



November 2007

A Council of the
INTERNATIONAL
Reading
Association



Focus on Vocabulary!

On November 15, Blackhawk Reading Council will present Mary Hamm, Scott Foresman, at 4:00 p.m. at Logan Elementary School, 1602 25th Street, Moline. We hope you will join us for a workshop, Vocabulary: Putting the FUN back in Fundamental.

The workshop will focus on factors contributing to our student's limited vocabulary and how best to stimulate the use and acquisition of new words. With so many students coming to our classrooms from other countries and cultures a limited vocabulary is evidenced. With so many of our students living in limited socioeconomic conditions, the opportunities for enrichment are limited. With funding in schools also being limited for extending lessons with field trips, special guests/artists, materials and other resources, our jobs as teachers face a challenge in teaching vocabulary skills. Let's focus on best practices for teaching vocabulary.

As a kindergarten teacher, I was doing a quick check with my students at the beginning of the year to determine skill levels in a variety of concepts. Because I have so many Spanish-speaking students, I use a lot of Spanish words in lessons. When I was asking one of my non-Spanish speaking students to name shapes, he began responding correctly, "circulo, cuadrado, triangulo," even though I did not expect him to use Spanish. Of course I was thrilled that he was using the Spanish words. Then he came to the oval, a shape name I hadn't taught, and he responded, "ovalo"! He did focus on the shapes and how that word must follow the same pattern/sound. And he was right~*ovalo!*

Don't forget, Blackhawk Reading Council will have a drawing for a digital camera at the November 15 meeting. All you have to do to enter is to have current dues paid. You must be present to win!

Vicki Peterson, President
Blackhawk Reading Council

Promoting literacy at all ages!

**Our mission is to provide support and leadership
to educators as they promote and teach lifelong
literacy.**

2007-2008

BRC OFFICERS

President

Vicki Peterson

309/762-9215

vicki.peterson@risd41.org

President Elect

Laura Erikson

309/269-1545

laura.erikson@risd41.org

Treasurer

Deb Feddersen

563/359-1189

deb.feddersen@risd41.org

Secretary

Carolyn Hensley

309/788-3315

carolyn.hensley@risd41.org

Past President

Wilma Deal

309/796-1797

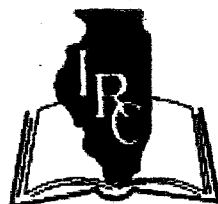
deallinzer33@aol.com

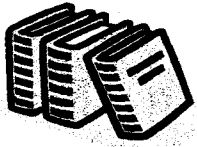
Membership/Newsletter

Lynn Keck

563/332-0538

lynn.keck@risd41.org





COUNCIL NEWS



Blackhawk Reading Council is proud to have new members* join our council and our efforts to improve literacy. Please welcome these colleagues to our professional organization:

Karen Lubbers

Jill Bennin

Nicole Kubiak

Shelley Newcomb

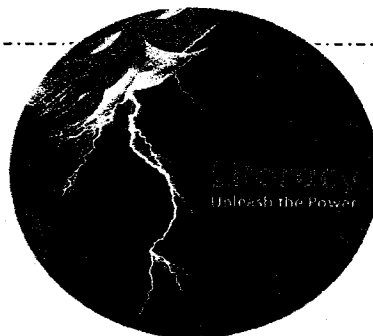
Ann Salter

Renewing members are also applauded for their continuing effort to connect and communicate with others interested in improving literacy.

Mary Arnold MaryAnn Capan Sandy Carlsten Carol Drish
Pamela Hagan Vickie Hancks Lynn Keck Rebecca Morley
Kathy Reimers Carolyn Smith-Hensley Connie Snell Linda Tobin
Lin Van Opdorp Janet Vrstal Patricia Walkup Jenni Wessel

*as of 9/30/07 Please contact a BRC Board Member if your name should be listed but is not.

Illinois Reading Council Conference
LITERACY: UNLEASH THE POWER
March 13-15, 2008
Springfield, Illinois



IRA's 53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION • ENGAGING LEARNERS IN LITERACY
GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER • ATLANTA, GEORGIA • MAY 4-8, 2008

Those wishing to place an article or information in the newsletter about upcoming events, successes in your classroom or school, or your experiences as an educator, please contact Lynn Keck lynn.keck@risd41.org. We always welcome ideas and suggestions.

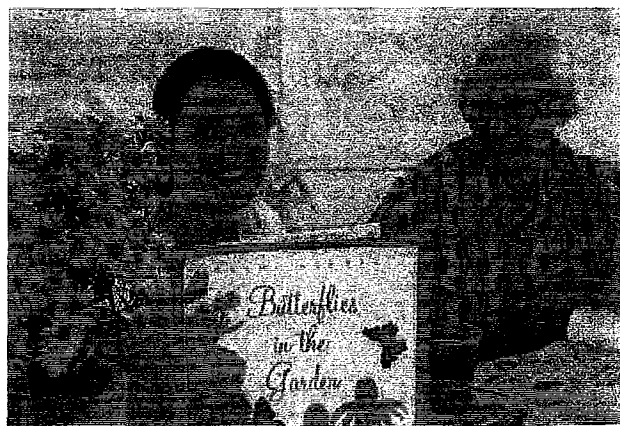


"Butterflies in the Garden" was Amazing and Informative!

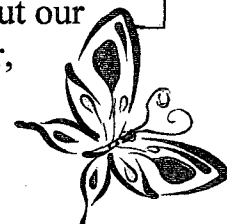


Illinois author **Carol Lerner** and Blackhawk Reading Council President, **Vicki Peterson** during book signing following Ms. Lerner's presentation at the Quad City Botanical Center on Sept. 23. Ms. Lerner encouraged all participants to find an area in home gardens to plant host plants for both caterpillars and butterflies. As more and more pesticides and chemicals are being used, food supplies are being diminished and these necessary insects are losing their habitats.

Pictured below is **Sarah Wright**, marketing director at the Quad City Botanical Center, with Carol.



Vicki Peterson arranged with the Botanical Center, Modern Woodmen, and Border's for the most beautiful setting when Carol Lerner, retired teacher, spoke. It's too bad more members were not there to appreciate Vicki's efforts, soak up nature, and enjoy the serenity of the outdoors in a tented venue with the Botanical Butterfly Garden close by. Refreshments were provided for the warm "fall" day to listen to the gentle and dignified woman who has found her second passion: to preserve and protect our environment; a gift to her children, grandchildren, and us. Carol suggested the planting of species native to the area, disuse of insecticides that harm "good" insects, and teaching our children more about the circle of life and our interdependence. Her books with authentic watercolor art bring nature indoors and assist in doing this. Without our intentional effort to maintain habitats for these creatures of the Earth, their flutter, function, and beauty will be lost forever.



Free

Blackhawk Reading Council

Free

presents

**“Vocabulary:
Put the Fun Back in Fundamental”**

with Mary Hamm, Scott Foresman



**November 15, 2007
Thursday 4:00 pm**



**Close the vocabulary gap of many
of our students living in poverty.**

This workshop focuses on explicit vocabulary instruction, established routines for teaching vocabulary, and the growing need to provide intensive vocabulary development.

FREE* to members, student teachers, and non-members

Logan Elementary School
1602 25th St. Moline, IL 61265

Become part of our Council today!

Contact lynn.keck@risd41.org for more information.

*CPDU's available from the RIROE for a \$10.00 fee

2007 Dates to Remember 2008

- ❖ **Nov. 15** Thursday
Mary Hamm (IL Scott Foresman Rep)
"Best Practices in Vocabulary"
4:00 Logan School, Moline
FREE (except cost of CPDU's, if desired)
- ❖ **Jan. 26** Saturday
Alice B. McGinty (IL Author)
"Let's Get Excited About Writing!"
10:00 Moline Public Library
- ❖ **March 1** Saturday
Michael Heggerty (IL Author)
"Phonemic Awareness"
9:30 RIROE, Moline
Bring your Boss for Breakfast--
Free to Administrators
- ❖ **March 13-16** Illinois Reading Council Conference
"Literacy: Unleash the Power"
Springfield Convention Center
- ❖ **May 1** IRC Literacy Support Grant due;
see IRC website for info on \$\$\$
- ❖ **May 4-8** 53rd IRA Annual Convention:
Engaging Learners in Literacy
Atlanta, Georgia
*Check the IRA website



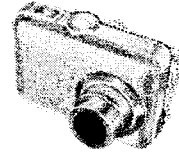
All About Adolescent Literacy

Coming soon... **AdLit.org** will be the premier source of adolescent literacy material for parents, practitioners, or anyone with a commitment to helping students in grades 4 through 12 become better readers. They will offer research-based articles, instructional material for teachers, tips for parents, book recommendations, interviews with top authors, and much more!

Free newsletter: Receive the latest news and highlights from their blog by subscribing to *Word Up!*, their free monthly e-newsletter.

FOCUS on this:

November 15th will be the first drawing for our digital camera giveaway!!!



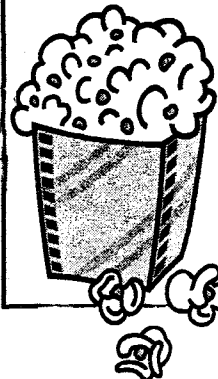
I Love the Look of Words

Popcorn leaps, popping from the floor of a hot black skillet and into my mouth
Black words leap, snapping from the white page. Rushing into my eyes. Sliding into my brain which gobbles them the way my tongue and teeth chomp the buttered popcorn.

When I have stopped reading, ideas from the words stay stuck in my mind, like the sweet smell of butter perfuming my fingers after the popcorn is finished.

I love the book and the look of words
the weight of ideas that popped into my mind
I love the tracks
of new thinking in my mind.

-Maya Angelou



Does Maya inspire you to see what you can do with words at our vocabulary workshop???