Wow - so many wonderful things have occurred since our last newsletter! Where does one begin?

Eight clubs were represented at our January Leadership Council meeting and everyone seemed geared up for another ECA year! Leadership Council meetings are open to all members.

The Ag Center Lobby was the place to be on February 5 for the third Serendipity Afternoon Tea. Proceeds from the Tea go to the Betty Watson Memorial Scholarship fund. Just last week one of the attendees expressed her appreciation for this event for the “community as it is such a nice event in the middle of winter”.

Congratulations to those who entered items in the Cultural Arts competition and thanks to those who attended the reception held to announce the results of the judging!

And then there was the county-wide afternoon program on “Helpful Hints for the Home Horticulturist” which Shannon Braswell presented for ECA. Again, the lobby was full to hear Shannon explain what plants do well in Stanly County, those that don’t, how to fertilize and prune; and what to do for insects and weeds. And, he answered pertinent questions right and left throughout the presentation.

There were members from all our clubs at Achievement Day which was one of the best attended in several years. Judi Coen did a great job planning for this annual event and it showed. Congratulations to all who received awards, certificates of perfect attendance and long term continuing membership!

It has been my pleasure to visit with three clubs and the opportunity to get to know your members and put faces with names! Thanks for that invitation.

We interviewed candidates for a new agent back in January to replace Molly but funding fell through; we have written letters to our county commissioners and to legislators in Raleigh to support Cooperative Extension Service rather than cut funding drastically, attended a District Advisory Council Meeting in Sanford and Leadership Team meeting in Elizabethtown, contributed to a 4-H Advisory Council meeting, participated in the Anson-Stanly Counties efforts to boost the economy through creative emphasis on assets in each county.

And we prepared and served our Ninth (I think) annual Concert Dinner Meal thanks to all who assisted in one way or another in preparing, baking, serving, etc.

We all look forward to the unveiling of our “Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Service” 100 Years History book on May 25th in Raleigh. Please let me know if you are interested in attending this event prior to May 10.

There are more interesting and worthy activities planned for this year. Club Presidents will receive information on these as details are finalized for sharing with all members. In the meantime, THANKS TO EVERYONE for all you do for ECA. Let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Jane

100 Year History Book Unveiling and Hall of Fame Induction on May 25 in Raleigh

Emphasis during the past one and a half years has been on activities throughout the state on the history of FCS and ECA. We all have the opportunity to witness the unveiling of the history book and induction of the first 25 individuals into the Hall of Fame on Wednesday, May 25, at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Ticket cost to attend the Celebration is $40. We will bring back our copies of the books and have them for sale at $40 each - over 300 pages, lots of pictures and articles on Stanly County are to be included.

We are planning to rent a van to attend this celebration. If you are interested in attending, please let Jane Rogers (704.983.2490) know as soon as you possibly can as the reservation deadline is May 13. Over 200 tickets had already been ordered as of April 12.
Achievement Day

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, the Stanly Extension & Community Association celebrated our 90th annual Achievement Day awards activities at the Agri-Civic Center. The theme this year was “The History of Stanly County and Its People” focusing on early industry, cities, and inhabitants.

The day was perfect with sun shining, a fabulous Carolina blue sky, and a warm breeze blowing. Trees were already budding with leaves and jonquils and forsythia were in bloom. It was as though spring had come early, just for the ECA event!

The lobby of the Agri-Civic Center was beautifully decorated with spring flowers, sprays of cotton and colorful spools of thread, reminiscent of the early cotton mills; a display of photographs taken during the early development of the county and personal historic items and photographs brought in for display by the members.

The program opened with the welcome and invocation led by Jane Rogers. All members and guests were invited to enjoy a delicious brunch, provided by members representing all clubs.

After brunch our guest, NC Senator W. R. Purcell, Democrat from Laurinburg, spoke a few words congratulating the ECA women for their service and contributions to the community.

Guest speaker, Jonathan Underwood, Director of the Stanly County History and Preservation Museum, presented an interesting, informative and often humorous facts about the early history of Stanly County.

Lori Ivey, County Extension Director, extended greetings and welcomed all to the Achievement Day event. Guest entertainers were "The Silver Liner Dancers" from Concord. They danced and sang tunes that kept toes tapping and spirits soaring. Everyone participated in the “Wally Wo” Dance along with the performers.

Special recognitions and awards, the purpose of Achievement Day, were presented by Ruth Cotton, Awards Chairperson. Tyson Club was recognized as ECA Club of the Year and Miriam Cranford, Oakwood Park Club member, was recognized as ECA Member of the Year. Jane Rogers received the ECA Leadership Award and Judi Coen received the ECA-CVU Service Award for 2010. It was also noted that our group provided 10,502 hours of volunteer service in 2010 with a value of $212,676.

On a more somber note, Grovene Dry led the membership with memorial thoughts for those member who passed away during 2010. The presidents of the clubs to which the deceased belonged were...
Another successful Serendipity Afternoon Tea was held on February 5, as a fund raiser for the Betty Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Ag Center lobby area was decorated using tea cups and saucers as this year’s theme and other tea memorabilia and a large tea cup holding flowers, etc. Thanks to all who had a hand in helping to set up, prepare food, and clean up. Teamwork really shows in Stanly County!

Approximately 168 patrons were in attendance including immediate past State ECA President Joyce Kluttz (Cabarrus County) and past South Central District ECA President Sandra Nobles from Columbus County along with others from nearby surrounding counties.

Numerous savories and sweets were served as well as a sweet potato scone with honey-molasses flavored butter. English breakfast tea and green tea were served throughout the afternoon and this year a “Hip, Hip, Hooray” ending included a spiced tea and cookie.

Entertainment was provided by a Gospel Quartet from the Red Hill Baptist Church in Ansonville which was both enjoyable and inspiring. The group had several people making arrangements for them to sing for other groups.

The event was especially relaxing with the sun shining following threats of snow and ice earlier in the week.
Annex Club  All members were in attendance at the monthly luncheon at the Senior Center for their Christmas Social....It just so happened that Mr. and Mrs. Clause were the featured speakers for the luncheon and we all enjoyed hearing them tell about their experiences. We had a special treat for Valentine’s Day and all members received a small box of candy. Two members attended the 90th Annual Achievement Day event and recognized for their 27 and 39 years of perfect attendance. Former member Rachel Smith was memorialized with an impressive ceremony when each representative took a balloon outside and released it. We all enjoyed the “Spring Cleaning - Green Cleaning” program in March. Our members have had to back off on a lot of things they love to do but we still hold together.

Daytimers Club members have been busy with Serendipity Tea III and Achievement Day—baking, serving, and making the beverage of the day! Even our members who have had surgery have continued their work while recuperating. Georgine Clontz wrote club news for the Stanly News & Press while recovering from having both knees replaced. Between having surgery and an unrelated hospitalization, Bertha Wilkinson painted a blue ribbon watercolor, which will go on to district competition in April. We missed Mary Garris at Achievement Day because she had just gotten out of the hospital; but she remembered while in the hospital that she had committed to making a casserole! She called on our meeting day to make sure someone in the club would handle that for her. Daytimers are dedicated members! We will participate again in the Fight Hunger! Matching funds program benefitting Stanly Community Christian Ministries’ Food Pantry.

Fairview Club These little “Kitchen Helpers” went home with Fairview ECA members following our delightful annual Christmas social at the home of President Diane Stevenson. The excellent luncheon was prepared and enjoyed by all members and one guest. As a result of all the wonderful food, we looked forward to the January meeting when favorite recipes were shared. Members enjoyed making the “Kitchen Helper” and being together with our ECA friends. The Fairview Club was started in 1958 and charter year president Blue Honeycutt continues to be an inspiration to current members of the club. We greeted the New Year with the “Cook Smart, Eat Smart” healthy eating program presented by Jane Rogers. Jane shared information and recipes from the sessions conducted last fall as well as some of the “15 Minute Soup” and “Black Bean Dip”. Brenda Cox, a member of the Oakwood Park ECA Club, presented an excellent program on Estate Planning in February and urged everyone to get all our legal documents and important information in order and family members know where these are. Members were also busy helping with the Tea and entering items in our Cultural Arts competition. Since we had our Kitchen Helpers and had our soup, we enjoyed our Spring Cleaning/Green Cleaning program in March presented by Danni Rogers. It was great to get Green Cleaning recipes to take home for reference when cleaning. We congratulated Diane Stevenson for the knitted baptismal dress she made winning the “Best of the Show” ribbon and had ten people who attended Achievement Day.

Remember - send pictures with news items for the newsletter.
**Kirk Club** had a really good attendance at their annual Christmas dinner at which time they took up money to help a neighbor in need. We had to cancel our January meeting because it snowed. In February we adopted North Albemarle School to help with needs of children there and each member brought five to ten items of underwear for boys and girls to give to the school in April. When we renovated our building in 2009, we replaced the meeting room windows only. We are now selling Rada knives with the hope to install new windows in the restroom, hall, and kitchen areas by this fall.

**New London Club** Spring is coming and the New London Club is looking forward to warm weather projects. To recap the last three months, January was spent reviewing the Christmas holiday, handing out 2011 calendars, yearbook inserts, rosters, and planning our hostess list. In February our program was “Slow Cooking”. We ate lunch prepared completely in the slow cooker such as Slopping Joes, Peach Cobbler, and Chocolate Pudding Cake with a side of chips and pickles. The ladies form the New London Town Hall joined us for lunch and we shared our recipes with them. Several members assisted and attended the Serendipity Tea Party, enjoyed the informational meeting with Shannon Braswell, donated baby gifts to the hospital for special needs mothers, and collected money for the annual Achievement Brunch. During March we gathered Easter candy for the Spring Arbor Easter Egg Hunt, recapped the Achievement Awards Brunch, and heard about the activities of the upcoming Uwharrie Senior Games and Siler Arts. Several members expressed interest in helping during the Concert Dinner in April. Announcements were made about South Central District Day, Leadership Council meeting, Taste of Home Cooking School, and the Stamp Mill Café. This quarter we wished Eva Aldridge, Betty Shackelford and Kayla Shomaker a “Happy Birthday”. The March program was on “Green Cleaning” and everyone enjoyed getting the recipes for a safe way to clean their home. As always, members collected Box Tops for Education, greeting cards, soup labels and soda tabs while receiving special monthly gifts, samples and new product information.

**Millingport Club** At Christmas we had a Christmas Cookie Exchange and made a donation to the battered Women’s Shelter. Congratulations were extended to Jeanette Raybon for her blue ribbon winning entry in the Cultural Arts event held in February. We enjoyed hearing Laura and Ruby talk about the good time they had at the Serendipity Afternoon Tea. We have all our programs and hostess lined up for the year as well as different projects we are hoping to do this year. Laura Hatley did an excellent job in presenting our March program on “Spring Cleaning - Green Cleaning” in addition to serving as hostess. She had a display of common household items on a table when we arrived. During the program she combined certain ingredients for a general purpose cleaner and then divided it up into spray bottles for each member to take home. All our members were present and look forward to using recipes for cleaners which were provided.

**Norwood Club** Some interesting facts about the Norwood ECA Club were discovered while reading an early history report. Records show that the Norwood Club was one of the first Home Demonstration Clubs in the county. It was organized in 1918 (maybe 1919) probably as a Tomato Club. By 1938 there were 15 Home Demonstration Clubs in the county and each club had a booth in the county fair! And in the same year twenty-one women went on a tour to the Furniture Exposition in High Point! (Wonder what mode of transportation they used and how long it took them to drive.) A current member (that would be Patsy McNeill) of the
Norwood club learned from the history that her grandmother was the chairman of the Better Homes Campaign in 1938 in Norwood. The report stated that everyone of the 15 clubs participated. The Norwood Club decided their beautification project would be to plant shrubbery around the parsonage. (The current member wonders which church parsonage was chosen since her grandmother went to the Presbyterian Church but her grandfather was a member of the Baptist Church!!) Another interesting point learned from the 1938 report is that men and women met together as the County Organization to discuss needs of their township. Following that meeting the group separated into the Board of Agriculture (men) and the women met for County Council.

Oakwood Park Club members are happy to welcome Vadies Bailey as a new member. We look forward to having Vadies with us. Congratulation to Geneva Poplin who won two blue ribbons in the Cultural Arts Contest. The items will be taken to District Cultural Arts contest April 19 in Bladen County. Eight members attended Achievement day in March. Patty Morton received the Lesson Leader of the year and Miriam, ECA member of the Year. Sympathy is extended to Margaret Deese and her family for the loss of Margaret’s husband Tony. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret as she has had a stroke as well. Our next meeting will be held April 19 at Rosebriar.

Tyson Club regrets to report that we began this year with six fewer members that we had in 2010; however, in February we gained a new member and we are happy to have Geraldine West. Our loss of members was due both to illness and death and we understand that all of our clubs (10) are experiencing the pains of this type of transition. It is extremely important that all of us work together to provide encouragement and support for each other. Eight of our members along with three guests attend the Serendipity Tea Party in February. Everyone had a great time and compliments are coming in about the event. Barbara Tucker gave the program on pruning and distributed handouts she had gotten from the Extension office. Jahala Williams and Elaine Hibbs provided refreshments. We have a club house which is shared with the Aquadale Lions’ Club and in March in keeping with our educational program on cleaning the ladies of the Tyson club opted to spend some of meeting time giving the club house a long overdue cleaning. After a short meeting and refreshments provided by Jahala Williams and Louise Taylor, we all rolled up our sleeves and went to work. Nine members attended the annual Achievement Day event on March 12. Members invested time and materials to make plastic bag storage socks given to everyone attending the event as well as provided food for the delicious brunch served at the event. The Tyson Club is pleased

Community Concert Dinner

The annual concert dinner meal was provided on April 16. Volunteers helped with food preparations on Friday afternoon, April 15, and Saturday afternoon, April 16 to complete preparations, served dinner attendees, and cleaned up. Thanks to those who agreed to make a dessert as well. It is through teamwork that we are able to accomplish this. So give yourself a big “Pat on the Back” if you are one of those who came to help!

CVU Information

Hours of Volunteer Service reported by 39 members for 2010 totaled 10,502! Interesting fact: 5551 hours were recorded as ECA Hours and 4915 hours were recorded as service to other venues. Thanks for your efforts to record the time you shared with others.

Continue to keep up the great work you do and reporting what you are doing - every small bit of time is important to report. These reports also help the state in receiving funding for our agents.

Next Leadership Council Quarterly Meeting
July 21, 2011

All club officers and members are encouraged to attend to hear what our organization is currently doing and to be involved in planning for future activities and events.
Shannon Braswell presented an outstanding program on the different shrubs, fruit trees, berries, and lawn maintenance on February 24th. A couple of our clubs made this their monthly meeting program. Attendance was great - we had to bring in more chairs. Throughout the session, those in the audience asked important questions and Shannon provided the needed answers. Participants also received two handouts with information to help them grow better fruits/berries, etc.

Lori Ivey and her counterpart from Anson County are coordinating these “Creativity, iNC” sessions. The first session was held in Anson County; Stanly County hosted the second session at Dennis Vineyards, on April 14. The goal of these sessions is to come up with new ideas on how creative concepts can fuel and enhance economic development. It is important that we use creativity to “create new products, re-imagine old ideas, see unlikely connections, and develop novel solutions to complex problems”…Institute for Emerging Issues, NC State University, January 2010.
Ann Batts died in October 2010. Although she was not with the New London ECA Club her last year, she had been an active member for many years. She worked faithfully on the Concert Dinners and served as a member of ECA Committees for her club and County. She earned her recognition for “In Memory”.

Grovene Dry
Memorial Thoughts
Achievement Day

May 25, 2011
Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Service Celebration in Raleigh
June 30, 2011
Partners In Touch News Due
July 7, 2011
ECA Leadership Team
July 21, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
Leadership Council
September 8, 2011
Craft Workshops

From the Desk Of Lori Ivey County Director

Update on filling the vacant FCS position - we just completed the second round of interviews for the position and we had very good interviews. Hope to have news saying that we have someone ready to begin in the position on June 1!

Check Your Calendar

Getting ready for the Concert Dinner it appears that Olga and Jeanette are solving the problems of the world!
Reports from the South Central District meeting on April 19 indicates that Stanly County did well in the Cultural Arts Competition!

- Dannie Rogers - Her winning poem
- Geneva Poplin - Kitchen Wall Hanging
- Diane Stevenson - Beautiful white knit baby dress
- Jeanette Raybon - Painting
- Jane Rogers - Hand painted scarf & Stained Glass tray

It was also announced that Jane Rogers was the District Outstanding ECA Member.

Stanly members traveling to Lu-Mil Vineyard in Dublin on April 19 for the South Central District ECA Meeting:
- Jane Rogers, Judi Coen,
- Miriam Cranford, Ann Duckwall, Diane Stevenson,
- Alice Ridenhour, Laura Hartsell, Elaine Hibbs,
- Jeanette Raybon, and our great driver, Lori Ivey!