

### Becky Thatcher Tea Parties

The Becky Thatcher Tea Party is for ages 5-8 and will generate excitement for the characters in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Attendees will enjoy a real tea service with an etiquette coach to provide tips on the proper behavior at the table. Spaces are limited; please contact your local branch for more information.



### Mark Twain Puppet Shows

The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library's Puppet Troupe is back for another fun and busy tour with the show "Princesses, Pirates, and Buried Treasure: Fun with Tom and Friends". The show follows the adventures of Tom Sawyer and his friends Huckleberry Finn and Becky Thatcher. Stories featured in the show: The tall tale of Stormalong, our fractured version of Rapunzel, and a fun bear hunt. Of course there will also be music, dancing, and lots of surprises! Call your local library branch to find out when and where they will be close to you!

### Independent Musical Productions presents

"Big River: The Musical Adaptation of Huckleberry Finn"  
with music by William Hauptner and lyrics by Roger Williams

Lee Lyric Theater, Lee High School,  
606 Forrest Circle Northeast, Huntsville, AL 35811

June 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm

June 20 and 26 at 2:30pm

Tickets available for sale, April 15, 2010

<http://www.imphuntsville.org/>

### **Acknowledgements**

The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library would like to thank the following for their support of and assistance in The Big Read:

Arts Midwest-National Endowment for the Arts  
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Huntsville Library Foundation-*The Huntsville Times*-Lee High School-Redstone MWR&OMEMS Library-Alabama A&M University-University of Alabama in Huntsville-Merrimack Hall-Bailey Cove Friends of the Library-Sigma Tau Delta-LearningQUEST-Burritt on the Mountain-Huntsville Botanical Garden-Cathedral Caverns-Publix-Town of Mooresville-Madison Friends of the Library-Dr. Christopher Metress-Dr. John Conover-Dr. Laurel Bollinger-Dr. Jennifer Garlen-Dr. Mattie Thomas-Will Stuttts-Dr. Linda Maier-Beth Young-George McClellan-Joe Berry-Main Friends of the Library-Huntsville Literary Association-Huntsville Grotto of the National Speleological Society-Alabama State Council on the Arts-Huntsville Traditional Music Association-Huntsville Ghost Walk-Guntersville Public Library-United Way of Madison County-City of Madison-Mill Creek Greenway-Kultur Films-PBS-Gail Alden-Jacque Reeves-Sabrina Simon-Nathan Williams

# The Big Read Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
by Mark Twain



## Calendar of Events

Created by the National Endowment for the Arts in  
partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library  
Services and Arts Midwest.



## **The Big Read Kick-Off**

Sat, March 27, 2010 11:00am-3:00pm

Burritt on the Mountain



*Burritt and The Big Read bring Tom Sawyer's adventures to life!*

Burritt on the Mountain and the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library are teaming up to bring you the kick-off event for The Big Read 2010 featuring the *The*

*Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. This beloved classic is being read at this time throughout the State of Alabama.

Mark your calendars for March 27<sup>th</sup> and be sure to visit Burritt on the Mountain's historic park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a FREE event featuring learning stations that will make Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn's escapades come alive!

Participate in the church scene as poor dead Tom returns home, learn more about those critters the boys were always trading, and play a game of marbles. Plan to help us do some whitewashing, and decide for yourself if it is work or play! You can also learn about the kinds of caves Tom and Huck used as their secret hideouts, and be sure not to miss the chance to taste some delectable foods such as ham, cornbread, and sweet meats.

## **Keynote Address**

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 7:00pm

Main Library, Auditorium

**Dr. Christopher Metress**, English Professor and Director of the University Fellows Program at Samford University, will present **"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: Mark Twain and America's Perpetual Adolescence"**.

When Mark Twain completed his first draft of *Tom Sawyer*, he mailed it to his friend and fellow-novelist William Dean Howells, proclaiming, "It is not a boy's book, at all. It will only be read by adults." After finishing the novel, Howells disagreed, telling Twain that *Tom Sawyer* was "a boy's story" and convincing him to rewrite it as such. This exchange between these two great writers unintentionally highlights a major question raised by Twain's first novel: just how do children and adults differ? Although for many readers *Tom Sawyer* celebrates the innocence of children and condemns the hypocrisy of adults, a closer look at the novel reveals that Twain's message is not so simple. A more careful reading of Tom's adventures discovers a world where children and adults are more similar than different, perhaps suggesting why this "boy's book" has long appealed to both young and old alike.



## **Film Events**

### **Main Library**

#### ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949)***

Thursday March 25, 2010

6:00pm, Main 2nd floor Events Room

Thursday, April 15, 2010

9:30am,

Main 2nd Floor Events Room

\*Discussion led by **Dr. Jennifer Garlen**



#### ***Ken Burns' Mark Twain (2001)***

Thursday, April 1, 2010

6:00pm, Main Auditorium

Thursday, April 29, 2010

9:30am, Main Auditorium



#### ***Tom and Huck (1995)***

Thursday, April 8, 2010

6:00pm, Main Auditorium

Wednesday April 14, 2010

1:00pm, Main 2nd Floor

Events Room



#### ***Hal Holbrook's "Mark Twain Tonight!" (1967)***

Friday, April 9, 2010

9:30am, Main Auditorium



### **Madison Branch Library**

#### ***Ken Burns' Mark Twain (2001)***

Saturday, April 3, 2010 12:00-4:00pm

#### ***Hal Holbrook's "Mark Twain Tonight!" (1967)***

Monday, April 5, 2010 6:00pm

#### ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1960)***

Monday, April 12, 2010 6:00pm

#### ***Tom and Huck (1995)***

Monday, April 19, 2010 6:00pm

### **Bailey Cove Branch Library**

#### ***Ken Burns' Mark Twain (2001)***

Saturday, April 10, 2010

10-12, 2-4pm

#### ***Tom and Huck (1995)***

Monday, April 12, 2010 6:00pm

#### ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949)***

Monday, April 19, 2010 6:00pm

#### ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1960)***

Monday April 26, 2010 6:00pm

## **Teen Event**

Love to read?

Want to meet new people?

Join our online teen book club,—

just go to our group on Good

Reads at

[http://tinyurl.com/](http://tinyurl.com/LibraryTeens)

[LibraryTeens.](http://tinyurl.com/LibraryTeens)

Our book club is open to all teens who want to talk about books!

We will be reading

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

For more information, contact

Emily Shade at

532-5949 or

[eshade@hmcpl.org](mailto:eshade@hmcpl.org).

## Book Discussions

### Main Library Discussions

#### **Chinese Book Discussion**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Saturday, April 17, 2010 2:00pm  
Main Meeting Room A&B

#### **Spanish Book Discussion**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Saturday, April 17, 2010 2:00pm  
Main Auditorium

#### **English Book Discussion**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Saturday, April 17, 2010 2:00pm  
Main 2nd Floor Events Room

#### **Special Discussion with George McClellan**



*The Adventures of  
Huckleberry Finn*  
Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:30am  
Main Auditorium

### Madison Branch Library

#### **Knit 1, Read Too Book Club**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010 12:30pm

### Literary Giants Book Club

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Monday, April 26, 2010 6:30pm

### Bailey Cove Branch Library

#### **Science Fiction Book Club**

*A Connecticut Yankee in King  
Arthur's Court*  
Thursday, April 1, 2010 6:00pm

#### **Classics Book Club**

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
Monday, April 5, 2010 10:00am

#### **Morning Book Club**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:00am

### Eleanor Murphy Branch Library

#### **Murphy Book Club**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Tuesday, April 6, 2010 11:30am

### Russell Branch Library

#### **Russell Readers Book Club**

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 11:00am

### Redstone Arsenal MWR

#### Post Library Open House

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 10:00am – 6:00pm  
3323 Redeye Road,  
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808

Free copies of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (while supplies last), reader's guides, bookmarks, and event brochures will be available. Refreshments. Open to EVERYONE with access to the Arsenal.

### Huntsville Grotto of the National

#### Speleological Society: 'Cave Is a Verb: Exploring the Ground Beneath Our Feet.'

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 2:00 pm,  
Main Library Auditorium

The program will cover the five "W's" (who, what, why, when, where) and the "H" (how) of caving, with Sabrina Simon and Nathan Williams.

### Tom Sawyer Day at

#### Cathedral Caverns

Saturday, April 10, 2010  
10:00am—3:00pm  
Cathedral Caverns, 637 Cave Rd.,  
Woodville, AL 35776

The Big Read comes to Cathedral Caverns. Family fun for all ages. Bring a picnic and enjoy the caves, stories, exhibits, music, and children's activities. This free event is brought to you by HMCPL and Guntersville Public Library.

### Traditional Music Concert

Thursday, April 29, 2010 6:00pm – 7:00pm,  
Main Library Atrium

Huntsville Traditional Music Association presents a program featuring a selection of music from Southern Appalachian folk history.

### Closing Celebration

Huntsville Botanical Garden

Saturday May 1, 2010

11:00am-1:00pm

The final event for The Big Read, "Picnics and Picket Fences", will take place Saturday, May 1 at the Huntsville Botanical Garden from 11 a.m. to 1p.m.

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic lunch to the Garden for a fun, modern twist on the fence "white washing" of Tom Sawyer's day. Attendees may enjoy lunch on the grounds of the Garden, then express themselves by painting portions of picket fences with wild, vivid colors!

These fence creations will eventually become a permanent feature of the Madison Public Library's "Living Library" children's garden. The Huntsville Botanical Garden will offer FREE admission to the Garden on May 1 in exchange for the donation of a new children's book. These books will become part of the collection at Madison Public Library.



#### **Dr. Mattie Thomas of Alabama A&M**

#### **will lead the Coffee & Books Discussion**

Tuesday April 13, 2010 1:00pm, Alabama A&M University  
Learning Resource Center (Library), Multi-Purpose Room

Dr. Mattie Thomas, Chair of the Department of English, will give a lecture entitled, "Tom Sawyer: Mark Twain's Good-Bad Boy." Daniel Peck claims that Mark Twain wrote Tom Sawyer in the context of the "good boy-bad boy" moralistic literature such as Thomas Bailey Aldrich's *The Story of a Bad Boy*. The "bad boy" tradition, according to Peck, follows several paradigms of youthful behavior. There is the

"good boy" represented by Sid, Tom's half brother, and the "bad boy" represented by Tom. Tom, however, is a combination of the "bad boy" and the "good boy." In Tom Sawyer, Twain has a "bad boy," but not an outsider like Huckleberry Finn. He is both an outsider and an insider who is able to challenge his society while working within it.



## Special Events

**Will Stutts' Performance of "Mark Twain's America"**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2010 7:00pm to 9:00pm,**  
**Merrimack Hall**

Will Stutts will perform his production "Mark Twain's America" at Merrimack Hall. **This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited to the first 300 people. To reserve a ticket, please email [events@hmcpl.org](mailto:events@hmcpl.org). Your reservation will be confirmed by a response email. Seating will begin at 6 p.m.** Will Stutts has worked longer and more in the genre of the one-person play than almost any other actor in the world. A native of Alabama, Stutts' second cousin was the legendary actress, Tallulah Bankhead.



He attended Yale University's School of Drama.

This program has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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**Huntsville Ghost Walk Friday, April 9, 2010 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Starts at Harrison Brothers Hardware Store, Downtown Huntsville**

The Huntsville Ghost Walk will offer a special tour in conjunction with Alabama Reads: The Big Read on Friday, April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person, \$6 for kids 12 and under, and may be purchased on the night of the event in front of Harrison Brothers Hardware Store. Our special tour will take visitors through the Old Town Historic District which features many chilling tales. We will highlight, in honor of The Big Read, the ghost of Mark Twain's cousin, Huntsville resident Jeremiah Clemens, who resides in the home built by his father which now serves as a law office. Mr. Clemens was an opinionated man in his day, and so he remains in death! Please call 509-3940 for more information.

**From Hannibal to Hollywood: Mark Twain on the Silver Screen**

**Sunday, April 11, 2010 2:00pm, Bailey Cove Branch Library**

The Friends of the Bailey Cove Library present "From Hannibal to Hollywood: Mark Twain on the Silver Screen". A Lecture and Discussion by **Dr. Jennifer Garlen**. Dr. Garlen will discuss the many film adaptations of Mark Twain's works, including "Tom and Huck," the 1995 movie filmed in Mooresville and other areas in North Alabama. She will examine the modern cultural impact of Twain's work and how we view it through our own generational lenses. Dr. Garlen earned her Masters in English from Georgia Southern University and her Ph.D. in 18th and 19th Century English Literature from Auburn University.

**Plumbing the Depths of Mark Twain**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2010 7:00pm, Main Library Auditorium**

Another great lecture by **Dr. Jennifer Garlen!**

Mark Twain is best remembered today as a humorist, but his tone as a writer changed as his perspective darkened over the course of his life. Dr. Jennifer Garlen will discuss the darker side of Twain in works like *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *The Mysterious Stranger*, "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" and more.

**Mark Twain Biography**  
**Thursday, April 8, 2010**  
**9:30am, Main Auditorium**



**Dr. John Conover** will present a biographical discussion of Mark Twain, including book reviews of *Innocents Abroad* and *Life on the Mississippi*, both of which contain a good deal of autobiography.

**United Way Day of Action**

**Saturday April 10, 2010**

**11am to 1pm (Puppet Show @ 11:30)**

Mill Creek Greenway

Madison

A community party based on the theme of "Pirates, Princesses, and Buried Treasure". It will feature a performance by the HMCPL Puppet Troupe, crafts and activities for Pirates and Princesses, free food and drinks, a free book to every child that attends, and the ribbon cutting on the new Mill Creek Greenway Wonder Walk.

**Mooresville Walking Tour**

**Wednesday April 21, 2010**

**10:45am, Mooresville, AL**



Tour of Mooresville, AL including locations featured in the film "Tom and Huck". A combined lunch and tour will be available for 30 participants. Registration with payment due April 12. Reservations and fees will be taken beginning April 1 at any LearningQUEST The Big Read events.

**UAH Sigma Tau Delta Lecture**

**Friday, April 9, 2010**

**1:00pm to 3:00pm**

**Union Grove Gallery, UAH Campus**

UAH faculty member, **Dr. Laurel Bollinger** will be leading a discussion of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* at the Union Grove Gallery on the UAH Campus. The gallery is located between the University Center and Morton Hall.

***Headwaters: A Journey on***

***Alabama Rivers***

**Tuesday, April 20, 2010**

**7:00pm, Main Auditorium**

Photographer **Beth Maynor Young** will give a presentation on her new book, *Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers*. Ms. Young is an accomplished conservation photographer who has spent much of her life chronicling the natural beauty and remnant wild places of the contemporary South. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**Mark Twain & His Short Stories**

**Thursday, April 22, 2010**

**7:00pm, Main Auditorium**



Led by **Joe Berry**, a brief biography of the life of Twain will be followed by a review of some short stories from *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain* edited by Charles Neider. Discussion to include "Cannibalism in the Cars" and "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg".



This symbol stands for LearningQUEST, a non-profit volunteer-led organization for adults, dedicated to building a learning community through educational and enrichment opportunities, and a partner in *The Big Read*.