State Meeting
I forgot to mention at our Area Meeting that we have two members that placed at the State Meeting in the Cultural Arts Contest. Ruth Clifton and Nancy Goad placed second place in their categories. Congratulations to both of you. Keep up the good work.

Festival of Trees
I have not heard the count yet on the number of attendees at the Festival of Trees but I know it had to have been more than last year. Many thanks to all of you who helped in one way or another to make the event successful.

December 2009

I wish all of you could have been with us on Monday to see all of the children. They were so cute and their manners were wonderful.

The cookies and juice that were left over were given to different groups that could use them. I am trying to put a file together so we will have an idea of how much was purchased this year and that should help us in planning for next year.

Sad News
Most of you have heard by now that we lost another member in November. Sue Janning, Harmony Club, passed away on November 20th. Sue will be greatly missed. Please continue to keep her family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through the holidays without her.

Holiday Wreaths
We have ordered our wreaths for this year. Our goal was 200 and we actually placed an order for 210. Some of the staff will go to Raleigh and meet the Brookgreen Family on December 1st to get our wreaths. They will be ready for pick up on December 2nd.
If you are going to pick up wreaths for other people who may have ordered wreaths – please have them call their office so we will know it is alright with them for you to pick them up. We have had a couple of problems with that in the past.

Thanks to all of you who sold wreaths. We hope that each year we will sell a few more.

Elder Cheer
The 4-Hers will be putting the baskets and tins together on December 8th. If you have any items that you are going to donate for the Elder Cheer Program, please have them to the office no later than December 7th.

Lake Waccamaw donation
Six ECA members went with me to Wilmington to donate the Christmas ornaments, decorations and other items to Lake Waccamaw. Tom Lamont was very pleased with the items you donated. He was really excited about the ornaments that you made and the wreaths that were made and donated by the Carteret County members.

Thanks for opening up your hearts and giving of your time to help others in need.

Foster Children
I have contacted Linda Taylor to find out if the children you have adopted had any extra items on their Christmas wish list. She has requested the list from the social workers but did not have it in time for the printing of the newsletter.

Once I receive the information I will get it to you. You actually have some ideas from the list you received when you adopted your current children.

Please have any Christmas item for your child (children) to me by December 14th. That will give one week for the staff to get the items to the children before the holidays.
Thanks for opening up your hearts and your wallets to children that may not have a Christmas present to open on Christmas morning if it were not for you.

**Luncheons**
You have two fundraising luncheons coming up in the New Year. You have the Master Farmers luncheon on Jan. 7th and the Financial meeting on Feb. 10th. Both of them will be here at the office in the Multipurpose Complex. **Presidents: please have a couple of members from your club volunteer to help with the luncheons. Kathy Cook has volunteered to coordinate but there is much work to be done and volunteers will be needed.**

**Achievement Day**
Everything is taken care of for Achievement Day. Please mark your 2010 calendars for Feb. 22nd in the afternoon for set up and the 23rd for the actual program.

I need your book reports as soon as you have them completed. I challenged all of you in April to do at least one book report each month. Only a few of you have taken me up on the challenge. **Remember: if you don’t have many reports turned in the library has every right to not support this endeavor.**

**Scrapbooks** will also need to be collected in January so the newspaper will have plenty of time to look at them and select the winners.

The table decorations will also need to go with our theme of “Celebrate 275”. Remember we are celebrating Onslow County being 275 years old in 2010. Start thinking of how you want to decorate.

**Merry Christmas**
I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. I also want to thank you for everything you have done this year in the name of ECA and Cooperative Extension.

It has been a very busy and different type of year with many of life’s events. Some of those have been Robin announcing her pregnancy and having a beautiful baby girl and not to mention taking a lllllllooooorrrrrrrnnnnngggggg maternity leave; Cathy retiring and us not being able to hire someone in her position; and Greg also deciding to retire and us not being able to replace his position. I also cannot forget that we lost another staff member, Brenda Brown, with us losing our Smart Start funding.
The staff has had challenges with all of these changes but as a team and with the great help of all our volunteers, like all of YOU, has made the challenges less monumental.

Thanks seems such a small word but please know that it comes from a heart that is very full of gratitude for all that all of you do for Onslow County Government and the people of Onslow County.

May the holidays ahead be safe and happy times for all of you. Please take time to see how much we all have to be thankful for and to be with family and friends.

Recipe Corner

Apple Spice Eggnog

3 (32 ounce) cans of Borden Eggnog, chilled
3 cups apple cider, chilled
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions

Peggie L. Garner
County Extension Director

Employment and program opportunities are 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