

# SHELF LIFE

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*Did you turn your curiosity into impact for Citizen Science Month?*



If you are not certain what you would like to do or how you can apply your own skills and indulge your special interests to help the scientific community, you may visit the SciStarter web-based research affiliate of the School of the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University at [Scistarter.org/NLM](https://scistarter.org/NLM). With the help of partners like National Geographic and the Citizen Science Association the groups worked to promote April as Citizen Science Month and provided interested readers with the opportunity to make a difference by doing things like bird watching, insect collecting, studying rocks, or looking into how digital games can enhance or stimulate cognitive development in children or the elderly.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP

Citizen Science is the name of a collaborative program in which ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to use their own talents and time to help scientists by collecting data and doing research or merely by promoting a love of sciences ranging from astronomy to zoology.

Throughout April, S.C.P.L. offered ways you and your family could become a Citizen Scientist through a variety of crafts, activities, and informative programs.



## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP

The Smyth County Public Libraries system created buzz about bees through a variety of newsletters, games, and crafts for patrons of all ages.

### *Beekeeping with Charlie Vanover*



On April 30th, The Marion Library was honored to host expert Beekeeper Charlie Vanover for an educational program as part of Citizen Science Month. Mr. Vanover is a fountain of information about bees and their integral part in our ecosystem. Honeycombs, bee frames, and beekeeper safety suits were all on display. He also shared samples of honey collected from all over the country for guests to taste and compare. We hope to have Charlie back in the near future for a repeat performance.

### *Saltville's Citizen Science Kits and Seed Station*



This year for Citizen Science month, the Saltville Library focused on bees and their importance to our natural world.

We provided Citizen Science kits for children age 1 to 11 to take home and complete. These kits included crafts, activities, games, and other fun items to encourage our children to learn about bees, and the importance of keeping them safe and healthy.

To further encourage a friendly environment for bees, the library had a seed station set up. Children could come in and color their own seed packet. After gluing it together, they were able to add native seeds to take home to plant a pollinator garden.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP

*Bee Kind  
Storytime  
with Kris*



Saltville had a preschool storytime, “Please Please the Bees.” The children that attended enjoyed the story about a bear who learned that we must all help the bees so they can help us. After the story, they created crafts, played games, and checked out books to take home and enjoy.

*Buzz  
About  
Bees with  
Ranger  
Devon*



We collaborated with Hungry Mother State Park to provide a program to kindergarten, first grade, and second grade after-school students at Saltville Elementary. The Hungry Mother Interpreter gave lots of interesting and important information about bees.

*Buzzing  
beehive  
arts and  
crafts*



And finally, for our teens and adults, we provided the supplies for a honeycomb craft made with a small flowerpot and jute cord.

These programs worked together to provide education and entertainment for our patrons of all ages. Our hope is that in addition to having fun, after completing these activities, they had a better understanding about the importance of bees.

*Bee Kind  
to Bees  
Activities*



## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP



Chilhowie Library scheduled several programs and events this month in conjunction with national Citizen Science month. This year our focus was plants and seeds. To celebrate, we opened the new SCPL Heirloom Seed Exchange. This is a seed saving library that contains heirloom fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower seeds that may be “checked out” by the public but not in the traditional sense that a book circulates. Patrons may take seeds from our catalog, and they are asked to return a portion of the seeds from the plants they harvest at the end of the growing season. This will enable another person to use those seeds in the next growing season. We like to think of this as “paying it forward”. The library system initially purchased approximately 280 packs of heirloom seeds to stock the catalog. We are pleased to say that we received more than double that amount through donations from VA Extension and other members of the community.



An opening event for the Exchange was held with a presentation by Ben Casteel, a local horticulture instructor at Virginia Highlands Community College. This event was well attended, and many people signed up to participate and took home various seeds. We also hosted a lecture concerning traditional Native American and early settler gardening methods by Randy Smith, a retired history professor. We are happy to report that we have now registered 49 participants and given away over 200 seed packets to the community. The Seed Exchange will be open year-round, and items can be requested from and delivered to any of the branches in the Smyth County Public Library system.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP

*Duck  
Themed  
Storytime  
with Mrs.  
Rita and  
Ranger  
Avery*

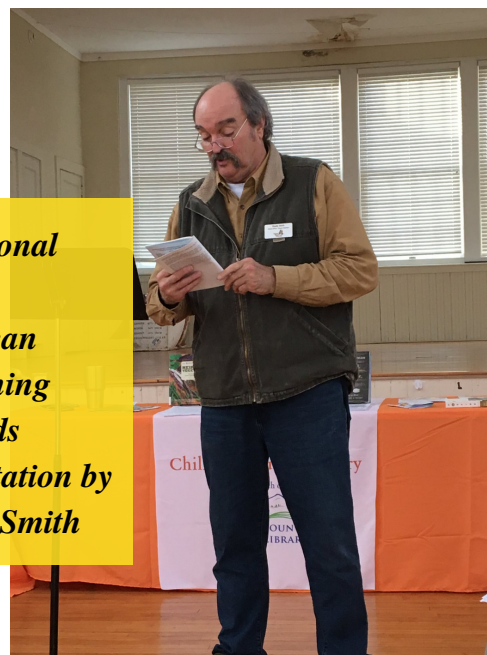


*Happy  
Happy  
Earth  
Day!*



To continue with our Citizen Science month theme of plants, Chilhowie Library gave away free river birch and red dogwood seedlings to the community for Earth Day. We are delighted that over 150 seedlings were distributed to Smyth County residents. Our children's public storytimes also focused on different science and nature concepts each week during April. In addition to reading science themed books, we also partnered with Hungry Mother State Park to introduce STEM concepts to children through hands-on activities and educational presentations by Ranger Avery Smith.

*Traditional  
Native  
American  
Gardening  
Methods  
presentation by  
Randy Smith*



## CITIZEN SCIENCE MONTH RECAP

### DR. BRETT FRYE OF EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE



Dr. Brett Frye currently serves as a member of the Science Department faculty at Emory & Henry College. She kindly shared her own feelings about Citizen Science Month with us: "Growing up in Smyth County, I was awestruck by the natural beauty that surrounded me. My connection with nature inspired a curiosity about the diversity of living things - the birds, the salamanders, the trees - that I encountered everyday. I fostered this curiosity by studying Biology, first at Emory & Henry College (Emory, VA), then at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC), and finally at Clemson University (Clemson, SC), where I earned my PhD.

Through these studies, I learned about a wide array of topics ranging from molecular biology (the study of molecules and their interactions) to ecology (the study of relationships of organisms with their biotic and abiotic environments). One of the most fulfilling experiences of my PhD involved visiting local high schools to talk about the importance of assessing the health of our streams, rivers, and lakes. In addition to classroom projects, we visited local streams to measure things like water acidity and the presence of macroinvertebrates, including crawdads. These activities allowed students to ask questions about the natural environments in which they lived. Students also presented their findings to the local community.

Altogether, this experience promoted civic engagement with the natural systems in which we live and showcased that everybody can do science. Since then, I have moved back to Southwest Virginia. I still love the mountains. I am still learning more about biology every day. I hope that others who feel the connection to our region will take that inspiration and use it to learn about other precious and complex places on this Earth."



**FREE**

Access the Internet  
**SCPL IS NOW LOANING**

- WiFi Hotspots
- Tablets with Hotspot
- to individuals who do not have broadband access at home
- Make an appointment in Marion, Chilhowie, or Saltville

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

🌐 [www.scplva.net](http://www.scplva.net)

**NEED A RAPID COVID-19 ANTIGEN AT-HOME TEST KIT AT NO-COST?**

**ASK A LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER FOR A FREE KIT!**  
*A library card is not required*



The **easy to use** test kits are for use when you return home. Library staff **cannot** assist with administering tests.



Getting results for your at-home COVID-19 test is fast! It only takes **15 minutes** to know your status.



Questions about when you should test? Questions about how to interpret your results? Questions about what to do after the test? Contact your healthcare provider or VDH at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid19testing](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid19testing) or 1-877-829-4682.



For more information please visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/protect-yourself/covid-19-testing/taasc/>

COVID information center: 1-877-829-4682



**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
 VIRGINIA'S HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS.  
 Do your part. Stop the spread.

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## NEW DATABASES AVAILABLE FOR PATRON USE

See Smyth County Public Libraries (sirsi.net)



Introducing Brainfuse VetNow! Get free online job and academic assistance for Veterans, and much more with your library card.



Introducing Brainfuse HelpNow! Get free online homework help with your library card. Available 2pm - 10pm, 7 days a week for K - College students.



Introducing Brainfuse JobNow! Get free online career prep, resume help, interview prep, and much more with your library card.

## ACCEL 5 Business Leader

For just in time learning for the working professional, Accel5 Business Library features: Short videos on topics including: business competencies, leadership and management, and personal effectiveness.

Accel 5 also offers summaries for business and leadership books and articles by industry leaders on current working world issues.

*To access use the following credentials:*

**Username:** libraryva@accel5.com

**Password:** V1rgin1a

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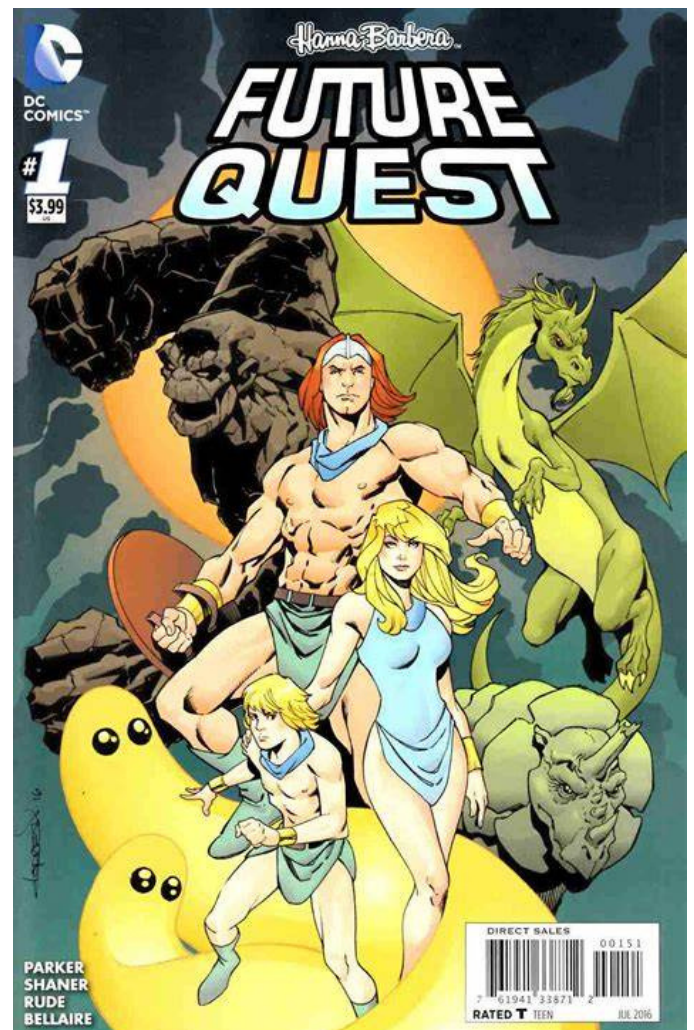


## BOOK SALE ITEMS!

Our ongoing book sale of donated or discarded items is located in the Reference Department. We suggest a \$1.00 donation for each item purchased.

## AARON LOPRESTI'S FAVORITE BOOKS!

TDC Comics, Marvel Comics, Image Comics, and Dark Horse Comics are a few of the companies that have employed the talented American artist Aaron Lopresti. His creative skills have graced publications like Detective Comics, Justice League International, Legion of Super Heroes, Wonder Woman, Uncanny X-Men, Amazing Spider-Man, and Ms. Marvel. He was kind enough to name a few of his own favorite books for our library and we appreciate his help. Aaron's list included: The Frankenstein Diaries, Dinotopia by James Gurney, and the Mars and Pelucidar books by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Shown below is a cover he created for the best-selling series Future Quest.





## SALTVILLE

### *Mysteries*

The Lost Girls by Jessica Chiarella

The Guide by Peter Heller

### *Fiction*

And Now You're Back by Jill Mansell

Nine Lives by Danielle Steel

The Walnut Creek Wish by Wanda Brunstetter

Wish You Were Here by Jody Picoult

Whiplash by Janet Dailey

Dear Santa by Debbie Macomber

The Girl in His Shadow by Audrey Blake

### *Nonfiction*

The Confidence Men by Margalit Fox

## CHILHOWIE

### *Mysteries*

Fear No Evil by James Patterson

The Guide by Peter Heller

The Ballerinas by Rachel Keipelke-Dale

### *Fiction*

Nine Lives by Danielle Steel

The Walnut Creek Wish by Wanda Brunstetter

Wish You Were Here by Jody Picoult

The Girl in His Shadow by Audrey Blake

The Family by Naomi Krupitsky

The Midnight Lock by Jeffrey Deaver

The Inheritance by Joann Ross

## MARION

### *Fantasy*

Tower of Fools by Andrzej Sapkowski

Destroyer of Light by Jennifer Brisset

### *Fiction*

Wish You Were Here by Jody Picoult

The Girl in His Shadow by Audrey Blake

The Inheritance by Joann Ross

### *Nonfiction*

Churchill and Son by Josh Ireland

Facing Pelvic Pain by J. B. De Elise

Facing Cystic Fibrosis by Y. Sher

Royal Descents of 900

Immigrants Volumes I and II by Gary Roberts

The Salt Trade of 19th Century Saltville Revised and Expanded by Will Sarvis