North Carolina Cooperative Extension’s State Advisory Council applauds the Moore County staff of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service for hosting the advisory meeting in February.

Craven Hudson, Cooperative Extension director for Moore County, welcomed the council with some background information on the history of Pinehurst, which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed the landscape at Central Park in New York City and the landscape at the Biltmore Estate.

A characteristic of Olmsted’s design is evidenced by the winding roads around Pinehurst, with plentiful pines keeping the area looking green year-round.

Southern Pines, known for its golf tournaments, will host the 2007 U.S. Women’s Open Championship this summer.

Dr. Kevin Gamble, associate director of eXtension, gave the council an overview of eXtension (a Web site partnership with 74 land grant universities). The site uses the same technology as Wikipedia. More than 3,700 extension agents have already registered with the eXtension program.

“You can submit a question online and an extension agent will respond within 24 hours,” said Gamble.

Along with Cary McSwain, Moore County manager, the council was treated to informative visits to the Equine Health Center (a satellite campus of NC State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine) and the First Garden project at Southern Pines. During the visit, advisors helped youngsters with the first plants of the season.

Many Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners work on the First Garden.

Another presentation at the meeting was made by former advisory member Jim Tobin and his wife Tammy about their 8,000-mile ocean journey from Fort Lauderdale to Venezuela.
Scotland County advisory council tours NC A&T

Scotland County’s Cooperative Extension Advisory Council visited North Carolina A&T University, toured the campus and heard reports from Extension staff members.

The tour’s purpose was to educate advisory council members about the land grant university’s resources and extension programs.

Attending the tour were Cathy Graham, North Carolina Cooperative Extension director for Scotland County, Brenda Gilbert, advisory council chair; and council members Kathy Lockey, Leon Butler, Beatrice Sams, Lynn Poe, Francine McLaurin, Bunny Anderson and Gray Gilbert.

The visit was planned by Dr. Dan Lyons and included presentations by A&T faculty members who work in a variety of extension programs. Following the presentations, the council lunched in the faculty dining room and toured various campus facilities, including the experimental farm and Aggie Stadium.

Members enjoyed learning about the various university programs, including women in farming, the Farmers Adopting Computer Training program, Community Voices: Leadership Development for Community Decision-Making and plasticulture projects.

After the tour, Sams said, “I was impressed by how we are moving fast-forward with technology while still trying to bring young people into farming.”

Francine McLaurin was interested in the Farm Serve Program that sends volunteers to Africa. “I’ve been thinking about volunteer work and that was an extra push for me,” she said. The council members, half-joking, then talked about making Africa their next field trip.

The advisory council, which meets monthly, raises money from local agri-businesses to finance its field trips, which have included N.C. State University, Camp Millstone 4-H Center, Mountaire Poultry Farm, Black Gold Potato Farm, NC Sandhills Research Farm, St. Andrews Presbyterian College Equestrian Program, Prestwick Village Assisted Living Center and Cypress Bend Vineyard.

Following the most recent tour, advisory council members returned to Scotland County more aware of opportunities provided by Cooperative Extension through its partnership with A&T. “Now we’re better prepared to serve as advocates for local programs,” Gilbert said.

Extension hosts Rotarian friendship team from México

By Gabriel Soltrén, State Advisory Council Member

“You are like angels to us,” said Silverio Cardenas, an engineer from Mexico City, to David Dycus, state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences area agronomist and Lee County North Carolina Cooperative Extension advisory board member. “What you are doing is not only helping North Carolina but also my country.”

That was last November, when N.C. Cooperative Extension in Lee County hosted business leaders from Rotary International in Mexico City at the County Center. Cardenas spoke after Cooperative Extension’s North Carolina Latino Outreach Team (NC LOT) presentation, which included a presentation by Dycus on the need for farm labor.

During the presentation, the team shared with the Rotary visitors how Extension reaches out to address Hispanic immigrants’ needs. Cardenas observed that experiences farmers gain in North Carolina benefit their county many times over when they return home.

Supporting the team’s presentation was Dr. Joe Zublena, associate Extension director and director of county operations, Dr. Wanda Sykes, Extension Southeast District director; Susan Condlin, Extension director for Lee County, and Dr. Andrew Behnke, human development specialist in North Carolina State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. NC LOT members Sykes, Condlin and Behnke were on the México visit.

When NC LOT, consisting of 26 agents, flew to México (Continued on page 3)
From the Director

By Dr. Jon F. Ort
Director
North Carolina
Cooperative Extension Service

Striving towards ‘One North Carolina’

This year’s North Carolina Cooperative Extension annual conference in March was the second time that the conference included faculty and staff from NC State University’s Office of Extension, Engagement and Economic Development, but it won’t be the last. Working in cooperation with others to achieve our goals — across universities and even within them — allows everyone to achieve more for the land and people of North Carolina.

Dr. Jim Zuiches, Vice Chancellor of Extension, Engagement and Economic Development, and the Hon. Bob Etheridge welcomed conference-goers and encouraged attendees to learn from one another and develop new partnerships to meet the needs of North Carolina’s residents and businesses. Following the opening session, Cooperative Extension faculty and staff met to hear the latest news from Dr. Ray McKinzie and faculty and staff hired in response to the change initiative we began three years ago.

It’s interesting to note that the same process of self-examination, environmental screening and restructuring programs and measurement is now being undertaken on the national level. The Extension Council for Organization and Policy has determined that marketing is their number one priority for the next two years.

I’m quite pleased, but not surprised that North Carolina has taken the lead in this regard as it has in so many other areas.

Our Advisory Council plays an essential role in the change management initiative as it has in so many other Cooperative Extension programs. As we move forward to meet the needs of North Carolina’s growing and changing population, we’ll need the engagement, advocacy and sounding board skills that this council has always provided.

By the annual conference’s third day, new friendships had formed across organizational, academic and institutional boundaries and lots of fresh ideas were flowing as we met together for a final address from UNC System President Erskine Bowles.

Bowles called on the conference-goers to use their skills, imagination and abilities to create the personal growth and economic development needed to create “one North Carolina,” where all state residents benefit from the wealth of knowledge created by its academic institutions.

I am confident today that Cooperative Extension will continue to make enormous contributions toward these goals. As we discover new ways to achieve them, by recommitting to our mission, vision and values — which after nearly 93 years remain unchanged — that means working with great partners whose wisdom we value and whose advice we trust. We have those in abundance with the State Advisory Council.

Again, I’m quite pleased, but not surprised, because that is what you have always done and that is what we will continue to do together.

Rotarian — from page 2

México in March they visited Oaxaca state to meet and develop a network of leaders and develop an understanding of the culture.

“I will carry home more than imagined and hold México in my heart,” said one Extension team member of the visit. Upon their return the team planned to improve programs for new North Carolinians from México and other Latino/Hispanic countries.

Gustavo Jimenez, with the Rotary International group from México City, presented Condlin with books in Spanish about children, adolescents and drug prevention geared to teach parents how to detect drug abuse. The group’s goal: partnerships not only to distribute the books, but to also “train trainers.”

Members of Rotary International, which sponsored the friendship visit, are planning eight projects that include distributing 800 drug-prevention books in Lee and Chatham counties and developing water purification systems in more than 20 Mexican schools.

Visit the Advisory Leadership System Web site at http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/AboutCES/als

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/AboutCES/als
By Pam Dickson

North Carolina Cooperative Extension’s State Advisory Council would like to shine a spotlight on one of our distinguished members, B.A. Smith.

B.A., who hails from Stanly County, is serving his first term with the advisory council. But he already had North Carolina State University ties, because that’s where he received his Ag. Ed. degree.

A retired U.S. Air Force Col. and base commander, he served on the staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a decorated combat pilot from the Vietnam War who attended the USAF Pilot School, Squadron Officers School, Command and Staff College, Air War College and numerous other schools. He put that experience to use when chaired the local airport board.

B.A. now operates a large cow/calf farm business and owns/manages numerous residential rentals. Even with his busy schedule on the farm, he is involved in many community and state activities, chairing the Stanly County Extension Service Advisory Council and the local Southern States boards, and the loan committee of the Bank of Stanly, of which he is a board member. He also serves on the local EDC board.

President of the Stanfield Lions Club, B.A. is a North Carolina Cattleman’s Association member, and finance committee member and church clerk at Stanfield First Baptist Church.

You’d think he wouldn’t have time for anything else, but believe me, B.A. hardly ever turns down an opportunity to help out with anything that you ask him to do. He works hard for all the citizens of North Carolina through his community memberships and his membership on our State Advisory Council. It is with members like him that we can do what we do for the University and make sure our message of who we are is getting out to all the people of the state.

B.A., we salute and admire you for all you have done for us, both past and present, and look forward to a long future working together to help make North Carolina an even better place to live and work.