

Meeting Minutes  
Case-Halstead Library Board of Trustees  
Monday, June 1, 2015 — 7:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Conference Room, Library, 550 Sixth Street, Carlyle, IL 62231

**Board Members Present:** Darren Tracy-Vice President, Jane Bullock-Treasurer, Ken O'Dell-Secretary, Sharon Bordeaux, Brenda Johnson-City Liaison, Michelle Scott, Frank Buckingham, Kim Stamps

**Absent:** Barb Guebert-President (excused)

**Also Present:** Christi Gerrish-Library Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Meeting Minutes:**

-Motion: Sharon made a motion to work with Ken to make small corrections to the minutes.

-Vote: Jane seconded.

-Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

88.7% of the budget has been spent and 100% of the fiscal year has elapsed.

-Motion: Frank moved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

-Vote: Michelle seconded.

-Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**Library and Construction Bills:**

This month showed higher income. This included Per Capita Grant (4101.25) state funds, which should not be cut for next year. Amounts paid in copier and printer fees were higher. A \$500 anonymous donation was received in memory of several local, women-owned businesses that have since closed. Summer reading donations were greater than the last several years. \$100 donation came from CVS for letting them use the Maddux Room. This amounted to a grand total at City Hall of \$7465.80.

Constellation is not in yet—shouldn't be over \$150.

Under 6110 Maintenance Supplies, the \$11.98 was the cost for an accidentally damaged sprinkler.

Due to a change in address, invoices are still being received for periodicals and newspapers.

There is a late bill from April for \$10.98 worth of purchases from Wal-Mart. The \$350.00 for Animal Tales under 9250 from last month's bills will be removed; the Friends of the Library will be writing the check for that program.

-Motion: Jane motioned to accept and to pay the library bills.

- Vote: Sharon seconded.
- Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### [Library Project Bills]

\$1960.00 — Archi-cepts was for the closet build-in. \$2924.89 — Aviston Lumber was for the new fence. \$130.64 — Hall of Frames was for framing a poster. \$134.00 — Lemay Block & Brick was the cost for 30 of the capstones for the new fence; there will be 3 extra ones. The grand total came out to be \$5149.53, which will be paid for out of the trust.

- Motion: Sharon moved to accept and to pay the library project bills.
- Vote: Frank seconded.
- Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Statistics were higher than last year's; there was a greater amount of patrons and computer use. It should be noted that another program not included in the circulation statistics saw about 60 kids from two preschool classes during a tour. Anime club is being adjusted and brought back.

#### **Director's Report:**

Utilities were higher but not as much as doubled. We are still trying to find out the median of the utility bills—this is due to contingencies, such as weather. It should balance out, and the library will be monitoring the utility bills. Sharon said that, when responding to criticism about the library's utilities, mentioning the amount of usage the new library is seeing could account for the larger utility bills.

More kids and teenagers are seen using the library. Christi said there is about 25 to 30 kids a day, counting teenagers only.

Christi said that the staff meeting is covering things around the library little by little (e.g., how to turn on the projector screen). The annual report is not ready, but Christi said that it should be ready for next month.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

[Building and Grounds / Construction Committees]

Frank said that a truck is needed to pick up the capstones at St. Louis. For the fence, a total price of \$560.63 includes spraying for the weeds, rock, and weed barrier, which will be done by Bach's. This does not include installation of the capstones. The question is where the rock ends i.e. what is the distance of rock needed between the fence and the retaining wall.

- Motion: Sharon moved to accept the Bach's estimate for the weed barrier and rock at the fence line by the alley but to have leeway or a reserve up to \$800 and that it extend north of the fence by at least a foot.
- Vote: Frank seconded.
- Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

The committee made a recommendation for a car charging station. The costs would include the wiring that would have to be installed along with the circuit in the building and the labor. Frank

estimated that the price would be a few thousand (\$2-4,000) to several thousand (\$6,000+). To have the credit card service for the station would include a monthly fee. No action will be taken until all of the expenses are decided—it is not urgent.

The wiring for the electric mats was discussed; it is not urgent (until winter), but could be done.

Frank adjusted the light fixture in the Heritage Room and asked the board to look at the fixture before deciding to replace it.

As for the discoloring of the concrete, nothing can be done about it. After the concrete wears down for a couple of years, the color will balance out.

[Personnel Committee]

No report; minutes still need to be approved.

### **Other Reports:**

[City Council Liaison]

Brenda wanted to thank the board for doing an excellent job, saying that many of her concerns—although not gone—are being alleviated and that she is happy with how everything is turning out.

[Friends of the Library]

The book sale is this weekend, June 12-13.

### **Public Comment:**

No public was present.

### **Old Business:**

[2015 Library Calendar]

This is the month for re-appointments. Sharon has handed in her resignation for re-appointment. The board thanked Sharon for all of her hard work and contribution, especially during the constructing of the new library building.

[Case Mirror]

Christi said that something needs to be done before the mirror gets accidentally damaged. Turning the mirror over to the Historical Society has been one suggestion. It was decided that the mirror would be moved out of the way and into the conference room.

-Motion: Kim made a motion to have the mirror that belonged to the Case family on loan for display at the Historical Society.

-Vote: Frank seconded.

-Passed: All were in favor, and the motion carried.

[General Dean Video]

No new updates; a couple of things for the video are still in waiting. Darren asked if there was a possibility for coming up with a price for the video so that pre-orders can be taken. Christi said that a \$20 price should cover everything if everything gets ordered. Frank asked if the video could be uploaded to YouTube. Christi said that uploading a whole video would be a pain, but uploading clips would be easier. No motions were needed.

[Wi-Fi Routers]  
No new updates.

**New Business:**

[HVAC Maintenance]

The warranty with Trane was extended, but the maintenance agreement with Jack Satterfield has not happened yet.

[Nomination Committee]

Frank, Kim, and Michelle volunteered to sit on the nomination committee; they will meet once before the next scheduled meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, July 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth O'Dell Jr., Secretary

# Case Halstead P.L. – Income and Expenditures

June 2015

- A. Nonresident Fees - \$826.00
- B. Fines - \$133.92
- C. Copier & Printer - \$277.90
- D. Fax Machine - \$85.50
- E. Disc Repair - \$4.00
- F. Donations - \$113.99
- G. Summer Reading Donations - \$125.00
- H. Coffee - \$4.50
- I. Maddux Room - \$25.00

Total \$1515.98

Total at CH \$1588.83

## 1. Expenditures

5110 Maintenance-Services of Building	<u>5110 \$1294.00</u>
Building Stars (2 months) - \$900.00	
Jack's Sales & Repairs - \$394.00	
5120 Maintenance-Equipment	<u>5120 \$297.06</u>
Da-Com Lease - \$155.29	
Da-Com Maintenance (2 Bills) - \$141.77	
5330 Legal Fees	<u>5330 \$</u>
5490 Other Professional Services	<u>5490 \$595.00</u>
ILA - \$95.00	
Overdrive - \$500.00	
5510 Postage	<u>5510 \$50.42</u>
Postage - \$50.42	
5520 Telephone	<u>5520 \$</u>
AT&T - \$71.25	
Cell Phone Reimbursement - \$25.00	
5530 Publishing	<u>5530 \$</u>
5540 Printing	<u>5540 \$</u>
5620 Travel Expense	<u>5620 \$</u>
5630 Training	<u>5630 \$</u>
5710 Utilities	<u>5710 \$939.28</u>
City of Carlyle Electric - \$719.14	
City of Carlyle Water & Sewer - \$165.63	
Ameren - \$54.51	
Constellation - \$	
6110 Maintenance Supplies – Building	<u>6110 \$18.04</u>

Lowe's - \$18.04	
6120 Maintenance Supplies-Equipment	<u>6120 \$</u>
6510 Office Supplies	<u>6510 \$15.97</u>
Wal-Mart - \$15.7	
6540 Janitorial Supplies	<u>6540 \$</u>
Amazon - \$	
6580 Periodicals & Newspapers	<u>6580 \$754.87</u>
Good Housekeeping - \$7.77	
Readers Digest - \$24.98	
St. Louis Post Dispatch - \$358.28	
This Old House - \$15.96	
Wall Street Journal - \$347.88	
8300 Equipment	<u>8300 \$</u>
8700 Furniture	<u>8700 \$</u>
8800 Books & Other Materials	<u>8800 \$3748.53</u>
Amazon - \$250.47	
Baker & Taylor - \$1601.81	
Center Point - \$173.16	
Gale - \$25.59	
Illinois Heartland - \$22.50	
Mascoutah Library - \$15.00	
Overdrive - \$1000.00	
Show Me Books - \$660.00	
9250 Special Programs	<u>9250 \$198.15</u>
Lowe's - \$12.14	
Michaels - \$47.12	
Pizza Hut - \$20.00	
Wal-Mart - \$67.66	
Walgreens - \$77.50	
9290 Miscellaneous	<u>9290 \$</u>
Total	<u>Total \$7929.54</u>
 <u>Late Bills from May</u>	
5710 Constellation - \$27.76	

# Circulation Statistics---Monthly

2015 June

2015 May

2014 June

ADULT---2358

ADULT---1831

ADULT---1865

CHILDREN---1194

CHILDREN---1017

CHILDREN---515

YOUNG ADULT---142

YOUNG ADULT---95

YOUNG ADULT---134

RENEWALS---678

RENEWALS---536

RENEWALS ---691

MANUAL CHECKOUTS---30

MANUAL CHECKOUTS---3

MANUAL CHECKOUTS---34

3M Cloud---35

3M Cloud---31

3M Cloud---15

Overdrive---185

Overdrive---169

Overdrive---182

TOTAL=4622

TOTAL=3682

TOTAL=2514

ROUTE INS=642

ROUTE INS=476

ROUTE INS=432

ROUTE OUTS=307

ROUTE OUTS=260

ROUTE OUTS=284

COMPUTER USE=591

COMPUTER USE=667

COMPUTER USE=208

PATRON COUNT=4027

PATRON COUNT=3483

Babaloo – 150+

Mr. Steve - 75

Fred and His Feathered Friends- 115

Chris Egelston - 123

Dale Rogers - 15

Juggling Jeff - 107

Animal Tales - 125

Teen Movie - 12

Animal Tales - 111

Mad Science - 77

Family Movie - 15

Christian the Magician - 86

OK Buckaroos – 34

Story Time (2 times) - 36

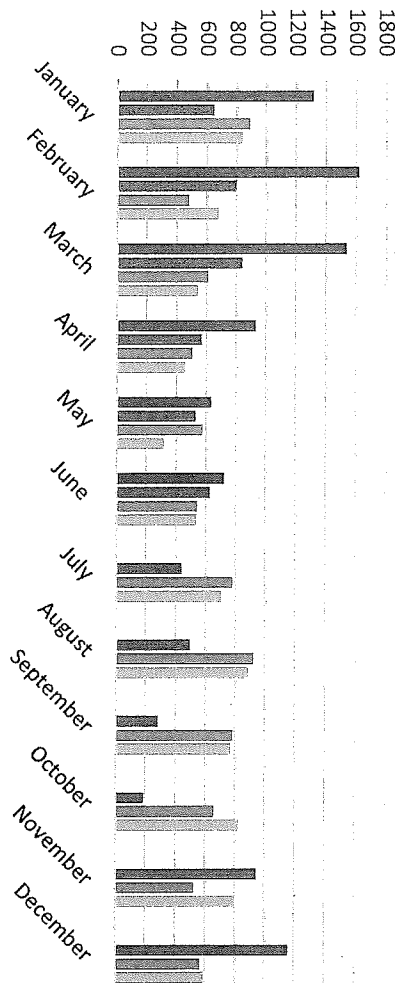
Teen Movies (4 times) - 27

Family Movies (3 times) - 43

Story Time (4 times) - 41

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2015	1311.68	1619.93	1536.64	928.32	632.2	719.14		492.62	281.42	186.88	942.94	1156.63
2014	645.4	797.5	838.22	566.96	527.09	625.34	437.29	492.62	281.42	186.88	942.94	1156.63
2013	886.92	478.34	609.32	503.49	573.13	538.88	776.17	920.11	781.73	656.87	523.7	564.86
2012	834.79	675.55	540.51	454.22	315.03	533.17	700.98	883.22	766.1	819.99	794	583.73

### Utilities 2012-2015



■ 2015 ■ 2014 ■ 2013 ■ 2012



## Annual Report Summary

Library budget spent on operations and staff 2014-2015 - \$151,039

Library budget spent on operations and staff 2013-2014 - \$157,378

## Library Programs

### Adult programs

2014-2015: # of Programs – 18 # of Participants – 1,333

2013-2014: # of Programs – 7 # of Participants – 538

### Teen Programs

2014-2015: # of Programs – 22 # of Participants – 630

2013-2014: # of Programs – 4 # of Participants – 48

### Children's Programs

2014-2015: # of Programs – 23 # of Participants – 1,129

2013-2014: # of Programs – 7 # of Participants – 368

### Totals

2014-2015: # of Programs – 63 # of Participants – 3,092

2013-2014: # of Programs – 18 # of Participants – 954

## Library Cards

Residents: 2014-2015 – 1,169 2013-2014 – 847

Non Residents: 2014-2015 – 219 2013-2014 – 159

Totals 2012-2013 – 1,388 2013-2014 – 1006

## Items Held

Physical Units: 2014-2015 – 28,499 2013-2014 – 28,463

Ebooks: 2014-2015 – 28,006 2013-2014 – 15,330

EAudiobooks: 2012-2013 – 2,006 2013-2014 – 832

## Items Circulated

Books:	2014-2015 – 26,905	2013-2014 – 28,183
Videos:	2014-2015 – 5,153	2013-2014 – 7,817
Audios:	2014-2015 – 1,101	2013-2014 – 1,014
Others:	2014-2015 – 2,460	2013-2014 – 2,303
Total:	2014-2015 – 35,619	2013-2014 – 39,885

## Interlibrary Loans – Going Out

2014-2015 – 3,346      2013-2014 – 7,909

## Interlibrary Loans – Coming In

2014-2015 – 5,525      2013-2014 – 6,191

## Chapter 7 [Collection Management and Resource Sharing]

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The public library's mission is to provide a wide range of materials in a variety of formats, such as electronic content, and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs and interests of the community. If electronic readers are provided, they should be accessible. Illinois libraries are best able to provide materials by developing a collection management program and participating in resource sharing. The keys to quality collection management and resource sharing are adequate funding and trained library staff.

The purpose of the Collection Management and Resource Sharing standards is to ensure that Illinois public libraries offer a full range of materials and electronic resources that are current, accessible (cataloged/classified), and relevant to community needs. Collection management includes planning, selecting, and building of resources in all formats needed by a library's community. Based on community needs, the library collection development policy may address selection and evaluation of materials, purchase priorities, and weeding of the collection. Collection evaluation and weeding is an ongoing process where materials are reviewed by analyzing use, age, condition, timeliness, and general coverage in order to improve availability and comprehensiveness and to identify users' changing taste and needs.

Library collections can be expanded beyond the physical boundaries of the library through resource sharing, cooperative collection management, and electronic resources, such as e-books. No one library can provide from its own collection all the materials that are required to meet the needs of its patrons. All libraries can enhance their collection by participating in interlibrary loan practices and participating in and utilizing statewide electronic databases/resource offerings, such as OCLC membership, and WorldCat, as well as regional library system and other consortial group purchase opportunities. Also, libraries can become more proactive information providers by using local funds to license electronic full-text databases of local interest. Libraries in close proximity to one another should consider forming a cooperative collection management plan. Cooperative collection plans coordinate selection and purchase of materials between libraries. Finally, libraries also can contribute to resource sharing by digitizing local materials. Local history materials are often unique and have interest that is not exclusive to the immediate local area. Since these materials are unique and irreplaceable, digitizing them allows for preservation as well as broad access and should be encouraged as a goal for library excellence.

**APPLICABLE CORE STANDARDS** – Please see Core Standards 5, 13, 16, 21, 22, and 23 in Chapter 1.

### COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE SHARING STANDARDS

1. The library spends a minimum of 12 percent of its operating budget on materials for patrons.
2. The library has a board-approved, written collection management policy based on community needs and interests, the diversity of American society, and on professional standards. The library's collection development policy may address the following issues: materials selection; request for reconsideration of materials; collection specialties and purchase priorities; and evaluation and weeding of the collection. (See Appendix P)
3. Staff responsible for collection management is professionally trained in general principles of selection and weeding as well as in their specific areas of responsibilities.
4. Staff responsible for collection management has access to a variety of review sources and selection tools.
5. The library staff uses accepted professional techniques for collection management. Such techniques may include quantitative measures (i.e., circulation-per-capita and turnaround rates, weeding (i.e., the CREW method), user surveys, and questionnaires. (See Appendix Q)
6. The library places a high budgetary priority on collection development. Although use of the collection and the size of the population are the primary factors, there may be additional factors that affect the size of the collection. Examples of these additional factors include local history, genealogy, and a linguistically diverse population.
7. The library provides access to materials in a variety of formats to ensure equal access for people with disabilities of all ages. Examples of some of these formats are e-books, audio books on CD or MP3, books in Braille, information available through the World Wide Web; and closed-captioned, described, or signed videos or DVDs.
8. The library strives to purchase materials in electronic format.
9. The library publicizes and promotes interlibrary loan to its patrons. The library develops procedures that ensure that interlibrary loan is a simple and effective way for patrons to receive materials and information after all local resources have been exhausted.
10. Library staff members are trained in and follow the policies and procedures relating to the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code and the ALA Interlibrary Loan Code.

## Chapter 7 [Collection Management and Resource Sharing]

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11. The library agrees to be a responsible borrower. Before initiating an interlibrary loan request, requesting libraries should exhaust their own local resources.
12. Library budgets should put priority on purchasing best sellers and buying replacements for lost items with a high checkout rate.
13. Libraries should check statewide resource sharing databases such as OCLC FirstSearch before placing any requests and be responsible for copyright compliance.
14. The borrowing library is always responsible for items, including materials lost in transit or by the patron as specified by the ALA and ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Codes.

### COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE SHARING CHECKLIST

- ☐ The library board trustees ensure that the library has a publicly funded budget to purchase materials. The minimum annual expenditure for materials for any size library should be a minimum of 12 percent of the operating budget.
- ☐ Library budgets put priority on purchasing best sellers and buying replacements for lost items with high checkout rates.
- ☐ The library has a written collection development policy approved by the board.
- ☐ Materials are cataloged according to standard library practices utilizing MARC 21, AACR2 Rules, Sears/LC subject headings, and RDA.
- ☐ Library collections are periodically evaluated to measure the effectiveness of community use of the collection and weeded if deemed appropriate.
- ☐ The library considers forming a cooperative collection plan with other libraries in close proximity to one another.
- ☐ The library strives to purchase materials in electronic format.
- ☐ The library publicizes and promotes interlibrary loan to its patrons.
- ☐ Library staff is trained in and follows policies and procedures related to the Illinois Interlibrary Loan Code and the ALA Interlibrary Loan Code. Libraries agree to be responsible borrowers and lenders.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Baumbach, Donna J. and Linda L. Miller. *Less Is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2006.
- Evans, G. Edward and Margaret Zarnosky Saponaro. *Collection Management Basics*. 6th ed. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2012.
- Gregory, Vicki L. *Collection Development and Management for 21st Century Library Collections: An Introduction*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011.
- Johnson, Peggy. *Fundamentals of Collection Development & Management*. 3rd ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 2013.
- Sheehan, Kate. *The eBook Revolution: A Primer for Librarians on the Front Lines*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2013.

### WEBSITES

ALA Interlibrary Loan Code

[www.ala.org/rusa/resources/guidelines/interlibrary](http://www.ala.org/rusa/resources/guidelines/interlibrary)

ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code and Interlibrary Training

[il.webjunction.org/il-ill](http://il.webjunction.org/il-ill)

*The Crew Method: Expanded Guidelines for Collection Evaluation and Weeding for Small and Medium-Sized Public Libraries*

[www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/index.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/index.html)

## Case-Halstead Version

### COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Employees are encouraged to communicate directly with one another in order to assure prompt discontinuation of any behavior found to be offensive. The Library supports the rights of each employee to communicate directly with other employees in requesting that offensive conduct be discontinued. However, informal redress of complaints is not required, and the complaining employee may proceed to file a formal complaint in any situation in which informal redress is not feasible or desirable.

No employee or applicant is required to endure workplace harassment. An employee who is unable to resolve the problem or who does not wish to discuss the issue with the offending party should report unwelcome conduct immediately to the Library Director.

If an employee claims the Director is the source of the complaint, the employee should report the conduct to the Chairman of the Personnel Committee of the Library's Board of Trustees. The Chairman will take immediate steps to investigate the complaint, independent from the Director, and prompt appropriate corrective action will be taken. In the course of the investigation, the complainant will be requested to submit a written statement describing in detail the alleged complaint and the identity of any individuals that may have relevant information concerning the complaint.

If an employee claims that a member of the Board of Trustees is the source of the complaint, the employee should report the conduct to the Library Director, who will consult the Chair of the Board of Trustees' Personnel Committee on appropriate action.

A prompt investigation, however, is not contingent on the submitting employee's written statement. In determining whether the conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create a hostile work environment, the Library will evaluate the behavior from the objective standpoint of a "reasonable person." The Library will consider the context in which

the alleged complaint took place and examine the behavior using the perspective of a reasonable person's reaction to a similar environment under similar circumstances.

Corrective action will reflect the severity of the conduct. In all circumstances, the complainant will be informed of the results of any investigation and the action taken.

## Case-Halstead Version

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### CHAIN OF COMMAND

For questions about personnel policies, suggestions, unresolved evaluation disagreements, and any other concerns the employee may have, the employee should use the following Chain of Command:

First – Library Director

Second – Chair of the Board of Trustees' Personnel Committee.

Third – Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees

In the event an issue involves a superior in an employee's direct Chain of Command, the employee should skip to the next level in the Chain.

If an issue remains unresolved after following this Chain of Command, the employee may contact the Chair of the Board of Trustees' Personnel Committee.



## **Roles and Responsibilities of Library Trustees**

1. Employ a competent and qualified librarian, annually evaluate them.
2. Determine the purpose of the library and adopt written policies to govern the operation and program of the library
3. Determine the program and needs of the library in relation to the community and to keep abreast of standards and library trends
4. Secure adequate funds to carry on the library program
5. Establish, support, and participate in a planned public relations program
6. Assist in the preparation of the annual budget and approve the final document
7. Know local and state law and actively support library legislation in the state and nation
8. Establish among the library policies those dealing with book and material selection—review every two years.

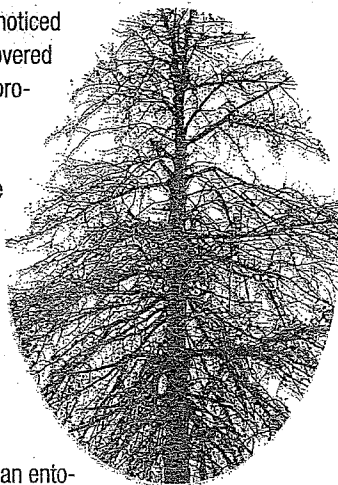
## **The Librarian's Responsibilities**

1. Act as technical advisor to the board and to recommend employment of all personnel and supervise their work
2. Carry out the policies of the library as adopted by the board and to recommend needed policies for board action
3. Suggest and carry out plans for extending services of the library
4. Prepare regular reports detailing current program and future needs of the library
5. Maintain an active program of public relations
6. Prepare an annual budget for the library in consultation with the board and to give a current report of actual expenditures against the budget at each meeting of the board.
7. Know local and state laws and actively support library legislation in the state and nation
8. Select and order all books and other library materials according to board policy
9. Attend all board meetings and see that accurate records are kept on file at the library
10. Affiliate with state and national professional organizations and attend professional meetings and workshops
11. Make use of the services and consultants of the regional library system and the state library
12. Report regularly to the library board, to the officials of local government, and to the general public.

**SOURCE:** Young, Virginia G. The Trustee of a Small Public Library. .ALA, 1992

## Proliferation of oak galls is killing trees, puzzling experts

You're not alone if you've noticed that more oak trees are covered with the knobby growths produced by tiny gall wasps that lay their eggs in the twigs. In former years, one would occasionally see these knobs on the limbs of shingle and pin oaks; but now they have increased to the point where the trees are being killed.



Professor James Appleby, an entomologist at the University of Illinois, says the most prevalent gall that affects pin and shingle oaks is the horned oak gall, which can girdle branches and make them droop from the sheer weight of the heavy growths. The wasp that creates these galls has a complicated life cycle and unfortunately, said Appleby, no one is studying the ecology of the parasite.

"It's a problem we're not going to have a cure for," commented Harold Hunzicker, who retired recently from the Marion County Extension and is now doing private spraying for homeowners in Salem. Hunzicker explained that the wasp lays eggs on the midrib of the oak leaf, crating a gall which does very little harm to the tree. From this leaf gall a wasp emerges and overwinters in the leaf litter.

The following spring, this insect lays eggs in the twig producing a woody gall, which may take one to two years to mature. One gall can produce many wasps, as an insect emerges from each of the "horns" on the gall. There is also a gouty oak twig gall that is smooth and has no horns.

Horned galls can be found on a number of oak species including pin, shingle, blackjack, scrub, willow and water oaks. Gouty oak galls infest scarlet, red, pin and black oaks. The white oak group seems not to be affected by these two species; however there are many other gall insects that do affect the white oak group; however none seems to cause major damage.

Hunzicker said he advises homeowners not to plant pin oaks any more because of the gall problem. Pin oaks have been widely planted in the past because they are faster growing and easier to move than many other oak species. Professor Appleby suggested that people keep an eye out for pin oaks that are not infested with galls, even though the neighboring trees are, and then propagate the resistant oaks for the nursery trade.

Because there is such a narrow window of opportunity, spraying the trees when the females are laying eggs is not really an option for most homeowners. Also, because of their height, it would be very difficult to reach the tops of the trees with most sprayers. On lightly infested trees it is possible to prune off the

new galls and thus reduce the number of wasps, providing the tree is not too tall.



it may be possible to kill the wasps with an insecticide called Merit, which is labeled for emerald ash borer, Japanese beetle, adelgids and a number of other insects. Tom Schwartz, who sells chemicals to fruit growers, said the cost of Merit is \$525 per gallon which, even though it's diluted, makes it expensive. Merit, made by Bayer, may also be injected in the trunk at the base of the tree.

When there's a heavy gall infestation and you prune off all the galls, you're just speeding up the tree's death because you're doing the same thing the past does when it girdles a twig, commented Guy Sternberg of Petersburg. Sternberg is the founder of the International Oak Society and the owner of Starhill Forest, an arboretum containing hundreds of varieties of oaks from all over the world.

Sternberg said he remembers seeing oak galls on cherry-bark oak in the southern tip of Illinois in the 1970s and he agrees that the problem is becoming more serious, particularly affecting trees that are under stress. Forester Bill Calvert of Breese also thinks stress, possibly from drought, may have something to do with the fact that the galls are killing the trees. Or, he added, the wasps may be cyclic in their occurrence. Usually it's a combination of things that contributes to the eventual death of the tree, he noted.

Nature often works in rather complex ways that are not immediately obvious even to trained observers. For example, Professor Appleby has noticed that the oaks in Oakwood Bottoms Green-tree Reservoir, a duck hunting area, suffer more from attacks of forest tent caterpillars than similar areas in southwestern Illinois. The forest tent caterpillar is related to the Eastern tent caterpillar, which defoliates cherry trees in the spring, but the forest species doesn't make a silken tent.

Appleby has a theory that the reason the oaks in the bottoms suffer more from caterpillar damage is that the periodic flooding ruins the habitat for the white-footed mouse, an important predator on caterpillars. Appleby says that in Urbana, when he tries to raise caterpillars on small oaks covered with cheesecloth, the mice gnaw holes in the cloth and devour the caterpillars.

If mice are an important factor in the control of caterpillars, as Appleby suspects, the continual flooding of the Kaskaskia Bottoms may be having more of an effect on forest health and the ecology of the area than we realize. In experiments in the Missouri Ozarks, it has been demonstrated that if birds are excluded from forested areas, the trees suffer far more insect damage than in areas where they can freely forage for food. Although mice get very little credit for doing anything good, they too may play a role in nature's finely tuned system of checks and balances.