

TALKING BOOK TIMES

MAY 2009

Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center

600 High Point Lane

East Peoria, IL 61611

1-800-426-0709

To receive this newsletter in Braille, on cassette, or by E-mail; give us a call at 1-800-426-0709. This newsletter can also be heard on our website; [www.mitbc.org](http://www.mitbc.org). The online recording is done courtesy of WCBU public radio in Peoria.

#### SUCCESSFUL CIRCULATION UPGRADE

All systems are go! The transition to our new circulation system went well as planned. We would like to thank you for your patience in dealing with the resulting delays and adjustments. The upgrade helps us to better serve you. If you need to update any information in your profile, feel free to contact your reader advisor (1-800-426-0709).

The first letter of your last name determines who your reader advisor is.

Priscilla A-G Ext 2122

Jan H-O Ext 2130

Nancy P-Z Ext 2124

#### DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ACCOUNT?

In an effort to reduce costs and environmental impact; we are offering an online newsletter. Contact your reader advisor if you are interested.

Nancy Boucher nboucher@alliancelibrarysystem.com

Jan Plemons jplemons@alliancelibrarysystem.com

Priscilla Whipp pwhipp@alliancelibrarysystem.com

#### NEW BARD PROGRAM DELIVERS

There are ever increasing ways to listen to audio books. One such way is through the new Braille and Audio Reading Download (B.A.R.D.) program. The BARD program requires a Victor Reader Stream; it's like an MP3 player on steroids. The Victor Reader Stream holds 60 gigabytes of information. Electronic book files can be downloaded from the National Library Service site. An attachment allows the reader to

play the new digital cartridges. The player can also read computer text files out loud and has a built in digital voice recorder. These functions are especially useful for students of every type.

Purchase of a Victor reader is required. For financial assistance visit [www.iltech.org](http://www.iltech.org)

To Learn more about the program and to see the player in action visit these websites

<http://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/dtb/>

[www.mitbc.org](http://www.mitbc.org)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)(search for Victor Reader Stream)

If you are interested in this program, contact you reader advisor. You may also sign up at the National Library Service website [www.nlsbard.loc.gov](http://www.nlsbard.loc.gov)

GO MOBILE WITH THESE OPTIONS

Spring is here! Looking for a way to enjoy a book while relaxing outside? Here is a website which you can use to download audio books onto your mp3 player. [www.librivox.org](http://www.librivox.org) offers free public domain book titles.

Another website of interest is [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org). The service is free to educational organizations. Individual membership is \$50 annually. The service uses DAISY format players which are provided to members.

Of course, if you don't want the hassle of finding and downloading content, we have a constantly growing collection of PLAYAWAY titles. They're easy to use and mobile enough to enjoy anywhere. Just call your reader advisor for a PLAYAWAY catalog

KID'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This year's theme is Read on the Wild Side. Students who register will receive a packet which includes animal themed booklists. Students who read and report on the books will receive prizes. The program runs from June 8th to August 7th. Contact a MITBC reader advisor to sign up. 1-800-426-0709.

For more information visit the Illinois Kidszone website at <http://www.ilkidszone.info>

Don't forget to visit your local public library for all sorts of fun summer activities.

## THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all of our volunteers and volunteer agencies for your services; especially during the circulation upgrade. You are an integral part of this wonderful service.

Thank you to those of you who have donated funds to the service. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by all who benefit from the program. Your donations are all the more appreciated in these economically fluctuating times.

We would also like to thank all the patrons who have sent in letters of appreciation or given us your opinions and suggestions. Your thoughts are valued, and we hope to receive more in the future.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MAY 26(LABOR DAY)

JULY 4(INDEPENDENCE DAY)

Do you have a special interest? Perhaps gardening or learning a second language? MITBC has the goods. Ask your reader advisor about books on your favorite activities.

Just call to request at 1-800-426-0709.

Visit us online for Applications, Old-time radio shows, PLAYAWAY titles, and much more at [www.mitbc.org](http://www.mitbc.org)

To request these titles call 1-800-426-0709 or email you reader advisor.

#### READER ADVISOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan Plemons recommends these dog themed titles

RC 65346 Merle's Door Lessons from a Freethinking Dog. author Ted Kerasote  
Outdoor writer relates adventures with a mixed breed Labrador dog.

RC 64545 Shaggy Muses author Maureen Adams. Details the research of 5  
women writers who relied on their dogs for support.

RC 65383 A Three Dog Life author Abigail Thomas.  
Author describes rebuilding her life after husband's brain injury with family  
and their 3 dogs.

RC 62296 The Dogs of Bedlam Farm author Jon Katz.  
Author recounts a season on his 42 acre spread, training border collies to  
herd sheep.

RC 63830 A Good Dog The Story of Orson, Who Changed My Life author Jon Katz  
Author's relationship with the troubled Border Collie, Orson.

#### PLAYAWAY TITLES

PL 000038 Marley & Me by John Grogan. Non-fiction. Family biography.

And for the feline inclined

PL 000209 Dewey Small Town Cat who Touched the World. author Vicki Myron.  
How is it possible for an abandoned kitten to transform a small library, save  
a town, and become famous around the world?

Nancy Boucher recommends these titles

Spring is finally here! Are you itching to get outside and put a hoe to the  
soil or plant some flowers in containers? Or would you rather read about  
other people and their gardens? We have a number of books about gardening, on  
the back of this page is a short list.

RC 62130 Theresa Youssef's Vegetable Gardening for Beginners.  
A basic garden guide for growing eighteen different vegetables.

RC 9545 Apartment Gardening. Do you think you can't grow plants  
because you live in an apartment? This book will tell you how you can.

RC 45208 Planting Noah's Garden. This book tells experiences various  
Gardeners have had while in their gardens.

RC 49080 Accessible Gardening. Tips and Techniques for Seniors and  
Physically Disabled.

RC 51515 Tulipmania. The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower. This is a  
history of the tulip.

#### PLAYAWAY TITLES

While we do not have specific books about gardening on PLAYAWAY, these two  
books have gardens in their stories.

PL108 The Secret Life of Bees

PL107 The Secret Garden

Priscilla Whipp recommends these titles for those learning to cope.

RC 48786 Coping With Blindness Personal Tales of Blindness Rehabilitation. The author, who is blind, reminisces about his forty years as a rehabilitation counselor, recalling some of his clients and being in the field.

RC 56630 Coping with Macular Degeneration. A Guide for Patients and Families Discussion of age-related macular degeneration disorder. Written by a low-vision specialist at the Helen Keller Services for the Blind in New York. Describes diagnosis, treatment options, and methods for handling emotional problems.

RC 55481 Coping with Vision Loss Maximizing What You Can See and Do. Describes the function of the human eye, major causes of vision loss, coping techniques, equipment, and educational aids. 2001.

RC 45924 Woman's Guide to Coping with Disability. Information to help women maintain their independence, a family, and continue in a career despite physical challenges. Strategies for living with arthritis, diabetes, lupus, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, and spinal cord injury.

RC 60364 Coping with Kidney Disease. Physician from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine offers advice on living with kidney disease.