

DISPATCH

2013 Sustainable Agriculture Awards

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) has named this year's sustainable agriculture award recipients. The awards were announced Nov. 15 and 16 at the 28th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference in Durham, a gathering of over 1,300 sustainable farmers, agriculture advocates, foodies, educators, and experts. These institutions and individuals have made outstanding contributions to the sustainable food movement in North and South Carolina and have helped make the Carolinas one of the fastest growing sustainable agricultural sectors in the country.

THE AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE:

The Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Stanley Hughes and Linda Leach of Pine Knot Farm located in Hurdle Mills, NC. Stanley and Linda's 100 year old African-American owned farm is certified organic and has a long history of growing quality products for local markets. Stanley and Linda have an active program supporting youth as they prepare to become farmers and have given back to the community in numerous ways. This award is given to a farmer to honor a career of outstanding contributions to sustainable agriculture and is CFSA's most prestigious award.

The Young Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Tucker and Mackenzie Withington of Lily Den Farm in Goldston, NC. This award honors farmers under 35 who are successfully growing and marketing, as well as contributing to the success of the local food movement. Tucker and Mackenzie grow a diverse set of livestock and are known for the excellent

quality of their meats.

The Career Achievement Award was presented to Will Hooker, landscape designer and Professor in the Department of Horticultural Science at NCSU. The award is given to recognize a professional or educator who has contributed to the local/organic food movement over many years. Will is known as a knowledgeable, passionate and approachable teacher and mentor in the areas of permaculture, gardening and food production. He is retiring this school year.

The Institution of the Year Award was presented to the Land Loss Prevention Project based in Durham. Over many years, Land Loss has made major contributions to furthering social justice as it affects access to farmland. The organization has been instrumental in the fight to gain restitution for discrimination against Black farmers that led to the loss of their farms. The organization also provides training and counseling to farmers to improve their business operations. Land Loss is currently working with reduced funding, but despite that, continues to provide outstanding programming.

The Business of the Year Award was presented to Leading Green Distributing and Kathryn Beattie, owner. Leading Green, based in Black Mountain, has become an outstanding partner with farmers and consumers, getting fresh produce, meats and specialty products from farm to table with their trucking and wholesaling operation. Known for their integrity, fairness and hard work, the company contributes greatly to the goal of a functioning local food system.

The Activist of the Year Award was presented to Santos Flores of Durham. Santos has worked tirelessly to bring inner city youth into the conversation about local, healthy, organic food. As a staff member of the SEEDS Garden in Durham, he

has mentored youth and gotten them excited about gardening and food issues. This year he organized a Youth Summit in conjunction with the Sustainable Agriculture Conference, bringing inner city youth into the event as participants.

The S.C. Extension Agent/Educator of the Year Award, selected by peers, was presented to J. Powell Smith of Lexington County, SC. Powell, who holds a PhD in Entomology from Clemson, is an Extension Associate and has been a champion of integrated pest management. He has helped many farmers to reduce their chemical use. Powell has been particularly engaged with small fruits and leafy green vegetables, two areas of special concern for ecological pest management. His outstanding work has inspired many.

The N.C. Extension Agent/Educator of the Year Award was presented to Martha Mobley of Franklin County, NC. Martha is a passionate and forward-thinking extension agent who has helped to spread the word about sustainable and direct market agriculture in her region of the state. She has hosted numerous trainings, farm tours and events to educate about sustainable practices. In addition, she owns and operates Meadow Lane Farm where organic practices are used and sells her products at the Durham Farmers Market.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) is a 32-year-old non-profit with over 3,100 members that advocates for fair farm and food policies, builds the systems family farms need to thrive, and educates communities about local, organic farming. Our vision is a regional food system that is good for consumers, good for farmers and farm workers, and good for the land. To learn more, visit www.carolinafarmstewards.org.

BRIEFS

Christmas Eve in the courthouse



PHOTO COURTESY MARTHA MANNING

Old has become new again and what better way to celebrate Christmas in Chatham County than with a Christmas Eve service in the historic but newly renovated courthouse? The halls of the Chatham County courthouse will be decked out for the season and the service, on **December 24**, will begin at 6 p.m. The service will conclude with candlelight carol singing out on the lawn of the circle. It promises to be a Christmas to remember for children of all ages.

This service is being offered by Church of the Holy Trinity, a church of folks who seek to love, worship, and serve God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – here in Chatham County. Holy Trinity started a couple of years ago when several families who live in and love Chatham responded to the call to plant a faithful, vibrant Anglican church here in this community. For more information go to www.holytrinitychatham.org or call 919.961.7744.

Snow Camp Simple Gifts Holiday Market

The Snow Camp Outdoor Drama is sponsoring a holiday market featuring handmade crafts, artwork, food and more by local vendors!

It will take place **Saturday, December 14**, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre Historic Grounds in the Shoffner Building (next to Ye Old Country Kitchen), 301 Drama Road, Snow Camp, NC.

For more information go to www.snowcampdrama.com or call 800.726.5115.

Helping Seniors in Need

You can help Chatham County's senior residents in need during the holidays by adopting an older adult posted on the Angel Trees at both the Siler City and Pittsboro Senior Centers.

"For the past 30 years, the Chatham County Council on Aging has worked year-round to provide in-home aide services, meals, transportation and wellness programs to Chatham's older adults, but we also sponsor the Angel Tree Program for those who have special needs," said Angel Dennison, director of the Council on Aging.

"Whether it's a new pair of shoes, warm pajamas, a sweater or a basket of food, you can help us meet important needs for these individuals," said Dennison.

The Council already has 135 Angels on the trees so far and this is likely to grow, Dennison said. Anyone interested in adopting an angel or two can visit either senior center. Local businesses are also encouraged to sponsor senior angels.

Holiday Concert in The Barn

The community choruses of Fearington — the Village Voices, Harmony Grits, and Fearingtones — present holiday favorites old and new, under the direction of Matt Fry.

Selections include less familiar choral works like John Leavitt's "Festival Sanctus," as well as folk tunes, spirituals, pop classics, and more traditional carols in unusual arrangements. This event fills The Barn up fast, so arrive early, if you can.

The concert will take place at the The Barn at Fearington Village on **Tuesday, December 10**, at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 general admission at the door.

RSVP Tax Program seeks volunteers

Orange County RSVP 55+ Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is seeking volunteers to help low-to-middle income individuals with their taxes.

Volunteers are needed to prepare Federal and North Carolina income tax returns. In addition, VITA volunteers are needed to help with intake and telephone teams. VITA provides tax assistance in Chatham County.

VITA Volunteer Orientation takes place **Wednesday, December 11**, 1–3 p.m. at the Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill

To learn about the benefits of volunteering or for personal assistance in finding your niche, please call Orange County RSVP at 919.245.4241 or visit www.orangecountync.gov/aging/RSVPindex.asp

HBA raises \$16,000 for local scholarships

The Home Builders Associate of Durham, Orange & Chatham Counties announce that the 16th annual Scholarship Auction raised over \$16,000 dollars. The event, hosted by Pro-Build, was held on November 19. in Chapel Hill. Doug Davis of Doug Davis Realty & Auction Company served as the auctioneer, and 100 percent of the proceeds of this event will fund \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors for their continuing education.

Since 1996, the HBADOC has awarded

more than 199 scholarships, totaling over \$178,500. Students wanting to apply for a Spring 2014 scholarship may submit their application by March 7, 2014. Winners are presented their scholarships at our April General Membership Meeting.

The Home Builders Association is a 600+ member organization representing the residential construction industry in Durham, Orange & Chatham Counties. For more information, please call 919.493.8899 or visit www.hbadoc.com.

Gala Benefits Chatham Partnership for Children

The 3rd Annual Winner's Fest Benefit Gala will take place **Saturday, February 8**, 2014, 6–10 p.m. at the newly renovated ballroom at Governors Club.

This year's event is going to be better than ever. We will have banquet seating and a plated dinner this year; no more buffet lines. We will also have the live auction again with auctioneer Tucker Withington!

This is a great holiday gift idea! Get a raffle ticket/dinner for someone special and support our work on behalf of young children in Chatham County.

Winner's Fest 2014 will be the most fun event of the season and it offers you great odds of winning cash prizes, only 200 tickets will be sold!

Tickets cost \$50. For information or to register, email genevieve@chathamkids.org.

CHATHAM County Line

"where all voices are heard"

ESTABLISHED IN 1999
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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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WAKE UP WEDNESDAYS

LOOKING FOR NEW BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?

Come network with a variety of local businesses and organizations. Wake-up Wednesday meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 8 am–9:30 am at the **Carolina Brewery, Pittsboro.** Admission: \$5; includes breakfast!

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