

## Features



### Animal Tales Invade Keller Library on Wednesday

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**Dexter, Missouri** - Keller Public Library held probably the most exciting Summer Reading program of the season when Wildlife Biologist Jonathan Hardison brought Animal Tales from Mayfield, Kentucky.

Hardison presented several animals for the children to see and touch. He explained their habitats, what they liked to eat, and told the children the names of each critter.

When he brought out the very large Brazilian Rainbow Boa, the crowd gasped and some of the parents seemed to squirm in their chairs when they saw the large snake.

Other animals featured were a red kangaroo, chinchilla, African crested porcupine, and a small bird.

Their mission is to educate, entertain and inspire children to love animals. A professional Wildlife Biologist and the former Curator at the AZA Accredited Zoo, Jared Baker, started Animal Tales.

“Baker hired Hardison in 2015 and was so impressed with his ability to both simultaneously control and educate the kids all the while keeping them entertained.

Hardison was born and raised in Western Kentucky, spending the majority of his childhood in the Mayfield and Benton areas. Being the son of a pastor, Jonathan also spent time growing up in both Vermont and Brentwood, TN. He now lives in Dover, TN with his wife, Natalie, and their two children, Dylan and Joy Beth.

Jonathan is a 2002 graduate of Murray State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology.

Jonathan's career in Wildlife Biology was paused for a short time when he accepted the call into the gospel ministry. He is currently the pastor of Dotsonville Baptist Church in Woodlawn, TN.

Before joining Animal Tales in 2015, Jonathan worked in helicopter and aircraft maintenance at Fort Campbell Army Base. With Animal Tales, he looks forward to being able to utilize both his education and experience in wildlife biology to teach and share with others the unique programs that Animal Tales has to offer."

***The Keller Public Library will continue their weekly Summer Reading Program on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> with Super Magic Super Hero, Magician Marty Hahne at 11:00 a.m. Should be a great program!!***

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