January 2009

**Happy New Year!!!**

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to start a new year. I pray all of you have a safe and happy year ahead of you.

**January Meetings**

Several of the clubs have had to change their meeting dates in January due to the holidays or the cruise. Please look at the club meeting schedule to see the dates of the January meetings. I will be giving you new notebooks at these meetings.

**S$ Master Farmer Luncheon S$**

Kathy Cook and Ida McNamara are going to need help with the Master Farmer’s luncheon scheduled for Thursday, January 8th. Presidents, please call Ida by Monday, January 5th to advise who in your club can assist. Kathy usually does most of the cooking but there is still some work to be done while the meal is being prepared.

**Leader Training**

January leader training has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Learning Center. Robin Seitz will be the presenter. The topic will be “Creating Connections with Schools”. Please make sure each club has a member attend the training!

**Cruise**

A large group, 97 to date, will be loading a bus on January 10th headed for a cruise ship in South Carolina for the Bahamas. Please keep us in your prayers while we are gone. We will dock back in South Carolina on January 17th. I will be back in the office on the 20th.

**Achievement Day Theme**

Achievement Day is scheduled for February 24th at 10:00 a.m. and the theme will be “Celebrating Volunteerism.” We will decorate our tables on Monday, February 23rd at 3:00 p.m. In preparation for Achievement Day, I need the following items turned into me by the following dates:

- Book reports – January 23rd
- Scrapbooks – January 23rd

**Speaker**

I have someone in mind to be our presenter but need to wait until after the holidays to approach her since she is very busy with volunteers right now.

**Entertainment**

Please let Kathy Cook know if you have ideas for the entertainment. She has been very helpful securing our entertainment in the past and I am sure she would love some help. I have approached someone but they have not confirmed at this time.

**Officers**

We will be installing new county
council officers this year. Ida will soon be contacting the current officers to see what part of the program they are willing to do.

Outstanding Awards. Please be thinking about whom you think has represented your club the most in 2008 and also who presented the best and most informative leader lesson. These should be voted on during your January meeting.

Meal. There has been discussion about having the meal catered with members paying for their own unless the club chooses to pay for their members. County Council would pay for all guests. I need each club to vote during your January meeting and let me know the outcome. Two clubs, Harmony and Meadowview, already voted ‘yes’ when I met with them in December. I will need to hear from Jacksonville and Sneads Ferry before I can proceed. We can discuss this more at your January meeting but feel free to call me before then if you have ideas or questions.

Scholarship

The deadline for the ECA scholarship is February 1st. It has to be postmarked by that date or hand delivered to the office by that date. Please 'spread the word' and tell interested individuals to call the office for more information. The information has already been mailed to the high schools as well as the community college.

Recipe Corner

Banana Split Cake

1 pkg Graham cracker crumbs
1 12 oz. whipped topping
1 lg pkg instant vanilla pudding
3 lg bananas, sliced
1 20 oz can crushed pineapple
1 can chocolate syrup
1 6 oz jar Maraschino cherries
Chopped nuts, optional

Prepare the pudding according to package directions. Let set in refrigerator. Prepare graham cracker crust according to package directions. Cover the bottom of a 9x13 oblong dish with graham cracker crust. Top with ½ pudding mixture. Layer with half of the bananas followed by half of the crushed pineapple. Repeat with pudding, bananas and pineapple. Top with whipped topping and chocolate syrup drizzled over top. Place cherries (and nuts) randomly over top. Serve chilled.

2009 Recipe Challenge

Please don’t forget the Recipe Challenge Robin issued in the December newsletter! We’re looking forward to trying your recipes!

NIX ON NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

By Mariane Holbrook

I have suffered persecution for last New Year’s resolution
Which I vowed and took a pledge that I would keep.
When the threat of execution seemed the only good solution
I decided then and there to take the leap!
I had promised I would diet
and I’d try hard to be quiet,
Never mentioning the
chocolate cake I missed.
So I exercised by running
so I’d end up looking stunning.
Not a person saw me hiding
my clenched fist.

I ate tons of food for rabbits
and tried breaking my bad habits
Of just eating any food that was in sight.
I ate so much lettuce salad
that my skin turned very pallid
And my hair became so dry I was a fright.

I drank tons and tons of water
like a cow that’s going to slaughter
So I slogged my bloated self
to our old couch.
There I sat and thought of eating
but I knew it would be cheating.
It was clear I was becoming an old grouch.

I’ve decided to forget it,
though I know that I’ll regret it,
So I’m heading to the kitchen for some pie.
I’ll enjoy a little let-up,
it was nothing but a set-up,
If you ask me how I’m doing,
I’ll just lie!

NEW YEARS’ WISHES 2009

May you get a clean bill of health from your
dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-
enterologist, your urologist, your
proctologist, your podiatrist, your
psychiatrist, your plumber and the IRS.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift,
your abs and your stocks not fall; and may
your blood pressure, your triglycerides,
your cholesterol, your white blood count
and your mortgage interest not rise.

May New Year’s Eve find you seated around
the table together with your beloved family
and cherished friends. May you find the
food better, the environment quieter, the cost
much cheaper, and the pleasure much more
fulfilling than anything else you might
ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you,
and what others see in you delight them.
May someone love you enough to forgive
your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and
tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their
sales calls until you finish dinner, may the
commercials on TV not be louder than the
program you have been watching, and may
your check book and your budget balance –
and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say “I love you” at
least once a day to your spouse, your child,
your parent, your siblings; but not to your
secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your
hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And may we live in a world at peace and
with the awareness of God’s love in every
sunset, every flower’s unfolding petals,
every baby’s smile, every lover’s kiss, and
every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous
beat of our heart.

Happy New Year!

Peggie L. Garner
County Extension Director
offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating