



THE PEACH PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENTS



The Peach Press Publication Deadlines

Summer 2013 Issue
Deadline for Articles: July 31
Publication Date: August

Fall 2013 Issue
Deadline for Articles: Oct 18
Publication Date: Nov

2012-2013 Membership

Northeast : 23

Northwest : 39

Southeast : 39

Southwest : 26

State Staff : 20

Life Members : 53

TOTAL: 200

As of 2/20/2013



A Message From the President Lynn Davis

From the Sideline

Greetings GAE4-HA Members! Last week during the NCAA March Madness Elite Eight, I was in a discussion about two teams that were bracketed to play. Whether you are glued to the television or even if you have no interest in basketball, there may be some lessons to be learned.

Being a former basketball player, I relate to many concepts from the court and know those personal experiences can transition into my profession. In many ways, I am a coach. Perhaps I don't stand on a hardwood court every day or even blow the whistle at athletes to start and stop a drill. Instead, I have a group of young people that show an interest in being a part of our county 4-H team and it is my responsibility to build their skills. These young people need those skills, the workforce ready life skills, so they are important players.

Our team used to run drills and shoot free-throws so much, it seemed effortless. I often wondered why. Looking back, I can clearly see that our coach wanted each player to have the confidence that was needed. When it was game time, he told us "don't think, just run the plays." He stood on the sidelines and anyone could see he did not want to be confined to his coach's box; he wanted to be part of the action with us. How often do we have 4-H'ers give those reasons, practice their demonstrations or model behavior of a leader?

There are parallels and similarities to my being a coach. When it comes time for competition, we all desire for our 4-H'ers to win. More importantly, we need to realize they excel because we instilled a confidence within them. As a "4-H coach," we can push them past their limits and raise the standard of excellence. Perhaps you may have heard a parent share with others that their child doesn't think twice about doing it if it is anything associated with 4-H. What a fantastic compliment!

Now back to the beginning of my story and my favorite NCAA team. I am passionate about one team and without fail, the coach gets so much credit. Year after year, he takes those talents and he builds a respectable and winning program. I have a high opinion of him for being a leader and a mentor to his players for his morals and ethics. He is a great coach and keeps his team as the focus. I challenge you to think about your leadership style and reflect on the many ways you can coach your 4-H'ers through the week and how you may even coach from the sidelines during their game time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your GAE4-HA President. This is a remarkable organization that gives so many the opportunities to refine their skills through professional development. These opportunities equip us with a leadership style to help young people reach their fullest potential.

Lynn

Spring 2013 Edition

Editor

Pamela Bloch, Gwinnett Co CEA

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Brought to you by

GAE4-HA Media Committee

LIFE MEMBERS/RETIREES....



HOW TO JOIN . . .

Hope you will join us if you're not already member. Membership drive is held during the fall – however, Life Member dues may be submitted at any time. Life Member fee is 3 times the regular renewal membership fee. Application for membership is the same as any new or renewal members. On the membership application, simply check off the “*life member*” option. Please visit the *GAE4-HA website* or contact your District Association Director for application information.

Georgia 4-H Gala Preparations Under Way



The 2013 Georgia 4-H Gala date is set for August 10th at the Loews Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Georgia 4-H alumni and friend will come together in support of an organization that has served the needs of Georgia's youth through educational programming since 1904.

Funding raised through the Georgia 4-H Foundation is utilized to enhance the 4-H experience for more than 184,000 of Georgia's youth statewide. Funds raised at this year's Gala will go towards the comprehensive needs of the Georgia 4-H summer camping program. Throughout the months of June and July, 8,000 children, ages 9-19, will attend one of the five 4-H centers for a fun week of camp! Georgia's five 4-H centers include: Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island, Fortson 4-H Center (Hampton, GA) Jekyll Island 4-H Center, Rock Eagle 4-H Center (Eatonton, GA), and Wahsega 4-H Center (Dahlonega, GA)—each offering unique camping opportunities to Georgia's youth. The event will be honoring Mr. Harold Darden, Associate Professor Emeritus and Associate State 4-H Leader Emeritus, who will be receiving the 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Darden worked in the initial development of the Georgia 4-H camping program, among numerous other contributions to the Georgia 4-H program. Tickets for the event and any other information about the 2013 Georgia 4-H Legacy Gala can be found by contacting the Georgia 4-H Foundation at 706-542-8914 or 4hfndtn@uga.edu or visit the Georgia 4-H Gala website at <http://georgia4hfoundation.org/gala.htm>.

Congratulations to our GAE4-HA Awards Winners

William H. Booth Nominees

Zona Medley,
Colquitt County
Kevin Tatum,
Coffee County
Ian Cowie,
Lumpkin County
Leonard Anderson,
DeKalb County

Professional Achievement

Audra Armour,
Wilkes County
Pamela Bloch,
Gwinnett County
Victoria David,
Fulton County
Lindsey Hayes,
Decatur County
Abby Smith,
Effingham County
Julia Steed,
Lanier County

Scholarship

Brittany Johnson,
Rockdale County

Outstanding Young Professional

Heather Brannen,
Burke County
Ashely Davis,
Tift County
Brittany Johnson,
Rockdale County

Outstanding SECRETARY

Sue Archambault,
Rockdale County
Lynn Henry,
Emanuel County
Carol Jackson,
Wilkes County
Nancy Young,
Pulaski County

GAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

Outstanding PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Batten,
Coffee County
Barbara Larson,
Gwinnett County
Julie Moore,
Pulaski County
Valencia Thornton,
Elbert County

Outstanding VOLUNTEER LEADER PROGRAM

Terri Kimble,
Newton County

Outstanding SUPPORT BY PUBLIC MEDIA

The News Reporter
nominated by Audra
Armour,
Wilkes County

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER LEADER

Lesley Darley nominated by
Casey Mull,
State Staff
Greg Hicks nominated by
Julie Lawrence,
Troup County
Frank Parr nominated by
Patrick Willis,
Berrien County
Dianne Wilson nominated
by Robbie Jones,
Emanuel County

Profiles, Pages and Groups: Suggestions for using Facebook in 4-H programs



Rebekah Bowen,
Jones County

“Facebook is the next big thing for Extension communications!” While some may not agree with this statement, the increase in official Facebook use by county extension offices across the state would lead us to think that it could very well become an important part of each Extension staff member’s communication toolbox in the next few years. As we begin to build this new web presence, all 4-H program leaders are faced with the question of how to set-up their Facebook to best suit their county’s needs. Today, let’s look at the three main ways Facebook can be used and how each of these can have its own place in 4-H and Extension.

The original Facebook type was a *profile*, where the account is set up to represent a particular person. This account type allows a person to add other people that they know as “friends”. By design, this type of account is not intended for use by a group or organization. Extension professionals are encouraged to only have these types of profiles for personal purposes, and to not be “friends” with their 4-H members. There are other ways, however, that Facebook can be utilized as a great tool for 4-H and Extension.

Creating a Facebook *page* for the County Extension Office allows staff members to share information about ANR, FACS and 4-H activities and events that may be of interest to community members. The page can be managed by several individuals in the extension office, so it does not become a burden on any one person. This works great for providing updates about agriculture production meetings or FACS community training events. Although it is better not to post the dates, times or locations of youth meetings on this type of public page; it can be very helpful to use this page to announce a county rabies clinic, 5K race or other community-wide event.

Perhaps the biggest question is “how do we reach youth with specific updates?”. This is where we utilize groups. A Facebook *group* works well for 4-H programs to share specific updates about 4-H meetings, activities or events. In Jones County, we have specific groups for our Senior 4-H’ers, shotgun team and homeschool club. We also have a general 4-H group for all of our parents, 4-H’ers and volunteers to stay up-to-date. By changing the group settings to closed, the group administrator can monitor who is allowed to join the group to ensure that they are legitimately involved with 4-H youth activities. By knowing who is in the group, we can post details on upcoming events, discuss club activities and post pictures without worrying about who sees them or how they are shared.

It may seem overkill to have a personal Facebook profile, manage a Facebook page for the county extension office and monitor the use of several Facebook groups. After the initial creation, however, we will hopefully see that this new communication tool will aid us in more efficiently and effectively reaching our audience.

Congratulations to our NAE4-HA Award Winners

Service Awards

Achievement in Service Award

Jakyn Jennings, Bacon County

Jakyn Jennings began her career as a 4-H Agent in February 2008 in Terrell County and transferred to Bacon County in 2012. She began the first 4-H Robotics Program in Georgia and provides leadership for newly formed programs in other counties. She has also been recognized for her utilization of technology in 4-H programming.

Achievement in Service Award

Julie Lawrence, Troup County

Julie Lawrence has been working as a 4-H Agent for 6 years and is currently serving the youth in Troup County. Her programming focuses on Science and Engineering, Agriculture, and teen leadership.

Achievement in Service Award

Terri Kimble, Newton County

4-H County Extension Agent Terri Kimble has worked as a 4-H professional for 5 ½ years in Newton County, Georgia. She is proud to serve the same community where both she and her dad grew up in 4-H.

Achievement in Service Award

Allison Perkins, Bartow County

Allison's professional accomplishments include earning a Master's degree from UGA, NAE4HA national co-chair, Chair of GAE4HA Public Relations and Information committee. Extension accomplishments include a vet school camp, collaborated to acquire program funds totaling \$98,000, three national horse judging competitions, 40 master 4-H'ers, and National team winners.

Distinguished Service Award

Lauren Boykin, Screven County

Lauren W. Boykin has served as the 4-H Agent in Screven County since August 2005. Lauren has been able to establish solid relationships within the local community, become known as an experienced leader within Extension, as well as find time to serve as an active member and district officer of the GAE4-HA organization.

Distinguished Service Award

Mandy Marable, State Staff

Mandy Marable serves the State 4-H faculty as Extension Specialist for Curriculum and Staff Development. In her role as Extension Specialist, she supports 4-H County Extension Agents by garnering curricula and materials to reach students through 4-H programming.

Distinguished Service Award

Melanie Biersmith, State Staff

Melanie Biersmith serves as the Extension 4-H Specialist supporting the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program delivered at all five 4-H Centers including curriculum, staff training, marketing, and the development and maintenance of relationships and partnerships with school systems, teachers, administrators, and other educational organizations. Melanie also supports the 4-H Science initiative for Georgia 4-H.

Meritorious Service Award

Deron Rehberg, Grady County

As the 4-H Agent for 24 years, the candidate coordinates the Grady County 4-H Program. He received the 2012 GAE4-HA William H. Booth Award recognizing him as the top 4-H Agent in Georgia and was recognized locally for his work as the Grady County "Man of the Year".

GAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

CONTINUING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cheryl Poppell,
Toombs County

Outstanding Support by Agriculture or FACS

Ray Hicks,
Screven County
Jule-Lynne Macie,
Rockdale County
Calvin Perry,
Mitchell County
Clay Talton,
Elbert County

Outstanding Support by GAE4HA Retiree

Patricia Fletcher,
Butts County
Bo Ryles,
Oconee County

Innovative Work in School Relations

Lauren Dye,
Elbert County
Casey Hobbs Walker County
& Cheryl Varnadoe,
State Staff
Mandy Marable,
State Staff
Zona Medley,
Colquitt County
Stephanie Myers,
Evans County

Peach of a Profession Scholarship

Terri Kimble,
Newton County

NAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

25 Years of Service

Susan Goldman, Madison County

Serving as 4-H County Agent in Decatur and Pulaski Counties and currently presently 4-H Agent in Madison and Oglethorpe County and Madison County as a County Extension Coordinator, Susan Goldman has restructured these 4-H Programs from traditional club program to multi-faceted positive youth development programs, with proudly based agriculture roots.

Communicator Awards

Educational Package - Team

Mandy Marable, Cheryl Varnadoe, Marilyn Poole, Laura Waters, Jenna Daniel, Zona Medley, Lee Anna Deal, Kandi Edwards, Jeremy Cheney, Greg Hickey, Terri Kimble, Dianh Rowe, Susan Yearwood, Cheryl Poppell, Max Harrell, Sam Pittard, Capri Latese Martinez, Sonya Fears

Georgia 4-H Less Stress on the test is a youth-friendly resource for educating fourth through sixth grade in-school 4-H audience on reducing stress associated with high-stakes testing. This resource expands the reach of Health Rocks with the production of this curriculum package for use in schools prior to high-stakes testing.

Educational Package Individual

Greg Hickey

Edu-Venture participants receive a journal to complete during their trip. Site visit information, questions as well as places to insert brochures, postcards and photos is provided. Space is provided for reflections and memories of each day. The "Rules For The Road From Mr. Hickey" is a comprehensive planning and packing guide.

Educational Piece – Team

Greg Hickey, McIntosh, SE, Amber Bishop, Lisa Overbey, Shanna Davis, Ginger Boatwright, Kaye Lynn Hataway, Kimberly Huyler, Madison Hendrix, Bunny Miller, Donna Harris

The Educational Piece – Team Award submitted is a copy of the manual used during the portfolio workshop September 2012. The manual is used as a guide enabling 4-H'ers to fill in relevant activities to date and to write down suggested activities in each category to complete in the near future.

Educational Piece – Individual

Kasey Bozeman

Kasey Bozeman developed a 4-H SET – Polymer Playtime lesson for 5th-6th grade students. The lesson taught about states and properties of matter. Students created two types of polymers (gloop & slime) and completed simple data collection tests about each polymer. Students analyzed the data and compared/contrasted the gloop and slime.

Exhibit

Mandy Marable, Melanie Biersnith, Arch Smith, Kasey Mull, Tina Owen, Johnny Parker

Georgia 4-H Growing Tomorrow's Leaders is an exhibit that communicates the mission and vision of Georgia 4-H with emphasis on leadership. The exhibit enhances the partnership of Georgia 4-H and schools through implementation of an exhibit that highlights more than one hundred year historic and successful partnership.

Feature Story

Jenny Jordan, Judy Ashley, Abbey Hufstetler, Jeff Christie

Collaborating to share Georgia 4-H youth's achievements in Leadership in Action, Jeff Christie, Judy Ashley, Jenny Jordan and Abbey Hufstetler bring their own perspectives in sharing impact and results of leadership programming for developing youth leaders. Originally appearing in the ACCGA magazine, this generated continued support and interest in 4-H.

Media Presentation

Robbie Jones, Jenny Jordan

Robbie Jones worked with Jenny Jordan, State 4-H Specialist, to create a PowerPoint presentation that served as a refresher for certified 4-H adult chaperones before taking the certification test. The PowerPoint was a review of the 4-H Overnight Chaperone training. It was also made available on Skydrive for other counties to use.

NAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

News Story

Kasey Hall

Kasey Hall's entry was an article she wrote on the Jasper County fifth grade 4-H officer training. The article featured details on the training and recognized the teen leaders who had leadership roles at the event. It was also a great promotional tool for the local 4-H program.

Periodical Publican – Team

Robbie Jones, Leslie Burke, Lynn Henry

The Emanuel County 4-H Cloverleaf Newsletter is a large component of the marketing effort for Emanuel County 4-H. The staff works to craft interesting news to keep the 5th and 6th grade 4-H'ers and parents up to date on the program and all 4-H activities in Emanuel County.

Periodical Publication – Individual

Greg Hickey

The McIntosh Messenger newsletter is the best marketing tool for our local 4-H program. Aside from being distributed during club meetings to the 4-H'ers, school administrators and teachers; it is mailed to members of the School Board, County Commissioners, other organizations and donors. It promotes 4-H and keeps everyone informed.

Personal Column

Terri Kimble

Newton County 4-H Agent Terri Kimble writes a weekly, 700-word personal column about Newton County 4-H and youth issues in The Covington News. She has written for the paper for nearly 5 years.

Promotional Package – Team

Terri Kimble, Melissa Jo Feuer, Debra, Eunice, Elaine Kimble

Newton County 4-H Agent Terri Kimble, Master Gardener Melissa Jo Feuer, County Secretary Debra Eunice, and 4-H volunteer Elaine Kimble worked together to save the local livestock show more than \$450 and put out a high-quality program and matching thank you notes to honor student showmen and donors.

Promotional Package – Individual

Jeremy Cheney

Promoting 4-H in a large county with several disciplines can be difficult. For the promotional piece Douglas County 4-H Agent Jeremy Cheney created a cross-discipline t-shirt as well as hoodie to promote Douglas County 4-H as a whole. He also carried the fun and funky theme into our Summer Program guide and county 4-H Newsletters.

Promotional Piece – Team

Casey Mull, David Brittain, Marlene Glasscock

A collaborative team from Kansas State, North Carolina State and the University of Georgia highlights the success of the national 4-H / Air Force Partnership each year. The piece includes compilations from Air Force Bases worldwide, feature stories on articles of interest and engaging photos for distribution to Extension and Air Force partners worldwide.

Promotional Piece – Individual

Kasey Bozeman

In an effort to showcase program highlights of 2012, Kasey Bozeman developed a 4-page Liberty County 4-H Annual Report. Eight articles highlight participation in core 4-H programs, judging teams, volunteer-led programs, and the Fort Stewart 4-H partnership. Annual reports were distributed to county leadership, school administrators, and other program stakeholders.

Published Photo

Trish West

Patricia West photographed the 4-H Youth Summit delegation to showcase their creativity while presenting their project about storm water pollution. The photo was published in the Savannah Morning News on October 21, 2012. The Savannah Morning News has a circulation of 52,500.

NAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

Specialty Awards

4-H Military Partnership

Kasey Bozeman

Working in collaboration with Fort Stewart's Child, Youth, and School Services, Kasey Bozeman planned and implemented 4-H activities reaching 800+ military youth both on and off installation. Additionally, she hosted training and periodic meetings to keep staffed informed about 4-H policies and upcoming events.

Beyond Youth Leadership

Marcus Eason, Susan Goldman

Youth 2 Senior Connection is a joint community service project between the Oglethorpe and Madison County 4-H programs. Each month 4-H'ers and Adult Leaders attend the Youth 2 Senior Connection at the Hampton House. The Youth 2 Senior Connection is a program that brings youth and senior citizens together to enrich the lives of one another.

Diversity

Elizabeth Conway

Great Promise Partnerships Community focuses on preparing at-risk students in grades 6 through 12 for a successful future. 4-H GPP Programs were organized in three Georgia counties. They reached a diverse population of youth who learned valuable leadership and citizenship skills through weekend conferences, service projects and bi-weekly educational programs.

Educational Technology – Team

Cheryl Varnadoe, Michael Campbell

Cheryl Varnadoe and Michael Campbell created an online Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Training. This training prepares 4-H participants for the competition using an online format. This allows youth to train on their own and reinforces knowledge learned at actual practices. Thus far over 1500 youth and adults have viewed the online training.

Excellence in 4-H Club Support – Team

Robbie Jones, Leslie Burke, Becky Amerson

Robbie Jones, Leslie Burke, and Becky Amerson worked to devise a program that would increase the participation in the Georgia National Fair. Two summer workshops were held for 4-H'ers to complete static exhibit. Participation increased from 27 4-H'ers in 2011 to 42 4-H'ers in 2012.

Excellence in 4-H Club Support - Individual

Jennifer Grogan

After evaluating the needs of the Mitchell County 4-H Livestock Program, Jennifer Grogan made it her priority to improve the number of participants and quality of the program by utilizing volunteers and collaborating with the Cattlemen's Association, Young Farmers and FFA Chapters in the County.

Excellence in Teamwork

Dorothea Graham

Youth in today's world do not have a complete understanding of agriculture. With the collaboration of the local Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association, Master Gardeners and the Haralson County Extension staff a Farm Day Program for youth is held in the county. They experience farm life and learn about food, fiber and crops.

Excellence in Camping Award – Team

Jennifer Grogan, Debra Cox, Calvin Perry, Max DeMott, Melissa Martin

To ensure a clean abundant water supply for our future, Mitchell County 4-H collaborates with UGA's Stripling Irrigation Research Park and the Flint RiverQuarium to hold this district-wide Mitchell County 4-H2O Day Camp which teaches youth about water conservation, the drought and water's contribution to fun, food and transportation in Southwest Georgia.

Excellence in Camping Award – Individual

Al Parker

Al Parker, Northeast 4-H Program Development Coordinator, took on the task of conducting Senior 4-H Camp to Rock Eagle 4-H Center, increasing participation, making it more interesting, teaching leadership skills. 281 attended Senior 4-H Camp with a 29% increase in knowledge gained in skills to positively recognize and identify different leadership styles.

NAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

Excellence in Natural Resources/Environmental Education – Team

Melanie Biersmith, Donna Stewart, Allen Nasworthy, Matt Hammons, Paul Coote, Jacqueline Muir, Terri Camp, Richard Chewing, Travis Williams, Dawn Zenkert, David Weber, Teddy Ivey

The Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Program operates at the five Georgia 4-H Centers each school year and serves K-12 public, private and homeschool students. The program provides opportunities for high-quality, day and residential educational experiences using the outdoors as a classroom without walls. During the 2013-14 school year, the program will serve its one millionth participant!

Excellence in Natural Resources/Environmental Education

Trish West

In Chatham County the coastal waterways are an important local industry. A state study showed that 40% of the waterway contamination was caused by poorly maintained septic tanks. Several rivers were closed to human interaction because of E.coli bacteria. "E. coli Stinks!" was created to educate Chatham County residents on E. coli contamination in our waterways.

Power of Youth

Casey Hobbs

Walker County 4-H'ers know that the best gift is one that is given. Overall, the Walker County 4-H Ronald McDonald House love drive was a success including almost 800 students. Many 4-H'ers noted that they had learned more about what the charity they see advertised on television does and why it is important to give to those in need.

World Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development

Susan Goldman, Carl Varnadoe, Leigh Anne Aaron, Sandra Webb

The Environmental Summit collaborated with Keep Madison County Beautiful, Madison County 4-H, Madison County School System, and Madison County Board of Commissioners and was co-sponsored by six other entities to create an education program that not only helped students learn about their environment but also helped them prepare for upcoming tests.

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming – Team

Lynn Davis, Melinda Miller, Kris Peavy, Jeffery Burke, Deron Rehberg, Rachel Hubbard, Jake Price, Tammie Glasscock, Lynn Hall

After winning District Project Achievement, youth advance to state competition at State 4-H Congress. Twenty-two (22) delegates in Southwest District were taught workforce ready and etiquette skills to prepare for state competition. Seventy-two (72%) strongly agreed they were more prepared for State 4-H Congress and fifty-eight (58%) who attended the workshop won first and earned Master 4-H'er status.

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming – Individual

Robbie Jones

The Ohoopie 4-H Leadership Retreat was a conference designed to strengthen Emanuel County 4-H'ers portfolio work. The program was a two day conference, and consisted of portfolio classes along with other activities. Robbie Jones designed the event address the needs of increasing 4-H Portfolio scores.

Interactive 4-H Educational Web Site

Rachel Stewart, Leon Stalls, Dale Barnard II, Kay Nease, Macy Stewart

To supplement Healthy Lifestyles lessons in the 5th grade 4-H meetings, a website was created for students use at home. The website was created using the Friend's magazine "Eating Healthy." This website is for fun activity for use at home to help students remember the information about eating healthy.

Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator

Stephanie Myers

A need existed in a rural Evans County elementary school for an entrepreneurial project-based program. Stephanie proposed a collaborative initiative with the school's administration and 5th grade teachers. The program received \$750 worth of curriculum and materials. This collaborative effort began in August of 2012 and concludes in May of 2013 with a school wide entrepreneurship fair.

NAE4-HA Award Winners Continued

Excellence in Urban 4-H Programming

Trish West

Due to the lack of farms and agricultural experiences in our urban county, the Chatham County 4-H Program hosts an annual egg hatchery event at the Oglethorpe Mall to educate the public on poultry and egg science, and emphasize the importance of agriculture in Georgia.

Excellence in Animal Science Programming

Casey Hobbs

The 4-H Chicken Project is a way for club members to raise baby chickens. Started in Walker County in 2000, the 4-H Chicken Project is a great way for 4-H'ers to learn the responsibility of taking care of animals, caring for poultry, and money management from payment of their pens of chickens at the auction.

Excellence in 4-H Volunteerism

Robbie Jones, Connie Page, Phil Torrance, Mark Crosby, Leslie Burke, Lynn Henry, Evelyn Patrick, Emanuel County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Council

Emanuel County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Council and the Emanuel County Extension Office collaborate to host Cloverleaf DPA in Swainsboro. The local volunteer group is the backbone and the reason the Extension Office can seamlessly host the event each year. The volunteers coordinate meal preparation, food service, and handle games/recreation between the contest and announcement of winners.

Excellence in Geospatial Programs

Robbie Jones, Terri Kimble

As part of the Wilderness challenge Camp curriculum, Terri Kimble and Robbie Jones coordinate the GPS Geocaching class. This course is designed to orient the students into the world of GPS/GIS and to teach them the skills they need to be proficient with geocaching.

Life Member Award

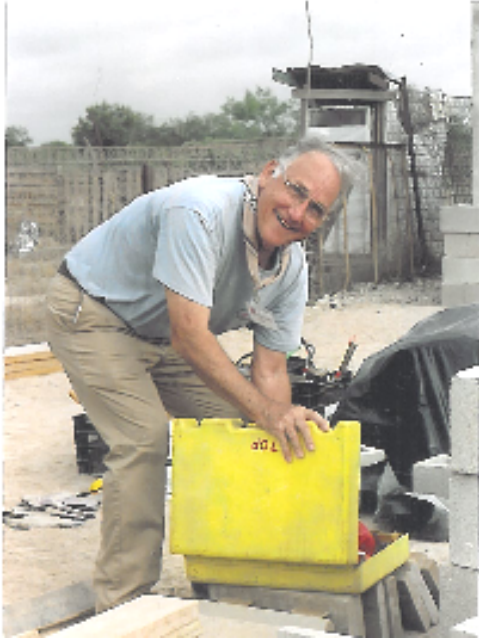
Dr. Roger C. "Bo" Ryles

Bo Ryles retired as Georgia's State 4-H Leader with a legacy of commitment and success. Bo continues to serve as leader. Whether its leading Great Promise Partnerships, coaching the Oconee County 4-H Poultry Judging Team, or directing 4-H Clovers & Company, his passion for youth shines.

"WHERE ARE THEY NOW..."



Royce James, Life
Member Chair

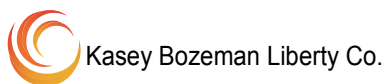


(Section designated to Life Members & Retirees Who Keep on Giving and Keep on - Keeping on).

George D. "Ted" Walker – Like most retirees contacted, Ted is one that was a little bashful about talking about himself. However, **Dot Cofer** was very instrumental in helping to prod him to share what he's been doing in his retirement stint. Ted indicated that he, like most, did not know how much or what exactly people might be interested in knowing. Nonetheless, here is an edited summary of what I've been able to extract from him:

"When I retired I had some cards printed with my business, titled "Practicing Retiree." "When asked what this means, I say that it meant – I do what I want to, when I want to and how I want to." Of course, this has been true – except when my wife is with me, Ted went on to explain! "Much of my time has been spent doing volunteer activities. I've worked with Habitat for Humanity, built houses in Mexico for 18 years, mowed grass and made repairs at my church, served as a precinct voting poll manager, and – haven't felt bad about taking a siesta any time I wanted to." "Since retirement, I have also done some extensive traveling. A good bit was done as a member of the Friendship Force – living with families for one or more weeks at a time, and on every continent (except Antarctica). More recently, **Doris** (my wife) and I have done about a cruise a year – and by my last count, have visited over sixty countries plus a number of possessions and territories. Some of these visits, though, were just an hour or so in an airport to others with visits lasting for weeks or months. I plan to keep on traveling and doing what I want to as long as I can."

Now, according to **Dot**, there are some really neat Extension stories involving **Ted Walker** and **Nelson Brightwell**, both retired forestry specialists. Seems it involves them taking county 4-H groups down the Ocmulgee river in South Georgia on a week-long rafting trip, some poison ivy, and floating tents and sleeping bags. Be sure to ask **Dot**, or **Ted**, about these memorable experiences should you have an opportunity to visit with either of them.



Kasey Bozeman Liberty Co.

4-H Members Participate in Keep Liberty Beautiful's THINK 30 Campaign

Completing service projects throughout the year is a great way for 4-H'ers to see themselves as contributing citizens and important parts of their community. Keep Liberty Beautiful, an affiliate of the national organization Keep America Beautiful, is celebrating 30 years of community improvement and waste reduction programs in 2013. They have created a THINK 30 campaign, encouraging youth organizations and adult civic groups to help them plant 30 community gardens in Liberty County. The Liberty County 4-H Club is joining in the

garden planting efforts in a variety of ways. In early February, the 4-H Junior Crew planted flower gardens at the Midway welcome signs, greeting visitors of the city. Dr. Clemontine Washington, Mayor of Midway, worked alongside the 4-H members helping to dig holes, plant flowers, spread mulch, and water the plants. "It adds beauty," commented Mayor Washington. "It should add a sense of ownership and a sense of pride." Washington is very familiar with Georgia 4-H; her son participated in the program for a number of years while growing up in Chatham County. "He used to travel everywhere ...

always going to Rock Eagle and doing projects," said Washington. Having elected officials participate in the project was a great way for the 4-H'ers to learn about being active in their community. "It was really neat for the mayor to join us," said 7th grader Janell Bacon. As renovations at the Midway Community Complex near competition, Liberty County 4-H will be involved in multiple gardening efforts there. Currently, the plans include for the 4-H members to help plant a reading garden near the library building, a native plant garden, a rain garden, and even a butterfly garden.



“What?” I said “What did you say again?”

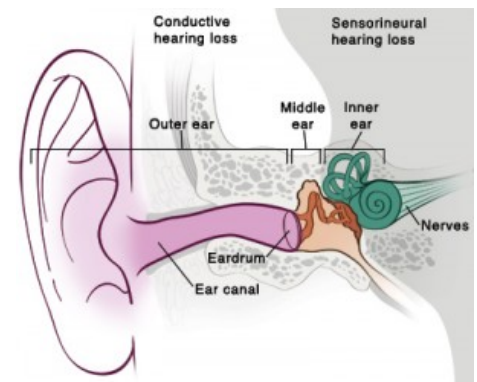
By: Casey Hobbs, Walker County 4-H Agent, Georgia



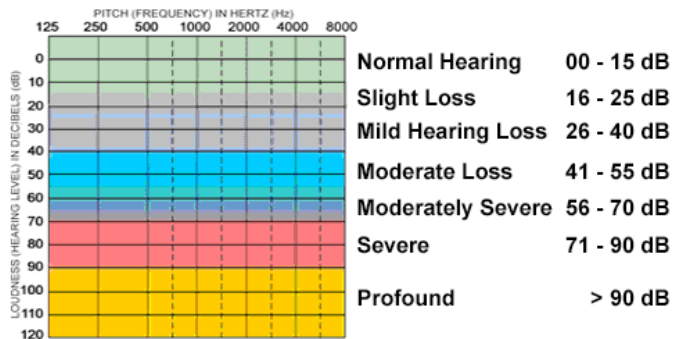
June 14, 2010 was a date that changed my life forever. The day my son Gregory came into this world, he was full-term and with many complications while in level III NICU. After three weeks of prayers, letters, cards, emails, phone calls and a meaningful visit from my coordinator from four hours away, I knew what a treasure I had in my colleagues of extension. We didn't know for sure until he was six months old, but our firstborn was deaf. Gregory was diagnosed with moderately severe **bilateral sensorineural hearing loss** or BSHL for short. BSHL is a more serious condition where the person becomes deaf from both the ears. It almost results in complete loss of hearing. It can be because of the disruptions in nerves that connect the cochlea to the brain. The malfunction in the nerves might cause both the ears to stop

functioning and it can get very tough on the person. You can see in this photo that some deafness involves the outer/middle ear (or Conductive Hearing Loss); Gregory's problem is with the inner ear nerves to the brain (Sensorineural Hearing Loss).

Turns out 90% of people with hearing loss have this type. So why write about this? Because we are educators, and many times we will come in contact with children with a hearing disability. If you are like me, you have probably come in contact with these children on various levels. Some may have interpreters, others may sit in the front of the room, and others require you to wear a device called a microphone. Usually, the school system and teachers give you queues as to how to best accommodate them, but have you ever wondered what those are for? Me too! I'm learning these things as well and would like to share some information with you that could be helpful to you as an educator with a passion for youth development. I hope this article gives you a small basic insight into the world of hearing loss. *Please keep in mind that these are my observations regarding my own personal experiences, for more research and expertise, speak with your local deaf educator in your school system.*



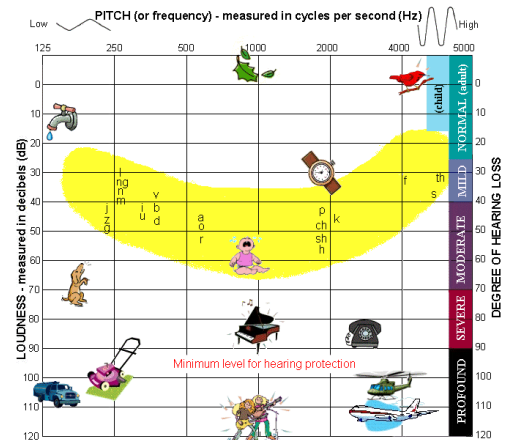
There are many different forms of hearing loss from Mild, Moderate, Severe and Profound. A completely deaf child is considered in the profound category; however all are considered a hearing loss disability because any form can lead to speech and language delays. Because the sounds do not come into the ear clearly, the brain tells the mouth to form words in the same way it was received; often muffled. Individuals with a hearing loss often have trouble determining certain sounds when communicating making it difficult on our 4-H'ers in the classroom and at events and activities.



start at \$3,200 for a basic pediatric set and can go upwards to \$6,000-9,000 or more. If you ever have a 4-H'er with these, guard these with special care. Hearing aids can come in many shapes, sizes and colors. It is an electroacoustic device that usually, in most children, fits behind the ear and is designed to modulate and amplify sound. This is the most common treatment for BSHL and consists of a mini microphone for sound pick up and an amplifier which increases the volume and a little speaker which transmits the sounds to the ear.

Hopefully you can tell from this chart that a normal hearing person can hear the whispers of the wind, but the more hearing loss a person has, the louder a sound has to be before it can be detected correctly; such as my son can hear a baby's cries, but not a watch tick or many sounds of letters like "ch" and "ng."

Gregory wears **hearing aids** and has since the age of eight months old. These devices are not covered by insurance and can





You may have even seen information on **Cochlear Implants**. These are surgically implanted electronic devices that provide sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing. This is an extremely expensive procedure that families sometimes wait years to receive. These are usually to help those with damage to the sensory hair cells in the cochleas of their ears.

A common tool in the schools is the use of a **FM microphone**. This is usually a small device worn around the teacher's neck and transmits sound directly to the student's listening device (hearing aid, implant). This aids in eliminating background noise in a room. Talking very clearly, plainly and sometimes loudly (unless you are a loud speaker like me) is very beneficial when working with children with a hearing loss. It is also important to note here that if you do not have a microphone, be sure to speak in a well-pitched (not too high or low) tone (this is where my loudness comes in handy) and try to stay facing that individual. Deaf children become very avid lip readers; as well as your voice will project directly to them and not to the wall of other children you are facing.



You may come in contact with a **sign language interpreter**. My son's preschool teachers both use *Signing Exact English* (based on American Sign Language) and encourage oral language and speech development. These are licensed professionals that provide sign language interpreting for students that use sign language as a primary or secondary form of communication. Luckily, you don't have to learn sign language to communicate with these students because the interpreter is telling them everything you say! My son knows many more signs than myself, more than 100 actually, and he is only 2 ½! Interested in learning some basics of signing? I suggest checking out the *Signing Time* DVDs (or visit www.signingtime.com) from your local library. Yes, they are marketing to kids, but they helped me form a communication with my son starting at one year old.



Something that is becoming more available in the schools today is a **Captionist**. Although not common yet, there is a high school in Kennesaw area that uses captioning for their students and the service is becoming more common than an interpreter. Captionists or even court reporters are used today to provide an exact transcript of an event, meeting or classroom lecture. These people too are highly trained in a similar manner as the interpreter. This is what we hope to offer Gregory as he learns to read (think Closed Captioning on your television) to enhance his reading abilities. This is just one more way to access information. Remember, listening is exhausting for a student with hearing loss. Make it an easy experience for both them and yourself. I hope that as I learn more and grow as a special needs parent, I can help you learn and grow as an educator too. I do not claim to know everything, but I can definitely understand the angst and reservations that special needs parents feel on a daily basis. Our children are no different than any other, they just learn in a different way and isn't that how everyone is? We all learn in different ways.



Hopefully, you will get a chance to meet my typical two-almost-three-year-old son at a 4-H event soon. He is a remarkable individual and my miracle. I have been so fortunate to be an extension professional through this process as I have been given the empowerment to be a mother, a hearing loss advocate, time for multiple doctors and specialists and evaluation appointments, and the flexibility to take my son to the best possible school for his development an hour away from work every day. I am so grateful to have understanding colleagues both in my office and in my district. Thank you all for being my continued support and I hope to share more knowledge with you as I learn too.

Educational Learning Experience for Professional Agent Development



Northeast District Cooperative Extension Agents for 4-H and Youth Development met in Elbert County to spend the day working, learning and fellowshiping together. The first item of business was to assist each other with the Georgia and National Association of Extension 4-H Agent Award Applications. Seasoned Agents shared their success and expertise with younger Agents on the award process while also encouraging, inspiring and reassuring each other. The fellowship continued over lunch at the favorite local diner, La Fogata Mexican Restaurant.

After lunch, Agents started learning about the granite industry and the infamous Georgia Guidestones by watching the History Channel's "Brad Meltzer's Decoded: Apocalypse in Georgia." During the show, Brad and his team headed to Elberton to find the true meaning of the mysterious Georgia Guidestones, a Stonehenge like monument on a remote hilltop that seemingly outlines how to live after the apocalypse.

Upon completion of the video, Agents visited the Georgia Guidestones to see exactly what all the "hype" was about. Following the visit, Agents drove by a granite quarry to see how the livelihood of Elberton is removed from the earth. The mini-tour of Elbert County ended at Burton Monument Company. Johnny Burton showed the group all aspects of monument preparation including sawing or cutting blocks, polishing, stone cutting, sandblasting, and more. Agents were given a piece of Elberton Blue to take home with them.

Not only did Agents enjoy their time together, work on much needed award applications and learn about the granite industry, they also gained ideas for low cost summer activities that they could provide with their 4-H youth this summer. For more information on a granite summer activity for your youth, contact Lauren Macias-Dye at 706-283-2037 or lldye@uga.edu.

Participating in the Education Learning Experience were: Audra Armour – Wilkes County, Glen Blair – Walton County, Jenny Brown – Butts/Monroe Counties, Elizabeth Conway – Clarke County, Lauren Dye – Elbert County, Al Parker – Northeast District Program Development Coordinator, Amanda Parnell – Putman County and Kasey Reid – Jasper County.





Clarke County reaches youth through Great Promise Partnership program



Elizabeth Conway,
Athens-Clarke County

implementing their ideas from the weekend!

Clarke County 4-H Great Promise Partnerships Community students attended an exciting Leadership Adventure Weekend (LAW) at Fortson 4-H Center in Hampton, GA from March 22 to 24. The students from Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School had a stimulating experience participating in round table leadership discussions, group presentations, good decision-making skills, and various team building challenges. In response to one of these team problem solving activities, one youth stated, "It was very difficult in the beginning but then we got better at talking to each other during the exchanges."

Students took part in a team rope race, partner balance competition, tree swing challenge, wall climb, and the always popular zip line. Their weekend concluded with a trip to the animal hut where they were able to hold a snake, beetle, turtle, and baby alligator. "It went really well. We had some great leaders at this LAW, including former 4-H State Leader Bo Ryles. We are really looking forward to more GPP activities in school and during the summer." stated Elizabeth Conway, Clarke County 4-H Agent.

Members of the 4-H GPP Club meet twice a month after school with their volunteer leader and sixth grade teacher, Nick Davenport, who utilizes interactive lessons to teach them workforce preparation skills. Many of these 4-H'ers competed at Cloverleaf and Junior Project Achievement and have signed up to attend 4-H summer camp. They will organize one of the three community projects from the action plans developed during the Leadership Adventure Weekend. One plan outlined a mentoring program to help elementary school students who have been bullied. The second one defined a project to help the local animal shelter to raise funds with a wash your pet day, and the third plan helped residents in a nursing home with cards and visitations. This club will be very busy



Elbert County 4-H Has Gone to the Dogs!

 Lauren Macias-Dye,
Elbert County



Dogs, dogs and more dogs! Elbert County 4-H has gone to the dogs! Thanks to Senior 4-H Member Anna Hammond, dogs have gained popularity with our youth. A special interest club, “Clovers for Canines,” has been added to the list of activities for the local 4-H Club. Miss Hammond leads the club each month teaching other 4-H’ers all about our canine companions. “Clovers for Canines” meetings also include special guests at times. Topics for the meetings have included dog breeds and personality tests, training for obedience and agility, grooming and general care. The dog-gone fun doesn’t stop with the special interest meetings.

Elbert County 4-H recently offered a Canine Obedience Course where participants, both canine and human, gained valuable experience in training. Obedience training does not solve all behavior problems, but is the foundation to solving almost all problems. Training opens up a line of communication between handler and dog. Effective communication allows the owner to instruct dog about what he or she wants the canine to do, but also often means saving a dog’s life. Obedience training enriches the dog-human relationship and enables both to live together more enjoyably.

During the six week course, dogs learned to walk at their handler’s side in the “heel” position, to sit and sit when stopped, to lie down, to stay, to come and to perform a sit-stay, down-stay and a stand-stay. Not only did canines learn these common commands, they also greatly improved their social skills. Dogs are social animals. Without proper training, they will behave just like animals while they soil and destroy your belongings, dig holes, bark excessively, bite, etc. However, with proper training the dog will learn to show respect and compliance for their master.

At the completion of the course, handlers and canines had to perform a graduation exam. During the exam, dogs had to show their ability to walk on leash at varying speeds, reverse, sit when stopped and walk a figure eight with human posts. Dogs also had to sit for an exam which allowed the judge the opportunity to touch the dog. Other exercises performed during the exam included a sit-stay, down-stay and recall. All participants made a significant improvement during the course.

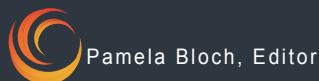
Elbert County 4-H also held their 2nd Annual Clover Paws Dog Show this spring. Dogs travelled from surrounding counties to participate in the event. Canines had the opportunity to participate in a Timed Agility Course in which dogs had to jump over an agility bar, through an agility hoop, run through a tunnel and weave a set of agility poles. An Obedience Test was also offered, which was similar to the graduation exam completed by the Obedience Course attendees. Conformation Classes were open to all dogs and were judged based on the breed characteristics for the American Kennel Club Official Standard. A Handling Class was offered as well which is scored based on how well the person presents his or her dog to the judge or the quality of presentation as opposed to just the dog. To finish the Dog Show, fun classes (Most Tricks, Costume, Look-A-Like and Most Unusual) were enjoyed.

All canine participants of the Dog Show received treat bags and a grooming mitt. First, Second and Third Place ribbons were given in each class, in addition to Honorable Mention ribbons. All first place class winners also won a tennis ball. Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, Third Best in Show, Best in Handling, Reserve Best in Handling and Best in Show Puppy all received tubs full of chew toys, treats, grooming supplies and other goodies.

The combined dog events raised over \$1,500 for Elbert County 4-H. For more information on the Canine Obedience Course or the Clover Paws Dog Show, contact Lauren Macias-Dye at 706-296-2716 or lldye@uga.edu.



A Note for the Summer Edition of The Peach Press



Thanks to all those that submitted articles for this Spring Edition! The next edition of the Peach Press is due to hit your hands at the state meeting.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Send in photos!

Do you have stuff in your office that you want to get rid of? (and co-workers don't count!) Send in your name, county and the stuff you want to rid of! Your trash is another's treasure!

Do you have a curriculum, display, etc that you are looking for? Send in your name, county and description of the item! Maybe someone has it!

AND All members are asked to:

Want to give a co-worker some praise? Write a sentence about something you admire about another employee, include their name and county and your name and county.

DEADLINE IS JULY 31

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