

Bucket Newsletter

September 2023



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting BTWNM

10 AM October 28, 2023

Annual Legacy Dinner

5 PM March 23, 2024 4H Center

The Freedom Walk is underway for year three! Make your pledges to support our Scholarship Fund. Everyone can complete the registration form found online at <https://www.friendsofbookertw.org/FreedomWalk2023> or mail or email friendsofbowa@gmail.com

Collect family, friends, or business sponsors for \$1.00 per mile (or more). We have set a goal of \$6,500 this year and we are well on our way to making that goal. We look forward to seeing you there!

ALL PLEDGES/DONATIONS ARE DUE BY
October 14, 2023.

Questions? Email: friendsofbowa@gmail.com



Freedom Walk Kick Off August 19, 2023

WALK AT THE PARK: Saturdays @ 9:00 a.m.
on the following dates with a group of fellow
walkers: September 2nd, 16th, and 30th
(no walking on rainy days)

FREEDOM WALK RECOGNITION:
Saturday October 21, 2023. 10 am at BTWNM



FRIENDS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

VIRTUAL FREEDOM WALK

August 19 - October 21

All Details At:
www.friendsofbookertw.org

2023

Donations Benefit Scholarship Fund



Superintendent Jim Bailey's Park Report

- ◆ Thank you for the Friends' support of Juneteenth. Your scholarship program is a wonderful tribute to the legacy of Booker T. Washington.
- ◆ The retirement of **Timbo Sims** at the end of May left the park in the unenviable position of replacing someone whose institutional and historical knowledge was unrivaled.
- ◆ The loss of Facility Maintenance Worker **Kevin Phifer** in late June hit the staff very hard.
- ◆ Of the 15 positions on our organizational chart, 8 are currently

vacant.

- ◆ **Connie Mays** continues to support administration at Appomattox Court House NHP in addition to Booker T. Washington NM.
- ◆ **Brittany Webb Lane** is acting as lead for Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services until we can get someone to detail into Timbo's position.

Park-Wide Updates

- ◇ The park had a major pump failure two weeks ago that required staff to manually take water down to the farm; maintenance has developed a short-term fix, but Facility Maintenance Chief **John Mitchell** is working on a permanent solution as well since the system as built is no longer needed.
- ◇ HVAC installation in VC should proceed at the VC shortly, perhaps as soon as the beginning of September. Work at HQ will have to wait for specific parts and will not begin for at least another four months.
- ◇ Paving project should begin at the end of the month.

Public Information Issues

Upcoming Bark Ranger Day September 16 – 10 AM—bring your dog for an informational program and treats



External/Liaison

- ◆ Jim assembled park and regional staff for two meetings with county and VDOT officials to discuss both the proposed Rt 122 improvements and the proposed Westlake trail connection with the park. All parties are now aware of the regulatory implications of both projects and have a general road map to move the process forward.
- ◆ The Booker T. Washington School Reunion Group hosted their Alumni August 19.

Resource Management

The NPS Mid-Atlantic Network, Inventorying and Monitoring Division conducted a forest inventory at BOWA last week.

Interpretation, Education, Visitor Services

Seasonal park ranger **Emma Loughrey** has been extended through December.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday October 28, 10 am.**

A new slate of officers follows on the next pages and nominations will be taken from the floor. The agenda is below.

If interested in serving, email mdpres1@gmail.com

PROPOSED AGENDA . ANNUAL MEETING

required in bylaws

Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument

In Booker T. Washington National Monument Theater

October 28, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Greetings and Opening Comments

Barbara A. Board, President

SPECIAL FEATURE

Corporate Sponsorship

Wayne Robinson, Senior Pastor,

New Millennium Christian Church, Greensboro, NC

Intro to Christiansburg Institute, A Rosenwald School

Chris Sanchez, Executive Director

Business Meeting: Call to Order

Barbara A. Board, President

Introductions: 2022-2023 Board Members

Minutes 2022 Annual Meeting

Shawna Banks, Recording Secretary

Superintendent's Report

James Bailey, Superintendent

2022-2023 Highlights **and** 2023 -2024 Plan

Budget Report

Kelli Preston, Finance Committee

2022- 2023 Budget Status = 2023- 2024 Budget Plan

President's Report

Barbara Board

Membership Report, 2022-2023 Highlights **and** 2023-2024 Plan, Recognitions and Appreciations

Board Member Elections

Marie Preston, Nominating Committee Chair

Other Business and Adjournment

Members at Large (vote for 5)

- Dr. Robert Holland, DVM
 - Taft Kelly
 - Marie Preston
 - Marsha White Melkonian
 - Morris White
-

- ◆ **Dr. Robert Holland, DVM, Wirtz, VA:** Graduate of Booker T. Washington Elementary School, Virginia State University, BS Animal Science and Chemistry Michigan State University, MS, Large Animals and Clinical Medicine, Tuskegee University, Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine, Interned, VA Tech, Residency, Michigan State, Post Doc Michigan State Former Employee National Park Service, Booker T Washington, 4 Summers, Seasonal Ranger and Maintenance Retired: National Institute Food and Agriculture, Last Position: Associate Director and Senior, Senior Executive Dedication of Booker T Washington Elementary to NPS, Chaperoned Portia Washington, her daughter and grandson.
- ◆ **Taft Kelly, Haymarket, VA:** Originally from Franklin County, Virginia. A graduate of Franklin County High School. Obtained his B.S. in Accounting from Ferrum College. He is a supervisor of accounting services within the Prince William County Public School system where he plans and oversees various operational strategies and standard operating procedures to ensure compliance with accounting standards. He is a member of the Virginia Government Finance Officers' Association. Enjoys traveling with his wife.
- ◆ **Marie Preston, Rocky Mount, VA:** Shaw University, BS Business Administration and Accounting, Former Employee National Park Service, Seasonal Summer Ranger at Booker T. Washington National Monument, Retired, Anthem, 39 Years-Last Position: Director, Cost and Budget, Federal Employees Program Interested in Serving on the Finance Committee.
- ◆ **Marsha White Melkonian, Smith Mountain Lake, VA:** Married, two adult sons. BS in Marketing from University of Maryland. MA in American History from George Mason University. 33 years in IRS in various IT and training positions. Board of Directors at Fauquier Historical Society. Former docent volunteer at Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington DC and Graffiti House in Culpepper, VA. Current Vice President with Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument.
- ◆ **Morris White, Richmond, VA:** Currently serves as District Extension Director, VA Tech, Virginia Union, BS History and Political Science, VA Tech, MS Career and Technical Education, NC A & T, Ph.D. Student, Leadership, Former Employee, National Park Service, Student Career Experience, Jamestown, Petersburg, Former History Teacher, Former 4-H Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Former County Director, N C State Cooperative, Extension---Vance, and Durham Counties, Formerly, N C A & T Cooperative Extension---Regional Extension Director, Provided Leadership to NC A& T Cooperative Extension Strategic Planning Council, Participated in the Freedom Walk.

Vice President

- Morris White

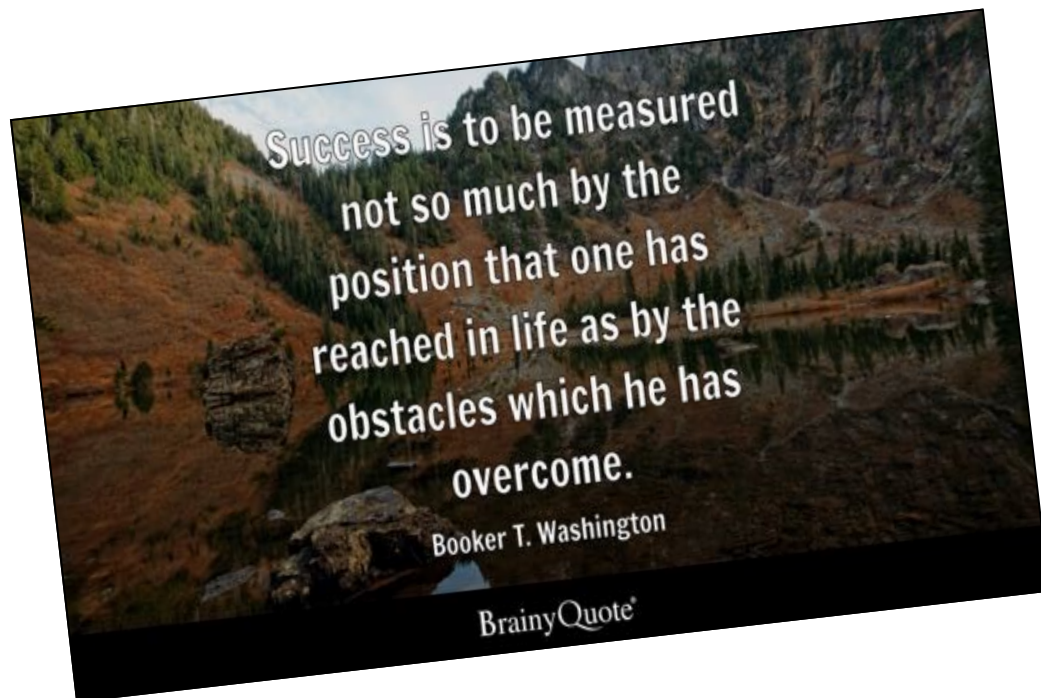
Treasurer

- Kelli Preston, Enrolled Agent

Corresponding Secretary

- No nomination currently available

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- ◆ **Morris White, Richmond, VA:** Currently serves as District Extension Director, VA Tech, Virginia Union, BS History and Political Science, VA Tech, MS Career and Technical Education, NC A & T, Ph.D. Student, Leadership, Former Employee, National Park Service, Student Career Experience, Jamestown, Petersburg, Former History Teacher, Former 4-H Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Former County Director, N C State Cooperative, Extension---Vance, and Durham Counties, Formerly, N C A & T Cooperative Extension---Regional Extension Director, Provided Leadership to NC A& T Cooperative Extension Strategic Planning Council, Participated in the Freedom Walk.
 - ◆ **Kelli Preston, Enrolled Agent, Glen Allen, VA:** Originally from Franklin County, Virginia. A graduate of Franklin County High School. Obtained her B.S. in Commerce and M.S. in Accounting – Tax Consulting from the University of Virginia. She received her Enrolled Agent designation in 2013 from the Internal Revenue Service. She is a tax compliance and reporting manager where she currently streamlines processes and increases department productivity by developing and managing innovative and automated solutions. Enjoys spending quality time with her family.



Heritage Garden Update

by *Volunteer Master Gardner Beth Pautler*



The Heritage Garden continues to have great volunteer participation. Every week, at least six and sometimes as many as ten volunteers, arrive early Tuesday morning to pick vegetables, rake soil, shovel wood chips or chicken coop compost and fill the back of a Kubota with weeds.

Below is a photo of some of the volunteers who arrived at 8 am one hot, August morning. Almost all of our volunteers are Franklin County Master Gardeners. Some volunteers are new trainees or interns who learn about growing vegetables while others have been working in the garden for more than a decade. Even the 'old timers' learn something new every year and get a kick out of some of the heirloom varieties we try. For instance, a 'fish pepper' has the shape of a fish, variegated foliage and is extremely hot while the fruit of 'dragon's tongue' wax beans have purple mottling on a background of yellowish green.

This year, we've had some challenges. Unfortunately, our Russet potatoes succumbed to fungus and the sweet potatoes leaves have been eaten twice by what we suspect is a ground hog. Even okra leaves have been eaten (usually, **nothing** eats okra). And the flax bed was easily overtaken by 'quick weed', a Galinsoga species naturalized to the U.S. It is a very aggressive, edible weed that is a key ingredient in a Columbian soup called ajiaco. Despite these setbacks, the Heritage Garden crew remains undaunted as we focus on our successes: bountiful onions, garlic, beans, cucumber, 'patty pan' squash, heirloom tomatoes and peppers all going to Lake Christian Ministries. We even have a few 'stars and



stripes' watermelon growing (see yellow 'stars' in photo above)—until the ground hog finds it, of course.

The volunteers in the photo are (rear, left to right) Donna Broomall, Patricia Foster, Sidney Burd, Gail Shepherd, Elaine Hawkins and Diane Connor.



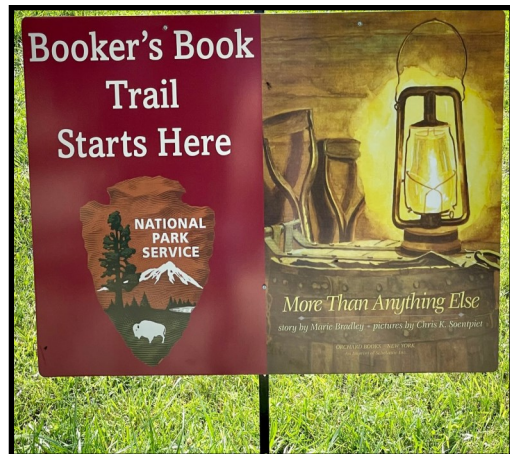
Can you help?

Please email our Chair and volunteer your time or to arrange a pick up or drop off of a Silent Auction donation for the **2024 ANNUAL LEGACY DINNER**
CindyRobertson58@gmail.com
 Save the date **March 23, 2024**



Images from last year's Legacy Dinner 2023

Have you walked along the appealing **Booker Book Trail** at the Park down by the animal barn? Take a bit to smell the grasses and soak in the words to the book **MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE (1995)** by Marie Bradby and illustrated by Chris Soenpiet. Chris has done children's programs with our park. The book is for sale in the Park Visitor Center, use your Member 15% discount!



Barnyard Banter

by volunteer *Farmer Linda McLaughlin*



Rooster and Chickens:

pant (do not sweat), seek shade, open wings for circulation, drink a lot of water, lose heat through their feet, comb, legs and wattle



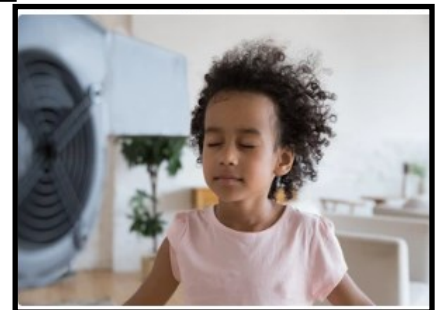
Summertime and the livin' is easy (Gershwin, Porgy & Bess)—unless it is a heat wave! We have had some very high temperatures these past two summers. So...what do we need to do on the farm to keep our animals comfortable? There are some things we farmers can do to help the animals, yet each animal has its own instinctual ways of handling the heat. **They must be provided with:** a source of shade, fresh and cool water, mud pools for the pigs, a cool sponge bath for IceMan the horse if he is overheated, and a salt block in the pasture for the sheep and the horse.

INSTINCTUAL BEHAVIORS OF FARM ANIMALS

Seek shade, drink a lot of water, minimize activity, graze early and late in the day, one inch of fleece (wool) will help divert heat, encourages the consumption of water, shearing of the sheep in the spring



Pigs: Emmy and June drink a lot of water, limit activity, seek shade, wallow in mud pools, the evaporation of mud drying and cooling provides a layer of protection from the sun, pigs do not sweat



And us? Humans over the years have kept cool by changing their clothing, getting out of the city, using hand-held fans, summer kitchens to keep the house cool, living outdoors, windows installed to bring in a breeze, swimming, created open central stair hallways, electric fans and air conditioning. What's your best cooling remedy?

In remembrance

Kevin Lamont Phifer August 4, 1972 — June 19, 2023

30-year employee at Booker T. Washington National Monument, passed unexpectedly on June 19, 2023. Colleagues described Kevin as "always the calmest, coolest and happiest guy on our staff."

Kevin began his career at Booker T. Washington National Monument in 1992 after working the maintenance division, where he was responsible for the grounds. He received many compliments from visitors over the years regarding how beautiful the grounds looked. Kevin was known for his love and passion for mowing and could be found on mowers anytime throughout spring and summer. When autumn rolled around, he began his other pastimes of removing leaves from park grounds. He was also responsible for the repair of fencing within the park and painting the facilities. He did this all with a smile on his face, no matter what was going on. Kevin cared about his park family and made sure to check in with those on duty. You could always depend on him to ask if he was doing well and how you were doing. His sunny disposition will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

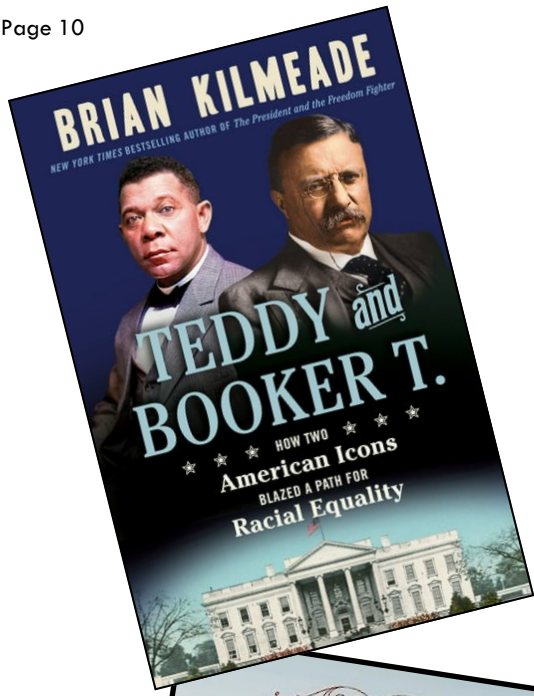


T. Washington National Monument with the Job Corps. He worked in the maintenance division where he was responsible for maintaining the grounds. Kevin was known for his love and passion for mowing and could be found on mowers anytime throughout spring and summer. When autumn rolled around, he began his other pastimes of removing leaves from park grounds. He was also responsible for the repair of fencing within the park and painting the facilities. He did this all with a smile on his face, no matter what was going on. Kevin cared about his park family and made sure to check in with those on duty. You could always depend on him to ask if he was doing well and how you were doing. His sunny disposition will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

The park staff is thrilled to have Emma Loughrey back with us for another summer season! Many of you may remember Emma as she served as an Appalachian Conservation Corps intern last year but this year she is back with the park as a seasonal Park Guide. She is a recent graduate of Ferrum College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreational Leadership and a minor in Environmental Science.

When visiting the park, you can find Emma lending a helping hand by greeting visitors on the front desk or working down on the farm and caring for the park animals. She enjoys educating the visitors about the life and legacy of Dr. Booker T. Washington while also "adding a different perspective and researching ways that the park can better connect both the historical and environmental portions of the park story. She also enjoys working with her co-workers and volunteers and wishes to continue her career with the National Park Service. Welcome back Emma!



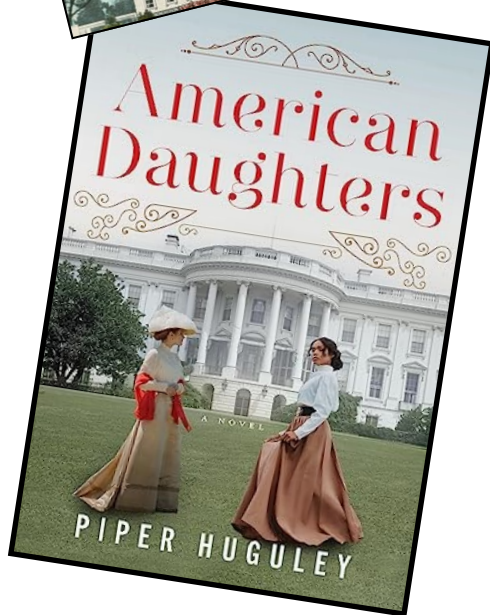


Teddy and Booker T.: How Two American Icons Blazed a Path for Racial Equality

by Brian Kilmeade

November 7, 2023

<https://a.co/d/6QCse4k>



American Daughters: A Novel

by Piper Huguley

The remarkable friendship of Portia Washington and Alice Roosevelt, the daughters of educator Booker T. Washington and President Teddy Roosevelt.

April 2, 2024

<https://a.co/d/1kTZO40>

Timbo Sims, former Park Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services (far left in photo) retirement this family, gardening, projects and playing groups including from Roanoke, has been enjoying summer visiting starting home music with various **The ThrillBillyz** pictured here.



Timbo recently the Floyd County Franklin County Kerosene Willy.

played a benefit for SPCA with the based band



Thank you to outgoing Board Member
Recording Secretary-Member at Large
Nalena White (left) for your time and
talents for the Friends of Booker T.
Washington
National Monument!



VP Marsha and Treasurer Kaye representing us at SML Event.

Look what we put together for you!

<https://www.friendsofbookertw.org/resources>

Friends of Booker T. Washington
National Monument

View menu



facebook.com/BTWNMFriends/menu



Scan the QR code or search for "Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument" on Facebook.

Support FBTWNM when you shop at any Kroger!!

1. Create a digital account.

A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

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2. Search for **FRIENDS OF BOOKER T.**

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT at <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

3. Enter the name **FRIENDS OF BOOKER T WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT** or our account **#VU931**
4. Click "Save".

If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.

Kroger - June quarterly earnings \$65.22

Contact Us

Monthly Board Meetings 5:30 PM, the second Tuesday of each month at the Park or via ZOOM-email us if interested in attending please-friendsofbowa@gmail.com

- President** - Barbara Board
- Vice President/Membership** - Marsha Melkonian
- Recording Secretary/Website** - Shawna Banks
- Treasurer** - Kaye Hancock
- Corresponding Secretary-Social Media-Newsletter**- Sheridan Brown
- Park Superintendent** - Jim Bailey
- Rangers: Betsy Haynes, Brittany Lane
- Emma Loughry, seasonal

Members at Large - Odette Board, Robert Holland, Keli Preston, Margie Lee, Case Pieterman, Marie Preston, Morris White, Shannon Wiley

Member Emeritus - Kenneth Morris, Jr.

Founding members: (2008) Lillie and Wilbert Head, Penny Blue, Kathleen and John Tully, Sandy and Don Kelso, George and Linda McLaughlin, Sue Joyce, Jean and Lonnie Hines and Rebecca Harriet



Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument

Friends of BTW National Monument
P.O. Box 755. Hardy, VA 24101

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

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Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument

To support the preservation of Booker T. Washington National Monument and its mission through volunteerism, financial support, advocacy and increased community involvement. To promote public awareness and appreciation of Booker T. Washington.

New and returning members since the June newsletter

Gordon and Sally Belcher
Penny Blue
Barbara Board
Evelyn Board
John and Odette Board
Loretta Board
Mary Jo Bowman
Karen Campbell
Renee S. Carter
Paula Clay
John A. Clements
Jim and Gloria Colby
Cindy Connine
Chip and Kathy Conway
Kathleen Conway
Edna Cook
John Crawford and Sheridan Brown
Bonny Dillon
Gene and Sue Drombeta
Frank and Gisela Ernandes
Danny Ferguson
Roy Ferguson, Jr
Patricia Foster
James Fralin
Ginny Gotlieb
Denise and Orban Gregory
Ganiel and Marie Gregory
Jo Grimley
Jimmie and Kaye Hancock
Karen Hayes
Brenda Holland
Patricia Holland
Patice Holland, Esq.

Florence Jeffreys
Betty Johnson
Taft Kelly II
Prather and Learlene Lanier
Liquid Lube and Wash
Morris and Brenda Lockhart
Christine Lofgren
Diane Lohr
Cindy Lollar
Lonneta Marsh
George and Linda McLaughlin
Charles McPherson
George and Michele Moonan
Brenda and Billie Muse
Justin Muse
Roy and Judy Muse
Pat and Cathie Parcels
Tracy Parker
Paul and Beth Pautler
Case and Coby Pieterman
Glenn and Alice Prather
Calvin and Marie Preston
Keli Preston
Verla Preston
Charles and Anita Price
Carol Rickerson
Leon Sanders
Phillip and Deanna Sheridan
Ellen Shrader
Robert and Lorie Smith
Donna St. Clair
Gloria Stockton
Paul and Fran Strumph
Fred and Drema Sylvester
Sherman Taylor
Morris and Kristie White III
Keri Williams
Doris Wright

Memberships run June to June each year. Please renew or invite new members.

To pay/renew your annual membership dues online, please visit <https://www.friendsofbookertw.org/members/volunteers> and click the PayPal DONATE button

To pay/renew your annual membership dues by mail. Use the membership form on the web site and make checks payable to **FBTWNM Mail to: PO Box 755, Hardy, VA 24101** Hardy, VA 24101

thank
you!

Donations since June Newsletter

James Fralin
Karen Hayes
Charles McPherson
Doris Wright