

Benzie Shores District Library Receives Library of Michigan Certification for Meeting ‘Enhanced Level’ of Quality Services

The Library of Michigan awarded the Benzie Shores District Library a certificate of completion for meeting the Enhanced Level requirements of the Quality Services Audit Checklist (QSAC). Enhanced quality measures are more difficult to achieve than Essential Service measures, which the library also met, and are a commitment by the library to quality management and services beyond the basics. To earn certification, the Benzie Shores District Library demonstrated its competence in seven categories of achievement including human resources, governance/administration, services, collection development, technology, facilities and equipment, and public relations/marketing.

A lot happens behind the scenes to achieve this designation. The library staff participates in continuing education and professional development. A strategic plan is maintained and revised regularly by the library and its board. The implementation of a mission statement is another quality which is necessary for the Enhanced Level of service. Offering benefits like MeL (Michigan Electronic Library) and interlibrary loan in cooperation with other Michigan libraries are an important aspect of achieving this higher level of certification. Keeping the library collection up-to-date is another integral part of the process. Other aspects are providing free wireless access to the public, publishing a newsletter on a regular basis, and adopting a library-specific logo and slogan.

QSAC was made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through LSTA funding. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, is an independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities. For more information about the Quality Services Audit Checklist, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/qsac>.

New Additions to Benzie Shores District Library

We are pleased to announce the addition of DVDs to our collection for both children and adults. We have two new computers in the teen area as well as a children’s computer for educational games in a newly remodeled nook in the children’s area. Gaming has been added to our activities and includes Wii games and Nintendo DS. The library is a happening place!

For more information on any of the library programs, please check the website at www.benzieshoreslibrary.org or give us a call at (231) 352-4671.



Young children participating in BSDL’s first Wii program.



One of the library’s young “patrons” concentrating on an educational game on the children’s new computer. The computer is situated in a newly remodeled nook in the children’s area.



After school, First Graders enjoyed learning how to use the new equipment for the newly acquired gaming program.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

At the April 7th Lake Township Board meeting there will be an opportunity for the Board to approve a library services agreement with the Benzie Shores District Library. This agreement would allow all residents and taxpayers in the Frankfort Elberta Area School District portion of Lake Township to have access to all services at the BSDL. If the agreement is signed, cards will be issued beginning April 8th to eligible Lake Township people. The final approval of the library services agreement rests with the voters in an August election.

The staff, volunteers, members of the Friends, and the library board are excited about the possibility of offering library services to Lake Township. For many years this has been a dream of everyone involved with the library.

BSDL's CHILDREN'S NEWS

CIRCLE TIME

Circle time will continue at the library on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 until summertime!** (stay tuned for possible change of day and time once summer begins and Miss Char returns). Rhymes and movement for infants and toddlers are the focus of this lively half-hour program. Each session ends with fifteen minutes of play. Join us!

2011 SUMMER READING PROGRAM:

June 10—August 13, 2011

**Read for 24 hours and receive a coupon booklet
(Oh, the joy of summer reading!)**

ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES:

2011 Summer Story Hours

Day and Time to be Announced

ALL children are welcome!

BINGO WRAP-UP

Thanks to the 44 young people who signed up for our winter BINGO program! BSDL BINGO sheets highlighted many of our non-fiction sections, as we have been purchasing some wonderful new children's books.

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA

There are some wonderful new books (sets and singles) in the children's area ready to be read and enjoyed. Sets that have been purchased include: **WORLD BOOK SCIENCE AND NATURE GUIDES**—a 12 volume set with great information on the natural world and project ideas to boot. (middle-late elementary ages). **WORLD BOOK'S LEARNING LADDER** series covers science concepts for K-1st grade, in a simple, fun format. **DK EYEWITNESS BOOKS** on a wide range of topics—with excellent photographs and useful facts. **WORLD BOOK MYTHS & LEGENDS**—action filled writing with beautiful illustrations made for exciting reading of cultures around the world. **PEOPLE & PLACES** is a tremendous reference set that provides in-depth information of the countries of the world, including narratives from a child's perspective.



Stacy Pasche and Julie Morris attended the Frankfort Girls JV/Varsity game to promote BSDL's new services: digital downloads, DVDs, and gaming



This puppet is just one of the children's favorite characters. He is sharing their interest in the library's new Nintendo Digital System!



What fun for children to play digital games in their own little "nook" at the library.

WHY IS BENZIE SHORES DISTRICT LIBRARY PROMOTING GAMING IN THE LIBRARY?

1. Aren't libraries about books and reading?

In the 21st century, libraries are much more than books! In fact, libraries work very hard to provide people of all ages with a rich and current menu of CDs and DVDs, as well as electronic and online resources. Video game resources and programs at the library complement these existing services. Featuring this new gaming media helps the library expand its reach while meeting community expectations.

2. Aren't video games just a passing fad?

Actually, video games have been popular for more than 30 years. In fact, three generations have grown up with video games—Generation X, Generation Y, and Millennials. It's not only today's kids who are playing video games. The average age of today's gamer is 35-years old, and Baby Boomers and Seniors are playing them more than ever before. Libraries across the country are offering family gaming nights that bring generations together for a gaming experience they can't share anywhere else.

3. Why should kids play video games at the library?

Lots of kids play video games at home—alone, with siblings, or with friends. The library is a safe and non-commercialized space. At the library, kids socialize with their friends and play video games while surrounded by books, librarians, and knowledge. Video gaming at the library encourages young patrons to interact with diverse peers, share their expertise with others (including adults), and develop new strategies for gaming and learning.

4. How do librarians choose video games that are appropriate for our kids?

The Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) has established criteria for rating video games. In 2008, 85% of the video games sold were rated "EC" (Early Childhood), "E" (Everyone), "E10+" (Everyone 10 and older), or "T" (Teens ages 13 and older).

5. What do kids learn when they play games at the library?

Video games give kids a chance to practice reading, writing, and computing in the library's safe environment. Popular video games, the ones that kids really like to play, are immediately engaging and make them work hard to succeed and 'level up'. While playing these games, kids are constantly developing new strategies, predicting possible outcomes, managing multiple resources, reading and deciphering maps, tracking complex statistics, and adapting to increasingly difficult levels within the game. They learn a range of media literacies beyond basic reading that give them models for navigating our information-rich world.

GAMING PROGRAMS AT BSDL



This winter, the library hosted our first gaming programs. In February, area youth filled our YA area with board games and handheld video game devices. Many children play these games at home. Gaming at the library offers them a chance to play games with people of all ages in a supervised environment. It also allows those who do not have access to gaming equipment to have a change to hone their skills. In addition to our afterschool gaming program,

the library hosted a Saturday gaming event for all ages. Kids and parents enjoyed an afternoon of bowling on the library's new Wii gaming system.

The American Library Association promotes gaming in libraries because games teach technological skills. In other words, literacy isn't just about reading anymore. In addition to the educational value, there is no denying that participants at our previous programs had a blast. Check the library's calendar and please join us for our next all ages event!

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

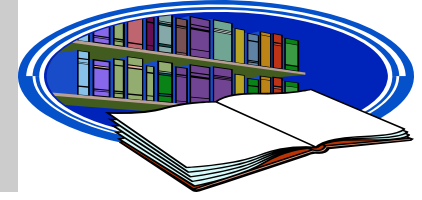
For the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the Benzie Shores community funded the Library a total of \$246,115. Residents received the equivalent of \$1,026,565 in materials and services.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: 317%
For every \$1.00 spent, patrons received \$3.17 in services.

The services included in these figures were for the circulation of books, audio books, magazines, both adult and children's programs, internet access, and reference questions answered. Additional information is available at BSDL.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

By Cathy Carter



CATHY'S VACATION READS—NOT AN EVEN DOZEN

Although I thought I could read a dozen books on my vacation, I didn't quite make it. But I came close! Here is a brief rundown of what I read on my winter vacation. **RED GLASS** by Laura Resau. Resau writes books for children and young adults. I have enjoyed her books, all of which have a Central American connection. I loved this story about a fearful teenage girl who finds her courage during an eventful pilgrimage to Mexico.

A **LONELY DEATH** by Charles Todd. Todd's Ian Rutledge mystery series is very good. In this one, many young men from one village are stalked and murdered. Ian has to find the connection.

JAYBER CROW by Wendell Berry. Berry writes beautifully. His fiction books are set in a small town, are full of wonder, and interesting characters. I enjoyed this book, but preferred **HANNAH COULTER** because the main character was more appealing to me.

THE HELP by Kathryn Stockett. I actually was not going to read this book because I thought it was the retelling of a story that has been told again and again, but was I surprised! This is a really, really lovely book about a young woman who wants to be a writer and decides to try to tell the stories of the maids who work in one Southern city during the beginnings of the civil rights movement.

THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF JACOB DE ZOET by David Mitchell. Now this was the retelling of a story that has been told again and again, with really no new twists. It is about Dutch traders in Japan and the clash of cultures. Although David Mitchell is a wonderful writer, the story, to me, lacked originality and none of the characters were compelling.

COMPANY OF SWANS by Eva Ibbotson. Eva Ibbotson writes wonderful children's books. I recently discovered that she writes historical romances that captivate both young adults and adults. The stories are fun, sweet, low key, and have happy endings.

RELUCTANT WIDOW by Georgette Heyer. I am so very lucky that Georgette Heyer was a prolific romance writer, because I do not consider it a vacation if I have not read at least one of her books. This romance has quite a convoluted premise, but is fun. The main characters are well matched and intriguing.

RED GARDEN by Alice Hoffman. This is classic Alice Hoffman. I am one of her biggest fans and the only disappointment I had with this book is that it was TOO short. I loved it and am haunted by some of the episodes.

INVISIBLE BRIDGE by Julie Orringer. The writing, the story and the characters are all very good in this book about Hungarian Jews leading up to WWII and during the war.

One book I started and did not finish was **VILLETTE** by Charlotte Bronte. I love to read at least one classic while I am on holiday, but this was certainly not the right book. The heroine was pitiful, whiny and unappealing. The good news was that, since I didn't like it, I could just download a book I liked. I love my e-reader!

CATHY'S READS ~ WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO RIGHT NOW

In the car I am listening to the cd **ALEXANDRIA** by Lindsey Davies. This is the first of her Falco series that I have read. These mysteries take place in the ancient Roman world. If **ALEXANDRIA** is representative of the series, I am now a big fan. The characters are marvelous and the mystery is interesting, fun and complex.

At home and the gym, I am listening to **CUTTING FOR STONE** by A. Verghese. Twins are born in Ethiopia. Their lives are complicated and beautiful. I downloaded this title from Overdrive at the library website.

I just finished Gloria Whelan's **LISTENING FOR LIONS**, an amazingly good book for older children, young adults and adults, about an English girl in Kenya who has to pretend to be someone else. So, I am listening to cds, playaways and downloadables! Whew!

CINDY'S READS

I am listening to **THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO** a novel by Steven Galloway, recorded in 2010 on an MP3 Playaway. It is very well written, and interspersed with a few moments of cello music (making me wish for much more). It portrays the lives of four people living and struggling with constant sniper attacks, destroyed city and lives, and individually resisting the insanity and evil of war.

Recently, I finished listening to **A WRINKLE IN TIME**, written in 1962, and read by an older Madeleine L'Engle. I found it on Playaway in the children's collection. It is a classic science fantasy involving very clever children fighting evil in the universe. I recommend at least leafing through the book just to see the spelling of the unusual names of whos and whats and wheres.

JULIE'S READS

I've been listening to **THE PENDERWICKS** by Jeanne Birdsall, via Playaway. This is a delightful children's story about four lively sisters and their summer adventure at Arundel, a lovely estate in the Berkshires. Their exploration of the mansion's gardens and attic...discovery of tame rabbits...and interactions with the characters they meet, make this story funny and very sweet. It really appealed to my imagination and dreams of exploring new spaces. I'm ready to read the next adventure, **THE PENDERWICKS OF GARDHAM STREET**.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS (Continued)

HILARY'S READS

While in the car, I recently listened to *THE INDIGO NOTEBOOK* by Laura Resau. The story is told from the perspective of a fifteen year old girl who lives in a different country each year with her "free-spirited" mother. Completely engrossing. Now I'm determined to read (or listen to) everything written by Resau.

STACY'S READS

I just finished listening to *MENNONITE IN A LITTLE BLACK DRESS* and thoroughly enjoyed it. *ROOM* by Emma Donoghue is a haunting but beautiful story of a kidnapped boy and his mother. The narrator of Kathryn Stockett's bestseller *THE HELP* really captures the spirit of all of the characters. All of these titles are available on OverDrive.

A SAMPLING OF NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

Non-fiction books tend to be thought of as books that provide information, such as books on septic systems or knitting patterns. There are books on travel, cookery, history, science, memoirs, and local history. So, non-fiction titles present subjects as factual. *ALONE TOGETHER: WHY WE EXPECT MORE FROM TECHNOLOGY AND LESS FROM EACH OTHER* by Sherry Turkle examines what technology is doing to our relationships. *INSECTOPEDIA* by Hugh Raffles is full of fascinating, amazing facts about insects. *ACHOO: THE UNCOMMON LIFE OF YOUR COMMON COLD* by Jennifer Ackerman is an incredibly interesting book on the history, remedies and the virus that causes colds. *SEED TO SEED* by Suzanne Ashworth tells how gardeners can save seeds. *OUR PEOPLE, OUR JOURNEY: THE LITTLE BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS* by James McClurken is a compelling history of Michigan's Ottawa families and the impact external influences had on decisions and opportunities of different branches of the Ottawa people.



The February program of **REFLECTIONS BY THE BAY** was given by **RENEE HINTZ**, Michigan Legacy Art Park Director, Crystal Mountain. It was a very interesting program.



REFLECTIONS BY THE BAY

- April 20, 2011 7:00 p.m.
"Historic Structures in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park"
by Ranger Kim Mann
- May 18, 2011 7:00 p.m.
"The Denno's Museum"
by Diane Bolander
- June 15, 2011 7:00 p.m.
"Afghanistan"
by Ted Curran
- July 20, 2011 7:00 p.m.
(To be announced)
by Susan Ager

The *Reflections* series, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is offered every third Wednesday of the month (except December), is open to the public, and is free of charge. It is held at the Benzie Shores District Library. Refreshments are served following the program. Please come and join us.



FLEDA BROWN signing her poetry books following her **REFLECTIONS BY THE BAY** program at the library. At the March program, Fleda discussed writing, and then read, some of her poems which were enjoyed by all those present.



FRANKFORT CITY HALL is now enjoying the historical photos which were previously displayed on the wall above the computers at the library.



BSDL's collection of old newspapers before they were sent to be digitized.

NEW SERVICES AT THE LIBRARY

Our library services are always evolving as we adapt to the expressed needs of our public. This winter, the Benzie Shores District Library has added services and made more changes.

1. **TWO NEW “TEEN” COMPUTERS**

We have two new computers in the young adult area that are available for use by the public. These were purchased through the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program which is a federal grant program administered through individual states.

2. **A “HOMEWORK” LAPTOP**

This computer is for library use only, but may be checked out at the circulation desk.

3. **DIGITIZATION**

The library’s Benzie County Record Patriots newspapers are at Lakeshore Documents being digitized. Once they are back, we will be sending the Benzie Record newspapers for digitization. The digitized newspapers will be available from the library computers. After the digitization is complete, we will be organizing the on-line access to them. The current timeline is to have the newspapers all digitized by July and the on-line access available by December. The on-line access will depend, in part, on funding options.

4. **DVDs**

Our new collection of DVDs is so popular! The collection is being purchased through a grant that specifically targets young adults and children, so no R rated DVDs are being purchased at this time. However, the library plans to begin purchasing R rated DVDs and accepting donations of R rated DVDs soon.

5. **CHILDREN’S COMPUTER AND COMPUTER AREA**

A new AWE/Early Learning Station computer, pre-loaded with educational games is now available in the new children’s computer area. It has a touch screen and is very, very cool.

6. **NEW OVERDRIVE TITLES**

New Overdrive titles for e-readers and audio downloading have been purchased by every participating member library of our Up North Digital Consortium. New titles are being added on a regular basis. If you have any questions on this service, please call the library and make an appointment with Stacy for individual instructions on how Overdrive works with your device.

7. **GAMING**

The library now offers regular gaming programs including a monthly Saturday afternoon Wii game time and monthly afterschool DS game time. Check the library website for the dates and details.

8. **FACEBOOK**

Don’t forget to check us out on Facebook.

9. **MAGAZINES**

Our magazine collection has expanded from 75 titles to 82 through gifts and a memorial donation. The current issues of each periodical is unavailable for circulation, but all past issues can be checked out.



COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

MEL DATABASES AND MeLCat

Two services that we love to mention at every opportunity are the MeL (Michigan Electronic Library) databases and MeL-Cat interlibrary loan. Both are world class library services. The databases are the first place one should start for information. If you have not looked at the wealth of information that is available, go to www.mel.org or use the link from the library’s website, www.benzieshoreslibrary.org. You will be amazed. The other service we are so thrilled with is our statewide interlibrary loan service, MeLCat, which can be accessed from home, school or work. Please call the library if you would like more information on these services.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

The Benzie Shores District Library is committed to excellent service. One way we will try to fulfill this commitment is by finding out what services our patrons want us to offer. In the summer of 2008 we did an extensive library services survey. As a result of that survey, we knew we needed to make some changes. We renovated the library, and we added dvds and downloadable audiobooks. The library board decided to do a survey every 3 years. So, this summer, watch for our new library services survey. It will be available on-line, in the library and through the mail. It is an important resource to help us make decisions for the future.

BENCHES

If you have sat on our patio benches during the last year, you may have noticed (the hard way) that is very easy to pick up a splinter. The benches are being replaced, so you will have no worries when you sit outside in order to access the library's wireless internet.

BOOK PAGES

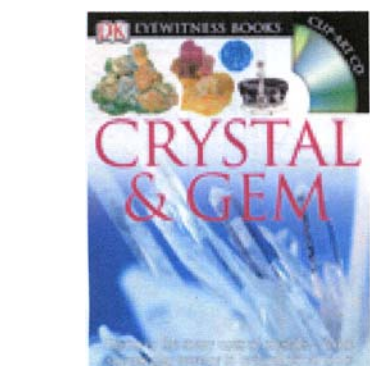
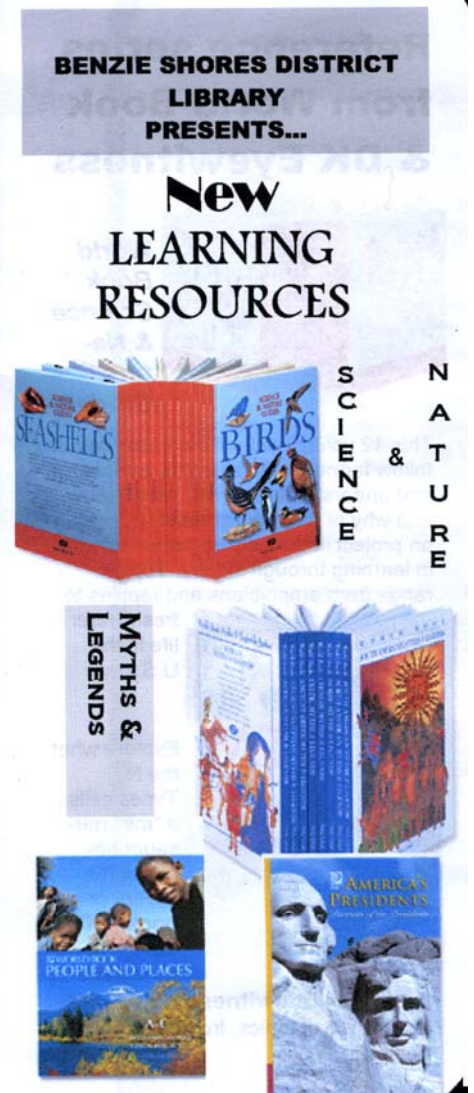
The Friends of the Library support and enhance many aspects of library service. One thing they do is provide the periodical "Book Page" to our patrons and at a variety of locations in the area for free. "Book Page" has reviews of popular books and interviews with interesting authors. Looking for a good book...pick up a copy of "Book Page" to take home.

SUBSTITUTE LIBRARIAN

Although it doesn't happen often, once in a while, an illness or other unexpected happening makes it impossible for some of the staff to work. We now have a substitute librarian we can call on to help us. **Charla Kramer** is a professional librarian, works at NMC, lives in Benzie County with her husband and children, and has an extraordinary business, echobend.net. Charla loves libraries. We are so lucky to have her at Benzie Shores.



Looking forward to Spring? This is the way the library will look in just a few months!



This 12 volume set with an easy-to-follow format helps students explore and understand the what, where, how and why of the natural world. Hands-on project ideas help engage students in learning through inquiry. Topics range from amphibians and reptiles to fresh water life in the U.S. **Check out our huge new selection of DK Eyewitness books.**

BOOK SHARE GROUP

The Book Share Group meets at **9:00 a.m.**, for one hour, the **second Wednesday of each month.**

Everyone finds it delightful to hear about a diverse selection of books that attendees read. It is always intriguing to learn about authors and titles that are unfamiliar.

Everyone is welcome to join the Book Share Group and share your "best reads" with them.

GREAT BOOKS GROUP

The Great Books Discussion Group meets **every other Thursday at 3:30 p.m.** They are once again discussing sin and having a great time in the process. The essays are in the Great Books Foundation anthology *EVEN DEADLIER* which includes the sins of pride, envy, greed, gluttony and more. The anthology is available for check out at the circulation desk.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

~ DUES ~



There is still time to pay your dues for the Friends of the Benzie Shores District Library. Your support is needed and very much appreciated. Because of your membership, the Friends have been able to do wonderful things for the library. You may drop your dues off at the library, or mail them to:

Benzie Shores District Library
630 Main Street
Frankfort, Michigan 49635-0631

THANK YOU FROM "THE FRIENDS"

**Benzie Shores
District Library
Board**

President: **Jon Armstrong**
Vice-President: **Jennie Schmitt**
Secretary: **Virginia Freeman**
Treasurer: **James Ryan**
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Jane Comings

**BENZIE SHORES
DISTRICT LIBRARY**

**630 MAIN STREET
FRANKFORT, MI 49635-0631
(231) 352-4671**

Library Director: Cathy Carter
Library Assistants: Cindy Collier
Julie Morris
Hilary Turner
Stacy Pasche

Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
10:00 am—8:00 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10:00 am—5:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am—3:00 pm

Internet website:
www.benzieshoreslibrary.org

Benzie Shores District Library Shorelines
Computer Layout & Editor
Kay E. Hommel