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The Deschutes Public Library has planned the largest book club of its kind in Deschutes County. "A Novel Idea... Read Together" is a countywide reading and discussion program that encourages Deschutes County residents to read the same book at the same time to create a countywide book club. *The River Why* by David James Duncan is the book for this year's A Novel Idea program.

Library staff created criteria to select the book and weighed it against the broad community input solicited in the summer of 2003. *The River Why* was selected for its richness in story and relevancy to Central Oregon and the Deschutes River. This coming of age, humorous novel discusses four major themes throughout the book, including: quest for self, family ties, relationship with the natural world, and love.

"All community members are encouraged to join their neighbors and friends for book discussions and special events from Monday, April 19 – Thursday, May 6," said Community Relations Manager Chantal Strobel. "We've planned interesting programs that tie-in perfectly with the Riverfest activities such as fly fishing demos and fish painting. We also encourage all to join in at the local discussion groups during the week of May 5 to share thoughts about the book."



"A Novel Idea... Read Together" begins during National Library Week at which time books and reading guides will be distributed at each of the local public libraries in Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sisters, and Sunriver Area. The three-week program culminates on Thursday, May 6 when David James Duncan will discuss his book at the Tower Theatre from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. A book signing will follow the discussion at 8:30 in the lobby of the Tower. This special evening is free to the public but attendees must pick up tickets at their local library for entry. Seating is limited. There is a two ticket limit per patron.

For more information, please call Chantal Strobel at (541) 312-1031. All programs are free and open to the public. Community members can also find discussion guides and background information about "A Novel Idea... Read Together" online at www.dpls.us or at all library branches.

"A Novel Idea... The Deschutes Public Library, the Deschutes Public Library Foundation, and the Source Weekly present Read Together". Other partners include: The Book Barn, Ryder Graphics, Riverfest, and Mt. Bachelor Village.

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Scheduled Events:

Sunday, April 25: Fly Fishing Demo 2:00 p.m. - Drake Park, Bend

Wednesday, April 28: Fish Painting Class, 6:00 - Bend Public Library

Saturday, May 1: Water In The West, presented by Joe Whitworth of Oregon Trout, 2:00 p.m. – Library Admin Conference Room, Bend

Sunday, May 2: Fish Painting Class, 2:00 p.m. – Sunriver Area Public Library

Tuesday, May 4: Book Discussion group, 6:30 p.m. - Sunriver Area Public Library

Tuesday, May 4: Book Discussion group, 6:30 p.m. - Sisters Athletic Club

Wednesday, May 5: Book Discussion group, noon, - Bend Public Library

Wednesday, May 5: Book Discussion group, noon, - La Pine Public Library

Wednesday, May 5: Author reading and discussion, 5:30 - C.O.C.C. (C.O.C.C. students, faculty and staff only)

Wednesday, May 5: Book Discussion group, 6:00 p.m. - Redmond Public Library

Thursday, May 6: Author reading 7:30 p.m. - Tower Theater in Bend

Free tickets will be available at branch libraries beginning April 19 (limit two per patron).

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