

Book tent looks simple, but lots of work goes into it

By AINSLEY MALONEY
Post Intern

The book sale, Fred Krohle says, is like an iceberg — 90 percent of the work that goes into it is hidden beneath the surface.

"It's a lot of little detail putting something like this together," he said.

Krohle, a former reference librarian at Wilkes University, has chaired the book booth the past three years and volunteered for five.

Preparing for the auction is a yearlong task of organizing up to 10,000 books donated throughout the year — sometimes by the boxful.

"This year we are inundated with books," Krohle said. "They just keep coming in."

Even though the books may be other people's throwaways, don't expect to see trash.

Krohle and his staff of about 15 volunteers sort countless numbers of books deciding what to sell and what to throw away to assure a better selection for auction goers.

"Sometimes we're like the middleman to the dumpster," Krohle said, "They think other people will use it, but there's some stuff that just won't sell."

Children's books, cookbooks,

biographies, romance novels and more will be sold by the bagful for paperbacks (\$1 a bag), and buy two get one free (three for \$1) for hardcovers.

The book booth regularly offers specials throughout the weekend — one of which is a free book giveaway in the last hour of the auction.

In past years, the book sale at the auction has brought

between \$5,000 and \$7,000, all of which goes to the library.

Along with the book tent, the Slightly Read Bookshop, located in the basement of the library, will be open during the auction.

Many volunteers, like Judy Roeder, are former teachers or librarians.

"How can you be a teacher and not try to encourage people

to read," said Roeder, a retired elementary teacher who has helped with the auction for the past 12 years.

She said the auction atmosphere keeps her coming back year after year.

"Families come in from out of town, and you see people you haven't seen in so long," Roeder said. "It's a nice community effort."



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