

TAE4-HW Headlines

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Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers



Important Reminders

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Ready for the National Meeting

by Sandra McKinney and Judy Ashley, Co-Chairs



Atlanta, GA • October 21 - 25, 2007

*Registered Under 15B S.C. 202

The NAE4-HA annual conference has always been the highlight of the year for many 4-H professionals. With nationally recognized speakers, entertainment and venues this year's conference will continue that tradition. Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland will perform along side Georgia 4-H's Clovers and Company at the opening event in Centennial Olympic Park. This is just right outside our headquarters hotel, the CNN Omni. Although expecting twins in January, Nancy Grace, noted CNN correspondent, is still planning on addressing the delegates during the conference. Grace, being a former Georgia 4-H'er will speak

directly of the impact that 4-H has made on her life.

Other highlights of the conference include over 100 seminars to choose from, our mid-week event at the Georgia Aquarium and a room full of commercial exhibitors to visit during the week. We look forward to hosting you in Atlanta October 21-25 and remember, "4-H: A Peach of a Profession".

Note: Don't forget to let Melissa Henry know if you will be there for States Night Out! Plan to share something from the National Meeting at the TAE4-HW State Meeting in May or the State Volunteer Leader Forum in March.

4-H Foundation & Tennessee 4-H Alumni Work to Identify Former 4-H Members *by Mark Gateley, Extension Specialist*

In a few months, county Extension 4-H workers will benefit from a new effort by the Tennessee 4-H Foundation and Tennessee 4-H Alumni organizations. An internet-based, secured database of former 4-H members is being developed to benefit county Extension staff members conducting 4-H youth development programming. Why? Former members are a great source of volunteers and contributions. As we all know, staying in touch with former members is a difficult task. The Foundation and Alumni organizations hope to assist with the development of a secure, user-friendly system for Extension 4-H workers.

The first part of the system -- inputting information -- has already begun. Go to <http://4hfoundation.tennessee.edu> and click on "Alumni Registry" to see one of the input mechanisms already in place. (Go ahead and submit a form while you are there!) Group uploads will also be possible when routed through the state 4-H office. The state list of graduating honor club members, for example, will be uploaded to the database each year.

When the system is ready to go online, Extension staff members can password into it and generate reports or labels, add alumni names and information, and/or edit names and information of your county's 4-H alumni in the database. Sorting the database to target specific areas, such as project, school or age should be possible when the system is up and running.

Extension staff spend a lot of time and energy serving current members (as we should). Wouldn't it be nice to stay in touch with them as they mature into productive citizens who are capable and willing to give back to the program?

President's Parting Remarks!

by James McMillion, TAE4-HW President

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for the past year. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your support and your contributions to TAE4-HW and to the 4-H movement state and even nation wide. You will all certainly hear more from me as Past-President and chair of the Nominating Committee, so plan to say YES when you are called.

I wish to share some of my past highlights of the office and some things I look forward to. You might say it's my top ten reasons you should run for and serve as an association officer.

10. You get to work with the cream of the crop to better the best.
9. Your working knowledge of the Association increases exponentially.
8. As President, you get to work with the state council, a group of exceptional young people.
7. As President, you get to attend National 4-H Conference and Congress and Round-Up receptions to thank donors and sponsors.
6. You will get to meet people you may not have otherwise.
5. Your leadership and citizenship skills grow by leaps and bounds.
4. Your colleagues need you to step to the plate.
3. You get this big notebook (numbered and all) with "stuff" to carry around.
2. You get to visit with state senators and house members to thank them and tell them what is going on in your neck of the woods. (Legislative Ham Breakfast)

AND NUMBER. . . .

1. You get special treatment at the end of your tenure – you get to donate to the past president's fund and get up an hour earlier than the rest at state conference. (I look forward to this one)

In closing, I would like to share a quote that has meant a lot to me. I do not know the author, but he/she nailed all of us with this.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we can understand. We understand only what we are taught."

I think of this every time I work with a group, whether young or old. It helps me keep focused and understand why some things go wrong when they do and why people do not always see things from my perspective. So, it goes without saying that we need to teach understanding.

Spotlight on New Member

by Kathy Finley, Headlines Editor



Amanda Gray started in Wilson County in November 2006. Before that she worked in Kentucky Extension with split responsibilities in 4-H and adult FCS. A graduate of Tennessee Tech University, Amanda received her degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, with an endorsement in Clothing & Textiles, in May 2005. She is also certified to teach grades 5-12 and certified in Family & Consumer Sciences by AAFCO. During college, Amanda was very involved in the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and was an Ambassador for the College of Ag/Human Ecology. She may be remembered as working two summers at the 4-H camp in Crossville as the Crafts Instructor and one summer as Program Assistant.

She is from the Pickett County area and active in 4-H in high school. Amanda's mother was a 4-H'er and her grandparents were school teachers, where they had 4-H in their classrooms. Amanda's younger brother was in 4-H and her younger sister is still in 4-H. She has always loved 4-H and says she is very excited to be working in Wilson County - it's a great county. There are so many things she wants to do with club meetings, project groups and Jr. High/Sr. High groups. She says she gets excited about all these things and has to remember to pace herself to accomplish the things she wants to do. Kudos to Amanda and her State winning dairy products judging team!

Bits and Pieces

Middle School Programming in Cheatham County

Cheatham County provides the On My Own program to all 7th and 8th grade students in three public middle schools. There are more than 900 youth who participate in the program. Each school is unique in the way that the program is carried out through a partnership with Extension. One is primarily led by the guidance counselors. One is a team approach with Extension and guidance counselor. The third is primarily Extension with an adult and student component during the simulation. On My Own is implemented in two to four sessions (depending on the school). The two session include a preparation session and then the simulation session. The additional sessions include either a follow-up with the teachers or counselors or the career assessment.

Other recruiting of middle school students is key when parents/volunteers are involved. Also if there are a few students who have a great time in an activity word of mouth can do great things for involvement. Including activities in newsletters, newspapers, and on the web can create interest in the program.

Nancy Rucker

Madison County Program Ideas

The best way we have found to encourage middle school 4-Hers is to go to the school 1st thing on a given date from our sponsor there and we fan out and go into each room and give a 5 minute spill about 4-H- (they were usually enrolled last year so they know about it) and leave the enrollment sheets and upcoming dates for the next 5 months clubs and what they need to bring to each meeting for the contests. We pick them back up or the teachers pick them up and place them in the sponsoring teachers box. Each month we send newsletters to each of the ones signed up and they can only come to the meeting if they have an item for the contests. I also meet with the lifeskills teachers and teach the new Food Guide Pyramid and make fruit smoothies every 6 weeks for each of the 7th-8th grade classes. We also teach the On My Own to the 7-8th grade classes.

Sharon Tubbs

Davidson County Middle School WORKS Program

We have been very successful with our 4-H WORKS (Workforce Opportunities Relating Knowledge and Skills) afterschool program. This multi-session (10 - 13 sessions depending on the school/afterschool site) teaches youth about planning for their career, resumes, interviews, dressing for the job/interview, etc. The classes are one hour sessions, taught by high-school 4-H members, and designed for 6th - 8th grades. It has been very popular with the 4-H youth and the teachers/afterschool directors. If you would like a copy of the agenda for the program, please let me know. *Justin Crowe*

Note: No, you did not miss this issue the first time. Please accept my apology for the tardiness of this issue of Headlines. Keep sending news and sharing program ideas - the next issue will be out in December. "Bits and Pieces" will focus on ideas for S.E.T. - Science, Engineering and Technology.

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