Important Dates:

Aug. 14: County Council Picnic, Rec. Park
Aug. 31: Deadline for Mini-Garden Journal Entries, Sunflower Contest Entries
Sept. 7-16: Mountain State Fair
Oct. 12-21: North Carolina State Fair

Inside this issue:

• Fashion Revue/Craft Fair & Talent Showcases
• Volunteers Honored
• Project Book Awards
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• Fun with Fundraising II
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They say time flies when you’re having fun. Well, Buncombe County 4-H’ers have had sooooooo much fun this summer, and the summer has flown by sooooooo fast that we had to do a quarterly newsletter to cover it all!

Hope you enjoy it!

Buncombe 4-H’ers Demonstrate a Multitude of Talent!

Two acts were selected to represent Buncombe County at the West District 4-H District Activity Day at Brevard College in June. They include “The Cascades,” a variety sister act performed by Erin, Kristen and Robyn Thames (shown at left), and Austin Maynor’s recitation of “The Dirtiest Man in the World” (below) by Shel Silverstein. Alternates for these acts included Savannah Maynor’s piano solo and Justine Haynes’ vocal solo.

Nearly 75 Buncombe County 4-H’ers, their parents and volunteer leaders crowded into the chapel of Eliada Home on Saturday, April 21st, to showcase the multi-faceted talents of our 4-H’ers.

County Council President Rachel Winebarger of Growing Branches 4-H Club emceed our 2007 Buncombe County 4-H Fashion Revue/Talent Showcase and Craft Fair which featured eight talent acts, five models and nearly 60 craft entries.

The talent judges were so impressed by the performers that they awarded blue ribbons to all the junior and senior level acts. Although ineligible for competition, two Cloverbud acts—piano duet Jabin and Rebekah Sprinkle of A Brighter Tomorrow 4-H Club and Fiddle soloist Ethan Morris of Kids of the Kingdom 4-H Club—were commended for excellent performances.

Continued on Page 2
This year’s 4-H “Garden Party” themed Fashion Revue featured one Cloverbud, three Junior and one Senior model. Cloverbud Ruth Ann Mowrey (far right) of Growing Branches 4-H Club, was a vision in white in her long white cloak reminiscent of Galadriel of Lord of the Rings fame. Fellow club members Autumn and Jessica Parham (left in group photo) received red ribbons, respectively, for their skirt and poncho entries; and At Large Junior members Savannah Maynor (center) and Jordan Cauble (second from right) were blue ribbon winners for their respective entries: a two-piece pink and white ensemble, and a daisy-print skirt and matching top.

For the second year in a row, Savannah took home the honors as both Junior and Overall 4-H Fashion Revue Winner.

All of these ladies looked lovely in their creations, and we want to commend them on their efforts! Way to go!!!!

There were nearly 60 entries in 15 categories in this year’s 4-H Craft Fair. Rachel Winebarger of Growing Branches 4-H Club was the Senior Division Winner for her knitted baby cap, and At Large member Austin Maynor was the Junior Division and Overall Craft Winner for his framed drawing of a Victorian house.

Buncombe Talent Acts Bring Home Blue Ribbons from 4-H District Day

Buncombe County had a great showing in the 4-H Entertains showcase at West District 4-H Activity Day at Brevard College on June 28th. The “Cascades” (a.k.a. the Thames Sisters—photos on page 1) brought home blue ribbons for their performance, as did Justine Haynes (at right) who sang “Part of Your World” from Disney’s The Little Mermaid. The judges were so wowed by the Thames sisters’ act that they asked them to return after lunch to perform at the awards ceremony for all the DAD participants and their families. This was quite an honor since only two acts are asked to perform in the afternoon. We are very proud of all of these performers.

4-H Volunteers Honored

Two Buncombe County 4-H volunteer leaders were recognized at the DOVIA Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Crest Center on April 21. Kim Eggert, leader of Horse Spirits 4-H Club (left), and Becky Winebarger, leader of Growing Branches 4-H Club, were presented certificates recognizing their exemplary leadership and the impressive role models they provide at both the county and district levels. The program recognized volunteers from organizations across Western North Carolina and was emceed by WLOS’s Tammy Watford.

We want to congratulate both of these leaders on this recognition and thank them for their continued service to the young people of our region.

Two Buncombe Record Books Receive Medals

Erin Thames, Senior member of A Brighter Tomorrow 4-H Club received a gold medal for her Animal Science 4-H Record at the May County Council Meeting. Audreya Shepherd of Sandy Mush 4-H Club was also recognized for the bronze medal her Animal Science record earned.

Congratulations!!!

Page 2
Buncombe County 4-H’ers Make Great Showing in Presentation Competitions

Erin Thames (right) prepares to give her award-winning presentation in the Small and Companion Animal category in county presentation competition on May 31. Erin’s was one of five blue-ribbon presentations that went on to compete at District Activity Day at Brevard College on June 28. Those other presentations included a Junior Science and Technology presentation by Kristen and Evan Thames, a Junior Poultry presentation by Hannah Justice, a Senior Forestry and Wildlife presentation by Justine Haynes, and a Senior Open Class presentation by Rachel Winebarger.

At District Activity Day, Erin Thames and Justine Haynes each received gold medals in their respective categories, while Hannah Justice and Rachel Winebarger brought home silver medals. This qualified all four of them to compete in State 4-H presentation finals at NC 4-H Congress in Raleigh on July 17. At that time, Erin received a gold medal for her presentation, and Rachel and Hannah each received bronze medals.

All of our presenters have worked hard at honing their public speaking and presentation skills this spring and summer, and we want to commend them on their efforts. Congratulations!

Buncombe County 4-H Participates in 4-H Citizenship NC Focus

Three Buncombe County 4-H teens and an adult volunteer leader were among the over 150 youth delegates and adult volunteers who gathered for the second annual 4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus which seeks to inspire and expand active, engaged youth citizenship at the local, state and federal levels.

Highlights of the event included a presentation by NC Spin, a legislative breakfast, visits by the delegates with their respective Senators and Representatives, numerous legislative focused workshops and a closing luncheon with the keynote address provided by First Lady Mary Easley.

The Buncombe County delegation, which included Abby Fleming (left, above) and Rachel and Andrew Winebarger (far right), was recognized on the floor of the NC House of Representatives when Representative Susan Fisher (second from left) addressed a joint session of the NC Legislature on June 20. Mrs. Becky Winebarger (not pictured), leader of the Growing Branches 4-H Club, also participated in the event.
Buncombe Welcomes
Jeff Bradley, New Livestock Agent!
At long last, Buncombe got a new Agriculture Extension Agent on April 9th. He is Jeff Bradley, and he will be responsible for livestock and field crops subject matters in Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties. Jeff lives in Rutherford County with his wife and two children, and has experience as both a vocational ag teacher and an Extension agent in Polk County.

One of Jeff’s responsibilities is our Buncombe County 4-H Livestock Judging Team, and he has worked hard with it since he came on board. He gives us this report on the team:

“The Buncombe County 4-H Junior Livestock Team has had excellent participation this year. There have been up to 16 4-H’ers, a few of which are Cloverbuds, in attendance at our practice sessions. Michael Joe Holt and Don Austin have been volunteering their time to help with coaching these students.

“The State Livestock Judging Contest was held in Raleigh in July and our team members gained valuable experience during the judging competitions and the Skillathon. It was a great learning opportunity for our folks, most of whom are new to the judging process. We look forward to continuing a strong program in the future.”

We welcome Jeff and look forward to working with him on lots of livestock-related 4-H programs down the road. For more information, give Jeff a call at 255-5522.

Buncombe Takes Three Junior Teams to State Livestock Judging Competition
Fifteen Buncombe County 4-H’ers and their parents converged on the NC State Fairgrounds July 10-12 for the State Livestock Judging Contests and Skillathon. The 4-H’ers made up three Junior Judging Teams with one Junior Individual and two Senior Individuals. For all but three of the competitors, this was their first trip to a state judging competition, so it was a great learning opportunity for them. The placings of the competitors from our county were as follows:

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<th>Team I</th>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth Austin</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Dalton Cooper</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Erin Bishop</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Bill Jones</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Maynor</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Tucker Worley</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel West</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ty Worley</td>
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These folks have been working hard since March to prepare for this competition, and we commend them on all their efforts. We also want to thank coaches Don Austin and Michael Joe Holt for their leadership and assistance in preparing these young people to compete. We look forward to seeing them in more competitions down the road!
4-H Program Associate Resigns to Make Career Change

It is with great sadness that we say “good-bye” to our 4-H Program Associate, Barbara Sloss, who is returning to school in the fall to train for a new career in dental hygiene. “Ms. Barbara” has been a great asset to the Buncombe County 4-H program during her nearly two-year tenure with us, bringing great energy, enthusiasm, creativity and caring to her role as coordinator of 4-H afterschool, volunteer and summer programming. Under her leadership, our 4-H program has reached many new audiences, increased visibility in the community and strengthened its educational programming efforts.

Some of the programs Ms. Barbara planned and implemented during her time with us included the “4-H Family Fun Fest” at Swannanoa 4-H Camp last summer, “Money Grows on Dreams” career and money management program for teens, a comprehensive 4-H volunteer leader training program, and the recent, highly successful “Exploring the Treasures of 4-H” Cloverbud Day Camp held at the Swannanoa 4-H Camp this June. In addition, she took junior Buncombe County 4-H’ers to a week-long camp at the Eastern 4-H Center this summer, and she has taken 4-H adult volunteers to the last two NC 4-H Volunteer Leaders’ Conferences in Research Triangle Park.

While we will miss her dedication and contagious energy and enthusiasm for our 4-H program, we wish her the very best as she embarks on this new phase of her life’s journey. And she promises to volunteer with us in the future, so we will be sure to take her up on that offer! All the best!!!

Buncombe 4-H’ers Love 4-H Camping Experiences at the Eastern 4-H Center!!!

Ms. Barbara took two 4-H’ers to the Eastern 4-H Center during the week of June 24-29. At Large member Kate Ford (l) and Tessa Jones of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club (r) came back very excited about their camping experiences. We’ll let them tell you in their own words about the fun they had! Here’s what Tessa had to say:

The camp is a good learning experience in teamwork, sportsmanship and in other outdoor activities. At the camp there is a climbing wall, swimming pool, kayaking, canoeing, (T.C.C. team challenge course), arts and crafts, archery, riflery, sports, a dance and nightly activities. You can forget “nasty” camp food because the food there could rival your mom’s! The cabins are air conditioned (thank goodness!) and the bathrooms are really nice. All the counselors are very friendly, and the camp does not tolerate bad behavior so everyone is friendly, too. My cabin friends and I agree it is a five-star camp and can offer something for everyone!

Kate shared these impressions of camp:

Eastern 4-H camp was not only a challenge, but also a great time to make friends from different parts of North Carolina. We did activities each and everyday such as volleyball, miniature golf, swimming, many different arts and crafts, canoeing, archery and rifle marksmanship. Each day was booked full of activities and the TCC. The TCC is a challenging course that helped everyone discover what teamwork really was, which is what everyone needed in order to complete this course. The counselors were great. They really cared about you and your problems. Many of them were from out of the country. The cabins were very clean and nice. Each day we all pitched in to keep the cabin clean and that is what won my cabin the Cleanest Cabin Award. I loved the food! It was very healthy and good. My favorite dish was the Swedish meatballs with the pasta. Yum! Over all, this was an awesome experience and I hope to go back next year.
**Buncombe County 4-H’ers Into Serious Horsin’ Around…**

Members of Buncombe County’s three 4-H horse clubs have been seriously busy with their horse activities this summer. On Saturday, April 14, the Asheville Highriders’ 4-H Club held a successful Schooling Show at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Marshall to help 4-H’ers from across our district prepare for the West District 4-H Horse Show. Ten riders took advantage of the opportunity and learned a lot about successful showing!

The West District 4-H & Open Youth Horse Show (the district qualifying event for the NC State 4-H Horse Show) was held at the WNC Ag Center on Sunday, May 6th, and riders from all three of our Buncombe County 4-H Horse Clubs participated. We had a great showing, with several of our riders coming in first or second in their respective classes. Natalie Montini, Junior member of Horse Spirits 4-H Club, was the High Point winner in Western Division. Four Buncombe County 4-H’ers qualified to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show in Raleigh July 11-15. They included Julia Grace Schniendewind of Homegrown Friends 4-H Club and three members of Horse Spirits 4-H Club (shown l-r, above): Natalie Montini, Isabella Bonessi and Buna Selz-Mandell. Because we had not received the official list of placing for the State Horse Show events at the time of this printing, we will include in in our next issue of the Clover Gazette. However, we can tell you that Buna Selz-Mandell qualified to compete in Southeastern Regionals in Memphis, although she opted not to attend this year. We want to congratulate all of these 4-H’ers for going so far in their 4-H horsemanship competitions!

Way to go, ladies!

In addition, two of our 4-H Club leaders, served on the West District 4-H Advisory Board to plan and implement both the District Horse Show and the WNC 4-H Horsemanship Clinic which took place at the WNC Ag. Center June 11-13. Both Kim Eggert, leader of the Horse Spirits 4-H Club and Vada Campbell, leader of the Asheville Highriders 4-H Club, served as volunteer clinicians at this year’s three-day event which was attended by nearly 120 youth from across the region. We want to thank them for their dedication.

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**Cloverbuds Explore the Treasures of 4-H at Day Camp in Swannanoa**

Although the Swannanoa 4-H Camp is officially off-line this summer, Buncombe County 4-H was fortunate to be able to hold a three-day Cloverbud Day Camp at the facility, July 10-12, Led by Ms. Barbara with help from Ms. Mary and Senior 4-H’ers Abby Fleming, Erin McGlaufflin and Rachel Winebarger, Exploring the Treasures of 4-H was a fun and adventure-filled experience that introduced 13 5-8-year olds to the many different projects and activities 4-H offers.

The highlight of the camp was Tuesday afternoon’s Stream Stompin’ where campers waded in the stream and explored the treasures that hide beneath rocks and foliage. Campers also took hikes and played games through which they learned about insects, trees and other aspects of our natural world. In true camp fashion, they learned to build a camp fire and cook on its coals. They also learned camp songs and made up skits to share with parents and grandparents at the Thursday night dinner, and they made puppets and a patchwork mural, pieced together from individual art creations.

Even more important than these skills, however, were the friendships the day campers made as they learned to work and play together! Campers had so much fun they didn’t want to leave at the end of each day!

We want to thank our teen 4-H volunteers and Mr. Chance Eckles, Interim Director of the Swannanoa 4-H Center, for their help in making this day camp such a rousing success! It was a hit with both campers and parents!
Fun with Fundraising...Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Since the spring, our 4-H clubs and County Council have been busy—not only with 4-H programming, but with fundraising to support those program opportunities. Five of our clubs plus the 4-H staff took orders for bulbs and plants from the Dutch Mill Bulb Company. Mrs. Becky Winebarger helped Ms. Mary tally the orders, and Rachel Winebarger, our County Council President, verified the cash and checks, made the deposit and wrote the check for the order on April 4. Altogether, we sold a total of 626 plants—that represented gross sales of $3,130.00; we also had a $5.00 donation from an Extension Master Gardener.

Because we paid for the order at the time it was placed, we also received a 2% discount, making the net proceeds $1,596.30. The proceeds were split between the County Council and the clubs whose members raised the funds. And because we opted to take a cash rebate instead of incentive prizes, we were able to fund at $25.00 Clover Cash certificate to the 4-H member who sold the most. That Clover Cash certificate was presented to Hannah Justice, our County Council Treasurer, at the Awards Ceremonies at Eliada Home on April 31st. Hannah, a member of the Sandy Mush 4-H Club, sold $300 worth of plants and bulbs!

In addition, to the spring plant/bulb sale, members of Horse Spirits 4-H Club participated in the River Walk Walk-a-thon on April 21, raising $70 for their club and another $70 for the County Council. Many thanks to Kim Eggert for coordinating this effort.

Then on July 12, 20 4-H’ers and parents from A Brighter Tomorrow, Growing Branches and Sandy Mush 4-H Clubs raised over $450 in a fundraising carwash and bake sale at Sam’s Club in Asheville to help the 4-H’ers who were competing in State 4-H presentation finals at 4-H Congress pay for their expenses. We want to thank the management of Sam’s Club of Asheville for supporting this event, and Mrs. Ellen Haynes and Mrs. Joyce Thames for their coordination of this worthy activity.

Since the spring plant/bulb order sale was so successful, the County Council voted to do a fall sale. The order forms have been requested, and hopefully will be here for our County Council picnic on August 14. Orders can be placed with the company between September 15 and December 1, so we will have more time to take orders this fall.

Ms. Mary will be getting more information out to club leaders as soon as she receives it. Be on the lookout!

County Council Picnic Scheduled for August 14 at Rec Park

At our last County Council meeting, we had discussed having our picnic at the Governor’s Western Residence. However, that location was not available on the date of our schedule meeting, so we will be holding our potluck picnic in the first picnic shelter to the left of the bridge at Rec Park (same location as last year’s picnic). The 4-H office will provide paper goods, drinks and a sandwich meat tray. Each family should bring a food dish to share.

All clubs are encouraged to participate and join in the fun. We’ll not only have great food and games, but we’ll make plans for our County Council exhibit entry for the Mountain State Fair.

Club leaders have already been contacted by e-mail and/or phone, but this is just a reminder to give us a call at the 4-H office by 5:00 pm Monday, August 13, to let us know how many folks are coming from your club so we’ll have enough supplies. We look forward to seeing you there!

Making Plans for this Year’s Fairs (for logos and more info, see page 8)

The 2007 North Carolina Mountain State Fair will be held at the WNC Ag Center September 7-16. For the past several years, our County Council has constructed an educational exhibit, and the premiums we have received for those exhibits have been used to fund scholarships to District Teen Retreat. If we want to have an exhibit this year, we need to get a committee hard at work within the next week—we’ll try to come up with some work day dates and times at our County Council meeting. Be thinking about how we might design a winning exhibit around the theme “Full Throttle Fun!” . We need all of your creative ideas.

To get entry forms for individual entries to the Mountain State Fair, log onto their website:
http://www.ncagr.com/markets/fairs/mlnfair/catalog.html

Also, the North Carolina State Fair is scheduled for October 12-21 at the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Remember that our County Council voted to do the exhibit for this year from the West District, so we’ve got to get that exhibit in order, as well.

Updates on Mini-Garden Project and Sunflower Contest

We have 20 4-H families who are participating in this year’s 4-H/Extension Master Gardener® Mini-Garden Project. Ms. Mary, Ms. Barbara and Ms. Suzanne Wodek have visited the gardens twice this summer, and we are anxious to see the finalized gardening journals of those who are participating. Please make sure that you get your gardening journals into the 4-H office at 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, by 5:00 pm, Friday, August 31. Ms. Mary will be contacting the participating families personally with details about our potluck celebration date and time.

Also, for those of you growing sunflowers for the 4-H Sunflower Contest, please get your seed head entries (one per 4-H’er, only please) into the 4-H office by 5:00 pm, Friday, August 31. DO NOT wrap your seed heads in a plastic bag because they will tend to mold. Attach an index card with your name, age (as of January 1, 2007), phone number and club name when you bring your seed head.

If you have any questions about either of these projects, give Ms. Mary a call at 255-5522.
Pictures are needed for the Buncombe County scrapbook. Please include a sentence describing the photo. You can e-mail them to Abby Fleming at: AbbyFleming@charter.net

Individuals with disabilities who would like to participate in any program mentioned in this newsletter but who need special assistance to do so should call the Extension Center at (828)255-5522 at least five days prior to the event.

4-H Presentations at the Mountain State Fair

The folks at the Mountain State Fair office are looking for 4-H'ers who would like to give their presentations at the fair. Presentation times are in 15 minute slots and are available on Saturday, Sept. 8th from 2:30-5:45 pm and on Saturday, Sept. 15th from 3-5:45 pm.

To sign up for a time slot, please call the fair office at 687-1414 or e-mail tamara.crain@ncmail.net

Mary S. Clayton-McGlauflin
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development