

# THE PEACH PRESS

A Publication of the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents  
State Meeting Re-cap Edition 2016



Brought to you by the  
Media Committee

Dinah Rowe, Editor  
Media Committee Chair

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## A Message from the President...Kasey Bozeman

Sometimes 4-H work can seem as if it is a never ending task. Now that Poultry and Horse Judging have just ended, it's time for final club meetings of the year, awards banquets, summer activities, and preparing for camp. Don't forget all of the S.A.F.E. contests, too! You cross one thing off the list but magically ten more things get added. Although our 4-H work can vary greatly on a day-to-day basis, so many times we can easily get caught in the routine of our profession. I think we are all guilty of repeating an activity or event simply because it was a success. And while there is nothing wrong with the repetition of good programming, how are we following our 4-H motto? Are we spending time in critical reflection and thinking about ways to improve our work?

As I reflect on the amazing three days we spent together at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum for the 2016 GAE4-HA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, I think about the importance of continual development for 4-H professionals. From the educational workshops, roundtable discussions, poster presentations, and even the educational tours, there was so much knowledge shared that we can apply to our own work – whether that is at the county, district, or state level. As I was browsing the poster exhibits and participating in workshops on Tuesday, I got so many ideas about simple ways to improve my current programming efforts in Liberty County.

Professional development allows us to have a deeper understanding of our work along with a greater appreciation of our impacts. Furthermore, true engagement in professional development helps advance the body of youth development knowledge. Extension and 4-H programming have been successful for over one hundred years because the content was relevant. Being an active GAE4-HA member gives us opportunities to continually advance ourselves, ensuring that our knowledge stays relevant. We live in a world where if we stand still, we will get left behind. We have to remain aware of the changing trends within youth development.

I am very excited about this special edition of *The Peach Press*, coordinated by the GAE4-HA Media Committee. The next few pages are filled with lots of great stories and photographs from our recent state meeting. If you were unable to attend or didn't get a chance to participate in every session, here is a great way to see all the great things that happened! I would especially like to express my gratitude to the incredible GAE4-HA Board of Directors for doing an incredible job with the conference. From educational sessions, exhibit fairs, meals, decorations, tours, awards, and everything in between, your hard work does not go unnoticed and your commitment to our association is much appreciated. If you've never been an active member in our association before, you are really missing out. Consider participating in a NAE4-HA monthly webinar, attending your district professional development day, or joining our GAE4-HA conference next year. Don't get left behind!





## ***Southern Hospitality Abounds!***

Submitted by: Cheryl Newberry, Southern Region Director



The Southern hospitality did not disappoint during my visit to Savannah in April! It was great to be welcomed so warmly by everyone and I enjoyed learning more about GAE4-HA. Here are a few of the highlights that got my attention during the conference.

All members were engaged in committee work! This was great to see as committees are the foundation of the Association. As I noted in my update, without committee members to do quality work, the Association cannot thrive. Great job!

A HUGE group of “first timers” was impressive! I was inspired by the 18 new attendees to the conference! I hope that each of them will get plugged in and active in the Association!

The National Awards Banquet was outstanding! It is wonderful to see peers celebrate each other for their contributions to positive youth development work. And that silent and live auction was HUGE!

I attended several workshops and came home with some new ideas, developed a new contact with regard to youth water education with Dr. Gary Hawkins, and watched amazing instructors in action! (My favorite was the Casey and Kasey Show with the crepe paper head bands!)

Last, but certainly not least, the GAE4-HA leadership were professional, polished and prepared to host a great conference! Congratulations to Kasey Bozeman for leading the committee who planned the event and Kate Whiting for her work in presiding over the conference.

Thank you, again, for your Southern hospitality and I hope to see many of you in New Orleans in October!





By Lynn Davis

Chattooga County 4-H wanted to combine community service and leadership into a special project. Their answer was 4-H Movies in the Park.

Many small counties are limited with resources. Chattooga County 4-H decided to show a movie for the community for an evening of good fellowship. What the 4-H program didn't realize is just how successful and widely accepted this idea would become.

The teen group has learned this idea required special license requirements, fees, an outdoor theatre system, and so much more. Rebecca Thomas, UGA Extension 4-H Agent & County Extension Coordinator, wrote a grant to offset the costs of the theatre system. The idea soon became reality and has been gaining momentum ever since.

Families attend 4-H Movies in the Park bringing chairs and blankets for some great time together. In addition to the movie, many 4-H activities and events have been promoted during this time. Rebecca stated that camping numbers increased this year and she credits showing the camping video just before the movie as the major reason.

With any outdoor event, there comes the chance for inclement weather. The local radio station and Facebook are tools used to keep the community aware of any changes or show postponements of the picture show.

If you are interested in learning more about 4-H Movies in the park, contact Rebecca Thomas at the Chattooga County Extension Office.



# A First Timer's Prospective On The GAE4-HA Annual Meeting

By Bill Hammond

Within the first year of employment with UGA Extension, a new agent can expect an assortment of trainings, seminars, webinars, and professional development events. One of these is the GAE4-HA Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference. This year's conference was held at the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum in Savannah, GA on April 18-20.

As a 1<sup>st</sup> timer to the conference, I wasn't sure exactly what to expect, but I knew I could expect meetings, workshops, and, of course, good food. After each of the trainings, or conferences I have gone to, I always come away with a renewed energy, a notepad and mind full of new ideas, and a better understanding of what it takes to have a successful program. My first GAE4-HA conference was no exception. As a newer employee I chose to attend the workshops that I felt would benefit me in my career and give me ideas on how grow the 4-H program in my county.

I attended the "Navigating as a New Agent" round table where other newer Agents had the opportunity to share struggles, ideas, and successes in their respective county programs. Next, I listened to other round tables and learned about the successes of activities other counties, how to have an effective County Council, and how to increase DPA participation. I chose these because I knew they would benefit me and help me improve the 4-H program in my county. And as a newer agent, I feel I need to "walk before I run" and learn how to "take the milk before the meat." I figured topics such as "4-H and the Law" or "Research & Evaluation Committee Survey Development" may be a bit overwhelming to my new Agent mind (no offence to those presenters). But just like I saw with "Winter School," there were more than just workshops I could participate in to better myself as a professional.

Exhibits are also a very good way to gain other prospective and see what other tools are available to make our jobs easier. From T-shirt printers, fundraiser programs, other organizations we can work together with, and colleagues' posters, I found a vast amount of information, examples, and tools I can use to improve my performance and career.

In all, I enjoyed my 1<sup>st</sup> time at the GAE4-HA conference. I networked with fellow agents, caught up with old friends from my Camp Counselor days, explored Savannah and got spooked on a Ghost Tour, ate good food, received great instruction from other more experienced agents, and came away with some new ideas on how I can improve my program, grow the future leaders of our nation, and continue to "Make the Best, Better."





# 4-H In A Diverse World

By Phillip Petway and the Diversity Committee



We all know that America is becoming an increasingly diverse society. As an informal educational program for youth development, 4-H programs have their role in helping youth learn about cultures that are different than their own. We should approach our programs with attitudes toward the importance of diversity education and the recruitment of youth from different backgrounds. Although in general, Extension professionals are generally supportive of diversity in 4-H /youth development programs, nevertheless there is clearly a need to strengthen diversity efforts and provide diversity focused opportunities for Extension professionals, volunteers, and the youth we serve.

Today half of all 4-H participants live in towns and cities and 28 percent are members of racial/ethnic minorities (Hofer, 1997). Skills needed by youth for success in today and tomorrow's world are different from a century ago. As the 4-H program continues to achieve its goal of leadership and personal skills development, diversity issues have taken on greater importance. America is becoming an increasingly diverse society (Henry, 1990; Carr-Ruffino, 1996). Neighborhoods and communities, today more than ever, contain a complex mix of races, cultures, languages, and religious affiliations. In addition, the U.S. population is comprised of more than 43 million people with disabilities (Friends who care, 1990). Furthermore, the widening gap between rich and poor creates greater social class diversity (Banks, 1994).

So as we continue to build our 4-H programs and strengthen our professional to reach that diverse audience, let's remember Not only do we believe it is important for youth to learn about difference cultures, but that it should be a priority to recruit youth from different backgrounds.

**Source:** Journal of Extension "Attitudes of Extension Professionals Toward Diversity Education in 4-H Programs"

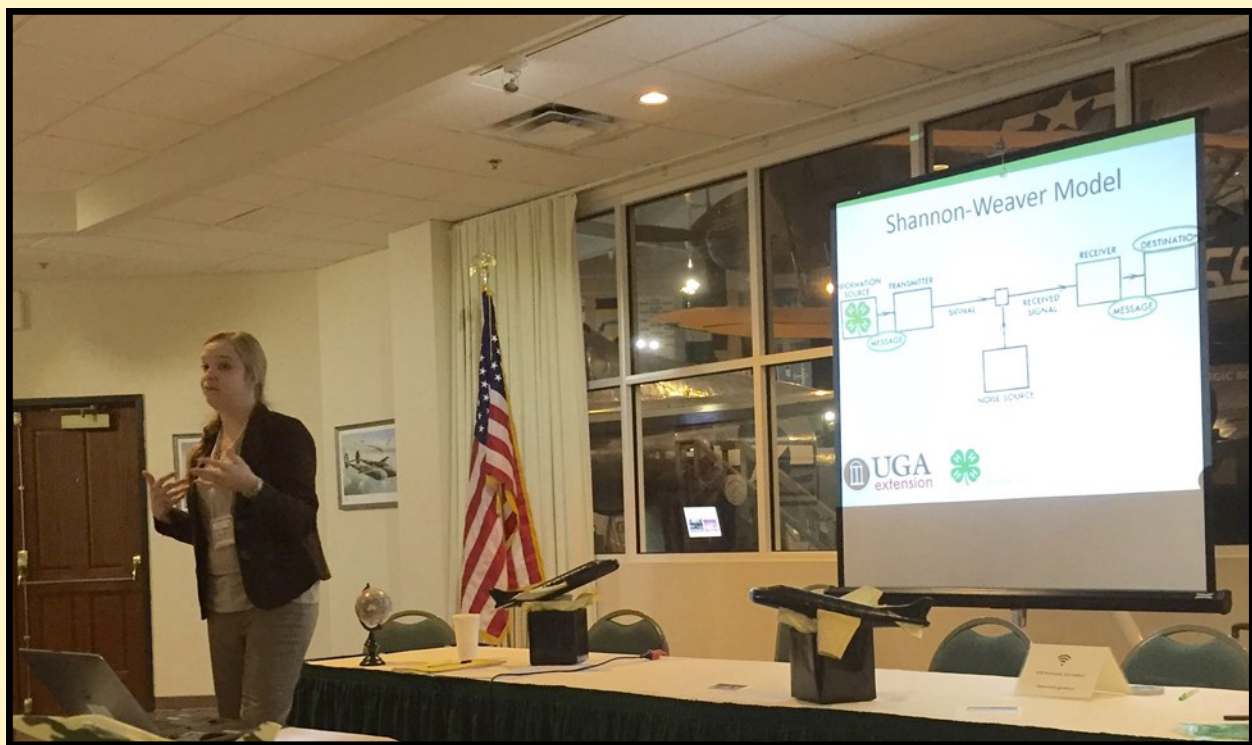
# Communication—Not Just A Two Way Street, More Like An Interstate System

By Abbie Salmon



© Can Stock Photo

In 4-H communication is key. Allie Griner gave the 4-H agents and associates attending her class, “Communication—Not Just A Two Way Street, More Like An Interstate System”, a road map to not only start your engines, but to speed towards the goal of connectivity. Allie provided insight to online resources available to better communicate with 4-H members, 4-H parents and 4-H volunteers.



Allie provided step by step information on how her program, in Gordon County, utilized tools like Facebook, Google Calendar, Google Hangouts, Remind.com, Mail Chimp and the UGA Extension website. She expressed that since 4-H parents have much easier access to information, county council numbers have increased. While she doesn't give her use of technology all of the credit she does feel it has been a positive way to engage all those involved in 4-H programming.



# Finding Balance

By Rebecca Thomas,  
Chattooga County Extension Coordinator

Balance is something we all strive for in our careers and life. Adrienne Cox, 4-H Agent from Harris County, presented a session at the GAE4-HA Annual Conference that provided tips for 4-H Staff to consider. First identify your top 5 priorities and then narrow that down to three. She shared her top three which are family, faith, and job. Once you have these identified the balancing act begins. Take a look at your vision and then she recommends these tips for finding balance.



**Build a Support Network** - Ask for help and allow yourself to be helped. Get your family involved and work as a team. Another point is to accept that not everyone will do it like you do.

**Let Go of Guilt!** - Guilt is one of the greatest wastes of emotional energy. Introduce logic to counter-balance the guilt.

**Establish Limits & Remember They are Necessary for Balance** - Boundaries and limits define how you take charge of your time. They express the extent of your responsibilities and power and show others what you are willing to do or accept. Without limits it's difficult to say "no".

**Create Time for Yourself** - Being a good parent, spouse and professional means being good to yourself first. Find ways to relax, relieve tension and minimize stress.

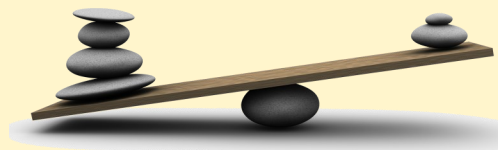
## **Get Organized :**

Set priorities, work smarter not harder, delegate (and really let go!).

Create lists and save them for re-use.

Keep a main calendar centrally located to post everyone's activities.

Adrienne shared with us that if you can adopt these practices you can truly achieve an Integrated Life of balance. By keeping things in perspective can create harmony in your life.



# Surveys and Evaluations

Leonard Anderson

'Begin with the end in mind.' That's the catch phrase to remember when 4-H Agents across our state plan great programs while developing evaluation tools to measure their various programmatic impacts. It's also the phrase some of you have heard before, which is sometimes a little easier said than done. The Research & Evaluation Committee Survey Development Work Session goal was to help Agents and Associates become more comfortable at developing surveys and evaluations. Attending this work session proved beneficial as 4-H State Staff members, Jennifer Cantwell and Jeff Buckley, shared templates they developed for a variety of audiences.

These survey templates are posted online. Their availability online is helpful and efficient when you are ready to plan. This is especially the case because the various data tools used help to enhance and capture information to reveal your program's value to your public constituents. You can use these survey and evaluation templates for your core or issue programs. The presenters developed a suite of evaluation tools in the form of premade surveys, data tabulation spreadsheets and surveys templates. These tools are free to use, easily adaptable and again available online at [www.georgia4h.org/evaluationresources/](http://www.georgia4h.org/evaluationresources/)

Participants in this workshop were able to bring evaluation tools they have used. In my case, it was for a Northwest District Youth Project, Pizza Farm. My goal was to capture feedback of the 1200 youth participants they could easily complete for additional direct supplementary data and more youth friendly. My evaluation needed to be short, quick and effective. Capturing diverse information was one way to reveal greater program relevance. I now have a better measuring instrument going forward.

Most of the evaluation tools are designed to measure short-term impacts of core programs. They include answer keys and are accompanied by data tabulation spreadsheets that provide data to create impact / outcome statements or pre-crafted impact / outcome statements (program based surveys).

Leonard Anderson  
County Extension Agent  
DeKalb County





# Guess Who?

As a fun way to learn and share more about each other, these fun facts were posted in our last newsletter. Here are the answers!

- **I can wiggle my ears. - Kate Whiting**
- **My favorite actress and favorite actor both starred in difference versions of the same movie: hers in 1954, his in 1995. -April McDaniel**
- **I love to ride mechanical bulls. -Jeffrey Burke**
- **I raised and showed rabbits for 10 years - Pam Bloch**
- **My personal children's eligible 4-H involvement adds up to 26 years! - Susan Goldman**
- **I have been taking classes and participating in competitions in "Detroit-Style Contemporary Ballroom Dancing. -Royce James**
- **I have been bitten by a horse, a goat, a dog, a goldfish, a cricket and a lady bug on three separate occasions. - Jeff Buckley**
- **I've never eaten meat on a bone because I am afraid I am going to bite into a tendon or ligament. - Jeremy Cheney**
- **I can recite the Cat in the Hat from memory! -Trish West**
- **I had my head bitten by a camel” as my fun fact! - Kasey Bozeman**
- **I have a mule named Henry. -Dinah Rowe**



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