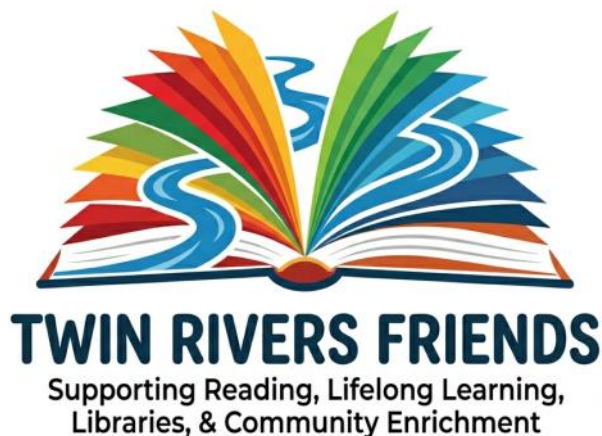




Shelf Life

June 2026

A Message from the TRF President

Dear Friends,

New newsletter name

Did you notice the newsletter's new name: Shelf Life? Our Treasurer, Jenny Miller, made this suggestion. "Shelf life" is defined as the length of time that something remains effective, useful, or suitable. That could apply to a book on a shelf. It's fitting for news and organizations, don't you think? Each of us has a "shelf life" as well, LOL.

Planning TRF new fiscal year

The TRF Board held a planning session in May. The high energy of the group was quite evident as the ideas flowed. The trick, of course, is to bring these ideas to fruition. That takes leadership, hard work, and team members. That's where you come in! We have posted current needs on the Job Board page which will be a monthly feature. Put your talents to work to support the Twin Rivers Friends, the library, and your community!

CPRL Strategic Plan

We had an opportunity to review the newly revised Craven Pamlico Regional Library (CPRL) Strategic Plan and found that many of our planned initiatives align with their intentions to increase outreach, increase collaborations, and serve the elderly. This is but one way that we continue to support the local library and CPRL.

Endowment

Our Friends have approved establishing a \$25,000 endowment with the NC Community Foundation (NCCF) benefitting the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. The CPRL Board of Trustees was sent a form to sign on April 28th to accept it. As of June 2nd, after several calls with NCCF, CPRL is still asking questions about the control of this asset. Since that that question is irrelevant to the

acceptance of this gift, we are confused as to their delaying the signing of the paperwork.

CPRL FY26/27 Budget

We couldn't help but notice that CPRL's FY26/27 budget assigns the "friends of the library" with a \$12,500 cash contribution to the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. This is curious, since there was never any discussion with us about that.

TRF sponsorship of the CPRL SRP events

Our TRF gave \$4,400 to CPRL to cover the costs of the opening and closing acts for the 2026 Summer Reading Program for all five libraries in the system. Those of us who receive emails from the library noticed that the emails of May 18th and May 31st mention Dana Hill's Magic show, there was no mention of our sponsorship. Likewise for the video posted June 2nd. If a local bank had been the sponsor, would they have forgotten to mention them? We did send an email to the CPRL Executive Director in May asking how they intended to publicly acknowledge this contribution going forward. As of this date, we have not received a response.

Volunteer Recognition

In June, we will hold a special recognition event for those who volunteered in our FY25/26 programs and at the book sales. This is long overdue. We sincerely hope that those invited will attend.

New Bern Southpaws baseball game

Our nonprofit is being featured at the Monday, July 13th New Bern Southpaws baseball game at Kafer Park at 7 pm. We encourage you to join us as we get 10% of the ticket & concession sales. Bring the family and experience a true summer evening tradition!

Continue on next page

President's column continued

Movie from book discussion tips

We have one new low-tech, low-key initiative we are trying: Discussion tips for family films & series (theater and streaming) that are based on a book. These have been developed using AI, and then modified. We hope this helps families learn how to engage in meaningful discourse and that the questions will lead to others related to living a healthy, productive life. For now we are distributing them through our most-used Little Free Libraries, but eventually hope to find other methods to do so.

StoryWalks

Summer is generally a time when grandkids and relatives with children visit. This means the hosts have to find ways to keep them entertained. What about an evening picnic at the park and stroll around a StoryWalk trail? Check out the schedule to see which story is posted at either Creekside Park or Martin

Marietta Park. Read, reflect, get some exercise, and have fun! A moving experience!

Pop in the Park

On June 13th, we will be collaborating with the City of New Bern's Parks & Recreation Department for a small pop-up event called Pop in the Park which will be held at Kidsville on Pinetree Drive. We will set up one of our StoryWalks and have a spin-the-wheel for small prizes including books. It will also be an opportunity to recruit new members and share program information.

Summer's here

Be mindful of summer sun and heat safety tips. Keep hydrated. We hope those big twisty weather systems pass us by. Enjoy!

Yours in Friendship,

Judy Hills, President TRF

Help Needed to Get Book Donations

Because the library is no longer accepting book donations for the Friends and because they are also not giving us their discards, we need your help in getting the word out to the community that we are receiving donations at our storage unit every Tuesday 10 to 12 and the 1st Saturday of the month 10 to 12. With the help of **Randy Straight**, we have repurposed a LFL into a book drop which we have placed at the rear of the storage unit for small book donations at other days and times. We can also make special arrangements for large donations. [Email Cindy Shipley](#) as she is coordinating the donations. Please help spread the word through your social media and personal contacts. If you have any ideas as to how we might increase donations, please let Cindy know. Thanks for your help!



The children's Summer Reading Program will have already started by the time you receive this newsletter, but there is still time for adults to register for the summer reading challenge and we encourage you to do so. [Click here](#)

VOLUNTEER JOB BOARD

Volunteering offers profound personal, professional, and health benefits, including reduced stress, increased happiness, enhanced skill sets, and deeper community connections. Surely there is something here of interest to you. If you have ideas for programs or projects that you want to pursue that fit with our organization's purpose, [email President Judy Hills](#).

StoryWalk Coordinator

Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913
We have a job description.

Publicity & Communications Coordinator

Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913
We need help spreading the word about our events and fundraisers. Begin by drafting a plan.

Assisted Living Facility team member

Contact Ellie Toombs, ALF Coordinator. Ellietoombs@hotmail.com 252.571.2664
Help Ellie as needed to refresh libraries in ALFs in New Bern area. Usually quarterly. Team may develop other initiatives to serve the elderly.

Storage Unit team member

Contact Cindy Shipley cindyshipley@yahoo.com 540.656.8016
Sign up to work the storage unit on Signup Genius. Prefer two persons per shift, but one can work alone. You will need an orientation and to work with a buddy for a while.

Food & Refreshment team member

Contact Margot DeLapp mdelapp@gmail.com 703.795.9927
Sometimes we just need food or desserts prepared for some event we are either hosting or collaborating on (e.g., German desserts for Oktoberfest event at an assisted living facility). We are making a list of those to contact when we need help.

Special Events Coordinator

Contact Judy Hills jahnbnc@gmail.com or 262.670.1913
These are one-time happenings (e.g., Pops in the Park at Kidsville June 13th). Organize the event, help man it (not always), and the do an after action report. Or work directly with the person who wants to organize it.

Special Events team member

Contact Margot DeLapp mdelapp@gmail.com 703.795.9927
Sometimes we just need help for some event we are either hosting or collaborating on (e.g., Oktoberfest event at an assisted living facility). We are making a list of those to contact when we need help. What skill do you have to contribute?

New Bern Southpaws Game—a Win-Win by Joanne Straight

Twin Rivers Friends and New Bern Southpaws are partnering this summer to present a night at the ballgame for our members and the community. Twin Rivers Friends will be the Community Partner for the Southpaws game at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 13. Come out, support the local time, enjoy a ballpark hot dog and your favorite beverage and support the Twin Rivers Friends.

The Southpaws generously donate 10% of both ticket and concession sales to community partners at their home games. We are pleased that they extended this opportunity to us and need your support to make this event a success. Round up your family or friends and come out to Kafer Park. This historic ballpark, located next to the police station, is located at 603 George St and has been their home since 2024.

The Southpaws are members of the Old North State League, a summer collegiate baseball league. Their competition includes teams from other NC such as Roanoke Rapids, Edenton, and Tarboro.

We want to make this event even more special for one Friends member. **One lucky member or a family member of their choice (child or grandchild) will be chosen to throw out the first pitch.** Anyone interested should send their name and contact information to friendsnewbern@gmail.com by 5 pm on Monday, July 6th. Use First Pitch in the subject line. In lieu of an entry fee, we ask that you consider donating to the Twin Rivers Friends.

There is also an opportunity for a volunteer to **sing the national anthem** before the start of the game. Again, we will accept requests from anyone interested in this honor. The guidelines are the same: send your name and contact information to friendsnewbern@gmail.com by 5 pm on Monday, July 6th with the subject line: National Anthem.

Come on out to the ballpark on July 13th and enjoy a night with Friends!

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Origin of Fathers Day

Founder's Motivation: After hearing a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd wanted to honor fathers, especially her own, who was a single parent of six children.

First Celebration: The first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington, on June 19, 1910, chosen because it was near her father's birthday.

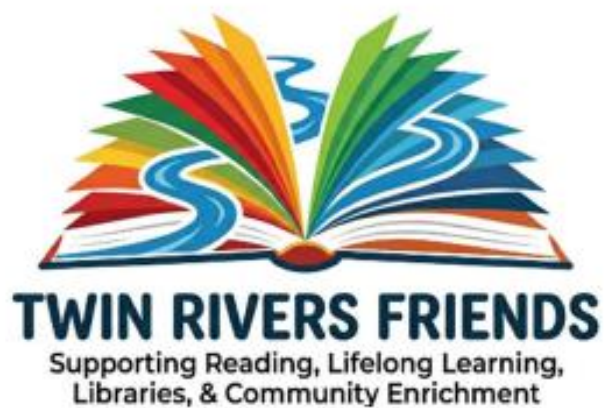
Early Support: The YMCA and local churches in Spokane supported the initial celebration, featuring sermons, roses (red for living, white for deceased), and gifts for fathers.

National Recognition: Although sup-

port grew slowly, President Woodrow Wilson honored the day in 1916, and President Calvin Coolidge urged states to observe it in 1924.

Official Holiday: In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued a proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. It was officially signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Commercial Growth: The holiday faced slow adoption partly due to fears it was a commercial ploy, but gained momentum in the 1930s to 1940s through support from retailers selling ties and tobacco pipes.



Join Twin Rivers Friends at the Ballpark
Monday, July 13 at 7:00 PM



**10% OF TICKET AND
CONCESSION SALES
BENEFIT THE FRIENDS**



Come cheer on the New Bern Southpaws
Kafer Park
603 George Street New Bern

We Celebrate Our Lifetime Members by Joanne Straight

Have you noticed that there are different levels of Friends membership available? The Executive Board wants to keep membership affordable to allow as many people as possible to join. Earlier this year, the Board voted not to raise annual dues for 2026. The basis level is still just \$10. Friends with more discretionary income are welcome to support us by choosing one of the higher levels of membership or making a separate donation.

Back in the early 2000's, the Executive Board at that time decided to offer a special opportunity for a Lifetime Membership for \$100. It

could work out to be a real bargain, depending on the age of the member at the time. Elinor Hawkins, the very first Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Librarian, was still an active board member of the Friends and supported this one-time offer. The Board felt this opportunity would generate additional revenue and be a reward for committed members.

As an interesting side note: annual dues when the group was founded in the 1960s were just \$1 per year. Fifty-eight years later and you can still support literacy and your local public library for just \$10 a year. What a bargain!

Ina & Elliott	Alterman	Kathy P.	Herbert
Fred & Elizabeth	Amend	Anne	Horner
Carole & Albert O.	Anderson	Dean	Knight
Julie	Anderson	Eddie & Rena	Knott
Peter	Azzole	Cooper D.	Kunkel
Suzanne	Blackman	Tom & Ila Grey	Lewis
Charles B. & Judy	Blythe	John	Leys
E. F.	Bowditch	Bobbie S.	Marr
Elizabeth	Brinson	Carol J. & Bob	Mattocks
Dorothy	Bryan	Genevieve	Moeckel
Joseph	Buff	Fiona H.	Moore
Critton J.	Childers	Linda	Muir
Robert M	Chiles	Marilyn	Rosen
Betty	Clarke	Anthony G.	Salem
Peggy	Daly	Joanne	Straight
Marice	DeBruhl	Martha	Strickland
Donalt J. & Patricia	Eglinton	Katherine K.	Walls
Michael E.	Fisher	Elizabeth	Ward
William A.	Frederick	Rick	Welborn
Julie	Geiger	Dolores Smith	Wood

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**"If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.
If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else."**

Little Free Libraries

We want to acknowledge **Randy Straight's** carpentry skills in building these two almost matching new durable Little Free Libraries located at Union Point Park. The LFLs at this location are used so much that this is the third set. We hope that because of the materials used to construct these that they will last much longer than the other ones did. We loved the art work on prior sets, but unfortunately they did not hold up to the elements.



STORYWALK

Come explore our outdoor stories this month!

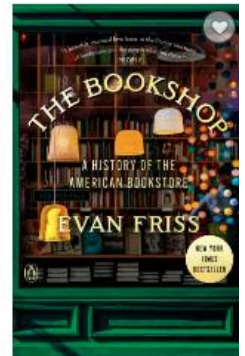
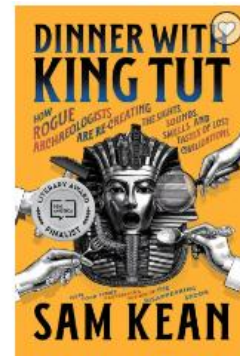
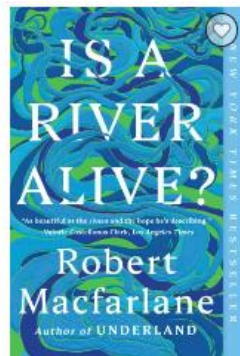
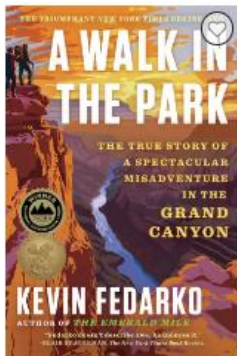
2026 STORYWALK SCHEDULE FOR PARKS

BEGIN	END	TITLE	LOCATION
Saturday, May 9, 2026	Friday July 10, 2026	This Farm is a Family	Martin Marietta
		Giraffes Can't Dance	Creekside
Saturday July 11, 1016	Friday, September 11, 2026	Leo the Late Bloomer	Martin Marietta
		Rainbow Fish	Creekside
Saturday, September 12, 2026	Friday, November 13, 2026	Big Pumpkin	Martin Marietta
		A Fall Ball for All	Creekside
Saturday, November 14, 2026	Friday, January 8, 2026	Walter the Farting Dog	Martin Marietta
		Bear Stays Up for Christmas	Creekside

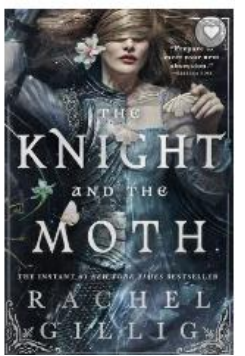
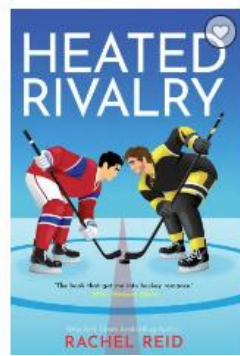
Creekside Park Stewards: Rosemary and Archie Bricker
Martin Marietta Park Stewards: Bruce & Krystal Simel

2026 Summer Reads

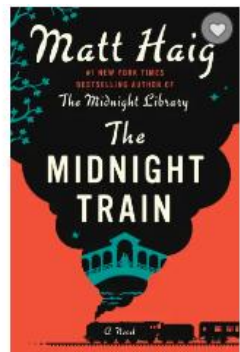
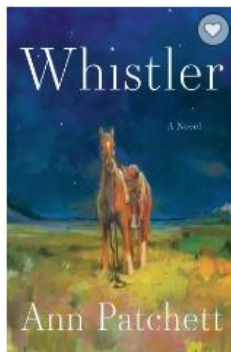
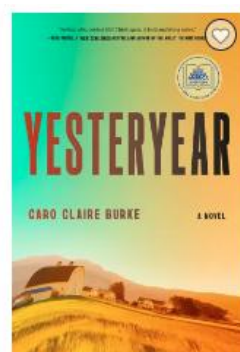
Non-fiction



Beach Reads to Fall in Love With



Top Sellers



Best Kids & YA Anytime Reads



BookTok Literary Tourism: A Global Adventure

BookTok is a massive, global subcommunity on TikTok where readers discuss, review, and recommend books. Known for driving massive spikes in physical book sales, the community largely focuses on genres like romance, fantasy, young adult (YA), and "romantasy" (romance-fantasy). But literary tourism takes this one step further—into the real world.

BookTok has transformed literary tourism into a multi-billion dollar travel trend, inspiring readers to step out of their reading nooks and into the physical settings of their favorite novels. Gen Z and millennials are driving this boom, trading traditional vacations for highly curated, story-driven itineraries.

Top BookTok Traven Destinations & Packages include:

- **Croatia:** Book a spot on an Adriatic cruise à la Emily Henry's *People We Meet on Vacation*, exploring Dubrovnik's Old Town.
- **Switzerland:** Journey to the Swiss Alps, which serve as the aesthetic backdrop for the *A Court of Thorns and Roses* (ACOTAR) series.
- **Scotland & Ireland:** Walk in the footsteps of your favorite characters with *Fourth Wing*-inspired itineraries that span five cities.
- **London & Scotland:** Relive the magic of *Harry Potter* with themed escapes that take

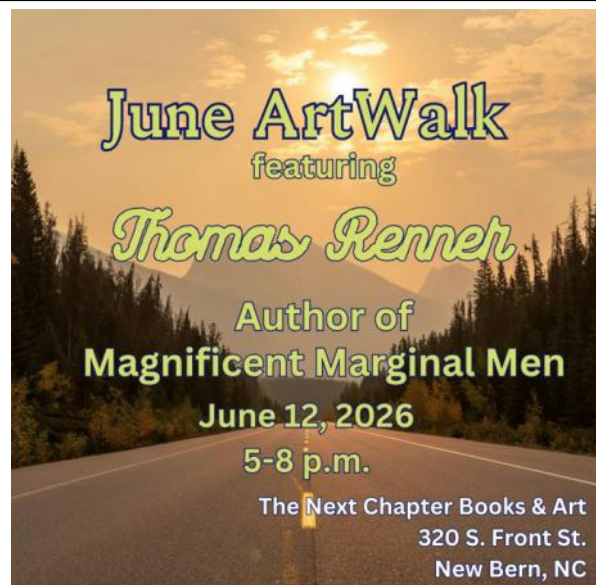
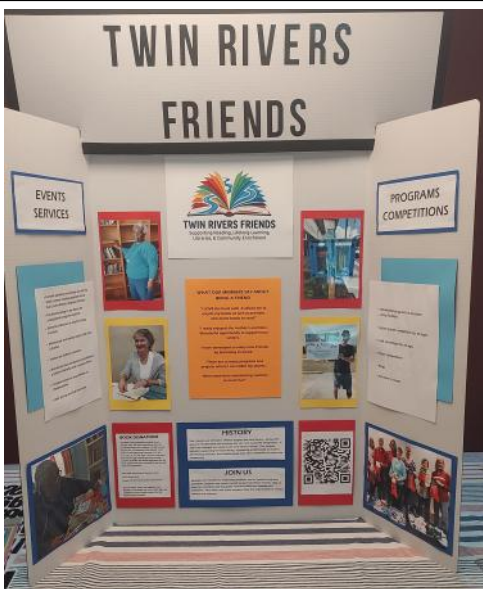


fans straight through the screen to real-life filming locations.

Prague: Visit the city's historic Baroque libraries, the infinity book tower at the Municipal Library, and the Bohemian National Park.

There are specialty tour operators that offer packages including bundled book-club discussions with themed, guided experiences. There are boutique spots that feature reading retreats that host curated reading weekends and author events. There are also self-guided bookings with itineraries that mirror the fiction worlds and author histories that you love.

So we ask not "what's in your wallet" but "what's your next literary adventure?"



SUMMER Safety Tips

A few simple steps can help
you have a safe & fun summer!



1. PROTECT YOUR SKIN

Use sunscreen SPF 30 or higher, wear sunglasses, a hat, and light clothing.



2. STAY HYDRATED

Drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially when you're out in the heat.



3. BEAT THE HEAT

Avoid peak sun hours (10 AM – 4 PM). Stay in the shade and take breaks in cool places.



4. WATER SAFETY

Swim in designated areas, supervise children at all times, and never swim alone.



5. PREVENT BUG BITES

Use insect repellent, wear long sleeves in the evening, and remove standing water around your home.



6. BE PREPARED

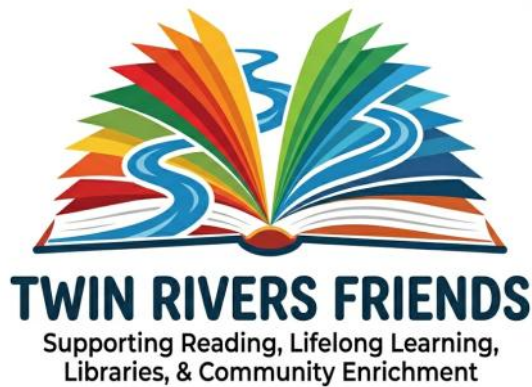
Keep a first aid kit in your car and at home. Know emergency numbers and trust your instincts.



STAY SAFE. HAVE FUN. MAKE GREAT MEMORIES!



Review detailed emergency and preparedness plans via the [American Red Cross Summer Safety Guidelines](#) to stay fully prepared for anything the season brings.



Twin Rivers Friends
P.O. Box 808
New Bern, NC 28563-0808

[TRF email](#)

[TRF Website](#)

[TRF Facebook](#)

Board of Directors 2026-2028

President [Judy Hills](#)
Vice President [Margot DeLapp](#)
Secretary [Ellie Toombs](#)
Treasurer [Jenny Miller](#)

Director [Joanne Straight](#)
Director [Cindy Shipley](#)
Director [Rosemary Bricker](#)
Director [Joy Hepler](#)

Newsletter [Judy Hills](#)
Website [Judy Hills](#)
Facebook [Margot DeLapp](#)

The purpose of this organization shall be to: maintain an association that advocates for the freedom to read; support the development of library resources and services; develop and support a community of readers and lifelong learners; and collaborate with other organizations to enrich our community and achieve these purposes.

Formed in 1968, the "Friends" is organized for charitable, educational and literary purposes including making distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any future Federal tax legislation. The Friends are also incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of North Carolina and have a current NC Charitable License Exemption.

ESTBLISHED IN 1968

Calendar of Noteworthy Events

June

- 12 Book signing at Next Chapter during Art Walk 5 to 8 PM meet local author Tomas Renner
- 13 Collaborative Program—Pop in the Park with the New Bern P&R Department at Kidsville 11 AM to 2 PM
- 18 TRF Board meeting 2 PM. Location TBD.
- 21 Fathers' Day
- 22 Invitation-only TRF volunteer appreciation event
- 25 Deadline to submit material for the newsletter

July

- 4 Independence Day 250th
- 13 Southpaw Baseball game— TRF will be featured and we get 10% of the gate and concession so do attend!
- 16 TRF Board meeting 2 PM. Location TBD
- 25 Deadline to submit material for the newsletter

August

- 4 National Night Out at Union Point Park 5 to 8 PM
- 20 TRF Board meeting 2 PM. Location TBD.

25 Deadline to submit material for the newsletter

29 Havelock Anime-Fest at Havelock Tourist Center 10 to 5

September

- 7 Labor Day
- 11 National Day of Service
- 17 TRF Board meeting 2 PM. Location TBD.
- 25 Deadline to submit material for the newsletter

HAVELOCK ANIME-FEST

Havelock Tourist & Event Center
Saturday August 29th 10AM to 5PM

