October will be the next big month for county-wide celebrations. We will look forward to National 4-H week where we should all make it a goal to talk to someone new about 4-H and how it is a part of our lives. Also, there will be a national “wear green day” on October 9th.

We are also hopeful that we will have a 4-H Golf Tournament Fundraiser in the Fall as well as a raffle.

These events, and more are our way of sustaining 4-H for another hundred years. This program is run by each of you and this is our opportunity to let our communities know why we are all a part of 4-H, and try to raise money to continue this county program for future generations.

WOW! What a year to be a part of North Carolina 4-H in Haywood County. From humble beginnings in the eastern part of the state, 4-H has grown to be the largest youth development program in the state.

As we go through this year we will have a number of exciting Centennial themed events and activities planned. The official kick-off for the Centennial will be at our annual Achievement Banquet, which will be held on January 23rd at 6:00pm at the Extension Office. Bring your 4-H stories and we will enjoy an evening of celebration of the past and present 4-H accomplishments, and set the stage for the next 100 years. The themed for the Banquet will be “We Are 4-H”.

Haywood County 4-H wants all the clubs and members at large to participate in the 4th of July Parade and march together to celebrate our freedoms as well as our part of the NC 4-H Centennial.

In May we hope to be able to work with the Fairboard to use the Fairgrounds for a 4-H Flea Market Fundraiser. Also, we will be planting 100 trees on various flood properties across the county.

Calling all 4-Hers who participated in events and achieved accomplishments in 2008 with 4-H. It is our turn to recognize you for any achievement you may have had during the past year. Did you turn in a project record, do a presentation, participate in the fashion revue, place in a show or judging event, or something else. Let us know what you have done so we can recognize you during your banquet.

The Banquet will be held on Friday, January 23rd, 2009 at 6:00PM at the Haywood County Extension Office on Raccoon Road. For supper, we will provide a meat and bread. Please bring a side dish, dessert and drink to share with everyone.
Volunteer—not so you can build your resume, but so you can build yourself.”
Author Unknown

Introducing our 2009 County Council

On February 2nd we will hold our first County Council meeting of 2009. This is going to be a great meeting. Our new 2009 County Council will preside over the meeting which will discuss the Centennial celebrations planned as well as any ideas you or your club may have. We will also have an update from all clubs on their upcoming projects and events. Following the business meeting we will have a program lead by Madison County 4-H Geocaching club. For those of you who don’t know what Geocaching is, it is like treasure hunting with modern technology. The use of handheld GPS units allows searchers to find hidden “treasures” left behind by other geocachers. It can be extremely fun and you get to learn how to use some valuable technology which can help in a possible job one day. Don’t miss out on this great program and come help your Haywood County 4-H plan it year and county-wide programs!

Volunteer Leaders Conference

Calling all Volunteers! Come Join us as we take a trip down to Raleigh for the annual Volunteer Leaders Conference. This trip is sponsored by United Way of Haywood County but there are a limited number of full sponsorships available. Those will be on a first-come first-serve basis. At the conference there will be a number of great workshops. Everything from ideas for your 4-H clubs to Master Volunteer classes to Dancing and much more.

One of the most valuable parts to this conference will be the networking and friendships formed from across the state to help you and others continue to be the best volunteers in North Carolina. The registration sheets and pre-conference workshops as well as tentative agenda are included in this newsletter.

There is a short deadline to get these in so please return this information as soon as possible or call the office and we can take your information over the phone. 828-456-3575

Introducing our 2009 County Council

Your County Council Officers for 2009 were elected at our Holiday Party in December, and they will take over from the 2008 County Council at the upcoming Achievement Banquet. We would like to introduce them as well as congratulate them as we begin another big year for Haywood County 4-H.

Your new 2009 County Council Officers are as follows:

President: Sally Dixon
Vice-President: Patty Popular
Secretary: Jesse Evans

District Representatives:

Joe Cioffi and Steven Kirkpatrick
Alternates:
Michala Muse
Jasmine Fowler
Allison Keogh

Congratulations to these individuals and I look forward to working with you all!
WNC Birding Class
Tuesday, February 17th, 2009

4-H will be hosting a Western NC Birding Class for 5th through 12th grade students. This class will be taught by expert birder and Naturalist Blair Ogburn, from the Balsam Preserve Nature Center. She will be teaching 4-Hers how to identify birds in our area, using sight and sound. She will also bring some of her live bird friends for us to meet.

Weather permitting, we may go on a short birding hike after the class; so please dress appropriately for cooler weather and have on sturdy shoes. The Class will be held on Tuesday February 17th, which is an early release day for Haywood County Schools.

In March, we will take a follow-up birding hike so we can practice what we have learned. That date will be determined prior to the February 17th class.

This class is free, and parents are welcome to register by Friday, February 13th. Space is limited so call early.

Please call the Extension Office at 456-3575 to register by Friday, February 13th.

Bullseye Shooting Sports Expo
Saturday, February 21st, 2009

Come join the Bullseye 4-H Shooting Sports Club for their big opening event for 2009! This event is designed as an introduction to shooting sports and firearm safety designed for youth and their families.

The Bullseye Club will have their interactive laser shooting computer program that is designed to allow youth to test their skills safely and indoors, without using real firearms. Besides the laser shoot there will be numerous other informative stations to rotate through as you learn about the fun, exciting and safe sport of shooting.

The Expo will be held at the Haywood County Extension office on Saturday, February 21st at 6:00PM. Please call the Extension Office if you would like to sign-up to participate in this event.

(828)-456-3575.

4-H Curriculum Kit Trainings
March 10th and 11th, 2009

If you are a teacher, educator, after-school coordinator or club leader, or know of anyone who would like to enhance their teaching with hands-on, applicable, age appropriate activities, please sign-up or let them know about this great upcoming training.

Four-H curriculum is designed to meet the NC Standard Course of Study and provides a learning opportunity for students outside the textbooks but is aligned with their current courses. Four-H has curriculum books and kits for Second through Eighth grades.

These new kits come complete with everything needed to work through the 4-H Curriculum Books, minus some consumables. We now have four kits available in the county.

The trainings will be held in Buncombe County. Below is a list of the current kits available for the training.

- Soil Solutions - 3rd Grade (8 activities)
- Magic of Electricity - 4th/5th Grades (14 Activities with up to 25 youth)
- Acres of Adventures (2) - 3rd-5th Grades (40 Activities)

For more information call (828) 456-3575.
What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people, ages 5 to 19, across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities.

More than 239,000 youth were involved in 4-H in 2008 through community or project clubs, special interest programs, school enrichment programs, in after school programs, and through our Operation Military Kids program. These youth live in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities.

4-H gives youth a chance to explore their own interests - from photography to computers, from building rockets to raising animals. A list of 4-H projects is available online by visiting our 4-H Curriculum webpage. They go places from district retreats to camp, to state and national conferences. They learn to be outstanding citizens and excellent leaders.

In 4-H, youth learn life skills such as public speaking, decision-making, organizational/planning, leadership, teamwork, record keeping and communications skills.

To find out more about 4-H contact Nick Reynolds, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development at (828)456-3575. Or visit one of the websites below.

Haywood County 4-H:
www.haywoodcounty4h.blogspot.com

North Carolina 4-H:
www.nc4h.org

National 4-H:
www.4-h.org/

NC Cooperative Extension Service
Haywood County Center:
http://haywood.ces.ncsu.edu/