Penny Hill Extension volunteers are honored

Since 1979, North Carolina’s Office of the Governor has honored the true spirit of volunteerism by recognizing individuals, groups and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community through volunteer services. The Governor’s Medallion Award for Volunteer Services is presented to the top 20 volunteers in the state.

The Penny Hill Extension Club of the Granville County Extension Volunteer Association was one of the 20 statewide recipients of the Volunteer Service Medallion Award. Penny Hill was also the recipient of the Granville County Volunteer Service Award.

Penny Hill is a diverse group of 14 volunteers who donated more than 1,900 hours to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, churches and other charitable endeavors in 2010. The group was involved in 19 major service activities in Granville and surrounding counties.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension State

N.C. State Chancellor visits Cumberland County

More than 60 people gathered to talk with N.C. State University Chancellor Randy Woodson at an alumni reception held at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Cumberland County this summer. Retired four-star U.S. Army General Dan McNeill, former Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, was in attendance. The program opened with several songs by the 82nd Airborne Division’s All-American Chorus. The musical group is composed of troopers representing every unit within the division.

Woodson met one-on-one with numerous alumni at the gathering. The chancellor gave remarks and received many questions from the crowd. He discussed the North Carolina state budget for 2012-2013 and its impact on programs at the university.

According to Lisa Childers, county Extension director, Woodson demonstrated an impressive depth of knowledge about N.C. Cooperative Extension and the land-grant university mission.

Addendum: The Penny Hill volunteers, shown here, are honored by the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Services. Penny Hill is a diverse group of 14 volunteers who donated more than 1,900 hours to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, churches and other charitable endeavors in 2010. The group was involved in 19 major service activities in Granville and surrounding counties.

Advisory Council member Mary Ann Lumpkins, from the North Central District, is a member of this group.
Dr. Tom Melton has been named the new associate director of Cooperative Extension at N.C. State University, with specific responsibilities in agriculture (including all horticulture), natural resources and community development.

Melton is excited to be back in a position where Extension is his total job. He feels that N.C. Cooperative Extension has a great mission and great people to fulfill it. He looks forward to working with you to keep Extension strong and working for North Carolina.

He has been a part of the Extension family for his entire career, starting as a campus specialist at the University of Illinois, where he received his Ph.D. in plant pathology after receiving his bachelor’s degree in botany and his master’s degree in integrated pest management at N.C. State. After serving two years on faculty at Illinois, Melton accepted a position back at N.C. State as an Extension specialist and assistant professor in the Plant Pathology Department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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The mission of a County Advisory Council is to help N.C. Cooperative Extension serve the needs of county citizens as a model educational delivery system.

2,750 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of $804, or $.29 per copy.
South Central District joins “Hungry to Help”

By Esther Collier
State Advisory member, South Central District

Hunger is a problem hiding in plain sight in North Carolina. Whether it involves skipping meals, eating less than is needed to live a healthy life or making do with foods that are filling but not nutritious, hunger’s effects can be devastating, especially among our more vulnerable citizens, including children and older adults.

To combat hunger the N.C. 4-H Youth Development Program and the Food Bank of North Carolina have teamed up to promote awareness of hunger in North Carolina. The initiative is “Hungry to Help.” On Jan. 28, advisory members from 15 counties in South Central District lent their support to the program, as they assembled 3,500 food backpacks for children in need. These backpacks help to fill a need on weekends when children are out of school.

The 118 attendees were exposed to great local food and were encouraged to support their local 10% Campaign, since lunch was provided solely from district suppliers.

Fenton Wilkerson, co-founder of Sandhills to Table Cooperative (SF2T), a community-owned and Moore County-based business cooperative, educated the group about the effort that was started in 2010. SF2T’s mission is “meeting local food needs with local food.” Gathering centers were formed at various locations throughout the county, where boxes are filled with food from local growers and distributed through the centers to consumers. Seafood, beef, vegetables and information on canning also are offered.

Also, Dr. Robin Adams, director of Ag Communications & Technology at N.C. A&T State University, inspired the group with tips on how to advocate for Extension initiatives in the state, while Dr. Donald Cobb, acting associate director, County Operations, gave information about potential budget cuts.

Finally, Extension specialist Dr. Wilma Hammett encouraged Extension advisers and volunteers to join the commemoration of the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Centennial, celebrating the program’s work from 1911 to 2011. In May, at the Jane S. McKimmon Center, the Centennial celebration event included dinner of local foods, the first FCS Hall of Fame inductions and the kickoff of a history book. The book shares the stories of FCS’ and Extension Homemakers’ early projects of curb markets, hot lunches in school cafeterias, bookmobiles and the recycling of scrap metal during World War II. The seed money for the McKimmon Center came from egg and butter money donated by the Extension Homemakers (currently Extension and Community Association).

Visit the Advisory Leadership System website at http://als.ces.ncsu.edu/
Terry Lenahan, chair of the Moore County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) advisory committee, grew up in Louisville, Ky. That’s where her Dad first introduced her to the art of “amending the soil” by placing a small fish under the roots of a favorite rose bush as fertilizer. She graduated from Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, and by 1980 she had arrived in Moore County, N.C. There the sandy soils and unfamiliar plant material challenged her to learn about gardening in the Sandhills; so after much research she designed and planted her Southern Pines yard. Particularly interested in herbs and flowers, she considered enrolling in the Sandhills Community College horticulture program but chose the Master Gardener Volunteer program instead.

After attending the advanced MGV course at N.C. State University, where she first met Taylor Williams, Moore County Horticulture agent, she was involved with many MGV projects.

Seeing a need for downtown residents to have an opportunity to grow fresh vegetables, she approached Taylor with an idea of a community garden. By 2006, a grant through First Health Community Health Services by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at Texas A&M University made the dream a reality.

A collaboration with Extension, First Health, the Town of Southern Pines and the Boys and Girls clubs allowed children who would otherwise have no access to a garden to learn how fresh vegetables and fruits could be fun as well as good for them. The MGVs designed, constructed and maintained the gardens and collaborated with First Health in developing educational programs for the children. After the 18-month grant period, the Town of Southern Pines still maintains this community garden, with plots available to any resident. Out of that project, Lenahan also worked with fellow MGV Kathy Byron to establish the Communities in Schools school garden project, with gardens in 12 Moore County schools.

As Moore County chair, she has worked with Williams to expand the local farmers’ market days from one to five weekly, several operating year round. Extension has advocated and supported the Moore County Farm-to-Table Co-op, unique throughout the country, as its members are growers, co-op staff and consumers. Most recently, Lenahan, Williams and Craven Hudson, county Extension director, have been working with Moore County Schools Food Corp. in getting volunteers to get fresh, local food into school cafeterias.

When not leading local foods efforts, Lenahan enjoys time at home with her husband, Rod; son, Jake; and daughters, Maura and Claire.

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Tom Melton — continued from page 2

Eventually he served as departmental Extension leader and later with Dr. Ed Jones as assistant director of Extension. Next Melton led the National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Pest Management on N.C. State’s Centennial Campus. The center of 25 employees functions as a national and international center for IPM, depending almost entirely on grants and contracts for all salaries and operating. During the past year he also was interim head of the CALS Crop Science Department at N.C. State.

Though there are many opportunities for him in this new position, his primary goals are to increase communication within the organization and to improve agent training in agriculture and horticulture.

He and his wife, Judy, have two daughters, ages 24 and 21. Susan is a UNCG graduate in interior architecture, is married and lives in Raleigh. Allison just graduated from N.C. State in mathematics and is now in a master of teaching program at UNC-CH.