



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

Hats Off to The Friends of Huntsville Public Library by Baillie Pretzer, Children's Coordinator

For this month's article, I would like to highlight and pay gratitude to the generosity of The Friends of Huntsville Public Library.

Friends of the Library is a national organization with chapters in over 20 states and has become an integral part of public libraries and their success within the communities they serve. This success greatly depends on the awareness of how they benefit their communities. In fact, a condition that Andrew Carnegie required in his sponsorship of public libraries across the country more than a century ago was that communities had to show tenacity in their commitment to raising funds for public libraries.

As a critical component of library funding, Friends of the Library groups are often very involved in the community in bringing attention to or supporting certain campaigns. The relationship between public libraries and their respective Friends of the Library groups is far-reaching as their collaborative efforts bring out the best of the community. In times of struggle and hardship, these organizations also serve as advocates for the library when services to the public are in decline and here at Huntsville Public Library it is no different.

**LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
BECOME A FRIEND**
Friends of the Huntsville Public Library

Suggested Membership donations range from \$1 for a Child to \$500 for Lifetime

Events Sponsored by The Friends:

- Pirates: History v. Hollywood
- Wild Things Zoofari
- Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse (Teens only)
- Crocodile Encounter
- Magic Show

Click here or scan code to donate!

Huntsville Public Library Friends Inc.
hplfriendsinc@gmail.com

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OPEN MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS 10 AM TO 7 PM
AND SATURDAYS 12 PM TO 4 PM
PROCEEDS WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE LIBRARY.

Huntsville Public Library

Find out more about...

How Andrew Carnegie Turned His Fortune Into A Library Legacy

SCAN ME!

Continued On Page 2



Hats Off, Continued From Page 1

After a rough year of few-to-no programs, The Friends of Huntsville Public Library is excited to sponsor every one of our specially booked summer events this year! From Pirates to Crocodiles and Zombies to Magic, The Friends of Huntsville Public Library want nothing more than to see our community return to the Library and celebrate gathering together this summer. While capacity for these programs is limited, we are so happy to be hosting visitors once again and very eager to see our patrons' faces, mask or no mask. We have so much to be grateful for here at HPL thanks to The Friends and we look forward to seeing where our Friendship will take us next.

Preserving Your Story

by Mary Kokot, Reference and Adult Services

A major health and historical event, the pandemic has touched the lives of everyone in Walker County, and its aftermath will continue to affect our citizens well into the future. What have we learned that the next generation needs to know? Huntsville Public Library is cooperating with the Walker County Genealogical Society to collect your written and/or spoken memories of the past year. We want to record your personal stories so today's experiences can become part of tomorrow's collective memory.

WCGS President Johnnie Jo Dickenson reminds us, "Many of us have lost cousins or other family members and were unable to attend their funerals. We have had to cancel annual family reunions. Let's involve the children. They have missed sleepovers, birthday parties, and their school life has been so different than years before. Let them tell their stories. Each of us has a different story to tell. It is important to the history of our community that these stories be recorded for future generations. Please help us with this project. Your story is important."

The Walker County Genealogical Society will preserve these stories in their archives for future generations as a part of Walker County history. Email your story to wccgen.com or mail it to WCGS, P.O. Box 1295, Huntsville, TX 77342-1295. If you need help writing down your memories, contact Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot by calling the library at (936) 291-5471 and she will arrange for someone to help record your thoughts and have them transcribed. Alternatively, you can drop your written stories off at Huntsville Public Library or email them to mkokot@huntsvilletx.gov.



Image via wccgen.com



June is National Aquarium Month!

by Josh Sabo, IT Services Coordinator

I have been fishkeeping for several years now and only just recently realized June is National Aquarium Month! It seems like the perfect time to discuss the wonders of the home aquarium and how rewarding it is to set up and maintain an aquarium.

My first tank was a 10 gallon freshwater betta tank. Within a year, I upgraded to a 30 gallon freshwater community aquarium with mollies, gouramis, and, my personal favorite, upside down catfish. These fish are interesting because they spend their lives swimming upside down. Shortly thereafter, I started my first saltwater tank. I originally intended it to be a “fish only” tank but quickly threw myself into the world of coral and reefkeeping. After years of trial and error, I finally learned to maintain a stable ecosystem in my aquariums and to keep some fascinating and beautiful fish and invertebrates. These included clownfish, tangs, shrimp, sea urchins, crabs, and starfish, among others. I would closely monitor my water parameters to make sure I was keeping the water quality stable enough for all the living organisms in the glass box in my living room. I grew to love watching how all the fish interact with their environment and with each other. They develop personalities and you get to know them very well. The reason I write in past tense is because, unfortunately, I lost both of my aquariums due to below freezing temperatures and multiple days without power during the winter storm in February.



A pair of upside down catfish.
Image via aquariumsource.com.

One of the best parts of keeping an aquarium is learning things from multiple fields of science such as chemistry, biology, and ecology. It is also an excellent exercise in patience. This is because the initial setup process takes about a month before you can even put any fish in safely. Additionally, you can never make any drastic changes to the aquarium. Every change you make must be gradual or the tank will become unstable and therefore unsafe for the fish.

The most important thing to learn when starting an aquarium is referred to in the hobby as “cycling” the tank. This means understanding and establishing a nitrogen cycle in the tank. Without this, there would be no bacteria to convert the fish waste into nitrates and the fish would effectively drown in their own waste. These bacteria colonies are collectively referred to as the “bio-filter,” which is already well-established in natural bodies of water that contain fish and invertebrates.



Continued On Page 4

Aquarium Month, Continued From Page 3

The bio-filter is used in tandem with physical filter media that should be changed regularly. A physical filter media can be anything from plain filter fiber, such as polyester pads that trap large debris, to more complicated things such as bio pellets or even using good algae to fight bad algae. The second most important thing to master is how to perform partial water changes regularly. A partial water change removes fish waste as well as nitrates (converted waste) from the aquarium and provides fresh, new water for the fish. At high levels, nitrates are harmful to fish and, even at low levels, are very harmful to invertebrates, so you can understand how important it is to have a balanced ecosystem.



A picture of my urchin rolling around and picking up rocks and shells.

The library has a very well-kept (by me) 40 gallon freshwater aquarium, which is a special kind of tank referred to as “black water.” Rather than being completely clear, the water is turned brown by naturally occurring compounds, called tannins, that leak out of the driftwood. These tannins help stabilize the pH in the tank to mimic the conditions in certain rivers and lakes where aquarium fish thrive. We currently have seven white skirt tetras and two zebra loaches in the tank. Come check them out if you haven’t seen them yet!

Huntsville Public Library has several books if you’re looking to learn more about the aquarium hobby, or just to learn more about aquatic life in general. I personally recommend *The Inspired Aquarium: Ideas and Instructions for Living With Aquariums* by Jeff Senske and *Starting Your Marine Aquarium* by David Boruchowitz. These are a great place to start if you are interested in getting into the hobby.



The library's school of white skirt tetras.

Things Happening at The Huntsville Public Library

Summer Reading 2021

Huntsville Public Library

June 5th through July 23rd

Register | Read | Raffle



Ages 0 - 18+

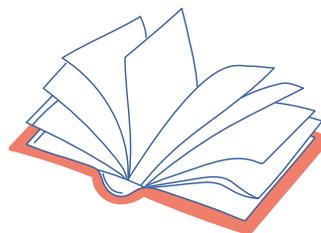


Fine Forgiveness Month JUNE 2021

Huntsville Public Library is forgiving your overdue fines during the month of June. To qualify, please contact the Library during the month of June 2021.

Charges for items that have been lost, damaged, or returned more than 30 days late are not covered under this Fine Forgiveness program.

Contact the Library for full details.



Storytime

at Huntsville Public Library

Read
Sing
Play
Create

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45