2022 Youth Readers

Youth = 409
Teens = 42

Summer 2022 Adult Readers

Adults = 46
Books read = 551
Badges awarded = 267



THEMED BOOK BAG REQUESTS

Teachers = 191
Items Requested = 5850



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Promote, support, and serve as a center for the practice & development of civic discourse, helping to develop responsible citizens by infusing a sense of the importance of democracy

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

LISTENING SESSIONS

@THE LIBRARY

with

SENATOR

FELZKOWSKI

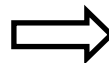


YOUTH & DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATED



November elections were held at the Library for area youth. Children participated in a mock election to help them understand the importance of democracy. They were offered the opportunity to cast their ballot for their favorite book character. The candidates running this year were Pete the Cat and Peppa Pig. We had a total of 50 children cast their vote, with Pete the Cat winning this year's election.

MERRILL ACTIVE & AWARE CITIZENS GROUP



In 2022, the Merrill Aware & Active Citizens membership made the decision to file papers with the State of Wisconsin to become a 501c3 non-profit organization. The Merrill Aware & Active Citizens group was an offshoot of a program series, Building Merrill Together, that was initiated by the Library in 2016. Conversation was initiated at the time with the Interactivity Foundation that believes in the importance and power of civic discussion. More specifically, we believe that the capacity of our country's citizens to engage collaboratively in meaningful civil conversations about public matters is a necessary and vital component of our democracy.

COUNTY SHERIFF FORUM



The Library in collaboration with the UW–Extension Lincoln County office, Tomahawk Public Library, and League of Women Voters, hosted the 2022 Lincoln County Sheriff Candidate Forum which provided residents of Lincoln County the opportunity to listen to the candidates as they shared their ideas for the future of the county and ask their own questions. The event was recorded by Merrill Productions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Develop and execute programming, serving a broad range of ages and interests, expanding our awareness of diversity in our community

MEETING THE NEEDS OF A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

~ ADULT SERVICES ~

HERE ON LAKE HALLIE
In Patti See's brilliant, first novel, Patti See is careful, clear-eyed observer. These stories are heartbreakers, they're knee-slappers, and always -- always -- they are woven with tenderness and love.

WISCONSIN WATERS
The Ancient History of LAKES, RIVERS, and WATERFALLS

Words Worth Hearing
Thursday
December 29
5:30 PM

Author Chat
w/ Patti See
WI Author
Monday, August 1
@5:30 PM

Author Chat
WITH SCOTT SPOOLMAN
MONDAY, SEPT 26 @5:30 PM

Author Chat
with Greta
Young Local Wisconsin Author

It was a year stacked with wonderful Wisconsin authors. The Library enjoyed bringing authors from around the state to Merrill.

~ OUTREACH SERVICES ~

T.B. Scott Free Library

2022 SEED GUIDE

Includes Growing and Seed Saving Tips

The T.B. Scott Free Library provides starter packets of open-pollinated, non-hybrid seeds of heirloom-variety plants to increase the array of plants grown in our community and to enlarge each Seed Library user's personal seed bank.

- ♦ The Seed Library was once again a great producer sprouting a new variety of seeds for the choosing. The sunflower seeds were the frontrunner in seed choice.
- ♦ The refresh of the Beyond Books Community ArtShare was a huge success in 2022 thanks in part to the Library's Outreach Coordinator, Donna Plautz. A lifelong resident of the Merrill community, Donna has a sense of what is available and what people will enjoy viewing in the Carnegie Wing of the Library. The Library encourages our community members to stop by from time to time to check out what is on display.

~ YOUTH SERVICES ~

In April, the Library welcomed children and families back to the Library for in-person programming for all youth programs. It was wonderful watching families as they meandered through the books and enjoyed the plethora of hands-on games and toys. It was a glorious sight to see families together again enjoying stories, crafts, magic shows, and the company of friends.



Tom Lambrecht

COMMUNITY ARTSHARE

Exhibit on Display
NOV - DEC

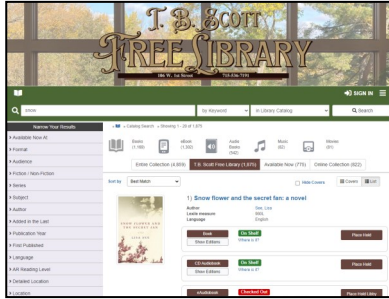
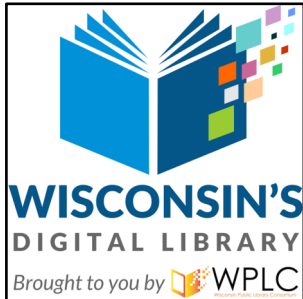
Rocks, Canvas, and Coasters, Oh My!

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Provide collections, digital resources, and technology resources responsive to community interests and needs

RESOURCE INVESTMENT

COLLECTION ACCESSIBILITY & DEVELOPMENT



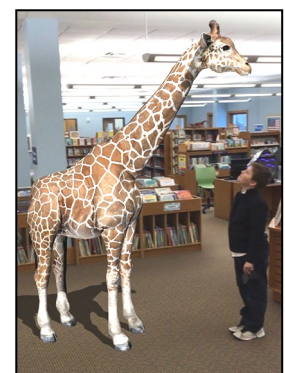
- Patrons experienced a new look and more user-friendly catalog to browse for material check out from T.B. Scott Free Library and surrounding libraries. The most notable features of the Library catalog were the visual experience and the expanded "Narrow Your Results" that allows patrons to fine tune their checkout possibilities.
- Donations to WPLC for increased digital collection materials made available through OverDrive and the Libby app continued in 2022 as the Library noted the increased demand for digital material.
- These efforts are all made possible as a result of our association with the Wisconsin Valley Library Service.



AUGMENTED REALITY – OH MY!

What is augmented reality? It is a modern technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view.

Youth were invited to experience the wonder of augmented reality throughout the Library. They could take a picture with a dinosaur, walk a dog around the Library, and go on a virtual scavenger hunt.



TRY IT BEFORE YOU BUY IT ... OR SIMPLY DO IT FOR FUN



Library of Things development was taken to a new level with the addition of many new items in 2022. Library card holders/patrons have access to a variety of items. The concept of the Library of Things is to give our community members the opportunity to try something new or make use of a tool for a project without a personal monetary outlay. Once the patron has had an opportunity to use an item, they can choose to purchase a similar item on their own. It is a "try it before you buy it" type program. If you're not seeing something you would like to be available for checkout, go to the Library's "[Suggest a Purchase](https://www.tbscottlibrary.org/suggest-a-purchase-form/)" link (<https://www.tbscottlibrary.org/suggest-a-purchase-form/>) and make a suggestion. We always do our best to offer patrons the best service

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Promote and encourage use of the library as a safe, comfortable, and welcoming place to meet and interact with others

LEGO DAY AT THE LIBRARY



In conjunction with the Community Artshare display, "WAIT? THAT'S LEGO?" the Library celebrated all things Lego and Youth Services held an all-day Lego event. Stations were set up for kids to

create their own Lego masterpiece. Kids went on a Lego scavenger hunt and had to guess how many Legos were in the jar. Everyone who participated was put into a drawing to win a new Lego set. This event was a huge hit for the whole family!



PASSIVE PROGRAMMING



Children of all ages enjoyed a variety of activities when visiting the Library. Materials were randomly placed on

tables throughout the Youth Services Department. The Library also offered monthly activity bags to extend the Storytime experience at home. Throughout the year children were able to meander through the Library on a scavenger hunt, make a craft, help with our sticker mosaic, or enjoy our play literacy area.



MUSIC LIVE AT THE LIBRARY

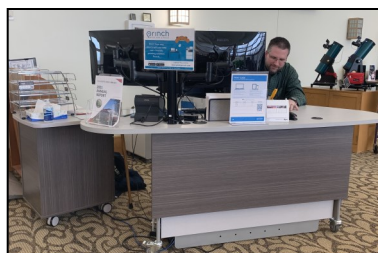


Music in the Stacks returned in person to the Library on Thursday, December 29, 2022, with the talented Mary Ament as she played her harp for patrons. While she was setup in the Youth Services Department, patrons on every floor of the Library were serenaded by the strings of her harp.



ERGONOMICS & ACCESSIBILITY

In 2022, Library staff and patrons saw a welcomed change to the Adult Services and Youth Services Department service desks. Desks that once were rather large and consumed an enormous amount of floor space, became a more inviting service desk and ergonomically accommodating working space for staff. The desk units offer more flexibility and openness that allow for additional patron-accommodating spaces on each floor.





@TBScottFreeLibrary



@tbscottlibrary_merrill

106 W. 1st Street
Merrill, WI 54452
715.536.7191
tbscottlibrary.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

Serving the Merrill area through traditional and innovative services, T.B. Scott Free Library connects people to their community and the world, promotes literacy and civic engagement, encourages and supports life-long learning, ensures free and open access to ideas, and provides opportunities for recreation.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends Purpose:

- ◆ To support the T.B. Scott Free Library in developing its facilities and services for the community.
- ◆ To encourage gifts and bequests to the Library.
- ◆ To stimulate support and use of the Library.
- ◆ To promote knowledge of the functions, services, resources and needs of the Library.
- ◆ To enjoy the fellowship of Library friends.

2022 Fundraisers

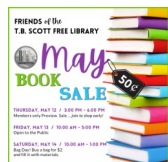


Photo credit:
Voss Studio

Laurie A Ollhoff
Library Director