

THE PEACH PRESS

The Official Publication for the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents



2019 Post Conference Edition

This year's GAE4-HA Annual Conference was held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on April 8-10, 2019. The theme was *People, Purpose, and Passion: the GAE4-HA Art of Success!* The conference consisted of tours, seminars, posters, and program previews. This *Peach Press* edition highlights some portions of the meeting and showcases the National and State Awards from the conference.

Important Reminders

NAE4-HA Commitment Money Due
July 31, 2019

NAE4-HA Conference in White Sulfur Springs
November 3-7, 2019

GAE4-HA Conference
April 20-22, 2020

NAE4-HA Conference in Boise, Idaho
October 19-22, 2020

Conference Planning Committee

Robbie Jones
Cheryl Poppell
Ashley Harman
Brittany Teets
Jennifer Cantwell
Rebekah Greene
Lauren Dye
Kris Peavy
Jakyn Tyson
Trish West
Jeffrey Burke
Kasey Bozeman

Tours
Tours
Commercial Exhibitors
Commercial Exhibitors
Silent & Live Auctions/Raffle
Printed Materials
Printed Materials & Professional Development
Printed Materials & Awards
Awards
Decorations
Hospitality
Peach Press



First Timer Experiences

Our conference began with our First Timer's Orientation where 15 new Extension professionals were welcomed with a 4-H coffee mug and passion tea.



"As a first timer to the conference, I really had a great time. As a program assistant with 4-H, the networking, fellowship, and tours were the best. It was a time to relax and get rejuvenated to finish out the year. Thanks to the organization for opening membership up to program assistants."

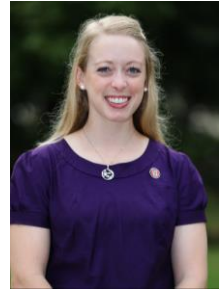
Sherry Waller, Taylor County 4-H Program Assistant

First Timer Experiences

New People, New Purpose, New Passions: My First Experience at the GAE4-HA Conference



By: Lauryn Gilmer, Wayne County 4-H Agent



Firstly, the culture of the 2019 GAE4-HA conference fully encompassed and demonstrated the theme of People, Purpose, & Passion: The GAE4-HA Art of Success. As a new agent and first time attendee, it was evident to me that the people within this organization are a cohesive team of unique individuals that are extremely passionate about what they do and work tirelessly to achieve purposeful goals for themselves, their programs, and their students.

Conference speakers imparted beneficial wisdom to rookies like me, as they shared knowledge and ideas on how to balance our career as an Extension Agent with our own personal lives and reminding us that we need to fill ourselves up before we try to pour out to others. My biggest take away from the conference was learning the importance of taking care of yourself before you take care of those around you and not feeling guilty for doing so. By doing this, you are prepared to bring your "Best Self" to all that you do whether at work or play. This conference helped to fill me up professionally as well as set me up for success personally, and I look forward to my chance to share with and pour out to my program and my colleagues at future conferences.

Finally, this gathering further provided me the opportunity to build relationships with folks outside of my county and district, which oftentimes means I must push myself outside of my comfort zone. I am a true advocate of supporting my 4-Hers to get out of their comfort zones whenever possible, as I have learned firsthand from my experiences that getting out of our comfort zones is the best way to help us grow, build confidence and increase self-esteem. GAE4-HA gives adults like me the chance to be a living example of that for my students. It seems to me that serving in any capacity within a 4-H program truly is a mixture of sport, science and art all rolled into one! I am truly excited to be on the GAE4-HA team and continue to find and share new methods to improve our county masterpieces.

Life Member Committee Meeting

Royce James, Life Member Committee Chair



Arch Smith gave the members a tour of Founders Lodge to see the remodeling of the building. The Life Members also discussed the ongoing projects at all 4-H centers as well as plans for the renovation of the Rock Eagle Chapel.



Keynote Speaker



Kiz Adams

Work/Life Balance Coordinator
at the University of Georgia



4 Things you can do to
“manage” stress:

1. Prepare for it.
2. Eliminate it.
3. Change it.
4. Accept it.

Kiz spoke about managing stress and encouraged everyone to always refill your cup so that we can effectively serve others as Extension professionals.

Funds Raised

The live auction, silent auction, and raffle raised \$2,171.00!



National Communicator Awards

Feature Story: Jacqueline Nunn

In an effort to increase 4-H stakeholder interests and youth involvement, Putnam County 4-H worked with the editor of the Eatonton Messenger, Lynn Hobbs to create a newspaper piece to highlight the experiences of youth attending cloverleaf summer camp.



News Story: Kasey Hall

Kasey Hall's entry featured Jasper County 4-H's participation in the state Challenge Bowl contest where they placed first for the fourth consecutive year. She included information on how the competition was structured, summaries of each round, and quotes from 4-H'ers on the winning team.

Educational Piece-Individual: Jacqueline Nunn

Jacqueline Nunn created a series of workbooks to be utilized to help youth in 4th-6th grade learn about being a club meeting officer. The workbooks were created for the roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Reporter.



Exhibit: Lauren Dye, Patrick Marcellino, Sophie Walsky

In an effort to increase agricultural awareness, the Elbert County Extension Office partnered with the Elberton 12-County Fair to open and operate an educational livestock/small animal barn for the public. This exhibit included live animals, Farm Gate values, educational posters and seminars to teach about local agriculture and available opportunities.

National Communicator Awards

Educational Package-Individual: Jakyn Tyson

In an effort to teach Emanuel County, Georgia students about the components and importance of soil, the applicant developed the “Soil Components” educational piece. The one-hour lesson aims at teaching students about what makes up the soil around us and how and why its quality varies by location. The lesson includes an interactive worksheet for participants to chart their observations.



Educational Package-Team: Kasey Bozeman, Laurie Murrah-Hanson, Donna Stewart

Designed to use during 5th grade in-school club meetings, the Plant Classification educational package contains information on preparing, facilitating, and evaluating three activities related to plant taxonomy, tree identification, and edible plants. By using research-based information and the experiential learning process, the authors developed a lesson that is both practical and interactive.

Periodical Publication-Team: Cassandra Weston-Hainsworth

Walton County 4-H and Georgia 4-H provide a lot of opportunities for youth to get involved in our programs. To help make sure that youth are aware of all the events and activities, Walton County 4-H Clovergram newsletters are produced and distributed to all members. They are also uploaded to our website and sent via mass email through MailChimp.



Periodical Publication-Individual: Ashley Carroll

The Tift County 4-H monthly newsletter is delivered electronically each month via email and social media to approximately 1,350 youth, parents, teachers and other community stakeholders. The newsletter highlights the variety of hands-on 4-H opportunities specific to each age level along with other specialty programs available.

National Communicator Awards

Personal Column: Phillip Petway

Phillip Petway, FVSU 4-H Agent for Twiggs County, ran a series of news articles entitled "4-H Healthy Teens" in the local newspaper The Twiggs Times New Era. The Healthy Lifestyles education articles were used to educate the public on topics concerning youth in regards to drink choices, less sugar intake, USDA MyPlate.



Promotional Package-Individual: Allison Perkins

An open house provides parents and youth the opportunity to explore and learn more about institution's opportunities. Bartow 4-H offered a back to school open house for all 5-12th grade students in the county, city, and private schools to learn about 4-H programming and its benefits to youth.

Promotional Package-Team: Jenna Daniel

The Georgia 4-H Community Outreach Guide is a package designed for county, district, and state 4-H faculty and staff. This resource is aimed at helping county, district, and state 4-H faculty and staff better communicate the impact of 4-H in their community. Through templates in the guide, professionals can more easily reach stakeholder groups, establish friends and networks, and ultimately expand their reach and impact.



Promotional Piece-Individual: Laurie Murrah-Hanson

National Communicator Awards

Promotional Piece-Team: Brittani Lee, Pam Bloch, Brittany Teets

The NAE4-HA First Timer's Working Group collaborated to create a one page information sheet that highlighted helpful tips in preparation for the annual NAE4-HA professional development conference. Objectives for the information page included providing hints on what to bring, what to pack, and to welcome first time conference attendees prior to their arrival; all items that the First Timer's working group wished had been relayed to them at their first conference.



Published Photo: Jessica Eubanks

Pictured in the winning photo is McDuffie County 4-H'er, Raquel Heath, who was carefully placing jars of apple jelly into a water bath canner during a local 4-H food week day camp.

Media Presentation: Laurie Murrah-Hanson



Video Program: Jenna Daniel

Highlighted as a promotional video, the Georgia 4-H Music Education Matters Summit provides an experience for youth across Georgia, and around the nation, to practice and grow in music education, network and learn from industry professionals, and develop as a leader, team member, and performer. Summit participants, volunteers, and teachers share their experience to further programming, and encourage others in participation..

National Specialty Awards

Beyond Youth Leadership: Lynn Davis

Turner County 4-H'ers practiced leadership skills and proved they knew 'A Thing or 2' about reading as they promoted literacy for over 400 children building social capital through teen volunteerism. If awarded, the money received will be used to continue the program and purchase books to support children's literacy development.



Citizenship in 4-H Youth Development: Keri Hobbs, Melanie Biersmith, Allie Griner, Jazmin Thomas, Sandra Spradley, Sara Sercer, Shannon Cagle, Ryan Akers

Extension county personnel, volunteers, specialists, and the national MyPI training staff teamed for a more resilient Georgia, launching MyPI (My Preparedness Initiative) Georgia, a three-time national award-winning and FEMA-funded youth preparedness, leadership, and educational outreach program. Collectively Gordon, Dougherty, Morgan, Turner, and Wilcox counties offered 7 sessions, enrolling 129 youth.

Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator: Kandi Edwards, Kris Peavy

6th - 8th grade students were attendees at two regional 4-H Financial Literacy College Conferences. The Randolph and Whitfield County 4-H Agents designed and hosted these events. Financial literacy topics highlighted included budgeting/financial planning, consumer spending, interest, debit/credit cards, checking/savings accounts, career/college preparation, workplace soft skills and leadership smarts.



Diversity and Inclusion: Dorothea Graham

Haralson County 4-H staff work with students that are in the Special Education Self Contained classrooms and with students in the HOPE Academy. Through this program, 90% of students increased knowledge in the areas of cooking, writing resumes, interview skills, job etiquette and working with generational differences.

National Specialty Awards

Excellence in 4-H Club Support: Pam Bloch

The concept for Cloverbuds initially came from the obvious need for an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of being a member of 4-H at an early age. Many council members younger siblings had seen the excitement and fun that their older siblings were having while enrolled in the program, and desperately yearned for a chance to have the same experience. Cloverbuds provides a leadership opportunity for the high school members like no other.



Excellence in Ag Literacy: Chasity Tompkins, Casey Mull, Lori Bledsoe, Nykita Howell

Project GROWL (Growing Real Opportunities in Work and Life) aims to increase STEM focus at middle and high school levels relevant to agricultural sciences. GROWL encourages agricultural literacy efforts through the implementation of an urban garden, tours of USDA research facilities, and other hands-on activities and workshops.

Excellence in After-School Programming: Adrienne Cox

Cox started an after school STEAM club for 5th and 6th graders. Each month offered challenges incorporating the concepts of STEAM. Students designed and built structures using engineering concepts. They painted and mixed colors in art. This was a fun way to teach and engage students after school.



Excellence in Animal Science: Lindsey Hayes, Brian Hayes, Deron Rehberg, Teresa Adkins, Kameron Landeen

Many county 4-H programs traditionally have strong livestock programs and clientele require hands-on support. In an effort to provide much needed training for livestock exhibitors, families, and professionals, Decatur County 4-H sponsored a two-day Swine Showmanship Short-course giving livestock enthusiasts from multiple states insight and instruction on effective livestock practices, animal nutrition, and youth livestock industry information.

National Specialty Awards

Excellence in Camping: Jakyn Tyson, Bill Hammond, Donna Stewart, Angie Daughtry, Sheila Marchant, Savannah Carter, Rebekah Greene, LeeAnna Deal

In an effort to increase environmental awareness and develop a connection to the environment among middle school youth of Southeast Georgia, a committee was formed to incorporate environmental science programming into the Southeast District 4-H Spring Junior Conference. The committee worked together to plan three educational classes to increase environmental awareness among conference attendees, while also inspiring an interest in science and engineering.



Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts: Jenna Daniel, Alison Hutcheson, Bo Ryles, Arch Smith, Michael Rabalais

Excellence in Healthy Living Programming: Cindy Sheram, Randie Gray, Dinah Rowe, Lauren Dye, Wanda McLocklin, Ashleigh Day, Kris Peavy, Kasey Hall, Machel Gill, Kandi Edwards

Relational health is vital to the promotion of positive youth development. Supported by a state teen pregnancy prevention grant, University of Georgia Extension 4-H/Positive Youth Development and Family and Consumer Science Agents across 30 counties trained 3,013 youth through in-school and afterschool programs to be relationship smarts.



Excellence in Natural Resources & Environmental Education: Kari Mateling, Karol Kelly



For the third consecutive year, Bibb County 4-H was a part of the Earth Day Committee and Festival to not only plan the cities festival, but to also provide youth programming through the Earth Day Festival Kid Zone. The purpose of the kid zone is to get youth actively involved and thinking as environmental stewards. Through five stations ranging in activities, youth were engaged in learning opportunities focusing on different aspects of recycling and conservation. Upon completion of the five stations, youth received a t-shirt and had the opportunity to share their new knowledge on stage. Macon-Bibb County 4-H has been an essential part of the planning and programming of the Earth Day Kids' Zone since 2016.

National Specialty Awards

Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Melinda Miller, Kane Staines, Jeri Gilleland, Lynn Davis, Amanda Smith, Patrick Willis, Michasia Dowdy, Justin Shealey, Nan Bostick

To educate youth on the importance of choosing cotton-based products over synthetic fibers and to increase agricultural knowledge, members of the UGA Extension Cotton Team, ANR and 4-H staff developed Cotton STEM Workshop 2.0. This workshop provides linkages of cotton as a crop to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics that encompass production from beginning to end. Youth gain skills in advocating for natural, cotton-based goods as well as college/career opportunities in agriculture and entrepreneurial ventures.



Excellence in Teamwork: Kasey Bozeman, Sheila Keeton, Casey Mull, Jenna Daniel, Jenny Jordan, Jesse Moore

To expose military-connected youth to opportunities beyond high school and provide them with critical life skills, Georgia 4-H partnered with the 165th Airlift Wing to offer a college and career readiness camp at the University of Georgia. Participants learned about public, private, and technical higher education and careers within the military.

Excellence in Urban Programming: Casey Mull, Lori Bledsoe, Nykita Howell, Chasity Tompkins, Von Baker, Gwen Williams

Project GROWL (Growing Real Opportunities in Work and Life) provides urban after-school based agricultural and environmental education programming to middle and high school youth. Programming for GROWL consists of five themes: advocacy and communication, urban agricultural education, urban environmental education, policy and governance, and leadership and sustainability.



First Time Attendee Scholarship: Jessica Eubanks

Jessica Eubank was selected as the Georgia nominee for the first-time scholarship. Jessica hopes to gain new ideas and programming resources to use in her county as well as build her network of other 4-H professionals by attending the NAE4-HA meeting.

National Specialty Awards

Excellence in Workforce Development Programming: Lee Anna Deal, Abby Smith, Brandi McGonagill

Georgia 4-H collaborated with the Mercer University School of Medicine to offer a unique experience for 4-H youth interested in a career in the medical field. This program for 9-12 grade students intended to expose, inspire, and enable youth from rural Georgia to set their sights on healthcare careers.



Greg Yost Memorial Youth in Leadership: Pamela Bloch

Our 4-H members had a strong passion for volunteering with younger children, so it was decided that we put in the work necessary to turn the dream of having a Cloverbuds program in Gwinnett County into a reality. The high school members became the Cloverbud leaders and wanted to educate youth in important areas such as social skills and teamwork because these are crucial to ensuring they will be successful in life. Cloverbuds provides a leadership opportunity for the high school members like no other.

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming: Lauren Dye, Sue Isbell

The 4-H PROUD (Purposefully Reaching Out to a Unique Demographic) Program targeted at-risk students. Program goals included increasing student engagement, self-confidence, belonging, mastery, community engagement, compassion, self-awareness and empathy. The program helped students become active 4-H'ers, competing in district events, winning scholarships, serving in leadership and remaining active until graduation.



National Service Awards Achievement in Service Award

Jennifer Cantwell

Jennifer Cantwell manages Georgia 4-H's AmeriCorps State grant while also providing support to 4-H Agents and State Specialists in program evaluation. Jennifer holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia. Among her most significant achievements is growing the AmeriCorps State grant to the largest in Georgia.



Randie Gray

Randie Gray is the 4-H Agent for Hancock County Georgia. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Georgia College and State University. She starts her Master's program at Fort Valley this summer. The University of Georgia Extension has employed her for the past 12 years. Randie lives in Sparta with her husband Pete on an 80-acre farm where they raise American Paint horses and AKC bloodhounds.

Jaqueline Nunn

Jackie graduated from East Tennessee State University with her Master's in Counseling. She began working as the 4-H County Extension Agent in Ware County, and is now the 4-H Agent in Putnam County. She has worked in Extension for five years. Beyond base programming she was worked to emphasize Agriculture Awareness and Healthy Living, Career and College Readiness, and English Language Arts.



Crystal Perry

Crystal Perry is the Sumter County 4-H Agent, Public Service Associate for the University of Georgia. She has a bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master of Public Administration degree. Crystal has expanded 4-H programming through traditional methods as well as built new programs to include a diversity and inclusion project called ROCKETS.

Kayla Wall

Serving as the Quitman County 4-H and FACS agent, Wall strives to offer innovative and exciting programs that youth may not otherwise experience. Since 2014, Wall has offered programs that meet the needs of the community as well as aiding the school district in meeting their performance standards.



National Service Awards Distinguished Service Award

Kasey Bozeman

Each morning, Kasey brews a delicious cup of coffee before going to work as the Extension 4-H Specialist for Science & Environmental Education Programs. She enjoys working with military-connected audiences and exploring the concepts of creativity and imagination with youth programming. Her favorite learning environments are outdoors, engaging, and fun.



Kris Peavy

Kris serves as 4-H Agent in Randolph County. She has a passion for teaching ag literacy and expanded the focus into a hands-on learning with an annual 4-H Ag Awareness Day for 4th & 5th grades. Through years of experience, the 4-H program's focus has expanded into Financial Literacy education and leadership.

Abby Smith

Abby Smith is the 4-H Youth Development Agent and County Extension Coordinator in Effingham County. She is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating the 4-H program which includes over 2000 members and 80 volunteers. She and her staff conduct over 82 in-school 4-H meetings monthly, engage in service projects for the community and provide youth leadership development activities.



Jakyn Tyson

Jakyn Tyson is the 4-H Agent and County Coordinator in Emanuel County. For eleven years, she has developed and delivered programming in science, leadership development, and communication.

Kate Whiting

Since 2006, Kate Whiting has worked for UGA Extension in Peach County as the 4-H agent. Working in a diverse county has allowed her to be innovative in programs offered and implemented. Kate's program efforts include healthy living, communications, judging teams, financial literacy, leadership, science, agriculture, and numerous multi-county events.



National Service Awards

Meritorious Service Award Cheryl Poppell

Cheryl Poppell is the County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent in Toombs County, Georgia. For twenty years, she has assisted and worked with rural Georgia youth developing lessons and delivering programs on agriculture awareness, positive development, and healthy living.



25 Years of Service

Laura Perry Johnson

Laura Perry Johnson is the Associate Dean for Extension at the University of Georgia. Previous positions include District Extension Director, 4-H Program Development Coordinator and 4-H Livestock Specialist. Dr. Johnson grew up on a 7th generation family farm, is married and has two college-aged kids, both of whom are studying agriculture.

Wanda McLocklin

Wanda McLocklin earned a BS and MS in Consumer Economics from UGA. She began her extension career in 1993 as the Peach Co. FACS/4-H Agent. Currently, she serves as the Barrow County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent. She also worked in Jackson County as 4-H agent and County Extension Coordinator.

Craven Hudson

Craven Hudson has supported 4-H and positive youth development for 29 years as a 4-H Agent, Area Natural Resources Agent, County Extension Director and 4-H Foundation Executive Director in North Carolina and as an Extension 4-H Specialist in Georgia.

State Awards Outstanding Individual Volunteer Leader

Becky Amerson – Southeast District Winner

Becky has been involved in all aspects of the 4-H program with her two sons since 2009. She has volunteered at Cloverleaf DPA, chaperoned dances, taught Georgia National Fair workshops, and assisted 4-H'ers with foods projects. In addition to serving as a SAFE coach and Modified Trap Coordinator, she is also the coach for Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays and this discipline would not be available to Emanuel County 4-H'ers without her.



Ed Graham – Northwest District Winner

Ed Graham strives for excellence in every detail as a 4-H volunteer in Haralson County. He is instrumental in the success of the Archery program, DPA and summer camp. One youth stated, "Mr. Ed is selfless." He has influenced and guided me and others more than he will ever know.

Dennis Kuhr – State Staff Winner

For 27 years Denny Kuhr has served Georgia 4-H in a variety of volunteer roles. Denny is a Fayette County Certified Shotgun Coach, State Shotgun Instructor, State Advisory Committee Member and State SAFE Shotgun Advisory Committee member. The SAFE Shotgun program thrives in large part to Denny's steady dedication.



Ellen Dye – Northeast District Winner

Ellen Dye became an Elbert County 4-H Volunteer in the 1970's while working as a teacher. Over her forty years of continuous service, she has worn many hats and given selflessly. In 2019 alone, she gave over 300 hours. Ellen is a tremendous asset to Elbert County 4-H.

Faye Belflower – Southwest District Winner

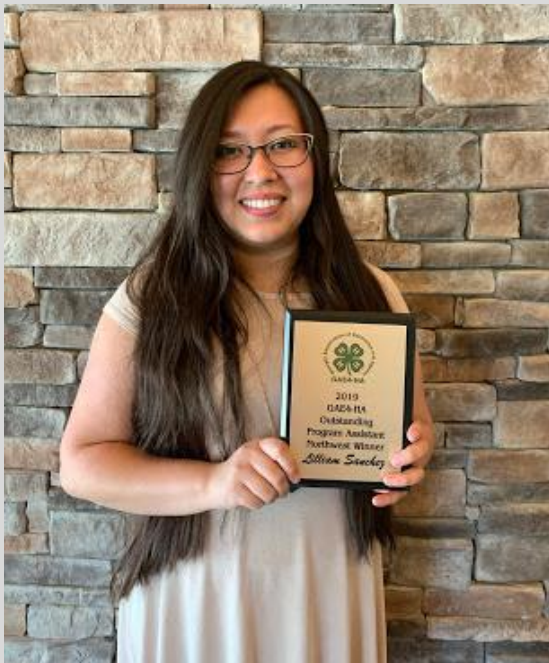
For over 25 years, Faye Belflower has volunteered with Turner County 4-H. She coordinates the 4-H Air Pistol Program with winning national titles and has just had four 4-H'ers qualify to shoot for the USA Shooting National Junior Olympic Men's Air Pistol Team- the oldest just 14.



State Awards Outstanding Program Assistant

Meredith B. Kirkpatrick
Southeast District Winner
nominated by Brandi McGonagill

Meredith Kirkpatrick began working with Bleckley County Extension in 2015 as an AmeriCorps State Member before becoming Program Assistant in 2016. Meredith will graduate from University of West Georgia in July with a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership, after which she hopes to become a 4-H Agent.



Lilian Sanchez
Northwest District Winner
nominated by Kandi Edwards

Lilian transitioned well from Whitfield County 4-H'er to 4-H Program Assistant. Recognized as an accomplished education professional, Ms. Sanchez is sincerely concerned about the positive and successful development of youth. She brings energy to the classrooms when teaching, thoroughness to competition preparations, and genuine fun to 4-H activities.

State Awards Outstanding Secretary

Karen Looper
Southeast District Winner
nominated by Abby Smith

Karen's dedication to the success of the Effingham Extension Program shines through every day. She fills our office with a sense of warmth and our 4-H members, parents and volunteers always look forward to a Mrs. Karen bright smile and warm hug.

Jennifer Meeks
Northwest District Winner
nominated by Casey Hobbs

Jennifer Meeks spent about 5 years as a county Extension agent for the Walker County 4-H Program. These years of experience and knowledge have proven invaluable as she moved into the secretarial role. She continues to be the best secretary for 4-H because of her vast knowledge of the program.

Faye Pearson
Southwest District Winner
nominated by Justin Shealey

Faye Pearson started with the Echols County Extension Office in 2005. At that time until her transfer to Lowndes County in 2018, she served as the office secretary and the 4-H Program Assistant. During her time in Echols was recognized as being a mentor to other Secretaries and the 2016 Winner of the George B. Lee Award.

Lori Lee
Northeast District Winner
nominated by Jacqueline Nunn

Lori is a tremendous asset to the Putnam County Extension Office. She strives for excellence in every detail of her job. She is instrumental in assisting the Putnam County 4-H Archery Team and organizes the annual Rabies Clinic Fundraiser. She goes above and beyond to help the whole office run smoothly and provided assistance to maintain a 4-H program in the absence of a 4-H Agent. Lori is the heart of the Putnam County Extension Office and the glue that holds everything together. We are blessed to have Lori on our team.



State Awards Outstanding Support by an ANR/FACS Agent

Zack Williams – Southeast District Winner nominated by Cheryl Poppell

Zack Williams has served as the Montgomery County ANR Agent since November 2016. He also serves as CEC. He is a great supporter of 4-H program and always willing to lend a hand. In addition to serving as a leader at camp, Zack goes above and beyond to assist with county programs and competitions.



Alison C. Berg – State Staff Winner nominated by Jenna Daniel and Keri Hobbs

Ali Berg is an Assistant Professor and Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist. She leads Extension programming in the areas of chronic disease prevention and health maintenance throughout the lifespan. Ali works collaboratively with 4-H on foods projects at Project Achievement, Consumer Judging, and the Friends Nutrition/Healthy Living Magazine.

Bradley Averill – Northeast District Winner nominated by Marcus Eason

Brad Averill received his B.S. in Physical Education from Grand Valley State University and his M.A. in Physical Education from the University of South Florida. He started as a FACS Agent in Madison and Oglethorpe County on June 1st 2019. He works with the Oglethorpe County 4-H office to assist coordinating their Cooking to Share program. He also works with the Madison County 4-H Food Challenge Team and works with Madison County youth on the Food Project Achievements. His primary focus as a Family and Consumer Science Agent is chronic disease prevention and improving the health and well-being of the citizens in Madison and Oglethorpe Counties.



La Keishia Levi – Southwest Winner nominated by Samantha Price and Vincent Thomas

La Keshia truly sees the importance of 4-H and the growth and opportunities it provides to the youth in our county. She continues to promote the program in the community and is always finding new ways for us to partner. We greatly appreciate the work that La Keshia does for us.

State Awards Outstanding Volunteer Leader Program

Chatham County nominated by Sergia Gabelmann

The Chatham County 4-H Volunteer program has doubled since 2017. It has certified and trained seven male volunteers since the start of the S.A.F.E. Target Sport program. We have six 4-H alumni that have completed the volunteer certification and now volunteer with current 4-H'ers. The Chatham County 4-H Volunteers continue to provide positive influence to current and past 4-H members.



State Awards Outstanding Support by Public Media



McDuffie Progress

nominated by
Jessica Eubanks

The McDuffie Progress, which is currently a weekly newspaper, has been publishing consistently in Thomson, Georgia since 1898. Wayne Parham, editor/publisher and former 4-H-er, is always willing to include news stories, photos, and agent columns highlighting McDuffie County 4-H. The entire staff is very supportive of Extension.



Twiggs Times New Era

nominated by
Phillip Petway

Phillip Petway, FVSU 4-H Agent, receives outstanding media support from the Twiggs Times New Era editor James Tidwell. Mr. Tidwell published a series of Healthy Lifestyles articles on behalf of the Twiggs County 4-H program, in addition to local support of 4-H activities and extension related articles.



Georgia Outdoor News

nominated by
Craven Hudson

Georgia Outdoor News (GON) is a magazine based in Madison, GA for active sportsmen. GON has been a steadfast partner with Georgia 4-H Project SAFE since 1988. Each July, GON devotes a six-eight page spread to Georgia 4-H Project SAFE and tells readers how to connect with Georgia 4-H.

State Awards Outstanding AmeriCorps/VISTA



Natalie Bennett
Southwest District
Winner

nominated by
Ashley Carroll

Natalie serves Tift County 4-H as an AmeriCorps Member. She has a lead role in facilitating 39 monthly club meetings, coaching judging teams and developing volunteers. Her ability to connect with young people is invaluable to our program. She takes time to meet students where they are and foster meaningful relationships.



Jade Andrews
Northeast District
Winner

nominated by
Marcus Eason

Jade began as the Oglethorpe County AmeriCorps Member assisting with the 4-H Club in August of 2016. She hit the ground running, learning all there was to know about 4-H. The kids loved her from the start. Her caring personality and go-get-em attitude make her a favorite among the 4-H'ers. She can now do pretty much everything around the office including Ag, 4-H and Secretarial duties. Jade is my right hand and the Oglethorpe County 4-H Club would not be the same without her.



Brianna Tredway
Southeast District
Winner

nominated by
Abby Smith

Brianna Tredway is the AmeriCorps Member in Effingham County. She assists in conducting club meetings, facilitating leadership activities and planning service projects students. Bri has been instrumental in engaging students as well as educating them on 4-H activities. She is always willing to take on any task and performs it well.

State Awards Innovative Work in School Relations



Stephanie Myers

Southeast District
Winner

Evans County Extension partnered with Evans County Schools to provide agricultural literacy gardens that helped to promote reading, character education, healthy nutrition, and agriculture awareness through authentic hands-on learning activities. In collaboration with the school's literacy focus, agents provided school enrichment programs and community activities that allowed students to germinate seeds, plant gardens, pre-prepare vegetables grown, and receive free age-appropriate books.

Lynn Davis

Northeast District
Winner

Turner County 4-H'ers students proved they knew A Thing or 2 about reading for Dr. Seuss birthday through the National Education Association Read Across America event. Approximately 70 youth promoted literacy and practiced their leadership skills reaching over 400 youth building social capital where not expected through teen volunteerism.

Al Parker

Northeast District
Winner

With no Extension Office in Taliaferro County, there had not been a 4-H Program there in over 15 years. Through a collaborative effort of Taliaferro County Schools, Northeast District, Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Wilkes County AmeriCorps Service Member, and with funding from a CDC Obesity grant, 4-H is now back in Taliaferro County Schools with monthly club meetings and youth attending Cloverleaf DPA, Junior/Senior DPA, and Junior Camp.

State Awards

Professional Achievement



Rebekah Greene
Southeast District
Winner

Rebekah Greene has worked in Extension for 7 years. She currently serves as the 4-H Agent in Tattnall County. She and her husband, Ross, have a one year old daughter, Sara Elizabeth.

Jennifer Cantwell
State Staff
Winner



Jennifer Cantwell manages Georgia 4-H's AmeriCorps State grant while also providing support to 4-H Agents and State Specialists in program evaluation. Jennifer holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia. Among her most significant achievements is growing the AmeriCorps State grant to the largest in Georgia.

Scholarship Winner

Jeffrey Burke



Jeffrey Burke serves the University of Georgia and Georgia 4-H as the coordinator for state 4-H events and programs. In this position, he is responsible for the execution and evaluation of assigned statewide 4-H conferences. As the recipient of the GAE4-HA scholarship, he will use the funds for post-secondary learning activities and further professional development.

Peach of a Profession Scholarship

Laura Goss

State Awards New Extension Professional



Kari Mateling

Northwest District
Winner

Kari Mateling is a dedicated, fun, and empathetic member of the Bibb County Extension Staff. When her 4-H'ers achieve, she achieves. Kari works diligently on providing her 4-H'ers with leadership and service experiences. Bibb County 4-H completed 37 service projects in 2018 and increased DPA participation by 26%. Kari has maintained a 4.0 through 5 semesters of Graduate School at Valdosta State University and will graduate with her Master of Public Administration in December 2019. Kari is a team player and is always willing to lend a helping hand, a smile, or a word of encouragement to her friends and colleagues both locally and across the state.



Leah Woodall

Southeast District
Winner

Leah Woodall has served as the Bacon County 4-H Agent for two years. She graduated from Georgia College and State University with her Bachelors in Art and Masters in Secondary Education. Leah has expanded base programming, created afterschool opportunities through project clubs, utilized volunteer resources, and collaborated with community partners



Lauren Morris

Northeast District
Winner

Lauren Morris has served as the Banks County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent for the past 2 1/2 years. She loves being a 4-H agent and working with students. Her favorite part of her job is watching kids gain confidence in themselves through 4-H programs.

State Awards Continuing Excellence



Abby Smith

Southeast District
Winner



Pamela Bloch

Northwest District
Winner



Shanda Ashley

Southwest District
Winner

Shanda Ashley has been a 4-H Agent in Calhoun County for over 16 years. In 2016, the county received a grant from the CDC in Atlanta for obesity prevention. The county began working with UGA partners to implement community-based strategies to support behavioral and environmental changes for healthy eating and physical activity for children and families.

Photos



Special thanks to Bill Hammond and Christina deRevere for capturing great pictures throughout our conference!

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Special thanks to all contributing authors and the 2019-2020 GAE4-HA Media Committee for their contributions to this newsletter.

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