

The Buzz from & about the Friends of the Beebe Library Fall 2025

From the Board

By Karen Williams

We at the Friends of Beebe Library hope that you all had a great summer, and that the funding that we provided to the library helped it to make it that way. Perhaps you took advantage of the museum passes to do something fun at a reduced cost or your children participated in the summer youth program. Maybe you came to listen to Plaza Jazz, or tuned in to one of the online webinars with a well-known author or other presenter. Your funding of the Friends of Library paid for all of these things and more!

We were very happy to learn that we will be able to use the Hurd School again for a spring 2026 book sale. Thank you to Denise Casey, our new Town Administrator, for her support! (See page 3 for information on our upcoming book drop). We are still concerned about future years. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Do you enjoy fundraising? We are searching for new fundraising options to potentially replace the book sale, and are recruiting people with an interest in fundraising to help us. Do you have other skills that you think might be useful to us? See the back page for a list of positions that we are recruiting for.

What else can you do to help? Be sure to renew your membership each year - you can do so at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join>. Make a donation at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate>. Please consider us as you contemplate your year-end donations. And don't forget to purchase some honey at the circulation desk at the library.

Wishing you a wonderful fall and upcoming holiday season!



Picturesque quarry at Halibut Point State Park

Beebe Museum Passes: great for day trip exploring

By Nancy Tolleson

The Friends of Beebe Library pay for 20 museum passes. They are all fun to try out, but access to the Massachusetts State Parks Systems offers an incredible array of places to explore. The parks are free so the pass covers the cost of parking. A nearby gem is Halibut Point State Park in Rockport. The drive is lovely, especially as you get closer and wind down the back roads of Rockport. You may notice that many driveways and entrances are framed by low granite walls or tall pillars. You will even pass a building entirely of granite.

Once we arrived, I learned that Halibut Point was an active granite quarry in the era before cement became common. As you walk, the path is unassuming then suddenly you see a huge water-filled quarry with high stone walls, then not far beyond you see the sweeping vista of the ocean. It's not too big so you can see it all in a relaxed visit.

Continued on page 2

Focus on the Friends

By Karen Williams

The Board and key volunteers of the Friends of Beebe Library have completed an exercise to establish the central tenets of the organization. We would like to share those with you so that you can get to know us better. In each newsletter we will highlight a different aspect of our organization.

Our first area of focus is to provide resources to the library. We do this through:

- 1) **Raising funds.** This includes memberships; the annual book sale; the Everyday Book Sale; fundraising events; collecting donations, including at Town events (such as the Festival by the Lake, Town Day, and farmers market); and selling logoed products such as honey.
- 2) **Providing funding to the library.** We keep abreast of trends in funding relationships between libraries and Friends of Library organizations; accept funding requests from the library; and provide funds to the library to satisfy those requests. That could either be for regular annual activities such as youth summer programs, or special purchases such as the virtual-meeting booths on the 2nd floor.
- 3) **We maintain open lines of communications** with library leadership and notify membership of the need for volunteers should any needs arise.
- 4) **We perform library staff appreciation activities** such as providing flowers for National Library Week, and looking for opportunities to acknowledge the excellence of library staff.

Let us know if you have any questions about who the Friends of Library are and what we do!

Beebe Museum Passes (Continued from Page 1)

Most of the paths are easy, but others that go down to the rocky shore are more challenging. During our early Fall visit it was still brimming with wildflowers and full of insects and birds. The park had a strategic location on the tip of Rocky Point, so a welcome center shows off its history from World War II when the watch tower was used to scan for German submarines, to the 1950's when early radar systems were being tried out. It also offers many details on the granite industry starting in 1840 when huge slabs of granite were carved off and sent via railroad to become foundations for business buildings all over New England. So pack a picnic lunch, grab your camera and binoculars and go explore this fascinating treat. For a great wrap up to your day, return to historic Rockport, find a spot to grab a bite, sit on a bench, and watch the ocean and the world go by at a slower pace.



Halibut Point Blueberries

Noble and the Beebe have new Online Catalog...Check it Out

By Karen King

When I first read, via email, that the Beebe had a new online catalog, I wanted to ask “why”? as I never had issues with the old one! Then again, I am always trying to learn more about what is available through the Beebe. I knew I needed to explore this new catalog. I spent some time “clicking” through the new online system and I am so impressed. Here are a few things that made me excited and I hope you take the time to find out how the new online catalog will help you.

The interface and graphics within the new catalog are really great. I spent 30 minutes clicking buttons and checking things out and found so many resources that were available before but that I had never seen. As an example, practice test for Learners Permits! While I took that test many years ago, I was amazed that this resource is available to our local teens.

Lists and cover pictures of books recommended for Reading Challenges (Massachusetts Center for the Book) are featured under the “Home” page and this makes selecting a book and subsequently finding out if the book is available from the Beebe a really quick and easy task.

Lists of Banned books make for great conversation amongst any group of friends and again, it is pretty amazing at all the titles you will find there.

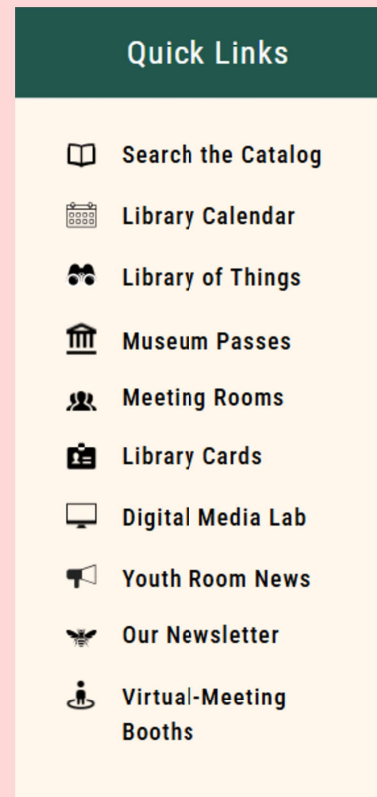
You can track your reading history so for those of us who are very active readers using [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com), you can now track your completed reading titles within the Beebe system. Yes, you could do this before but it wasn't an obvious option as it is now. It will also show you what you have on hold and physically where that book is located.

How to access the new catalog? Go to the main page of the Beebe website wakefieldlibrary.org and use Quick Links.

- At top right corner of screen, click Sign On.
- Enter your library card # and password, hit enter.

You will then have a new personal account page and be ready to search for not only books but many other resources. The new interface is really user friendly and the graphics make it easier to see what is available. Many of these items were available in the older catalog but not as easily seen. Take the time to explore; it will be time well spent.

Thanks to the Beebe Library Staff for always making the Beebe a better place with great resources.



2026 Book Sale Drop Off

**The first Book Drop Off at the Hurd School
Saturday, November 22, 2025
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Rain or Shine**

Read your way around the world of news and ideas with PressReader

by Karen King

The Beebe library displays its newspaper and magazine collections in the Gold Room. The current collection offers 11 newspapers and 35 magazines. It's a treat to slip into the sunny room and steal a few quiet minutes to flip through the pages of the Globe, Herald, or Wall Street Journal or browse magazines that cover art, food, politics and more. However, there is a great resource you can access from home or anywhere called PressReader.

Download the application to your phone/tablet or browse a larger format via your computer. Login via your library card number and ID (Library & Groups).

Once in, you are tempted by 1000's of titles from all around the world. You can pick a few favorite titles and set up an alert for current issues. You can also review current featured topics to see a range of opinions. The service is very customizable to skim or search or limit to a specific language or country. Try the view of the physical title, ads and all, or switch to a text view. Even fonts can be selected to make the experience more suited to your own personal needs. There is a listen feature, but I found it difficult to stay with as the narrator used a mechanical voice.

There are added options for reading a library of classic titles and another for games. Most of the content is geared to adults but some titles are great for younger readers like National Geographic Kids (UK). I was amazed at the range of titles and languages. It was hard to pick just one thing to read. This is just a quick introduction to another Beebe Library resource you might not see during your visits to your usual favorite sections.

Why Volunteer?

By Andi McCormack

There is something amazing about being part of the team that brings the library book sale to life. Sorting the books, feeling the weight of so many pages—words that are carefully crafted and shaped to share information, worlds, love, loss, adventure, culture, food, art, poetry, and everything in between—is incredibly special, and I am happy to have been able to be a part of providing books to our community. I'm a reader at heart, not a writer, and it's hard to put to words just how important events like these are, but this is a thank you to everyone who volunteered and a thank you to everyone who showed up to buy books and support our library. I have been so lucky to be a part of the Wakefield community and a proud Beebe Library card holder for about as long as I've been able to read. I have participated in summer reading challenges a plenty, shared library museum passes with friends and family, been an avid Libby user, and of course, gone to many Beebe Library book sales.

The library provides valuable resources, and it feels only natural to want to give back. A couple years or so ago, I was out of college looking for something to get me out of the house between job applications. Karen King (thank you Karen!) would often drive me over to book sorting for the library book sale, and we would get to work together and with an incredible team of volunteers. It was refreshing to be involved in the community and fantastic to see and be a part of the sale's behind the scenes. The most recent time I've volunteered, I was ecstatic to see how many graphic novels had been donated and was delighted to sort that section, as I enjoy that genre and was happy that even more people would get to experience reading them.

So, shout out to the book lovers, the Friends of the Beebe who are supporting our library, the volunteers who make events like these possible, and everyone in the community who make it all worth it.



The Beebe Library has the BEST Friends!

Do you need to clear some space on those bookshelves?

Here's a chance for you to give a helping hand to the

Friends of the Beebe Library

If you have some gently read, popular, and recently published books that are ready for a new home, we have a place for them on the Everyday Book Sale shelves in the stairwell on the lower level of the library.

We're looking for adult hardcover and softcover fiction and nonfiction; youth/teen chapter books, board books, and picture books. All in excellent condition, with no writing inside.

Please, no reference books or textbooks.

Here's how to help

- place your book donations in a bag
- email the Friends for a porch pickup

beebebooksale@gmail.com

- we'll be in touch to coordinate a time

The proceeds from the Everyday Book Sale support the library.

Thank You for being a Friend!

FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 2115
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880



**LUCIUS
BEEBE**

Where Wakefield Connects



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Assistant Treasurer	Louise Good	Newsletter Editor	Phil Good
Photographer	Sherri Caouette	Fundraising Coordinator	Sherri Caouette
Volunteer Coordinator	OPEN	Fundraising Committee	OPEN (Multiple)
Float Coordinator	OPEN		

Everyone is invited to our Board meetings on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, starting at 7 pm., at the Beebe Library.

Become a member...

Visit our web page to download an application or pay online via PayPal.

For more information, visit www.FriendsofBeebe.org

