SWGLAS Patron Donates $10,000 to Library

Bob “Woody” Woodward has a longtime love affair with books. Even though he is designated “officially blind,” he has met few books he couldn’t read, thanks to large-print editions.

Woody buys and reads large-print books, then donates them to the local library, so others with similar vision problems, can read and enjoy them too.

This month, in addition to large print books, Woody also donated $10,000 to the Decatur County – Gilbert H. Gragg Library Foundation. Library assistant director Catherine Vanstone said the money will go towards establishing a large print book collection in the library in Bainbridge.

Woody’s love of reading books goes back to Bainbridge High School, Class of 1969, where he was a library student assistant. He had a key to the door, so he would arrive early, open the library, and let students come in before first period class so they could catch up on their homework and reading assignments.

He now reads large print books due to detached retinas in both eyes which classifies him as legally blind. “I still drive a car,” he says, although he says he “probably shouldn’t.” His vision goes from OK to fuzzy, focus to non-focus, back and forth.

Due to a bad back, he currently is on medical leave from the Georgia Industries for the Blind where he is production manager, employed there since 2001. GIB in Bainbridge has about 100 employees of which 80 per cent are blind, coming here from many states and foreign countries to earn a living. Woody says the Bainbridge plant is state governed although they receive no state funds. Revenue comes from the profits made on product contracts.
So what does this prolific legally blind reader like to read? His favorites are historical fiction novels, and just about anything else except science fiction and romance. Currently he is reading *Runner* by Patrick Lee, billed as a Sam Dryden Novel, where the hero tries to protect an 11-year-old girl being mysteriously chased by Federal Agents.

With a large population of blind and vision impaired people in Bainbridge, the donation towards establishing a large print collection will enhance the services of the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services which also provides digital books and digital readers and other services for persons with vision and physical handicaps involving the printed page.

With over 2,900 visually handicapped registered patrons in the 22 county area, Woody believes that the program provided by the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services in Bainbridge, is vital to the community. Director Susan Whittle says, “This donation is a Godsend to the program that serves the visually impaired readers in the region. Mr. Woodward shows his passion and love for reading through his generous gift to all.”

Woody says that “I know and believe that reading has been my salvation.”

**Reading Tool in Development at MIT**

There is a new research and development happening for people with limited eyesight and limited ability to read. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists are developing a tool that will enable people to read documents and menus “real time.” This is a break through that will create another level of independence for people with limited sight. To read more about this high tech “finger reader” go to: CBC NEWS.

**Update Your Contact Information**

Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? Please remember to update your patron information with the library. We have a lot of patrons that have either moved or changed their phone numbers and we don’t have updated contact info. This means we can’t contact them, so please call us and update your information if it has changed.
Correction to last month’s newsletter this is the correct way for extending the life of your Digital player.

**Tips for Extending the Life of Your NLS Digital Player**

- Whenever possible, it is best to leave your digital player plugged into a working power outlet.
- When listening to your player while it’s on battery power, NEVER LET IT RUN ALL THE WAY DOWN! Especially in the older players, if the battery runs down below a certain minimal charge, it will not recharge.
- If you hear the announcement, “Battery Low,” plug the player into a working power outlet and allow it to recharge for at least three hours before turning it back on. After a lot of use, the player may not recharge back to the full “over 29 hours.” This is normal and does not require the player to be returned.
- If you plan to read a book while going to sleep, use the crescent moon “Sleep” control. Touching sleep control up to 4 times in a row will allow a maximum of one hour’s use before the player turns off.
- Remember: commercial USB drives use much more power than NLS digital cartridges. Using a commercial USB drive will reduce the battery’s actual playing time by as much as ten hours. It may tell you there are “more than 29 hours” of charge left, but only provide 18 or 19 hours of actual playing time.

**End of Book**

If you insert a cartridge into your digital player only to hear the player announce “end of book.” The easiest way to solve the problem is to press the green, square play/stop key twice. That should take you to the beginning. If that doesn’t work, try pressing and holding the rewind key, which is the triangle pointing left beside the play/stop key. Press and hold the rewind key until the player announces beginning of book.
Southwest Georgia Library
For Accessible Services
Southwest Georgia Regional Library
301 South Monroe Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Free Reading Matter
F/T Blind & Handicapped
U. S. Mail
Do Not Cancel

Hours:
Monday 9am to 8pm
Tuesday 9am to 6pm
Wednesday 9am to 6pm
Thursday 9am to 7 pm
Friday 9am to 6 pm
Saturday 9am to 4 pm

Phone: (229) 248-2680
1-800-795-2680
Email: lbph@swgrl.org
Fax: 229-248-2670
Take a tour & checkout training material at The Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services by clicking on
www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Online Catalog for ordering library books:  http://webopac.klas.com/glass
Call the library for your log-in and password.

NOTE: Please submit information or news that you would like to share to Kathy Hutchins or Arlene Freeman.