



# CTLS Newsletter

## March 2012

## No. 110

### Productive Regional Meetings

By Pat Tuohy

By the time you read this article, more than 90 members will have attended 1 of the 5 regional meetings held across the region to discuss the membership fees and services for FY2013. Participation at the meetings has been intense and very productive. The multiple fee schedules and proposed membership services have been scrutinize, dissected, critiqued, and voted on by participants in each location.

Of greatest interest at each meeting was how to determine the basis for a proposed fee schedule as well as the range of fee Options for each of the 3 criteria sent out with the briefing packets. In 2 of the meetings, CTLS members proposed their own criteria for assessing a membership fee. In Gatesville, the librarians supported a fee structure similar to the North Texas Library Partners model. They felt that a 2-criteria formula would provide a more balanced way to assess an annual membership fee. Members attending the Wells Branch session were also dissatisfied with the 3 criteria included in the briefing packets. They supported a fee structure based on per capita expenditures of libraries. Staff has prepared the new fee structures proposed in Gatesville and Wells Branch and sent these out to librarians who attended the first 3 meetings.

The discussions have been open, frank, and accepting of divergent opinions about how CTLS can continue to offer services in a very difficult financial climate. All of the comments, votes, and survey responses collected at the meetings will be considered by the Long Range Planning Committee at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that time, the Committee will adopt recommendations for fees and core membership services for 2013. This recommendation will go directly to the Board of Directors who will make a final decision at their March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Westbank Community Library.

We hope that by April 1, a framework will be in place to go forth and recruit our member libraries for the new CTLS.

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#### CTLS Board of Directors:

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Lyle Thormann *Secretary*

Eileen Altmiller *Treasurer*

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Curt Busk *At Large*

Lynne Holle *At Large*

# Youth Services News

By Kim Lehman

## Science Programs in the Library

There are many ways to present inexpensive science based programs in the library for elementary ages through high school. Here a few ideas you may find useful.

First of all, always remember you are not alone. You do not need to do everything yourself. There are plenty of resources to tap into. For instance, you may want to contact an engineer in another city department. They could talk about structures and design. You could follow the program with simple engineering projects that can be found at [www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org).

Other engineering activities could include a BB coaster challenge. Divide the youth in teams. Each team is given the same number of straws, masking tape, clay and 3 BBs. They must come up with a roller coaster design that the BB will travel through.

This engineering activity could be done as a stand-alone program or could be a much bigger city wide challenge. All you need is newspaper and tape. Each team, family, or business is given the same amount of newspaper and one roll of masking tape. The goal is to create a support structure that will hold the most weight. At the end of a certain time limit, test each creation using stacks of books as weights. This program is incredibly scalable, inexpensive and fun.

Another science program using a community presenter may include someone in the medical field talking about anatomy and physiology. This program could be followed by activities about blood pressure, stethoscopes, reflexes, and response time. Check out the new book of anatomy activities in our professional collection *Anatomy Academy* by Bryce Hixson

## News You Can Use

By Laurie Mahaffey

### Reference Books too Good to Miss

Black History Month will be over by the time you read this, but perhaps during that month, you saw a need for something for your patrons less expensive than the 5-volume set I reviewed a few months back. The [African American Almanac: 400 Years of Triumph, Courage, and Excellence](#) has just been published by Visible Ink in paperback for \$22.95. Favorably reviewed in the February 1 Library Journal, it will answer many questions for patrons and students.

Costume books are published very infrequently. Consequently, I have seen books on this topic that are quite old. A new costume book by Elizabeth Lewandowski, the [Complete Costume Dictionary](#), has 300 color illustrations and defines 20,000 terms. All this for only \$125! Scarecrow Press is the publisher. The author is a theater costume designer at Midwestern State University. The book was favorably reviewed in the February 1 Library Journal and is a great resource for local theater groups or high school drama productions.

### Good Idea from Another Library

Recently, I visited the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, eager to see the grand old library restored since Hurricane Ike left 7 feet of mud inside in September 2008. The library is beautiful and showed no trace of the disaster. The historical room, fortunately on the third floor of the library and undamaged by the hurricane, has a small staff and many materials. While they have a subscription to Newspaper Archive, they only have one computer for the public and no printer connected to it.

The staff asked that we fill out a comment card to help them show their city council what visitors had to say about their facility. If you don't have comment cards, consider using them. Often, visitors will praise the library and leave a new idea or helpful suggestion. It's a good way to get feedback in writing. People might fill out a small card as opposed to completing a longer survey.

# TANG Tech Tip: I don't know how that got on my computer

By Zak Rousel

I can't tell you how many times I have heard that statement. Lately it seems that every program you download or update tries to get you to install some other program or toolbar as part of the installation process. Most people think this extra installation is required to use the new software since the box to install this extra program is already checked but it is not. When you are asked to install a program or application as part of an installation you should always opt out of anything extra unless you really want it. These extra programs are often categorized as bloatware or adware and will generally slow down your computer because they are running but not really needed.

Here is an example from the Java updater that most of us have installed on our computer. As you can see below the Java updater wants you to install the Ask toolbar and make Ask your default search provider. The Java people don't really think you need the Ask toolbar but they get paid a small amount for each person who installs it so they try to trick people into installing it. Another commonly installed unwanted program is McAfee Security Scan which is bundled with the Flash Player update.

## From the Java Updater

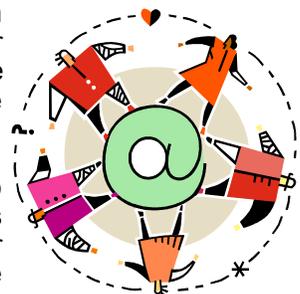


If you have already installed some of these unwanted programs on your computer by accident, then you can usually delete them from the Add/Remove Programs section in Windows XP or the Uninstall a Program feature in Windows 7. In some cases an extra program like Malwarebytes or Spybot Search and Destroy may be required in order to remove this unwanted software.

## CTLS Discussion Forum

Based on feedback at our member meetings, we have setup an online discussion forum and live chat at <http://www.forums.ctls.net/>. In order to use the forums please register by clicking the registration link under the CTLS logo. It's a very simple process. The forums are visible to all but the live chat area is only visible to registered users who are logged in.

Forums are designed to build online communities of people with similar interests. Also known as a "discussion group", "board" or "newsgroup", a forum is an asynchronous service where you can trade non-instant messages with other members. The other members reply on their own schedule, and do not need to be present while you are sending. Forums have a specific set of jargon associated with them; e.g. a single conversation is called a "[thread](#)".



These are still in testing format and we are not sure if they will be used by members so your feedback or use is appreciated.

## Texas Books of Interest

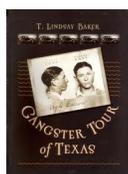
By Laurie Mahaffey



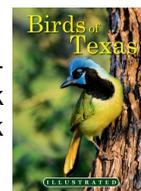
William Sidney Porter spent some time in Austin and wrote short stories under the name of O. Henry. Most of us are familiar with “The Gift of the Magi,” a story of love and sacrifice. He also wrote “A Chaparral Christmas Gift,” which has been reprinted in Texas Christmas Tales, along with others. Published by the Great Texas Line Press in Fort Worth, this paperback is \$8.95. Buy it now & avoid the December rush.



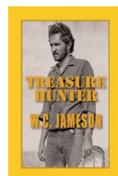
For all the Aggies out there, Texas A&M: The First 25 Years will be an enjoyable glimpse of the early days of the university in Brazos County. Lyman Hardeman is a Texas A&M graduate and has written this paperback (\$22.95) published by Lone Star Junction Press in Austin.



Speaking of Texas A&M, its university press has printed T. Lindsay Baker's Gangster Tour of Texas, a \$29.95 hardback. This book covers the Santa Claus Bank Robbery of 1927 in Cisco, plus other cases from the 1920s and 1930s. True crime always has a following among library patrons.



Texas is fortunate to be the home of many species of birds, some year round and others just passing through. Identify them all with Birds of Texas Illustrated, written by Tim Ohr and edited by Mark Lockwood, a biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife. Published by Rocky Publishers, it's paperback and \$16.95.



If treasure hunting interests your patrons, purchase Treasure Hunter: Caches, Curses, and Deadly Confrontations, by W. C. Jameson. This prolific Texas author has written over 70 books; this one is from Seven Oaks Publishing in Llano and is a \$14.95 paperback.

All of these books were favorably reviewed in the Austin American Statesman by Mike Cox on December 4, 2011. Texas books don't often get coverage in the national library magazines, so it's great to have a local source for information on books of particular interest in our home state.

### What's new in the CTLS Professional Collection?

We have a number of new materials focused on science programming you can check out from our professional collection. We are putting together a kit on magnets that will be ready very soon. To check out these resources, go to CTLS.net or call Kim for assistance at 512-583-0704 or 1-800-262-4431.

- Teaching Physical Science through Children's Literature by Terrific Science Press
- Physics Pholk Songs and Other Scienterrific Ditties (with Activities) by David and Ginger Hildebrand
- 39 Amazing Experiments with the Mega-Magnet by Brian Rohrig
- Anatomy Academy by Bryce Hixson
- Crime Scene Investigations: Real-Life (Grade 6-12) by Pam Walker
- Science Night Family Fun from A to Z by Terrific Science Press
- Fire Bubbles and Exploding Toothpaste: More Unforgettable Experiments that Make Science Fun by Steve Spangler



# CTLS Calendar of Events

March	8	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ Buffalo, TX
	9	CTLS Regional Meeting ~ La Grange, TX
	20	CTLS Board of Directors Meeting ~ Westbank
April	17-20	TLA Conference ~ Houston, TX
May	15	CTLS Board of Director Meeting ~ Wells Branch
June	25-30	CTLS Moving Week

*Register for CTLS workshops and events online at [www.ctls.net](http://www.ctls.net)!*

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