



Tar Heel HOMEMAKERS E-news

April 2015

Volume 5, Number 2

From Your Leadership Team

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2015-2016 Leadership Team

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Tar Heel Homemakers Update

For the past few years, four issues of the Tar Heel Homemakers (THH) newspaper have not been printed. Sue Glover, the Appointed Editor, has done an outstanding job, but each deadline receives less and less information for the paper. The last issue printed was November of 2014 and the cost to print and mail that issue almost doubled.

More and more, counties find it easier and are opting to email their news to Geri for inclusion in the eNews.

Your Leadership Team at the beginning of each year looks at finances and policies. With all things considered, the decision has been made to print one issue of the THH in 2015. This will be a **Year in Review** issue and printed after State Conference. Counties are encouraged to submit highlights of their year to Sue Glover for inclusion. This issue will supplement our Annual Report., so you STILL need to prepare your annual report due in July!

With this decision, it is more crucial that counties ensure that ALL their members receive the eNews . . . via email, snail mail or as a handout!!

Updated Web page

Our web page has been updated and while it will continue to be under construction, our updated information can be found at . . .

go.ncsu.edu/nceca

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Across the State!

Northeast

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Wake, Warren, Washington

Currituck County

Circle ECA members attended the Cooperative Extension Volunteer luncheon and Wear Red event in February. Pictured: Elaine Roberts, Edie Kavanaugh, Georgia Kight, Mary Sue Wright-Baker, Alice Fey and Sandra Conner.



The Circle ECA Club in Currituck County was busy in 2014 with recruitment and community service projects. Three past ECA members, whose club had disbanded were recruited to join our club in 2015. One of those members had served as her club president for many years and was an ECA member for 34 years. All three members attended at least one Circle ECA meeting in 2014.

Every month we collect Pennies for Friendship and set a goal of \$25 for 2014. We doubled our goal and sent \$50 to our state treasurer in December. In January members cut 267 vision screeners for elementary school vision screenings. School nurses continue to request these for their annual vision screenings. By donating personal occluders to each student we help prevent spreading of germs and the children get to take their vision screener home to share with their parents or they use it as a bookmark. This offers a conversation topic with their parents. Any card that has glitter is unable to be used for this project so we sent 67 to St. Judes for their card recycling project.

In February members assisted the Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent with a health fair in recognition of Women's Heart Health month. They purchased healthy snacks and served participants as well as assist with registration. One member served on the county centennial planning committee and the electronic historical book subcommittee.

In March members attended the ECA District Day in Plymouth. One member participated in the Cultural Arts contest and won first place with her bird feeder. She also won 3rd place at the State Event in October.

In April members volunteered to provide baked goods for the 4-H Albemarle Area Livestock Show and Sale and work in the concession stand. Four members and one guest assisted with this project.

In May the group collected requested items such as magazines, lotion, powder, soap, writing materials, and socks for nursing home residents and visited them to share the goodies. Residents seemed to really enjoy having visitors and ECA members loved sharing their time with these men and women.

In July members enjoyed an educational program on Butterfly gardening. Participants learned the importance of providing host and nectar plants for all butterflies, but especially for the Monarch butterfly.

Wake County

Wake County ECA collected gently used and new children's books for Wake Up and Read, a unique collaboration of education, civic, philanthropic and businesses working together to collect 100,000 books to ensure children from low income families have the opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners. 2

Currituck County, continued

In August the group enjoyed an educational program on utilizing fruit in season by tasting a delicious homemade fruit tart with a scoop of ice cream provided by a member. All members brought some school supplies and we filled 3 school bookbags and donated for needy children in two of our elementary schools.

In September a club member taught a burlap wreath workshop. She demonstrated how to make the wreath and then showed how you could change it with simple additions for each season or holiday. She attached the embellishments such as flags for 4th of July; hearts for Valentine Day; bunny rabbit for Easter, etc. with ribbon so it could easily be removed and a new holiday enjoyed.

In September the Cooperative Extension staff conducted a Heritage Festival at the County Rural Center with over 1000 in attendance recognizing Extension’s 100 years of service. Four members participated by assisting with registration; leading the corn shucking contest; and helping with the ECA 50/50 raffle. One member also participated in the Homemade/Homegrown contest. There were lots of vendors and events for participants throughout the day including a free barbecue lunch, live music, and Currituck history timeline. The event culminated with a community barn dance and was free to anyone attending.

In October the club served as hostesses at the Albemarle Craftsmans Fair. Their duties were to distribute programs and assist craft vendors with their booth as needed. Members had an opportunity to walk around at the fair and enjoyed seeing the beautiful high quality crafts. One member served as a judge to select the best craft vendors at the event. Everyone enjoyed lunch together after the fair.

This club is very supportive of our Armed Forces and honor them in some way every year. In November we donated a total of \$85 to purchase two MP3 Bible sticks for service men/women and 20 bandanas. We also wrote 110 Christmas cards to our Troops and 5 cards were sent to Recovering American Soldiers at Walter Reid Hospital. The group also took a trip to the Outer Banks to tour a beach house and learn decorating skills; theme decorating; safety tips and more. The group also enjoyed a little shopping, enjoyed lunch at donated and delivered to the Currituck Senior Center for distribution.

Shoebbox project.

December was a productive meeting for our club. Eight members baked or purchased cookies for the county wide ECA sponsored 62nd Annual Tree Lighting program that followed the county Christmas Parade. Members also helped to package the cookies and also helped serve those who attended the Tree Lighting Service. Members also donated blankets for the Albemarle Commission and Senior Center blanket project for needy senior adult shut-ins. Six blankets were Kill Devil Grill and watched the documentary movie entitled “America.” Members also brought supplies and monetary donations for the group to provide three shoeboxes filled with goodies for needy children in third world countries for the Operation Christmas

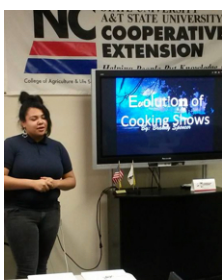
Pasquotank County mourns the loss of long time ECA member Faye Swain Woods. Faye passed on March 8, 2015. She served in many county ECA positions, as district president and on the State Advisory Council for CES.

Tyrrell County

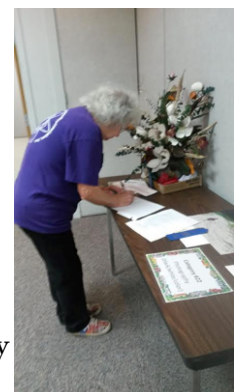
TECA (Teen ECA) is a great place to present your Senior Project!

Brandi Van Dorpe

Brandy Spencer



Nan Liverman, Cultural Arts Chair, working diligently at the Northeast ECA District Day



Southeast
 Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Duplin,
 Greene, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow,
 Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Wayne, Wilson

Duplin County

Members of the Duplin County ECA recently brought home three district awards from District Day activities held in Columbus County.

The local club was represented at District Day by 13 of its members. The 18-county district day included workshops on the value of volunteers and facilitation skill building for leadership, fundraising silent auction, along with a cultural arts competition and business meeting.

Members winning cultural arts awards include first place in flower arrangement/wreaths, Theresa Bowles; first place in crocheting, Olivia Williams; second place in crafts, Patricia Wilson; and second place in Christmas wreaths, Theresa Bowles.



“Attendance by our 13 members was outstanding,” Theresa Bowles Duplin ECA Club President said. “We are proud to have first place winners at District Day as these items will be part of the state cultural arts competition in the fall.”



Pictured below: Duplin ECA members take a break from their March meeting where they set dates for workshops to continue making the ‘pillow’ dresses for needy girls. Basic cotton and cotton blend fabrics are being used and the Duplin ECA Club is taking donations of fabric suitable for this project. The dressmaking workshops are held at the Duplin County Cooperative Extension office and fabric may be brought for

donation to this site.

Craven County

The Vanceboro ladies met before the Holidays and made Snowman Candy jars. They met before Easter and all present made Boo Boo Bunnies. These cute little bunnies are made with a washcloth and tied into shape to hold an ice cube. It is an adorable bunny to soothe any child’s boo boo. Every house with small children should have one.

The Krafters Katch group has been very busy. In February, a workshop was held to make blankets for Project Linus. They make fleece blankets and braided the fringe edges, so there were no hard knots. In total they donated 13 blankets to the Project Linus of Craven County.

Several members are working on Christmas ornaments. We are asked to make 500 ornaments for the CarolinaEast Foundation’s Breakfast with Santa. We design and work on these all year.

The Krafters have also made 28 Breast Pillows and Bags, which were delivered to the hospital and doctors offices, as soon as they were completed in March. The next workshop we will be making receiving blankets for the hospital.

In February, the Woman of the Year was announced. Being chosen by their peers, Faye Wetherington represented Vanceboro and Krafters Katch nominated Mary Iorio. Congratulations to these two women, who bring so much to their clubs.

We enjoyed a Recipe Modification presentation given by our agent, Kelly Beasley. Kelly taught us to substitute healthier ingredients in our recipes.

North Central

Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Vance, Wilkes, Yadkin

Ashe County ECA members had a busy year in 2014. They volunteered with Cooperative Extension to provide several educational programs. Members volunteered with Chef and Child, a week long class for youth, ages 11-13, where participants learned about health, nutrition, food and kitchen safety, setting the table and table manners, and prepared delicious healthy snacks and meals. The grand finale was preparing a meal for the Ashe County Manager and Commissioners.

2014 Chef and Child Program - pictured left to right back row - Sam Yearick - Ashe County Manager, Haley Ritter, Kaitlyn Miller, Emma Goodman, Kayla Bare, Willeen Fortner - ECA, Hillbish Jones - ECA, William Sands - Ashe County Commissioner; front row left to right - Bethany Bare, Breanna Bare, Rachel Reynolds



Members also made it possible for 75 samples of drinking water that serve over 120 families to be screened for bacteria. Club members also supported Imagination Ashe, providing resources for two children to receive an age appropriate book each week for the year. They served and donated over 35 gingerbread toys to the Children's Christmas Project and sewed lap robes for the local nursing home. They supported the Backpack program for school children, providing resources for limited resource children to be able to take food home with them so they and their families would have food to eat. They honored members of their club with love lights which supports the local hospital. Members baked goodies for the Annual Heart Walk and the Heart Association Auction. Educational programs included a tour of the expanded airport, hospital and a presentation about recycling and the county landfill.



Willeen Fortner
2014 Water Screening

Orange County ECA County Council met on January 28, 2015 at the Cooperative Extension's Foods Lab. Newly installed County Council President, Laura Lloyd presided. The purpose of this meeting was to present a working budget, share correspondences, and review the calendar of educational programs for 2015.

The first project for 2015 was sponsoring the annual staff appreciation day for the 12 Extension staff members. The appreciation program was held on February 3, 2015. All seven ECA clubs provided food items and other goodies for the staff members. The site was decorated with Valentine day colors and a beautifully decorated bag was prepared for each person. Not only were they given breakfast but other food items to consume throughout the day.

Agent, Deborah Taylor had packages for each club president to pick up and carry back to club members. Each package contained: a Year Book; Calendar of Events; Phone Tree Information; Special Projects Report Form; Schedule of the Date each club was to provide refreshments for a Council meeting; Club membership rolls; Score Card forms; and a schedule of meeting dates for each club.

Deborah Taylor informed the group that January was National Radon Month and that free radon test kits were available from the Cooperative Extension Office.

Durham County

Durham County ECA members are collecting socks for the homeless in Durham County. These socks will be presented to Lloyd Scheidler, the Project Manager with Durham Opening Doors to Prevent & End Homelessness and The City of Durham Department of Community Development.

Members have also made "snits" to be given out to patients that have to have dialysis each week at one of the Dialysis Centers in Durham. A total of 55 "snits" will be provided. These "snits" are designed to give them a little fun as they are treated.

Randolph County is pleased to announce that Becky Gray, beloved 4-H volunteer club leader for the Cut N' Stitch 4-H Club in Randolph County, received the Sig McCain Volunteer Leader Award for 2014 at our Annual 4-H Honors Night celebration held at the Historic Sunset Theater in downtown Asheboro on March 10, 2015. Becky is an active member of ECA in Randolph County!

Becky is pictured with with one of her students, Adrienne Luther holding the pillow she had sewn!



Members constructed walker caddys for hospital and adult day care, made bibs for Adult Day Care, helped with Community Bereavement meals, volunteered at nursing home and hospital, knitted caps for newborns, continued the stamp ministry, made eye shields for children eye testing, donated food for the back pack program , help to deliver food from groceries stores, recycled styrofoam cups, made reusable sanitary napkins for girls in Africa, made hats and booties for Pregnancy Center, provided refreshments for Adult Day Care, help with Lions Club Fund Raisers, did a puppet show on Brain Safety, provided breakfast and lunch for Habitat workers. assisted disabled person with shopping and paying bills, knitted prayer shawls, provided hygiene items for Battered Women Shelter, Place Flags in cemetery for Veterans, will be helping with the empty Bowl Fundraiser to benefit local Soup Kitchen ,participating in Pennies for friendship , helping with the Boundary Breaking Program, having lessons on Heart Health, leading classes in hospital gowns, pillow case dresses jams for medical missions teams to Dominican Republic. And they are planning a trip to the Sand Hills Women's' Exchange.

Surry County The Surry County ECA has been busy volunteering and participating in several learning opportunities. They have been collecting box tops for education, bottle tops for school art projects, coupons for soldiers, supplies for Life Span and the children's center. They have cut cards to make oculars to donate to the schools for children's eye tests, and helped with the Sole Hope project by cutting out denim according to a shoe pattern to send to Africa! They have attending the following programs: Exercise and Stretching for Seniors, Seeing the Future (eye care), Car Care for Seniors, and Adaptive Gardening. Members enjoyed a wonderful Spring Fling Cultural Arts day on March 27 at the Surry Community College Viticulture Center. Person County ECA held a two workshop on making Chrismons, painting, knitting, hand carving and jewelry making. They also had a can drive for the local Christian Help Center. They have planned a trip to the Boys and Girls Home in August. They had a Pinto Bean Fundraiser to help with community projects and FCS programming. They volunteered with the Third grade snap-ed nutrition program and are currently helping with the second grade program. They have trips planned to the Temple Theatre to see "Hairspray" in June and to Raleigh in the summer.

Alleghany County ECA has worked on the SOLE HOPE project, Blood Mobil, Alleghany Cares, made dresses for Haiti, and worked on the Shriner Projects and the Food Closet . They have participated in the school back pack food program, and judged at the 4-H cooking Day. And many are active in their club and church activities

Forsyth County

The program for February was cutting out the pieces for SOLE HOPE. They had a program on Sittercise and enjoyed their Achievement Day "Reach for the Stars". They have had a program on "Know the facts: Cancer Nutrition Myths and Truths" have continued to make the Heart Pillows, pillow cases, quilts for the homeless, crocheting plastic bags for mats for the homeless, and making the pillow case dresses for mission trips. They have several trips coming up for the summer months.

South Central

Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cumberland, Gaston, Harnett, Poke, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Union

Harnett County

The Ambassador ECA Club in Harnett County participated in the Make a Blanket Day for Project Linus on March 7, 2015. Over 50 blankets were made. They did stitching, turning, pressing, tying - whatever it took to get the job done.



Pictured, L-R: Front Row - Cynthia Wilder and Ann Burgin. Back Row - Rose Cotton, Sue Langley, Stephanie Damery, Donna Springle

Harnett County ECA Council hosted its annual 2015 Achievement Program January 15, 2015. The theme was "Working Together for 100 Years" and recognized ECA members for time and services donated to families and communities in 2014 for providing more than 10,000 volunteer hours and thousands of dollars in financial support. Awards were presented for Perfect Attendance, Outstanding Program of the Year, President of the Year, ECA Associate of the Year, Community Outreach Angel, Working Associate, and Superior Service. The council was honored to have Wanda Hardison, retired FCS Agent/ECA Liaison present Tenure Awards for membership of 5 or more years of service. It was also a privilege to have Wanda Denning, our state NCECA advisor present state level awards of certificates, seals and CVU pins for more than 51,000 cumulative CVU hours and longevity certificates for 25, 60 and 70 years of ECA service. It was a wonderful evening of celebration!



Pictured L to R are award recipients: Jennifer Walker, Donna Springle and Sandy Stephenson



Social Crafters meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month and is open to anyone wanting to learn or work on small projects. Sometimes special interest workshops such as bow making are offered during the same time frame to develop skills that are useful in such events as the annual Cultural Arts Contest.

Pictured front row: Hettie Fultz, Instructor Genette Davis, Mary Forrest, Shirley McKoy, Virginia Stern; back row: Rose Cotton, Marv Baucom and Diane McLean

Host A Sole Hope Party!!

Sole Hope is a project "offering HOPE, healthier lives, and freedom from foot-related diseases through education, jobs, and medical relief." Sole Hope helps create jobs to shoemakers and tailors, while providing shoes for children to help protect from jigger infestations. All you need to get started is a Shoe Cutting Party Kit, old jeans, scissors and plastic jug. Hosting a Sole Hope Party is a way to give back and affect lives thousands of miles away. Visit: www.solehope.org to learn more.

Ambassador ECA Club Sole Hope Party



Harnett County, continued

The Progressive ECA Club makes quarterly non-perishable food donations to the Harnett Food Pantry. According to a recent Feeding America Report, almost 19% of Harnett County families are food insecure, which means that they do not have enough safe, nutritious food to live an active lifestyle (voicesintoaction.org). "Between 2010-2014 N.C. regularly ranked among the top ten states with the highest percentage of citizens experiencing food shortages" (NC Association of Feeding America Food Banks).



WE'RE GOING TO SCECA DISTRICT DAY! Everyone was a winner at the 2015 Harnett County Cultural Arts Contest. There were awesome entries that represented 21 cultural arts categories at this year's event. Blue Ribbon winners will advance to district competition April 18th at South Central ECA District Day in Lee County at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center in Sanford, NC.

Iredell County

Iredell County ECA recently held its annual Achievement Day Program and Cultural Arts Contest, ECA Clubs and members were recognized for volunteer and community service during the past program year. Members from Bells Cross Roads, Clarksbury, Mount Mourne, Olin, Ostwalt, Scotts and Union Grove ECA Clubs were honored for their work. ECA members reported over 4000 volunteer hours worth \$88,648 and donated approximately \$5000 in funds and good to local organizations.

Mrs. Myrtle Westmoreland of Bunch Johnson Funeral Home presented awards to members who excelled in reading for personal development and learning. Individual awards presented were as follows: First place - Shirley Tuttle, Ostwalt Club, second place-Genie Setser, Scotts Club, and third place - Theresa Banks, Bells Cross Roads Club. Clubs earning reading awards were Clarksbury, first place, Ostwalt, second place, and Olin, third place.

Cultural Arts contest Blue Ribbon winners were Barbara Blackwelder, Robin Crawford, Charlene Overcash, Charline Sims, Rebekah Stroud, Brenda Campbell, Joy Scyphers and Hazel Weisner. Blue ribbon winners are eligible to compete in the District Cultural Arts in Sanford, N.C. at the Spring District Day on April 15, 2015.



L-R: Mary Lou Goodman, VP Iredell ECA, Joy Scyphers, President of Mount Mourne ECA, Judy Athey, President of Iredell ECA

Nancy Keith, County Extension Director welcomed ECA members and thanked them for their service. Jackie Negley, In-Home Services Coordinator with Iredell County Council on Aging presented an educational program on the Reality of Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Gaston County

Bel-Heights club of Gaston has really been active this year. We have 6 members that volunteer many hours to our community.

We make monetary donations to charities in our community, bought a water filter, made afghans, cancer pillows, and baby quilts for our local hospital, participate in workshops and leadership classes and support our community in any way we can.

We have made over 220 chairs bags for 2 local schools. We provided ceramic eggs and baskets for 60 children for 3 classes at 3 different schools. Pictured - club members helping school children paint eggs



Gaston County, continued

ACHIEVEMENT DAY WINNERS

ECA's annual Achievement Day was held on March 10th, and was a great success! We are proud to announce the following special award recipients:



Gaston County ECA
~Leader of the Year~
Martha Spurrier, Lucile Tatum ECA



Gaston County ECA
~Member of the Year~
Sarah Rollins, West Gastonia ECA

Club Leader of the Year

- Bel-Heights ECA - Joyce Loftin
- Happy Potters ECA - Pat Mantooth
- Martha Goebel ECA - Mary Upton
- Quiltmakers ECA - Cathy Stokes
- Scrappers Unlimited ECA - Karen Bernard
- Southwest ECA - Carol Dillinger
- West Gastonia ECA - Margo Englehardt

Gold Award Club Recipients

- Bel-Heights ECA
- West Gastonia ECA

Silver Award - Club Recipients

- Happy Potters ECA
- Southwest ECA
- Quiltmakers ECA

Club Member of the Year

- Bel-Heights ECA - Gladys Doby
- Happy Potters ECA - Peggy Rowland
- Martha Goebel - Al Lineberger

Bronze Award - Club Recipients

- Lucile Tatum ECA
- Martha Goebel ECA
- Scrappers Unlimited ECA



"Let Your Apron Tell the Story"
ECA Achievement Day Program
Betty Willis, Bel-Heights ECA displays her apron



ECA Club Leaders and
Members of the Year

Cabarrus County



Cabarrus County ECA members co-sponsored with local FCS Agent, Pam Outen, the four week, hands-on food preparation class “Cook Smart Eat Smart.” ECA members hosted and taught at five food preparation stations during the series and offered grocery store gift certificates to the participants with perfect attendance.

The annual Cabarrus County ECA recently held their annual Achievement Program and Brunch at Cabarrus Arena and Events Center. The theme of the program was “Serving with Excellence”.

Joyce Kluttz, ECA Council President was the presiding officer. Cabarrus County Commissioner and Extension Liaison Dianne Honeycutt brought official greetings on behalf of the Cabarrus County Commissioners. Other Cabarrus County Commissioners in attendance included: Commissioner Chairman Steve Morris, and Commissioners Lynne Shue and Liz Poole. Cabarrus County Manager Mike Downs attended.

Highlight of the morning included the presentation of special program awards. The ECA Lifetime Achievement was presented to Barbara Looney. This is the highest honor that the Cabarrus County ECA program bestows on a member that has been an active leader in ECA, Cooperative Extension and the community.



Lowes Foods Store #210 of Harrisburg was awarded the ECA Community Supporter of the Year Award.



The 2014 Club President of the Year Award was presented to Theresa Smith of the Wilmar ECA Club.



The 2014 ECA Member of the Year Award was presented to Rose Freeman of the Cold Water ECA Club.



The 2014 New Member of the Year Award was presented to Nancy Carlson.



The 2014 Club of the Year Award was presented to the Country Neighbors ECA Club.

The Country Neighbors ECA Club was recognized with the 2014 Club Participation Award, and the Artistic Adventurers ECA Club was recognized with the club with the Most New Members. The Quilting Mother’s ECA Special Interest Club was recognized as a new club organized during

2014.

Cabarrus County ECA was recognized for a completion of 42,649 certified volunteer hours during the 2014 program Year. This represents a value of \$945,101.84 to the residents of Cabarrus County.

ECA Recognition for 2014 saluted people with 5-55 years of ECA membership. Recognized for 5 years of membership was: Sandy Coyle, Connie McBryde, Pinky Rogers, Lena Hill and Julie Thomas. Recognized for 10 years of membership was Betty Barnhardt and Shirley Nichols. Joyce Pless was recognized for 15 years of membership. Carolyn Cross was recognized for 35 years of membership and Sylvia Blackwelder was recognized for 55 years of membership.

The Flowe Store ECA Club was recognized for completing 85 years of membership during the 2014 program year.

Cabarrus County, continued

New ECA County Council Officers for the 2015 and 2016 year were installed including: Pat Wickliff-President; Dorothy Anthony-Vice President; Debbie Mullis-Secretary; Bobbie Sheperis-Treasurer; Joyce Kluttz-Advisor; Judy Furr & Barbara Looney-Community Connections Coordinators; Nancy Carlson & Loretta MacDonald-Cultural Arts Coordinators; Linda Black and Suzanne Whitmore-Environmental Impacts; Kathleen Kent & Janet Stancil-Health & Wellness Coordinators; Rose Freeman & Barbara Viehmann-International Interactions Coordinators; Michelle McDonald & Linda Cordell-Leadership Growth Coordinators; Gail Linker and Brian Stancil-Strengthening Families Coordinators; Pat Wickliff-Agricultural School Day ECA Coordinator; Barbara Looney-CVU Chairman; Lynne D'Aloiso & Becky Barbee-Hospitality Coordinators and Joyce Kluttz-NC State ECA Meeting Coordinator.



Cabarrus County ECA hosted a delightful cultural arts contest March 25 and 26, 2015 in the Extension Teaching Kitchen at the Cabarrus County Center. Members and guests enjoyed viewing a wide variety of entries. Co-chairmen of the contest was Nancy Carlson and Loretta MacDonald.



Cabarrus County ECA members have made and donated a large number of baby quilts to the Jeff Gordon's Children's Hospital at North East Medical Center in Concord. Shown are Cabarrus ECA members who donated the baby quilts to hospital staff recently.

Lee County

The Lee County ECA celebrated its 2014 achievements in February at the Lee County Farm Bureau Auditorium of the McSwain Extension Education and Agricultural Center. The theme of the program was ECA Spirit and the program recognized the value of volunteerism, teamwork and spirit are utilized to get things done in ECA. Mildred Smith, president of the Lee County ECA, welcomed 53 members and their guests as she presided over the awards program.



Speaker for the event was Teresa Dew Kelly, Executive Director of Christian United Outreach Center. Mrs. Kelly spoke about family roots and traditions. Through show and tell she shared stories of a family quilt made by her grandmother and aprons, once consider an essential addition to a every woman's clothing. Aprons were often used as a cover to protect your Sunday best and every day wear, but also signaled to the farmer and children to come for supper or used to wipe tears from a child were necessary. Families take care of families and when they hit a bump in the road, organizations like ECA and Christian United Outreach is there to help. She reported that CUOC met the needs of 989 families with food and other services in January of

this year. Volunteers, of which many are ECA, help to keep CUOC working for the families of Lee County. In 2014, 387 volunteers helped out. Those attending the event brought food items, which were donated, to CUOC.

During the program county projects along with Club projects were highlighted. Sewing lap quilts, pillow cases, quilts of valor, supporting Farm to Table, assisting with several events at the Lee Regional Fair, sending water filters to other countries, collecting can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, sending coupons to military bases, sponsoring the annual Ladies Luncheon, baking of mini muffins for the Farm City Banquet, supporting a community garden and providing the bounty to those in need, teaching quilt classes to the 4Hers were just a few of the projects shared during the evening.

The scholarship winner was recognized along with Club Members of the Year and the Outstanding ECA Volunteer of the Year. Winners of the Cultural Arts competition held earlier in the day were announced and those attending had time to marvel at the items submitted for the event. Our membership chair recognized the new members and a memorial was held for two of our members who passed away this past year. The Spirit of Team was evident this night at the Lee County ECA Achievement night.

Roland Armstrong, member of the Hearts and Hands ECA Quilters Guild was recognized as the Lee County ECA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 2014 for contributing over 477 hours to ECA and Extension activities. Roland is the McSwain Center gathering site coordinator for the Sandhills Farm To Table program, the community service outreach chair and is currently serving as the Lee County's ECA president elect. Under his leadership members sent 32 pounds of product coupons to military families overseas and collected 32 pounds of tabs for the Ronald McDonald House which is used as fund raiser for the house. As coordinator for the gathering site over Roland and a team of volunteers distributed 19,790 pounds of fresh locally grown produce to 160 co-op members. 60 pounds of unclaimed produce was taken to local food pantries. Reuhl Dabolt, chair of the Extension Advisory Council and Sylvia Churchwell, ECA member at large and State Advisory member were on hand to present this award.



Pictured: (L-r) Sylvia Churchwell, Mildred Smith, President of Lee County ECA, Roland Armstrong and Reuhl Dabolt.

The 2015 Lee County ECA scholarship was announced and introduced at the ECA Achievement Night. Sharon Raschke, past president Lee County ECA presented Cheyenne Marie Gasper, a senior at Southern Lee High School, with the \$300 scholarship. Cheyenne is the daughter of George and Sundi Gasper and plans to attend UNC Wilmington to major in pre-physical therapy.



West

Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Cherokee Reservation, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey



West District President Cathy Holmes held her first District Leadership Team meeting January 29, 2015 at Rutherford County Extension Office. We are striving to work together as a team and looking forward to springing up to change in 2015 working on our Spring District Day Program! Looking forward to a great year.

Jackson County

(From the *Sylva Herald*)

In 1974 President Richard Nixon created the first National Volunteer Week, since then the tradition has continued. During April 2015 across America we will celebrate and honor our volunteers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics more than 64 million people volunteer between September 1 and August 31 annually. Collectively those volunteers dedicated 8.1 billion hours to a wide variety of organizations. That donated time and expertise that is valued at \$173 billion. Talk about economic impact!

Here at Cooperative Extension we appreciate our volunteers. Their time and expertise are valued at over \$200,000. We have Extension and Community Association Clubs throughout Jackson County that assist with heating bills, provide Quilts of Valor to our Veterans, afghans and bears to children with special needs at summer camp, cards and items to our local nursing homes and shut-ins, cook meals for community service organizations, serve as 4-H volunteers, and provide after school programs.

Our Community Clubs serve their individual communities by providing roadside cleanup, scholarships, educational programs, and assistance to anyone who has a need. They independently maintain their facilities that provide a sense of pride, place, and value to their community.

Jackson County Master Gardeners begin by attending a class for several weeks and learn about gardening, lawn care, native plants, and so much more. Then they give back 20 hours of service to our office, town, and county.

Cooperative Extension could never offer you the quality and quantity of programs without the volunteers who assist us in providing the vast array of programs we offer to strengthen and empower families throughout Jackson County.

In 1945 my Mother-in-Law, Hazel Ina Jackson Edwards graduated from high school and began her first career; secretary to the County Agent, Farm Agent, and Home Agent at the Jackson County Cooperative Extension Service located in the most photographed courthouse in North Carolina and now our gorgeous library. She served Jackson County for nine years until she began her second career of raising a family.

Mrs. Edwards had become somewhat homebound over the last years of her life; however, she found a way to continue to serve her community. Every morning she called every widow she knew to make sure they were up and ok. This took her about two hours daily and many may think she wasted time on the phone. Miss Hazel was a lifeline to many. Thousands of seniors fall annually and lie for hours waiting on assistance.

On March 22, 2015 first responders were dispatched to 468 Webster Road because Miss Hazel was in need. Despite their heroic volunteer efforts it was time for her to go home. As a wife, mother, friend, and lifeline she will be missed; however, her example will live on in the hearts of those she served.

So, please let this April 1 be the day you pick up the phone and find a place to serve your fellowman by becoming a volunteer.

ECA Foundation will resume innovative grants opportunity! For additional information and application, please contact Susan Ayscue (below) or visit go.ncsu.edu/nceca.

What are innovative grants?

- * The innovative grants are awarded annually by the NCECAF to fund projects that increase awareness of, or support, the North Carolina Extension & Community Association (NC ECA) at the club, county, district or state level
- * Suggested projects include (but are not limited to) leadership development, development of marketing tools, membership recruitment, purchase of educational/programming materials, officer training or a new special event with an outcome directly associated with the NC ECA mission
- * Individual grant maximum: \$500
- * Total grants maximum: \$5,000

Who is eligible?

- * Any active NC ECA club, county or district level group can apply for a grant

How do ECA groups apply?

- * Complete the attached ***NCECAF Innovative Grant Application Form***
- * Applicants must obtain sign-off of their county agent or county director as requested on the form
- * Electronically submit or mail completed application form to the NCECAF Administrative Assistant
 - o Susan R. Ayscue
 - o NC State University
 - o 512 Brickhaven, Room 210C
 - o Campus Box 7645
 - o Raleigh, NC 27695-7645
 - o susan_ayscue@ncsu.edu
- * NOTE: applicants awarded a grant must wait one year after receiving a grant to apply again

When are grants awarded?

- * Applications are due to NCECAF Administrative Assistant by April 30, 2015
- * The NCECAF grants committee will select and notify grant recipients no later than May 29, 2015
- * Grant funds will be sent to awardees before June 30, 2015

What are the guidelines for awarded funds?

- * Funds should be used within one year of being awarded (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)
- * Funds can supplement new or existing programming efforts
- * Recipients receiving funding must provide a report to the NCECAF per the attached ***NCECAF Innovative Grant Report Form*** once funds are expended per the grant application, but no later than June 30, 2016
- * Failure to provide a report jeopardizes applicant's ability to apply for future awards
- * Funds will be handled according to county financial controls
 - e.g., The county ECA or county Extension Service can make the funding request to the NCECAF if the club receiving the grant does not have the appropriate transfer process or W-9 form in place to receive funds

Dates to Remember

April

- 1 - eNews articles due
 - LeadershipTeam Conference Call
- 15 - South Central District Day
- 17 - West District Day
- 30 - North Central District Day

May

- 1 - Water Around the World reports due
- 15 - Scholarship judging to be completed

June

- 1 - Individual Annual Reports due
 - Pennies for Friendship donations due Ruth Clifton
 - eNews articles due
- 3 - LeadershipTeam Conference Call
- 15 - Club Annual Reports due



2015 Conference

Martinburg, West Virginia

July 14-16



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