



# THE PEACH PRESS

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



Summer 2012 Edition

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GAE4-HA Media Committee

## The Peach Press Publication Deadlines

Fall 2012 Issue

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Publication Date: Oct/Nov

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Deadline for Articles: Jan 21

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## 2011-2012 Membership

Northeast :

Northwest :

Southeast :

Southwest :

State Staff :

Life Members :

**TOTAL:**

As of 12/31/2011



## A Word from Our President



Monte Stephens, President

Dear GAE4-HA Members,

Wow! Look how time has flown by. We are at the end of another board year of GAE4-HA. I just want to take the time to extend a warm, heartfelt appreciation to all 2011-2012 GAE4-HA Board Members for taking time out of their busy schedules to serve on this year's board. Truly we have a great professional organization that is second to none. As we all know, GAE4-HA serves as an opportunity for 4-H professionals to hone their craft through professional development opportunities. These opportunities certainly make our jobs easier to help the youth in our state reach their fullest potential. On that note, I want to again offer congratulations to all of our state and national award recipients at our state meeting. Our meeting was great success, and sincere thanks goes to Mrs. Lynn Davis and all the committees that helped put the event on in at Lake Blackshear. In addition, I hope everybody is looking forward to going to Orlando, Florida for the national meeting. Let us continue to actively participate and continue to strength GAE4-HA with our support. It is needed now—and more than ever—because of the uncertainty we face through these adverse economic times. 4-H is tried and true, but it would not be what it is without Extension Professionals like you leading the way. As I close out this year's term, I want to leave you with a few words. Being a 4-H

Agent is not easy; but most importantly, you and I understand the work you do leaves a lasting impression on the youth, adults and communities you serve. I want you all to be strengthened and encouraged to face the steep hills and low valleys that you will have to climb and go through wherever you are on the road as an Extension professional. This is best said in Psalms 121:

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—

From whence comes my help?

2 My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not allow your foot to be moved;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, He who keeps Israel

Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper;

The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

He shall preserve your soul.


8 The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in

From this time forth, and even forevermore. God bless you my friends and thank you for letting me serve and if I can be of any service to you call me because you do have a friend in me.

Thank you,

Monte Stephens

# Relax and Enjoy!!!

 K. Lynn Davis, President Elect

Hello GAE4-HA Members!

Time doesn't stand still and since our State Meeting at Lake Blackshear, our calendars have been busy. As I think about what has been consuming our days: camp, State Council, summer activities, field trips and State Congress quickly come to mind. These events offer so many opportunities for the youth in our county and more importantly, strengthen the four essential elements of 4-H: mastery, generosity, independence and belonging.

Belonging..... have you ever thought how this essential element plays a huge role in our life? As I think back to camp, I was so excited to see peers and volunteers from other districts. Time was taken during meals and down-time to build on those relationships and also make new friendships. Conversations always seemed to include family. I have always heard Extension is a family and this example is representative to so many of us. Upon occasions I have had time with green string campers and even infants and toddlers of our 4-H professionals. These opportunities signify hope as they grow and I imagine all the possibilities of their life.

We all share in the idea the future can be better as we touch one life at a time. Regardless of the level of our direct involvement with 4-H'ers, we are committed to an organization that teaches a variety of life skills to our youth. We are enablers and empower them each and every time they participate in an activity, process or event. We recognize and know so many 4-H'ers from other counties and it is incredible how we all encourage them. After all, they belong to Georgia 4-H and so do we!

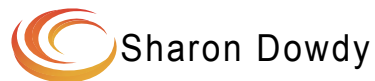
School will soon begin. So many of those returning Cloverleafs will be so excited to see us again and they will be greeting us and grinning those wide smiles. Many of them will enjoy having a "break" from the textbook grind and the perceptions of the regular school day. We offer them a chance to belong to something great. Many of them will begin to attend county events as we focus on project achievement, judging teams and fair activities. We welcome their involvement with open arms and soon, they enjoy the little family reunions at the local 4-H Extension Office with other Junior and Senior 4-H'ers.

Isn't it remarkable to feel that you belong? GAE4-HA is a family of 4-H professionals. I am humbled to be a small part of something so great. As I plan into Fall, I look forward to the National Meeting in Orlando for the professional development and educational material I can gain because I belong to GAE4-HA and NAE4-HA.... AND the time I will spend with so many of my co-workers who are like family.

Our Vice-President will work with our Junior and Senior Directors over the next few months with our membership drive. I hope you will renew your membership and continue to belong to GAE4-HA. The key to belonging to an association is networking with your peers. Not only does it provide the opportunity to meet individuals who share a common interest; it can also spark the beginning of a new friendship. A friendship which may last a lifetime.



# Grant Funds 16 New 4-H Positions



Georgia 4-H will be adding 16 new positions in some of the state's most impoverished counties because of a grant from the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism.

Georgia 4-H received one of the highly competitive 2012-2013 AmeriCorps State & National Grants from state commission and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The 16 new, direct-service employees will work in Appling, Banks, Bibb, Clayton, Coffee, Crisp, Dougherty, Decatur, Hart, Heard, Laurens, Putnam, Troup, Tift, Union and Washington counties. They will assist University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agents in delivering youth programs.

"With the reduction in state and federal funding for Extension 4-H programs, we have to look for other ways to supplement funding for county 4-H programs across the state," said Georgia 4-H State Leader Arch Smith. "These Americorps workers provided through grant funding will help county Extension 4-H offices reach more young people and give more children the positive educational youth development opportunities offered by Georgia 4-H."

AmeriCorps grants advance the priorities of the bipartisan 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and focus on six key service areas: disaster services, economic

opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

"Our board had very difficult funding decisions to make this year because the requests for AmeriCorps grants far exceeded our available funds," said GCSV Executive Director John Turner.

The commission, which administers AmeriCorps and other federal grants to service agencies in Georgia, received applications requesting more than \$6 million from 24 applicants. AmeriCorps had \$3,980,239 available for grants.

The commission renewed the grants for 12 existing AmeriCorps programs for 2012-2013 year, including: Clayton State University, Communities in Schools, Fannin County Family Connection, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, Goodwill of Southern Rivers, Hands On Atlanta, Jumpstart for young children, Refuge resettlement and Immigration Service of Atlanta, United Way of Metro Atlanta and Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campuses.

For more information on Georgia 4-H's AmeriCorps grant, contact Jeff Buckley at [jbuckley@uga.edu](mailto:jbuckley@uga.edu) or (706) 542-8735. (Sharon Dowdy is a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Capri Martinez is a Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA member.)

# Sleep Time Stories

 Ian Cowie, Lumpkin /Dawson County



Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Campers are jumpin'  
And the noise is real high

I maybe rich  
And I ain't too good lookin'  
So hush 4-H'ers  
Don't you want to make me cry?

(Apologies to George Gershwin)

Lights out and another night at camp where you are hoping the 4-H'ers will just hush up and go to sleep.

It has always been a challenge to get kids to sleep. Recent popularity with Adam Mansbach's go to sleep book, what is the best way to get 4-H'ers to sleep? I am certain you want to find the all-in-one answer to change those sleepless weeks at one of our wonderful 4-H centers (Question: is it easy to sleep in a Rock Eagle bed or Wahsega bunk? Sorry, need to focus on the topic at hand!). Have you thought about telling a story?

In the last few years leaders are amazed when I tell them over breakfast that my cabin of boys were asleep before midnight and ready to go by 7:30 a.m. How in the world did you do that? "Simple – I tell them a story." I continue eating and just listen to their comments: "No way. I can't do that. I'm no storyteller."

Over the years I have found a pretty good way to get campers focused and to sleep. This summer being one of the best times telling stories after lights out. They were just begging for everyone to be quiet!

Storytelling is an art form and I'm no artist. I must first disassociate myself from being an actual, professional, yeah-I-know-what-I-am-doing storyteller. In other words my storytelling may not be too beneficial. According to one who professes to be a speaker of the word, storytelling helps to defuse fears, explores consequences, stimulates a child's

imagination or teaches morals.

Yes, my storytelling is a bonding experience with a mission: get the 4-H'ers to sleep as quickly as possible! I just tell a story, throw in a little imagination and use a whole lot of patience.

I have fond memories reading stories to my two kids. Yes, I too, fell asleep reading to my daughter. This was overcome by slightly modifying the story. Instead of the Hardy Boys making one discovery I added some real exciting things like a rocket suddenly appearing out of no where and wrestled to the ground by their friend Chet. Of course, this somewhat defeated the point in going to sleep. My two just wanted to hear more. "Daddy," they screamed, "read it funny wunny!"

I don't look far to get material. I admit I am a fan of "The Moth: True Stories Told Live," ([www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org)) and Garrison Keillor's "News from Lake Wobegone" ([www.prairieshome.publicradio.org](http://www.prairieshome.publicradio.org)). Listening to others weave every day events into believable stories, I get sucked in and become an active listener. But, I also listen to what is around me. The conversations over dinner with campers; chatter in the cabin in what happened during the day are two great sources for your story.

Yes, to be a successful storyteller you can follow guidelines. The National Storytelling Network (they claim they "grow storytellers"; [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)) suggests storytelling should be interactive. That is possible with 4-H'ers. Storytelling uses words. I like to use the local lingo. Depending on the camp, it may be a story filled with sea creatures or Appalachian folklore. Storytelling uses actions such as vocalization, physical movement and/or gesture. Eh, this can be kind of tough when you are in a dark cabin but at least your gesturing keeps you awake! Storytelling presents a story. This is key – have it relate to events throughout the day. Storytelling encourages the active imagination of the listeners. If you describe in detail the scene or action in your story, who knows what their minds can dream up. Which gets us to your ultimate goal – get them to sleep. (cont)



## Sleep Time Stories, continued

I set simple rules: The story can only be told at night after lights out. No one can speak – everyone must be quiet (patience comes into play). You may want to ask a question or two at the beginning to get their involvement in where the story could go. “Anyone here hiked to the Rock Eagle mound today?” you could start. “Those trails were once footpaths for many thousand Shawnees who lived near here.”

You need to keep to a main story line then build from it. “When you came to Rock Eagle this week you may have crossed the famous Rock Eagle dam. That dam once was the sight of an awful event that to this day cannot be explained. A young local boy drove his car into the lake.” Now from that point you ask yourself questions: What year did this happen? Who was the boy? How old was he? Did he complete high school? Did he have a job? What did he like to do? Who were his friends? As you detail the story you keep your listeners aware that something did happen but keep adding more useful or possibly less useful elements. “So, we know this – Rock Eagle dam was built

in the early 1950’s when Dwight Eisenhower was president. It was the beginning of the Cold War. The U.S. and the Soviet Union were at odds. Cars were not as safe back then. There were no seat belts.” And, you go on from there.

After some time you ask a question and see if anyone answers. You may be lucky and the cabin remains silent. If not, you need to talk so more.

Next morning during cabin clean-up, as you poke around getting the 4-H’ers moving you may just ask a question. “Does anyone know what happened after...?” Depending on the answers determines how many were still awake at the end of the story.

The camp experience should be fun for you and the kids. Maybe next time you could get the fun back into 4-H cabin with a story told by you.

Ian Cowie  
Lumpkin/Dawson Counties 4-H Agent  
icowie@uga.edu





# Walton County Summer Fun



Walton County recently wrapped up their Summer Fun classes for the 2012 year. 4-H'ers of all ages enjoyed a variety of activities including: Dance Camp, Cake Decorating, a History Project Club, Art, Cooking, and Wildlife. Many of the activities were supervised by Walton County 4-H staff, but led by Teen Leader Instructors, and I believe they enjoyed sharing their knowledge with the younger ones as much as the students enjoyed learning.

During the Dance Camp, 4-H'ers enjoyed learning several different dances over a period of four 3-hour days. One of our Teen Leaders, who has years of experience in dancing, taught proper warm-ups, jazz, ballet, and hip-hop to the students. Some Teen Leader Helpers also learned a few things while they were helping out. As an extra dose of fun, the 4-H'ers learned the ever-popular 4-H dances!

Cake Decorating turned out to be one of our most popular activities, possibly due to all the decorating shows that are on TV. Teen Leaders who have attended many cake decorating classes of their own provided 4-H'ers with a single-layer cake and gave individual instruction on various cake decorating skills. Students learned to frost a cake, make flowers, as well as use fondant and gum paste.



Our History Project Club was a club started by one of our Senior 4-H'ers. They met three times throughout the summer. Their adventures included a trip to Rock Hawk and the historic cemetery there, and a scavenger hunt in historic, downtown Monroe. One of the many items that the members had to find was the autograph of Jefferson Davis in the old courthouse. The hunt culminated at the local Art Guild. There the 4-H'ers saw a local exhibit on loan from an Eagle Scout about the history of radio. The third meeting involved a trip to a local farm where they got to learn about a tremendous collection of historic and antique farm equipment and collectibles. This was probably one of the favorite sites visited during the summer.

The Art/Painting class was also a very popular activity. In this class, 4-H'ers fed their inner artist by learning painting techniques and fundamentals of landscape painting. With each brush stroke, they discovered ways to use acrylic paint to create their own beach scene.



Since June was Dairy Month, the Cooking class incorporated dairy products into their cooking projects. 4-H'ers learned to make homemade pizza, smoothies, and banana pudding. With an equal number of Teen Leaders and students, the younger 4-H'ers got individual mentoring from the older set.

The Wildlife outing to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center was an enjoyable trip as well. The Teen Leaders and I led the 4-H'ers on a hike through the wilderness pointing out various reptiles, amphibians, and mammals of the wild.

Our Summer Fun activities were topped off this year by the Junior Rally at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Eighteen Juniors attended this awesome event. All of the Walton County 4-H'ers who went to the Rally thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially the team-building activities of the Low Ropes class.

Now that Summer Fun is over for 2012, we can't wait to prepare even more fun activities for this 2012-2013 school year!





## Southeastern 4-H Professional Improvement Conference

April 16 – 18, 2013  
Rock Eagle 4-H Center



The Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents cordially invites you to the first-ever Southeastern 4-H Professional Improvement Conference to be held Tuesday – Thursday, April 16 – 18, 2013 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center near Eatonton, Georgia and just an hour from Atlanta.

The conference will provide **you** with an opportunity to teach classes and workshops, present poster sessions and network with 4-H professionals on a regional level! There will be motivational speakers, entertainment, and time to relax and re-energize at beautiful Rock Eagle 4-H Center!

The cost of the conference will start at \$275.00, which will include all meals, fees and lodging. All you need to add is travel.

If you are interested in more details on this conference, please complete the on-line survey at this location:

<http://www.georgia4h.org/gae4-ha/conferences/>

Please share with your 4-H friends in your state, the Southeast and across the country!

### Hope to see you at the Rock in 2013!!!

For more information, contact Al Parker at [alparker@uga.edu](mailto:alparker@uga.edu) or (706)542-2163.





# NAE4-HA MEMBERS







By Royce James,  
GAE4-HA Life  
Member Chair

### Life Members gathered during the 2012 GAE4-HA Annual Meeting

Life member attendance at the annual meeting was up this year. Members enjoyed the amenities of the Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club – including a golf challenge at the Georgia Vets Memorial Golf Course and a special workshop, area outing and desserts at Flint River Pottery. The association recognized retirees and welcomed new Life Members **Ann Wildes** and **Kathy Floyd** into the ranks. **Dr. Tom Rodgers**, Life Member, National 4-H Hall of Fame recipient & former State 4-H Leader also served as a conference guest speaker. Life members attending the annual meeting were **Doris Belcher, Dot Cofer, Dr. Bo. Ryles, George Lee, Kathy Floyd, Sandra McKinney, Ann Wildes, Dr. Tom Rodgers, Royce James, Phil Torrance** and **Tony Tyson**.

### Come to the Orlando, Florida NAE4-HA Conference..... And Get Pinned!

For the first time ever, Life Members in attendance during a national conference will be honored for their service as they move into retirement during the NAE4-HA business meeting on Thursday morning. In Florida, National President **Debbie Nistler** and Vice President **Kim Gressley** will pin life member lapel pins on each life member in attendance in front of the delegation of NAE4-HA members. Life members will only be able to receive their pinning once, so if you get pinned in Florida this fall you can volunteer to help with the next pinning ceremony in Pittsburgh! Future pinning ceremonies will be led by the Regional Contacts and life member volunteers each year.

**New Board Liaison and Life Member Team & Activities Planned** Starting this year, Life Members will have a new Regional Contact who will be working with Regional Directors and state officers in their geographic areas. These individuals will be dedicated to answering questions, assisting with the needs of life members, keeping these members abreast of national and/or regional conferences of interest to attend and help identify ways to stay involved in the association we've all come to know and love. The first Life Member contact team has been assembled for the 2011-13 term! During their term they will be creating job descriptions for their positions, so Life Members interested in volunteering to fill a slot when it becomes available should contact the Vice President for Member Services and get your name on the list.

### Congratulations to Kandy McWhorter, Texas for being appointed to the NAE4-HA National Board as the Life Member Liaison for the 2011-13.

Kandy will be working with the Life Member Contact Team to answer questions and help provide service to create new and exciting ways to communicate with other life members across the nation. Contact team members include: Southern Region: Kandy McWhorter, Texas ([kkmcwhorter@netscape.net](mailto:kkmcwhorter@netscape.net)); North Central Region: Cindy Biggers, Minnesota ([cbigger@umn.edu](mailto:cbigger@umn.edu)); and, Northeast Region: Tom Davis, New York ([htd2@earthlink.net](mailto:htd2@earthlink.net)). Or, contact your GAE4-HA Life Member Chair - Royce James, Bibb County ([roycelj@uga.edu](mailto:roycelj@uga.edu)).

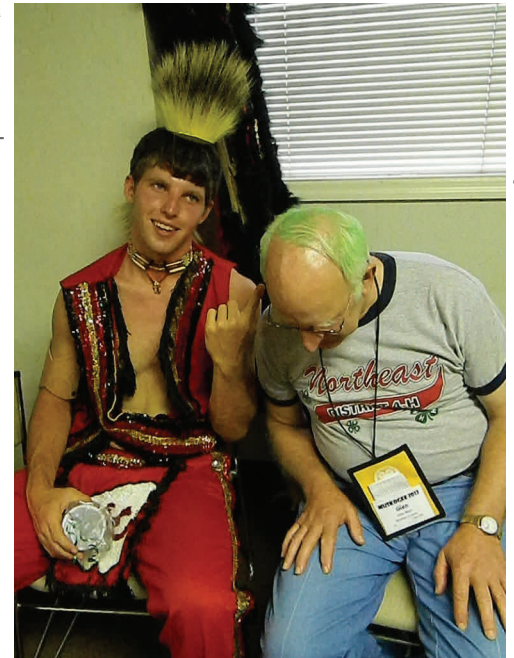


# Walton County Sets New County Record for Cloverleaf Campers

Walton County campers made up almost half the Muskogee Tribe during the second week of Cloverleaf Camp at Rock Eagle. We set a new record for Walton County by filling up over 7 cabins. 142 campers, Teen Leaders, and adults had a great time at camp during this week. We were excited to have had 42 6th graders return to camp this year. We're excited to have this many upcoming Junior 4-H'ers, and we wish them well in their H careers.

Led by Mico Margo and Mico Stephen, the Muskogee's won the Tribal Shield for the week. Mico Margo thinks the "green hair" may have given the Muskogee's a slight edge...

The campers spent the week having fun swimming, canoeing, hiking, climbing, playing games, making new friends, and eating the great Rock Eagle food. It is amazing how much fun these campers had in just one week!



4-





## Where Are They Now?

A section designated to Life Members & Retirees Who Keep on Giving and Keep on, Keeping on

Dr. Bo Ryles, while enjoying a short stint in his retirement, is continuing to engage in the 4-H movement while making great strides in family and personal involvements. Currently Bo serves as Executive Director of Great Promise Kids, Teaching Graduate Courses at UGA, is an active member of the Georgia 4-H Foundation, continues to Co-Direct 4-H Clovers and Co,



coaches the Oconee County 4-H Poultry Team, has launched Clover Coffee Company, manages a small chicken/ egg farm, co-coordinates the Clover Glove Race Series and works on special projects with National 4-H Council. And, if that's not enough, he continues to find time running between 3-7 road races a week - including about 6 Marathons a year. You can check him out on Web and FB sites: [cloverglove.com](http://cloverglove.com), [clovercoffee.com](http://clovercoffee.com), [greatpromisekids.com](http://greatpromisekids.com). Bo and Becky live in Bogart.

### Still doing what he does best!!



# Walton Young Riders Mounted Drill Team Wins Regional Competition

By Sarah Grimes, Walton County

The week end of April 27<sup>th</sup>-April 29<sup>th</sup> 2012 brought swirls of emotions, excitement and pride for The Walton County Young Riders Mounted Drill Team. Just 4 years young, the Walton County Mounted Drill Team became State Champions, winning the Open Freestyle Division at the GA. Horse Council's Open Mounted Drill Team competition at Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center. In addition to their state title they were crowned Regional 4-H Champions on April 29<sup>th</sup> when they won the 4-H Freestyle Division.

The Open Mounted Drill Team Competition was sanctioned by the US Equestrian Drill Association and is one of many sanctioned events throughout the United States. Mounted drill team competition is a growing event in 4-H Clubs across Georgia with opportunities to compete in novice, advanced, quad, open and 4-H divisions.

The Walton Young Riders Horse Club boasts upwards of sixty members representing various disciplines. Three of our members qualified to compete at the Southern Regionals Horse Show in Perry. Congratulations to **Makayla Clegg, Jordan Carpenter and Annie Grace McElhanon** for earning the chance to represent Walton County this summer at this prestigious event.

In addition to equestrian competitions, our members are very active in equine educational contests, sending Jr. and Sr. teams to Horse Quiz Bowl annually as well as Horse Judging and Hippology where senior team members have earned the chance to compete at regional and national levels.

Representing Georgia and Walton County is an honor for Walton Young Riders but our members are not just about competing and winning. Each monthly meeting provides knowledge and learning to those 4-H'ers interested in learning how to maintain healthy, happy horses. Community service is included in our monthly meetings by collecting funds for The Georgia Equine Rescue League and this August our members will be volunteering their time at The Georgia Special Olympics State Show. The Walton Young Riders 4-H Horse Club offers something for everyone. We are excited and proud to strive always "To Make the Best Better".



Standing (l-r) - Coach Jennifer Wood, Kayla Shellnutt, Tia Collins, Hailey Bittles, Chase Jackson, Coach Elizabeth Dabney.  
Sitting (l-r) - Johanna Lott, Kristin Phillips, Makayla Clegg, Jordan Carpenter, Samantha Jackson, Samantha Peters, Christina Johnson.

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