A Big THANK YOU is due to our scholarship committee for doing such a great job on selecting our two scholarship winners this year. Wanda Mills was selected as the adult winner and Orin Felix was selected as our youth winner. Both of these individuals will receive $200.00 from Onslow’s ECA County Council to continue their education. Their applications have been forwarded to the district committee for consideration at the district level. Thanks a lot for a job well done and good luck to our winners.

I hope you enjoyed hearing Ivy – she was right on target with what I wanted her to do. The book is really good so I was glad to see that Sneads Ferry gave the book to the Club Woman of each Club. Ladies, please share and do a book report!

Speaking of book reports, you need to consider doing more of them. Your reports were down by at least 100 this year compared to last year. I am afraid the library will choose to quit sponsoring the award if we don’t have more participation… just three or four from each member would be wonderful! I know you’re reading - you just need to write! Thank you Sue Janning, Kathy Cook, Gloria Wiley, Donna Williams, Ida McNamara and Pat Schmauss for submitting reviews … and Pat, our apologies for not being recognized as a participant. You were on the list!

Congratulations to all of our winners:

Associate of the Year – Donna Williams
Outstanding Club – Meadow View
Outstanding Club Member: Harmony – Jean Ross
                                   Jacksonville – Kathy Cook
                                   Meadow View – Donna Williams
                                   Sneads Ferry – Barbara Nichols
Lesson Leader – Barbara Crossman
Scrapbook Awards – Harmony – 1st
                                    Sneads Ferry – 2nd
                                    Meadow View – 3rd
Reading Awards – Gloria Wiley – 1st
                               Donna Williams – 2nd
                               Sue Janning – 3rd
                               Kathy Cook – H.M.
Table Decorations: Sneads Ferry – 1st
                                Meadow View – 2nd
                                Harmony – 3rd
                                Jacksonville – 4th

As I’ve said many times, to me you are all winners! I am very blessed to have each and every one of you in my life. Thanks for who you are and all that you do!

District Day
Please have your checks into me by March 12th if you plan to attend District Day. It is due to Jones County by March 15th and I want to make sure we get ours in on time. If
you do not have the information form that was given out at Achievement Day, please let me know and I will gladly send you one. Cathy and I will be driving and you are welcome to ride with us. We have already given Jones County the $25.00 check for hospitality.

*Silent Auction* - We need to obtain three gifts for the silent auction; two at a $10.00 value each and one item at a $15.00 value. Please let me know if you have anything you can donate for this. We have also been asked to coordinate the silent auction event for Jones County this year. We will need about five people to help with this. If you are willing – please let me know. This means that we will not be able to leave immediately after the day is over – we will need to be available until individuals pick up their items. It shouldn’t take much longer but I want all of you to be aware.

**Cultural Arts Contest**

Our cultural arts contest is March 11th. All items need to be into my office by 10:00 a.m. Ladies, please share the beautiful items that you make. The tables at Achievement Day showed how creative you can be so there is no excuse for not entering anything!

**Cultural Arts Day**

I hope all of you are registered for our Cultural Arts Day. It is great that it is right here in our county … you don’t have to travel far - just to the office! There are still a few spots left so please join us for a day of fun.

**Leader Training**

There will be no Leader Training for the Month of March.

**County Council Meeting**

The County Council meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 10:00 a.m. All county council officers, club presidents and any interested members should attend. There are a few items already on the agenda. We will discuss the silent auction items (what to do if they are not donated), the county council officers for next year (we need someone to volunteer for 2nd Vice-President), providing and serving refreshments at Deppe Park in April, etc. Please call either Ida or myself if you have questions regarding any of these items or would like to add items to the agenda.

**Deppe Park Grand Opening**

The Deppe Park will have its Grand Opening on April 18th at 10:30 a.m. ECA has been asked to help by donating and serving refreshments as you have at past events. County Council will discuss participating at their meeting on March 13th. One of the nice things about this opening is that our office, Cooperative Extension, is actually doing work in this park. Our master gardeners, staff members and other volunteers are planting trees along the trail so we’ll eventually have an environmental area in the park.

This will be a different type park than the others in the county. It will focus on the environment and natural resources, and will be a great place for families. There will not be any basketball courts or any other sporting events in the park.
HELP NEEDED

The staff is going to Greenville on Wednesday, March 12th, for a mandatory regional meeting. We need volunteers to answer our phones while we’re gone. If you are available and would like to help please call Cathy or me. I really do appreciate all the help you give us.

Spring Trip

Last year we had a great day going to the Aquarium in Carteret County. I would like to plan another spring trip but I need ideas on where to go. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for a one-day trip.

Daylight Savings Time

By Phyllis McGinley

In spring when maple buds are red,
We turn the clock an hour ahead;
Which means, each April that arrives,
We lose an hour out of our lives.

Who cares? When autumn birds in flocks
Fly southward, back we turn the clocks,
And so regain a lovely thing
That missing hour we lost in spring.

Don’t forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 9th!

Onslow County Farmers’ Market

The Onslow County Farmers’ Market will re-open on Saturday, April 19th at 8:30 a.m. The market has new hours for 2008; Tuesdays and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This is the general market open date and not the seasonal Grand Opening which will be scheduled later.

Recipe Corner

15 Minute Chicken Gumbo

Non-stick cooking spray
1-16 oz pkg frozen gumbo-style vegetables, (a mixture of okra, peppers and onions)
1 Tb all-purpose flour
29 oz canned diced tomatoes, with mild or jalapeno chilies
12 oz grilled chicken breast, about 3 cups
1 tsp Creole seasoning

Coat a large skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Add vegetables and sauté over high heat, stirring frequently for 2 minutes. Stir in flour and cook 1 minute more. Stir in tomatoes, chicken and Creole seasoning. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until hot, about 6 minutes. Serves 4 (approx. 1 ½ cups per serving, 3 pts per serving) Source: http://www.halfmysize.com/recipes/
Banana Raisin Bread Pudding

2 cp 1% milk  
1 cp fat-free half and half  
3 large eggs  
2 egg whites  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/8 tsp nutmeg  
1-16 oz loaf raisin bread, cut into 1” chunks  
1 medium banana, sliced  
1 Tb powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 dish with nonstick spray. Whisk together milk, half and half, eggs, egg whites, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a large bowl until blended. Stir in bread and banana; let soak 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Spoon the bread mixture into the baking dish. Bake until knife inserted in center comes out clean and the top is lightly browned, about 1 hour. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve at once. Serves 6 (7 pts per serving). Source: [http://www.halfmysize.com/recipes/](http://www.halfmysize.com/recipes/)

Easter Reflections  
by Helen Steiner Rice

With OUR EYES we see  
The beauty of Easter as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear  
The birds sing sweetly to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick  
the golden daffodils and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS can we feel the MIRACLE of GOD’S LOVE which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL can we make our 'pilgrimage to God' and inherit His Easter Gift of ETERNAL LIFE.

Happy Easter!

Peggie L. Garner  
County Extension Director

It's Time for Spring  
by Bobbi Katz

My sweater's tight and itchy.  
My snow pants are too small.  
Last week I lost a mitten.  
I can't find my scarf at all!

My woolen socks have lost their toes.  
My boots have lost their tread.  
And I have lost the love I had  
For words like "skis" and "sled"!

But . . . my fishing rod still fits.  
And . . . my baseball bat still hits.  
I have a kite that wants to fly.  
So . . . winter, call it quits!