

THE PEACH PRESS



A Publication of The Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents
Spring 2015 Edition



A Message from the President...Kate Whiting

“Information is power, with power there is change, and change is good.” Tony Horton, the master mind behind the P90x workout program said this and I believe it ties in well with what we do as 4-H professionals. It’s our job to provide information and be a factor of change in our clientele, our communities, and with colleagues. While getting to serve in the role of President Elect this year, I’ve had several opportunities to enhance the information that I have and now have the chance to provide it to others.

In February, I was able to attend the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, NV. JCEP is the partnership of the professional Extension organizations and has the goal to strengthen the efforts of all the Associations and does so through teamwork. This was a great conference full of excellent workshops, sessions, and a key note speaker by the name of David Horsager. David is the author of “The Trust Edge” and spoke to us about the importance of trust in leadership. I was able to come away from the conference with tons of information on leadership, building trust, networking, and a refreshed look at what we as association members and professionals can do for our programs and each other. One of the strongest things I took away is how important it is for each one of us to be mentors, support systems, teammates, and serve as change elements.

We, as association members, are all responsible for the success of our county programs, our state programs, and each other; and do so with the information or power that we have. Each of us possess different kinds of power. The power of experience, the power of innovation, the power of creativity, the power of challenges, the power of success, we all have some form of it and it’s important that we share that power with each other. By serving as a mentor, formal or informal, teaming up to work together on a program, sharing resources, supporting and looking out for our fellow members just strengthens us all.

I encourage everyone to look for new ways to help others. We have a wealth of talent in this state, let’s encourage those with great programs or ideas to share them through presentations, Peach Press articles, networking, and award applications. When information and power is shared, we have the ability to change how we look at things, how we do things and can change for the better. We need to recognize the great work that is going on around us and embrace it. Network, team up, share the power, and embrace the change because our change is good.

- Kate

Brought to you by the
GAE4-HA Media Committee

ABBIE SALMON, EDITOR
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www.georgia4h.org/gae4-ha/

“Happiness is a warm puppy.” -Charles M. Schulz

By Robin Turi, Richmond County

What is more natural than a child and his dog? The phrase may bring to mind the image of a Rockwell painting, long summer days or a child rolling in the grass with several puppies. Whatever the image we can all agree that kids and animals go together.

So when trying to plan for a community service project that our students could identify with and want to participate in the natural choice is something to help animals. Specifically our local animal shelter. Our shelter is always seeking donations of blankets, towels, detergent, toys, food etc. Last year we attempted to have our 4-H'ers collect specific items on our shelters wish list. That project was met with enthusiasm but resulted in very little participation.

This year we tried a new approach. Augusta-Richmond County offers a year-long community service project called “Pennies for the Pound”. Every month students bring in pennies to be donated to the local shelter. This time enthusiasm and participation were equal. 4-H'ers their teachers and friends all found it very easy to collect their pennies in a bag or container and give them to their 4-H Leader. Collections are going strong and we still have one more month to go before we present the animal shelter with a check.

This has been a great project for our 4-H'ers because they demonstrate their care for the animals. 4-H'ers feel they can participate in “Pennies for the Pound”. Our 4-H'ers realize that their pennies can make a difference in the lives many local animals.

Just a word of advice, don't make the same mistake I have. When pennies are delivered to our office they are deposited into 5 gallon buckets. We have been enjoying watching those buckets fill up. We were excited to see our success until attempting to pick up the buckets. We are now faced with the very heavy problem of lifting the buckets of pennies in an effort to deposit them in the bank. While the idea of strength training is very appealing it will take to long for the A.R.C. 4-H Staff to become strong enough. Our solution has been to find enough coffee cans with lids to scoop up manageable amounts of pennies and make several trips to the bank. Keep this in mind if you would like to use this community service project in your county. Use small containers or better yet find someone with a coin rolling machine.



Ever wonder what \$170 in pennies looks like? Now you know!

“Books with a Voice”

By Jamey Knight, Wayne County

“Books with a Voice” is a community service project that Deanna Long, 11th grade 4-H'er, began in 2014. With reading levels in schools continually dropping by grade and reading test scores falling year after year, youth literacy is at an all-time low. By reaching youth at a younger age with books we can know that we are doing our part to help with this issue. What better gift to give a child than a book? The bigger question is, “why give a child a book who cannot read”? That's where “Books with a Voice” comes in. The book isn't just about receiving a gift; it's the whole reason behind it. You see, 4-H'ers take these books and record themselves reading the books onto compact disks. They then place the disks inside the books so that if a child receives the book and cannot read it, they then have a voice to follow along with. But what if a child is just lonely and strives to just hear someone read to them? Well that works too! They simply play the disk and follow along with the voice. Though the exact number of youth who are affected is unknown, we have already delivered 230 books to the Department of Family Children Services in Jesup, Georgia and are in the process of finishing up another 175 books to deliver to children's hospitals such as the Ronald McDonald House in Savannah, Georgia and other children's hospitals around Georgia and North Florida.

Building a successful community service project takes time and dedication, the 4-H'ers involved have thoroughly enjoyed the books created and 2015 has already been a great success. “Books with a Voice” is a unique and very rewarding community service project that incorporates youth of all ages. Wayne County 4-H prides itself on the value of a quality community service project.

Congratulations to the 2015 William H. Booth District Awardees



Southwest District Winner: Cindy Meadows, Seminole County

Cindy Meadows is dedicated to molding youth into leaders in Seminole County, a rural county with population less than 9,000 and over 26% living in poverty. Cindy's fifteen year career has produced 14 State/District Board members, 518 DPA participants, 493 campers, 491 Judging Team members, and 2 camp counselors.



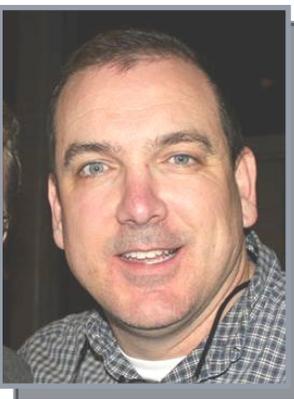
Southeast District Winner: Kevin Tatum, Coffee County

Kevin Tatum has served as Extension 4-H Agent in Coffee County since beginning with Extension in 1988. He has previously received the William H. Booth District Award three times and NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award among other programmatic awards. He currently serves as President of Epsilon Sigma Phi-Alpha Beta Extension Fraternity.



Northwest District Winner: Dorothea Graham, Haralson County

Dorothea Graham, County Extension Coordinator/4-H Agent from Haralson County focuses on youth development. Mrs. Graham has worked in both an urban and rural county. What she has found is that both communities have youth that want to "Make the Best Better". Her 4-H'ers state that she is dedicated to helping them achieve their goals in 4-H and in life.



Northeast District Winner: Timothy Jennings, Union County

Timothy Jennings is the County Extension Coordinator in Union County. His program area is 4-H Youth Development, and leads a program of engaged and active 4-H members in Union County. Timothy has been recognized for his work with teen leadership programming and serving on implementation teams for Zoonotic Disease and Childhood Obesity prevention.

Valentines By Kids for Kids

By Brandi McGonagill,
Bleckley County

For children in the hospital on Valentine's Day, they do not have the opportunity to give and receive Valentine's Day cards from their peers.

During our January homeschool meeting, students decorated bags and designed Valentine's cards. Then during in-school Junior club meetings, every 7th and 8th grade student used various materials to create hand-made cards. Our club also purchased Valentine Day activity books, pencils and crafts and added them to each bag.

All of the bags were delivered to the Children's Hospital in Macon, GA to be distributed on Valentine's Day!



4-H'ers Sharing Their Knowledge

By: Laura Garrett, Henry County

A recommendation was made that a 4-H summer class/activity focus on marketing and base 4-H programming including exhibits, 4-H Week, and fair participation.

During 2014 summer activities, Junior and Senior 4-H'ers were given the opportunity to complete an educational mini-booth related to their 4-H project at a day-long workshop. A 4-H parent volunteer assisted in preparation for the workshop by cutting the wood panels and attaching hinges so that the basic frame was ready for each 4-H'er at the time of the workshop. (The wood frame was the size required for entries to the Georgia National Fair.) Staff provided 4-H'ers with a list of ideas and supplies to prepare/collect in advance of the class. Staff and volunteers assisted 4-H'ers during the workshop.

The mini-booths have provided great visibility for Henry County 4-H. The exhibits were displayed in the following manner:

- At the entrance to Henry County Extension's Farmers Market – 7/10&17/14 – 579 patrons
- During the Annual 4-H Open House – 8/18/14 – 233 visitors
- Six exhibits were displayed in the lobby of Henry County Headquarters Library – 8/5-10/14 during which 2,640 patrons visited
- Five exhibits were displayed in the lobby of the Henry County Headquarters Library – 8/20-31/14 – during which 5,004 patrons visited
- Four exhibits were entered in competition and displayed at the Georgia National Fair in Perry
- Eight exhibits were displayed in the exhibit hall of the Henry County Fair during National 4-H Week

The 4-H mini-booth workshop was featured in the Henry Neighbor. Of the county's three newspapers, this one has the largest circulation. Ten photos of the workshop, two on the front page, were highlighted in the paper.

4-H'ers also entered their mini-booths for display at either Junior Conference or Fall Forum. The mini-booths were also displayed during the 2014 Legislative Breakfast hosted at the Henry County Extension office. The exhibits were terrific tools for "showing off" the variety of project work being conducted by local 4-H'ers.

Comments from numerous viewers complimented the quality of the exhibits. Others recounted their 4-H experiences upon viewing the exhibits. Many remarked they were excited to see the proud traditions and learning experiences of 4-H continuing in 2014. The mini-booths were a great way for 4-H'ers to share their project work and for staff to market/publicize Henry County 4-H.

4-H SUMMER FUN

By: Laura Garrett, Henry County

Henry County 4-H'ers got a behind-the-scenes look at Turner Field and how the stadium operates as well as a history lesson on the Atlanta Braves. During an hour long tour, 4-H'ers sat in the dugout; viewed the field from the press box; took a break in one of the luxury suites; and toured the museum at the field.



4-H Science Day at Fort Stewart School Age Center

By Kasey Bozeman, Liberty County /Long County

The 4-H/Military Partnership connects local County Extension/4-H resources with military installations, in order to provide positive resiliency and life skill development for military children and youth. Liberty County is home to Fort Stewart, the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. Releasing that mentorship and educational programming can be beneficial for military youth experiencing challenges, it was decided that the Liberty County Junior/Senior 4-H Club would host a day of activities for the School Age Center youth (1st–5th grade) during a school holiday.

Fourteen Junior and Senior 4-H members participated in a program planning event. Teens worked individually or in groups of two members to plan and prepare for their 4-H Science Day activity. Teens researched an interactive science activity, learned the science concepts about the lesson, prepared a mini lesson plan, gathered and prepared needed supplies, and tested/redesigned their activity.

On November 24, 2014, the Junior/Senior 4-H members along with two adult volunteers and two 4-H staff members traveled to the Fort Stewart School Age Center to implement the activities for 47 participants in grades 1-5. The Junior/Senior 4-H members provided 10 total educational lessons. Participants were divided into groups and each lesson was taught at the same time. Participants rotated every 15 minutes, so they were able to participate in all 10 lessons. The lessons that were taught were: elephant toothpaste (teaching about active yeast/ fungi), fossil creation (teaching about archeology), magic milk (teaching about macromolecule lipids), butter making (teaching about states of matter), roller coasters (teaching about kinetic and potential energy), balloon blow-up (teaching about chemical reactions), strawberry DNA extraction (teaching about genetics), floating ping-pong ball (teaching about Bernoulli's principle), bottle rockets (teaching about air pressure), and neutral nancy (teaching about buoyancy). Tractor Supply donated funds to the Liberty County 4-H program that were used to purchase any needed supplies.

Formal evaluations by both youth participants as well as the Junior/Senior 4-H club members were conducted. Of the 14 Junior/Senior 4-H club youth completing the formal evaluation, all members "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that "as a result of serving as a teen leader at the 4-H Science Day at Forest Stewart School Age Center, they know how to plan programming for younger youth, can lead activities for younger youth, can explain simple science concepts to younger youth, and am more confident in my ability to be a leader."

All 47 of the Fort Stewart participants completed a very simple evaluation after the activity. When asked "what did you enjoy best about 4-H Science Day?" comments included [sic], "I really enjoyed the elephant toothpaste because I got to touch the foamy, colorful toothpaste and I thought that was the most fun out of all of them," "I in goy science bee kus you're your 4H pepol or gob heprs," and "I had fun with everything. I wanted to circle all of them, but I had to only circle 1. All the big 4-H's were all nice. This is the most fun I ever had!"



If you look on the Georgia 4-H website it states, “Any person, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability may enroll as a 4-H member.” We all know this statement, and we’ve all talked about it. We include it in informational handouts, grant applications, and other documents. When I’m at a state and district event, I can easily look and see evidence of this statement. There are 4-H members of different backgrounds and races that are part of Georgia 4-H. However, I often wonder who are we missing? We all know the value of the Georgia 4-H program and the opportunities it can provide youth. We, as 4-H Agents, get to see it every day with our own eyes. But what about those youth we may be missing? Can those youth benefit from 4-H, or are they getting those opportunities from another organization?

Now I know not every child in Georgia is going to join and be active in 4-H for a variety of reasons. Some may not be interested, some may not have time to participate, and some are involved with other youth organizations. In Forsyth County alone, the population is nearing 200,000 and there is over 43,000 enrolled in Forsyth County Schools. It would be impossible to reach every single child. Even with help in my office, we’re only human and there are only 24 hours in a day. However, when I look at my program as a whole, the thought still remains, “who am I missing?”

In just a few short months, the current 4-H year will be ending and a new one will begin. We’ll be reflecting back on this year to look at the programs that were successful and the ones that need improvement. I believe we would all benefit from looking at our local programs as a whole to see if we are missing any one. What can we do to reach these missing youth and get them more involved? Is there a certain program we can offer, or do they need information about 4-H presented in a different platform? These are questions that we all can contemplate if we take the time to look for the answers.

Life Members / Retirees

WANTED!

HOW TO JOIN . . .

Hope you will join us if you’re not already a 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 (currently \$220). 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](#), and/or, contact your District Association Director or the Vice-President for application information.

Royce James,
Life Member Chair

Serving in the Community

By: Octavia Jackson, Lamar County

4-H’ers around the state are committed to the betterment of their communities through service. Community service activities range from neighborhood beautification project to food security to storm stenciling. Lamar County 4-H’ers served their community by preparing fleece material to make blankets for residents at the local nursing home. The 4-H’ers donated over 30 no-sew fringed blankets using a pattern provided by Project Linus. The blankets were a welcomed item during the frigid weather experienced this past winter.

Through service, youth learn and experience civic responsibility while helping others. Additionally, youth develop life skills in sharing, empathy, volunteering and being a responsible citizen. There are a number of ideas for community service activities and service-learning projects that are posted online. One site that is worth a look is the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County. This site lists different categories of service – environment, safety, performing arts, senior citizens – and relevant activities.



“REEL”ing in Water Pollution in Pulaski County

By: Sonya R. Jones, Pulaski County

Pulaski County 4-H's R.E.E.L. (Ready to Engage in Environmental Learning) Club has helped foster environmental stewardship in 4-H'ers, their families, and the community with a main focus on water pollution and conservation. After numerous Ocmulgee River and its watershed area cleanups and storm drain cleaning efforts, Pulaski County 4-H Agent, Sonya Jones, saw a need in educating 4-H'ers, their families, and the general community about point source pollution problems in the Ocmulgee River.

Having grown up in a family with avid fishermen, one active Pulaski County 4-H'er immediately noticed how much fishing line debris had to be cleaned up from the river and its watershed areas. It was seen entangled around plants, reptiles, birds, and fish and was affecting the overall quality of water within the Ocmulgee River. A point source pollution of monofilament fishing line was affecting local waterways and water quality. With a successful adult/youth partnership and a shared love of environmental education, reduction of water pollution became a main focus for Pulaski County 4-H.

Pulaski County 4-H has over 200 youth that have been a part of environmental education through field trips to the Jekyll Island 4-H Center, Fortson 4-H Center, and local R.E.E.L Club meetings because of the increased educational efforts and outreach. The R.E.E.L. Club reached over 80 members, over 200 Pre-K and 5th grade youth were educated about water pollution and monofilament recycling, over 1,088 personal monofilament fishing line recycling bins were handed out, the program expanded into six counties and cover 2,034 square miles with thirteen monofilament recycling bin locations, 49.083 miles of monofilament fishing line was collected to recycle, 2,000 educational brochures were given out, over 500 volunteer hours were conducted toward environmental stewardship, educated people of the Stow It, Don't Throw It freshwater initiative program in Georgia and the R.E.E.L. Club water conservation efforts to a viewership/listening area via newspaper, radio, and television

to over 500,000 people, and obtained over \$1300 for use to continue the project's environmental education efforts.

Pulaski County 4-H is making continued strides and efforts in all directions to help the Ocmulgee River and watershed areas, and we are truly “REEL”ing in water pollution in Pulaski County and beyond!



Pre-K youth holding their own Stow It, Don't Throw It personal monofilament recycling containers

4-H TEACHES CITIZENSHIP AS CORE MISSION

By K. Lynn Davis, Turner County

UGA Extension 4-H agents are known to be excellent at experiential learning. An eighth grade Social Studies teacher reached out to the Turner County 4-H Agent to help infuse students with concepts and principles related to citizenship. She wanted more hands-on learning opportunities for her students so they could better understand the educational standards required.

The teacher requested the information to be presented in a much more fun and enlightening manner in hopes of increasing voting interest and engagement of teens and likely resulting in improved test scores.

Governor Nathan Deal addressed the decline of youth civic engagement stating "... organizations will undoubtedly play an important role in reversing this trend. With the challenges our society faces becoming ever-more daunting and complex, it is important to prepare our students to participate effectively in the democratic process and to invest in our future leaders."

Developing responsible and contributing citizens is the mission of Georgia 4-H.

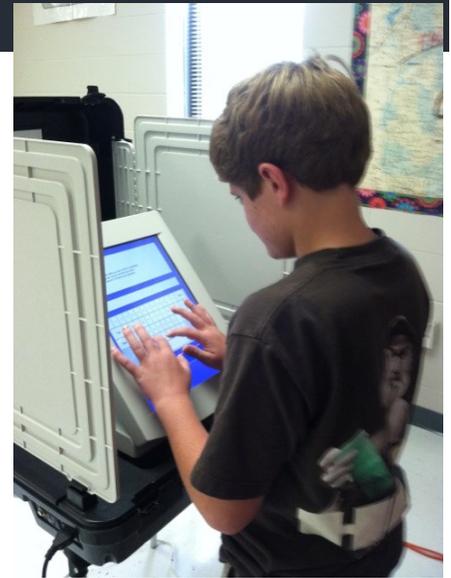
Turner County 4-H partnered with the school system and collaborated with the local board of elections to educate teens on civic engagement, government and the political process. The objectives were to learn more about the government at federal, state and local levels.

Students identified the three branches of government and those individuals who hold leadership positions. Students also completed an official voter registration form and cast their ballot for a mock election using official voting machines. Voters had a choice of two candidates or a write-in choice.

This learning experience provided students with hands-on opportunities to become more knowledgeable and confident as they practiced skills related to the voting process. Students learned how to qualify to vote in Georgia.

Official voter registration cards were provided to the students and they were asked to complete the form as a qualification to mock vote. Further discussion taught that on voting day, a person would have to provide proof of a valid U.S. Government issued photo ID such as a driver's license, a valid passport, a military issued ID or any other form a person may have.

As the students voted, the write-in option gave students time to learn about the process and be confident with the typing of the candidates' name.



After seventy-six students engaged in the power to choose, Carter had a majority of the votes with 52%, Fido carried 36% of the votes and there were eight names submitted as write-ins.

The right to vote is a privilege that every citizen should take seriously. Voting is the way to voice your opinions. The process of voting and elections should make all citizens better informed about issues and the people who may hold a leadership position.

Teaching life-long learning skills encourages citizenship participation and hopefully the experience will impact the power of an informed choice.

"Where are they now..."

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

The following was sent by Life Member, Dot Cofer, to be included in the National booklet "4-H Stories from the Heart." Volume 1 has been printed and sells for \$19.95. Dot's story is slated for volume 2. It is encouraged that everyone go to the national site and read the very inspiring comments from others about the book.

Submitted by Royce James, Life Member Chair

"4-H Stories from the Heart"

By Dot Cofer, retired McDuffie County 4-H Agent

THE LIGHT BULB

Here she stood, this little blond headed girl of 10, with beautiful piercing eyes. To me, she was a little angel wearing her homemade dress. You could tell her loneliness because of her bashfulness. She had come to her 4-H club meeting because she had no choice in that particular school.

I told the class about our District Project Achievement contests. In Georgia, this DPA event is offered to counties so they can send their best demonstrations in the various projects to compete for District honors. She gathered the courage to sign up her interest. Unknowing to her, her teacher and I suggested a project we thought would be less competition in hopes of her placing higher in the scoring.

She borrowed her school's science class egg incubator with the idea of showing how eggs could be incubated including the hatching process. Her teacher worked with her during recess and lunch time training her in poultry facts and the fine points of giving demonstrations.

Finally, the day came for me to see each demonstration one final time before leaving early the next morning for a distant location for the contest. As I finished seeing her perform, I noticed that she had never, to my knowledge, used a light bulb in the incubator. I told her that she had to have one for the competition or they would count off for it being incomplete.

She looked up at me with those beautiful eyes and asked, "What time do we have to leave in the morning?" I answered and then she asked, "Is it still dark then?" My reply was yes, we leave Thomson just a little before it gets light, why? Her reply was very humbling. She said, "I may not be able to bring a light bulb if it is still dark when we leave. We only have one and daddy takes it from the bedroom to the kitchen when he gets up to start the fire and get us breakfast. If it is still dark, he cannot see in the kitchen." I quickly put my hand on her shoulder and said not to worry about that. "I think I have 2 bulbs at home, I'll try to bring one for you." I almost cried.

God was with His little angel that day for she placed first, got her blue ribbon and was given her medal at our county awards program. No one but her teacher and I knew that she had no competition! And to be honest, she actually had a good demonstration and a fairly high score. I was so proud. That may be the only award she gets in life, but to her it was an Olympic medal.

Jesus said, "New Living Translation" - Matthew 25:40 - "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"

That day I became a better person and a better 4-H Agent.

Throwback



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