



THE PEACH PRESS

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



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Winter 20113 Issue

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Summer 2013 Issue

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Publication Date: August



A Message From the President



Lynn Davis

Fall 2012 Edition

Editor

Pamela Bloch, Gwiinnett Co CEA

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Brought to you by

GAE4-HA Media Committee

Time is flying by now that the 2012 NAE4-HA Conference in Orlando is finished. In the windshield I can see 2013! Yes, it will be here before we know it. I have my calendar marked for our Southern Professional Improvement Conference at Rock Eagle, April 16-18. Also, I'm excited to add Galaxy IV to my calendar to be in Pittsburg on September 15-20.

Networking with others is a fantastic opportunity and I encourage you to take some time and follow-up on those conversations you had with others and found such similarities in each other's programming ideas. We are all busy and it can be frustrating to find the time needed for all of those things on our "to do" list. Take fifteen minutes and send an email or telephone your new acquaintance.

Recently I listened to a teleseminar through the Kevin Eikenberry's Remarkable Learning System titled "Reclaim Your Life!" The name resonated in my head and I instantly identified with the objectives outlined. After receiving written and oral permission from Kevin and his inner circle (thanks Kevin!), I hope you will take note to a few items I am highlighting.

Did you know that 55% of U.S. employees feel overwhelmed by the amount of work they have to do? With downsizing comes additional responsibilities and duties and often it feels as if we are juggling two jobs in this economy. Technology has not had the time saving impact that was anticipated. Instead, technology has made it more difficult to find balance due to smartphones allowing us to access to work 24 hours, 7 days a week.

After the teleseminar, I have learned to accomplish tasks more efficiently. My tips to share with you are to analyze where you spend your time, prioritize, set simple goals in hunks, chunks or bites and stay focused. Learning to balance is very personal. I have found the best way for me is not to over indulge in any one thing. Chaos is by choice and I don't want to be a victim! When I say "yes" to something, I really say "no" to something else. My biggest priorities are tied to my personal values. I have a personal policy and I have learned to protect "my" time which requires a great deal of discipline! Life is a series of habits and if you really want to change your life, then **Reclaim Your Life!**

I want to thank those who are in a leadership position in GAE4-HA. It takes each and every person of our association doing their best to make things happen. Sometimes working in committees can be frustrating, but the work is necessary to make things happen and to move us forward. We all have different talents and traits that make us different and that is what is so amazing about our association. As the committees work toward their goals, I hope you learn the benefit of each team member and build both professional and personal relationships.

Our professional development is always something we must always make a conscious effort to include in our work. I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as President for our association this year. I challenge each of you to engage in conversations with others who serve as committee chairs to learn of their duties and responsibilities. Taking an active role in our association will provide you with a unique opportunity to learn and grow. We so often tell our 4-H'ers how great an opportunity would be, but what if someone encouraged you? Take this as an invitation to reflect on your skill set, your talents and your passion. Why would you not want to give back to GAE4-HA?

Lynn

Rendezvous at the Rock



Sunshine and Sweet Tea

2013 Southeastern 4-H Professional Improvement Conference
 Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Georgia
 April 16-18, 2013



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.

Workshop, poster session, and commercial exhibitor applications are available and currently located on our website at:

<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, Stacey Ellison at sellison@uga.edu or (478)987-2028.



Rendezvous at the Rock
2013 Southeast 4-H Professional Improvement Conference
April 16 – 18, 2013
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

2:00 – 4:00 p. m. Registration
4:00 p. m. Get Acquainted Social
5:00 p. m. State/Group Meetings
6:00 p. m. Social
6:30 p. m. Dinner
8:00 p. m. Opening Assembly/Motivational Speaker
9:30 p. m. Recreation Options

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

7:00 a. m. Breakfast
8:30 a. m. Classes, Workshops, Posters and Exhibitors
10:00 a. m. Break
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 p. m. Classes, Workshops, Posters and Exhibitors
3:00 p. m. Break
5:00 p. m. State/Group Meetings
6:00 p. m. Social
6:30 p. m. Dinner or States Night Out
8:00 p. m. Legend of Rock Eagle/Silent Auction/Live Auction
9:30 p. m. Recreation Options

Thursday, April 18, 2013

7:00 a. m. Breakfast
8:30 a. m. Classes, Workshops and Posters
10:00 a. m. Break
12:00 noon Lunch
1:30 p. m. Classes, Workshops and Posters
 Recreation Options: Canoes, Volleyball, Madison Shopping Trip
5:30 p. m. Social
6:00 p. m. Dinner
7:30 p. m. Closing Assembly/Speaker/Clovers & Company
9:30 p. m. Recreation

Friday, April 19, 2013

6:30 a. m. Breakfast
Homeward Bound!



Ian Cowie, Lumpkin County, wins NAE4-HA 25 Years of Service Award



Laura Garrett,
Henry County

Ian Cowie's enthusiastic spirit of involvement and reaching out to others has resulted in an outstanding career with 4-H over the past 25 years.

Ian began in Lumpkin County as a part-time 4-H Program Assistant which soon expanded to a full-time position and led to his appointment as an Extension Agent in 1989. He worked in the Forsyth County office serving both agricultural and youth development needs before accepting a newly formed position as 4-H Agent for Dawson and Lumpkin Counties. In 2012, Ian was appointed as County Extension Coordinator in Lumpkin County.

Ian has a "get-involved attitude". He reaches out to others. You see Ian hosting and teaching at many district and state events. Work with the 4-H Agent's Association is also important. Ian has served on various committees; was voted as District Junior and Senior Directors; applied and received awards; and participated in state and

national conventions.

Ian has been recognized with professional honors and awards from County Agent of the Year by the Georgia Commercial Flower Growers Association to the Northeast District Booth Award plus numerous awards from the 4-H Agents Association.

Through fundraising, volunteer service, donations, and scholarships & grants, Ian has been a major factor in raising close to \$200,000 that directly helped the 4-H program.

Throughout his career, Ian has been involved with youth development and he strongly feels that 4-H is a major catalyst for improvement. He feels great satisfaction watching kids grow into mature, contributing adults as a result of 4-H participation and it's exciting to be part of the change.

Ian feels he is at the top of his game. His persistent efforts to form a youth leadership training program in Lumpkin County have paid off. Now in its second year, Lumpkin Youth Leadership takes high school freshmen through a

yearlong process of learning and experiences to discover what their community has to offer. "The success of this leadership project is due to the continual support from the local chamber of commerce, the adult leadership program, the school system and North Georgia College and State University. It is taking students to the next level of learning and seeing what makes Lumpkin County such a great community.

Ian states, "Kids only grow when you get them involved with the 4-H program. They develop into a catalyst for change. Over time you see that young person mature into a contributing adult. It is very exciting to see this happen and you being a part of the change. It is now that I am working with children of 4-H members from 25 years ago. They trust the 4-H brand and the people who are involved with it."

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian on 25 Years of Success! We look forward to many more amazing accomplishments from his 4-H program.

NAE4-HA Georgia Award Recipients



Lynn Davis, Turner Co.

2012 NAE4-HA Southern Region Award Recipients:

Diversity – Dorthea Graham, Rose Smith, Keldrin Love, Sherry Sutton

Educational Technology Team – Lori Purcell-Bledsoe, Lauren Healy, Stacey Ellison, Sonya Jones, Melanie Biersmith, Victoria Dotson David, Cheryl Poppell, Julie Lawrence, Octavia Jackson, Rachel Thigpen Stewart, Charlie Wurst, Pamela Bloch, Zona Medley, Rebecca Thomas, Susan Goldman

Excellence in 4-H Club Support Team – Sonya Jones, Ronnie Barrentine, Julie Moore, Nancy Young

Educational Package Team – Amanda Marable, Charlie Wurst, Jenny Jordan, Arch Smith, Melanie Biersmith, Gail Hanula, Lindsey Fodor, Sonya Fears, Marilyn Poole, Sam Pitlard

Periodical Publication Team – Andrea Burruss, Elizabeth Carter, Katie Comer, Tina Maddox, Sarah Burr

2012 NAE4-HA National Awards:

Denise Miller 4-H Innovator Award - Lori Purcell-Bledsoe, Lauren Healy, Stacey Ellison, Sonya Jones, Melanie Biersmith, Victoria Dotson David, Cheryl Poppell, Julie Lawrence, Octavia Jackson, Rachel Thigpen Stewart, Charlie Wurst, Pamela Bloch, Zona Medley, Rebecca Thomas, Susan Goldman

Excellence in 4-H Club Support Team – Sonya Jones, Ronnie Barrentine, Julie Moore, Nancy Young

25 Years of Service – Ian Cowie

Distinguished Service Award – Zona Medley, Kasey Reid, Brandi Shiflet, Monte Stephens

Achievement in Service Award – Melanie Biersmith, Lauren Dye, Mary Ann Parsons, Kate Whiting

Meritorious Service Award – Dr. Laura Perry Johnson



NAE4-HA—A Review in Pictures



GALAXY CONFERENCE

September 16-20, 2013



Terri Kimble, Newton County

Alphabet Soup Pop Quiz!

Do you know the full names of these extension professional associations?
(Answers on page 10)

ANREP _____
ESP _____
JCEP _____
NACAA _____
NACDEP _____
NAE4-HA _____
NEAFCS _____

Bonus Points:

How often do all of these organizations join together for one massive conference? _____

Where is the next meeting going to be held? _____

What is this joint meeting called? _____

How do you get involved!?



William H. Booth Award Winner



Patrick Willis, Berrien Co

The William H. Booth Award, sponsored by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, recognizes outstanding career achievements of county extension agents who work with 4-H youth. The Booth Award is named for Bill Booth, a charter member of Jackson EMC and general manager for 15 years, and a rural electric pioneer who helped form the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Oglethorpe Power Corp.

Extension agents are nominated for the award by their peers and then undergo an extensive application and interview process. An award is presented to a winner from each district with a state winner announced during the annual banquet at State 4-H Congress. This year the state William H. Booth Award winner was Southwest District's Deron Rehberg, County Extension Coordinator/4-H Agent from Grady County. Deron states that winning the award was a humbling experience.

Rehberg manages the Grady County Extension office staff, supervises 34 active adult volunteers and five volunteer-led programs. He organized several successful fundraisers including an annual Vidalia onion sale and designed a University of Georgia/4-H car tag that was sold state-wide. Grady County 4-H's program runs the gamut in offering all aspects of 4-H offering shooting sports, livestock programming, judging events, and teen leadership opportunities.

Deron is heavily involved in his county's livestock programming. He started a popular market goat show program which increased participation seven-fold in only four years. He also works with 4-H'ers with their swine, beef, and sheep projects. He coaches a successful livestock judging team as well, having recently competed at the American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri.

Rehberg has worked with UGA Cooperative Extension for 24 years and says that he contributes his success to his passion for the 4-H program. Growing up an active 4-H'er in the Thomas County program gave him a strong foundation for his career and a strong desire to give back to the program that meant so much to him as a youth.

Rehberg states, "I grew up in 4-H. Now as a 4-H agent, I realize I am in the business of growing young people. It is up to me to make sure their 4-H experience is a positive and enjoyable one. I want to infuse them with tremendous motivation and instill in them an appetite to always do their best and be a success in all that they do. Our goal is to provide a 4-H program which appeals to every child, whether they live on a farm or within the city limit. I enjoy watching my 4-Hers grow and mature as they work their way through their 4-H career."

Georgia EMC, Georgia 4-H, and GAE4H-A's membership congratulates Deron Rehberg on this well-deserved honor.



Southwest Professional Improvement

 Cindy Meadows, Seminole

Cindy Meadows, SW GAE4-HA Junior Director coordinated a Professional Improvement event for all SW 4-H Agents. The overnight training began at beautiful Lake Seminole State Park near Donalsonville, GA. The afternoon began with a relaxing boat tour of Lake Seminole. Rome Ethredge, CEC in Seminole County was our guide for the tour and he explained the dynamics of Lake Seminole, the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers, the power dam and the history of Lake Seminole. Our other boat driver was Mitchell May CEC Decatur County. Rome also explained a great deal about the wildlife and fish of this area. After touring the lake and river areas, the group departed the boats for a brisk walk up to a viewing area to see the rivers from a different view. After a delicious meal, prepared by our hostess, Rome used his boat once again for the evening entertainment. He invited everyone to take turn tubing around the lake. This was lots of fun for the participants and especially the spectators.

The following day we departed from Lake Seminole headed into Donalsonville to the Seminole County Extension office. From there, we headed for Dothan, Alabama. We toured WTVY Channel 4 in Dothan with Mike Smith the General Manager. Mr. Smith's tour was very informative. He described the new transition to HD television and how news is produced and presented to the viewing audience.

After our tour of WTVY, we then went to the Houston County Extension office in Alabama for sharing time with Agents from Alabama and Florida. They shared programs with us that they do in there counties. For example, we learned all about the Skins & Skulls curriculum and even how to start a 4-H Science Fair. Then all of the Georgia Agents shared one idea they do in their county from Leadership Teams to Fund Raisers. Stacey Ellison, current GAE4-HA State Vice-President shared the latest information on the upcoming Southeastern 4-H Professional Improvement Conference April 16 – 18, 2013 Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Southwest GAE4-HA members that participated were Ashley Davis, Lynn Davis, Stacey Ellison, Lindsey Hayes, Cindy Meadows, Zona Medley, Melinda Miller, Kris Peavy, Julia Steed, Deron Rehberg, Kate Whiting, and Cindy Wynn



Ryles Rising Star Award Recipient



Tejal Patel
Sumter 4-H VISTA

Atlanta, GA – Keri Gandy Hobbs, former Sumter County 4-H Agent and current Jackson County 4-H Agent, was awarded the Ryles Rising Star Award, a prestigious 4-H award for outstanding 4-H Agents with less than five years of experience at the 70th Annual Georgia 4-H Congress.

“In the 4 ½ short years Keri has been in Sumter County, she has not only turned around the 4-H program 00%, she has rapidly built an outstanding reputation as one of the best 4-H Agents in the state—both young and old,” stated Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Southwest District Extension Director.

Extremely professional and optimistic, Hobbs is known by parents, youth, volunteers and Extension Staff across the state for her loyalty to her profession and her strive “To Make the Best Better” with her sweet disposition and caring personality she inspires others to be better just by her example. In a short period of time, Hobbs has received numerous district, state, and national awards including but not limited to: SW District Innovation Award Winner, GAE4HA Professional Achievement Award and NAE4HA Power of the Youth Award.

“Keri’s innovative ideas have brought grant programs into Sumter County to further enhance our 4-H programming and therefore provide more opportunity for our 4-Hers,” said Bill Starr, Sumter County Extension Coordinator.

Hobbs’ dedication and sacrifices of long work hours is the reason why Sumter County 4-H is seen as one of the premier 4-H programs in the Southwest District. During the 2011-12 school year, Hobbs had enrolled 974 4-Hers in almost 30 organized clubs and many specialty programs, making Sumter County 4-H the 2nd highest 4-H program in Southwest District with Sumter County only being the 9th largest school system in the Southwest District.

Her perseverance and investment not only makes her a shooting and shining star for the Ryles Rising Star Award but also instills motivation in youth and adults alike to reach for the sky.



ANSWERS to the Alphabet Soup Pop Quiz!

Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals

Epsilon Sigma Phi

Joint Council of Extension Professionals

National Association of County Agricultural Agents

National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

National Association of Extension 4-H Agents

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Bonus Questions:

Every 5 years

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

GALAXY

The answer to number 4 is to first join one of these professional associations (since you're reading this, you're probably already an NAE4-HA member—congratulations!).

Then, mark your calendar for September 16-20, 2013, to join extension professionals from across the country in Pittsburgh.

In addition to the educational exhibits and exciting sessions and speakers available at NAE4-HA meetings, you'll get to participate in events across all the member organizations and meet professionals in all areas of extension.

If you belong to multiple organizations, you'll want to be sure to register through your primary organization so that you'll have a ticket to the appropriate awards banquet. However, you will still be able to participate in activities from ALL the member organizations!

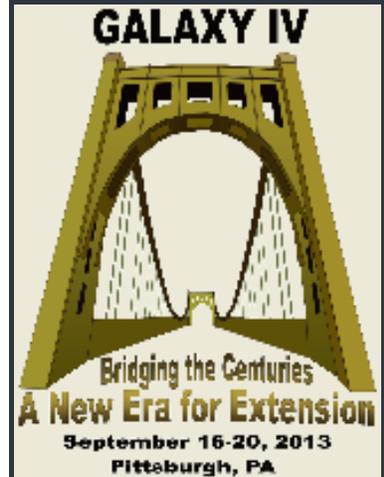
Registration will be \$450, and more details will be sent out by NAE4-HA soon.

Presentation abstracts are being accepted through the beginning of the year.

The website is currently under construction, but preliminary information is available at <http://www.jcep.org/galaxy-htm>. Jule-Lynne Macie, a GAE4-HA member from Rockdale County, is one of the two NAE4-HA representatives on the GALAXY IV steering committee. She's also a Pittsburgh native, so ask her for the best places to eat and socialize!

Several GAE4-HA members are serving on conference committees, so you may be invited to assist with conference activities.

The logo was designed by Newton County agent Terri Kimble.





Georgia Cyber Academy Issue Team wins National Award

 Pamela Bloch, Gwinnett County

The Georgia Cyber Academy 4-H Issue Team was recognized at the NAE4-HA meeting in Orlando as the National Award Winner for the NAE4-HA Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator Award. Georgia 4-H offers a monthly online 4-H program to students at the Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) which serves 9000 students in K-10th grade. Officers are elected electronically and trained to provide leadership opportunities for the students. This program is run by the Georgia Cyber Academy 4-H Issue Team. Members of the team are co-chair Melanie Biersmith, co-chair Lori Bledsoe, Pamela Bloch, Victoria David, Stacey Ellison, Susan Goldman, Lauren Healey, Octavia Jackson, Sonya Jones, Julie Lawrence, Zona Medley, Cheryl Poppell, Rachel Stewart, Rebecca Thomas, and Charlie Wurst.

Each month during the school year, online meetings are offered, at the same time and same virtual location, for both Cloverleaf (4th-6th grade) and Junior (7th-10th grade) 4-H members. The Issue Team member delivering the monthly lesson is responsible for creating the PowerPoint presentation and lesson plan. The lessons allow students to view slides on a virtual whiteboard, interact using a chatbox, and communicate using headsets and/or microphones. Meeting topics included an introduction to 4-H, public speaking, leadership, camp, healthy living, and STEM concepts. 4-H'ers are encouraged to also visit their local 4-H office to participate in traditional 4-H opportunities.

By providing a virtual 4-H program, Georgia 4-H is reaching youth who might not otherwise be exposed since 4-H is traditionally school based. A virtual club that connects these students

to their local 4-H program provides them with socialization, hands-on learning opportunities, and a sense of belonging to an organization with their peers. While 92% of GCA parents feel their students benefit academically, they still want their children to socialize with others outside the use of technology. 4-H provides this opportunity.

GCA 4-H was recognized with the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents award for Educational Technology in 2011, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Southern Region award for Educational Technology in 2012, and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator Award in 2012. Congratulations to the team—we look forward to seeing this program expand even further!

A Note for the Winter Edition of The Peach Press



Thanks to all those that submitted articles for this Fall Edition! The next edition of the Peach Press is due to hit your hands in February.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Send in photos and articles!

Do you have stuff in your office that you want to get rid of? Send in your name, county and the stuff you want to rid of! Your trash is another's treasure!

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

AND All members are asked to:

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

DEADLINE IS JANUARY

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