Northwest Region Touchpoint
December 14, 2015

NC Leadership Conference
(Source: Cynthia Torppa) . . .

Good news! You now have until December 21 to submit your workshop proposal or Lightening (Ignite) proposal for presentation at the North Central Leadership Conference!

The North Central Leadership Conference will be held in Minneapolis (at the Radisson Blu Mall of America hotel) from May 2 through 4. Just go to: http://register.extension.iastate.edu/2016nclc

Hope to see you there!
Congratulations! to all Northwest Region Staff who participated in and were recognized at last week’s Annual Conference. Below are some of the highlights from the conference:

**ESP Excellence in Extension Award**
Bruce Clevenger, Defiance County

**ESP Friend of Extension Award**
- Guernsey County Regional Planning Commission
- Jeff Parry, Highland County
- Jim Porter and Jerry Levy, Muskingum County Commissioners (being submitted for National nomination)

**Charles W. Lifer Excellence in 4-H Award**
Christy Leeds, Union County

**Marilyn Spiegel Excellence in Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Award**
Pat Brinkman, Fayette County

**Steve D. Ruhl Outstanding Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Educator Award**
David Marrison, Ashtabula County

**Raymond A. Schindler Excellence in Community Development Extension Award**
Brian Raison, Miami County

**Extension Support Staff Excellence Award**
Linda Good, Miami County

Chi Epsilon Sigma . . .

Brochure Contest Winner – **Julie Evans** (Pike)

Newsletter Contest Winner – **Charissa Gardner** and **Brad Bergefurd** (South Centers/Scioto)

2016 CES Officers from the Northwest Region:
- Annalist – **Peg Meents** (Hancock)
- Northwest Director – Emily Cordes (Henry)

Happy December Birthdays …

- December 2 Joe Lucente – Educator, Lucas County
- December 3 Carol Bottoms – Information Associate, Northwest Region
- December 14 Tammy Spillis – Program Assistant, Henry County
- December 15 Jerardo Soto – Program Assistant, Lucas County
- December 16 Judy Villard Overocker – Educator/Director, Richland County
- December 18 Suzanne Saggese – Program Assistant, Lucas County
- December 19 Susan Shickley – Program Assistant, Erie County
- December 20 Kelly Coble – Educator, Allen County
- December 21 Angie Holmes – Educator/Director, Erie County
- December 24 Sarah Noggle – Educator, Paulding County
- December 26 Erin Riegel-Mancuso – Office Associate, Seneca County

Cindy Torppa’s Schedule for December 14 – 18

**Monday:** Camp Ohio Board Meeting
**Tuesday:** Campus
**Wednesday:** Campus
**Thursday:** Region Office
**Friday:** Region Office
Scholarships
- **Cindy Shuster**, Emeritus (Perry), $500, Original Sewing and Quilt Expo in Cleveland
- **Brittany Mendez** (Athens), $200, Doctoral studies at Ohio University
- **Kathy Bruynis** (Highland), $350, JCEP Leadership Conference in Las Vegas
- **Travis West** (Vinton), $450, Rabbit Con in Portland, Oregon
- **Tammy Jones** (Pike), $240, NEAFCS Conference in West Virginia

Team Teaching Awards
Extension & Non-Extension Collaborators – 5 or more members
- 1st place – Military Teen Adventure Camp - **Jo Williams** (Scioto County) and colleagues
- 2nd place – Ohio Hops Program – **Brad Bergefurd**, **Charissa Gardner** (Scioto County/South Centers) and colleagues
- HM – Making the 2014 Farm Bill Decisions – **Chris Bruynis** (Ross) and colleagues
- HM – 2014 Live Healthy Live Well In-Service – **Lisa Barlage** (Ross), **Cindy Shuster** (Emeritus) and colleagues

One Program Area – 2-4 members
- 2nd place – Strengthening Local Grazing Programs by Using a Regional Approach – **Mark Landefeld** (Monroe), **Chris Penrose** (Morgan), **Ted Wiseman** (Perry) and colleague

One Program Area – 5 or more members
- 1st place – State 4-H CARTEENS Teen Conference – **Pam Montgomery** (Morgan) and colleagues
- 2nd place – New and Small Farm College – **David Apsley**, **Brad Bergefurd** (Scioto/South Centers), **Chris Bruynis** (Ross), **David Dugan** (Adams/Brown/Highland), **Jeff Fisher** (Pike), **John Grimes**, **Chris Penrose** (Morgan), **Ted Wiseman** (Perry) and colleagues

Creative Works Awards
Program/Event Press Release – 1B
- 2nd place – **Christy Clary** (Brown)
- HM – **Kathy Bruynis** (Highland)

Follow Up News Story/Press Release – 1C
- 3rd place – **Christy Clary** (Brown)

Personal Column – 1D
- 2nd place – **Chris Penrose** (Morgan)
- 3rd place – **Brad Bergefurd** (Scioto/South Centers)
Video CD’s, DVD’s, or Podcasts – 3A
  • 3rd place – Bruce Zimmer (Monroe)
  • HM – Katie Feldhues and colleague (Ross)

Computer Generated Presentations – 3B
  • 3rd place – Polly Loy (Belmont)

Educational Exhibit – Professionally Assistant – 4B
  • 1st place – Krista Hayslip (Pike)

Newsletter – Internally Produced (Team) – 5A
  • 1st place – Brad Bergefurd and Charissa Gardner (South Centers/Scioto) and colleagues

Newsletter – Internally Produced (Individual) – 5C
  • 1st place – Krista Hayslip (Pike)
  • HM – Ed Brown (Athens)

Promotional Flyer – Internally Produced – 6A
  • 1st place – Brad Bergefurd and Charissa Gardner (South Centers/Scioto)
  • 2nd place – Ed Brown (Athens)

Promotional Flyer – Professionally Assisted – 6B
  • 1st place – Krista Hayslip (Pike)

Promotional Package (Team) – 6D
  • 1st place – Charissa Gardner, Brad Bergefurd (South Centers/Scioto) and colleagues
  • 1st place – Lisa Barlage (Ross), Cindy Shuster (Emeritus), Sarah Chain (Ross) and colleagues

Curriculum Package (Team) – 7B
  • 1st place – Travis West (Vinton) and colleagues

Fact Sheet – 8A
  • 1st place – Travis West (Vinton) and colleague
  • 2nd place – Brad Bergefurd, Charissa Gardner (South Centers/Scioto), Thomas Harker, Duane Rigsby (South Centers), Wayne Lewis and Joy Bauman (OARDC/Piketon) and colleagues

Project Book – 8C
  • 2nd place – Lisa Barlage (Ross), Joyce Shriner (Hocking) and colleagues

Blog – 9C
  • 1st place – Lisa Barlage (Ross), Kathy Dodrill (Emeritus), Cindy Shuster (Emeritus) and colleagues
  • 3rd place – Ted Wiseman (Perry), Ed Brown (Athens), Mark Landefeld (Monroe), Chris Penrose (Morgan), Marcus McCartney (Washington), Dan Lima (Belmont)

Social Networking Medium – 9D
  • 1st place – Lisa Barlage (Ross), Polly Loy (Belmont) and colleagues
  • HM – Krista Hayslip (Pike)
  • HM – Christy Clark (Brown)
ESP Chapter Awards
Diversity/Multicultural Recognition (Team) – Brad Bergefurd (Scioto/South Centers) and colleagues

2015 ESP Regional and National Award Winners
North Central Regional Distinguished Team:
Fruit and Vegetable Food Safety Program (GAPS Team) – Brad Bergefurd (Scioto/South Centers) and colleagues

Service Awards
Distinguished Service (20 years or more)
- FCS – Lisa Barlage (Ross)
Early Career Service (2-10 years)
- 4-H – Katie Feldhues (Ross)

National Association Awards
NACAA
Distinguished Service Award – 2015
- Brad Bergefurd (Scioto/South Centers)
- Chris Bruynis (Ross)

NAE4-HA
Meritorious Service – 2016
- Carolyn Belczyk (Adams)
Distinguished Service – 2016
- Erin Dailey (Jackson)
- Jessica Rockey (Perry)
Achievement in Service – 2016
- Kathy Bruynis (Highland)
- Katie Feldhues (Ross)

Presentations
- Pipeline Easement and Right-of-Way Agreements – Mark Landefeld (Monroe) and colleague
- Successfully Leading a Team into Social Media Programming – Lisa Barlage (Ross) and colleagues
- Building a Mentoring Network for Support Staff – Marianne Guthrie (Ross) and colleagues
- Navigating the Administrative and Professional Promotion Process: Getting a Grasp of the Basics – Jeff McCutcheon (SE Region) and colleague
Posters

- Ag Adventures Powered by Innovative Partnerships – Josi Brodt (Scioto), Jo Williams (Scioto) and colleague
- Eastern Ohio Shale Development and Private Water Supply – Dan Lima (Belmont) and colleague
- Alternative Spring Break: College Access for Rural Communities – Travis West (Vinton)
- Supporting Healthy Lifestyles via a “Cloverbud Family Fun” Series for Youth and Their Caregivers – Rachael Fraley (Lawrence), Amy Habig (Highland), Debbie Carpenter (Lawrence)
- Transformation Tuesday – Michelle Stumbo (Meigs)
- We are “One Voice – For Strength, Unity and Shared Vision – TERSSA” in 2016 – Vickie Snyder (SE Region), Marianne Guthrie (Ross) and colleagues (People’s Choice Award Recipient)
- Show Me the Money: Connection between County Funding and Extension Employee Retention – Katie Feldhues (Ross) and colleague

Administrative Updates . . .

**Leadership Ohio** – Administrative Cabinet has decided to sponsor two delegates each year to participate in Leadership Ohio. For 2016, delegates will be selected from FCS and CD personnel. In 2017, they will be from ANR and 4-H, and then alternate year to year.

**Promotion Date Change** – The date for educators to apply for promotion will be changing from March 1 to earlier in the year (January). Be sure to watch for announcements from Ken Martin, Chair, Department of Extension.

**Performance Evaluation Surveys** – Thanks for getting your evaluator names in. The surveys will be out shortly. Please note that surveys will be sent to all county staff for evaluation of CEDs. Some of you may receive two surveys for the same person. Please complete both as they will be different surveys (one for program and one for CED work).

**PhD Program Materials** – These will be available soon for anyone who could not attend last week’s session.
The Pipeline Soil Remediation meeting was held December 10 at Ole Zim’s in Sandusky County. Hosted by the Erie Basin EERA Ag Educators and Farm Bureau, over 100 landowners learned about the long-term soil effects of pipeline installation, fixing drainage systems, and contract language. Pipeline resource information will be posted on the wood.osu.edu webpage under the Ag/NR link.
Dar’s Medical Fund (Source: Cheryl Barber Spires) . . .

Wonderful story of support for our friend and colleague, Dar! Have a blessed Christmas everyone! http://www.wtol.com/.../cancer-patient-learns-the-true-meanin...

**WE NEED YOUR HELP – NEXT SATURDAY 12/19 AND SUNDAY 12/20**

This is what LOVE looks like. My heart is so full of so many emotions today, but the greatest of these is LOVE. A week ago MaryBeth from 101.5 The River told me about a letter she received from a lady (56 y/o) who was just diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer asking for a CHRISTmas wish for her family. She was asking for help (manpower) to put siding on their house. They had all the supplies but needed people to step up and put the siding on the house and a front porch (you will see it is missing from the pictures). https://www.facebook.com/Free-Tastes-Good-123889597686086/

When I went to the radio on Friday, MaryBeth told me she talked to Darling and told she, Jamie, and I were willing to help in whatever capacity we could. We put a call out on FB to see if anyone had knowledge of putting on siding (Jamie is handy, but we needed experienced people) and would be able to help Jamie. We had 3 people step up and say they would help. I won’t lie this saddened me. I know it is CHRISTmas time. I get everyone is busy, but this is what CHRISTmas is about and if we are too busy to help, then maybe we are missing out on the TRUE CHRISTmas. So many out buying gifts for their kids but the greatest gift we can give our kids is the gift of seeing their parents helping others – serving Jesus. That would be showing them CHRISTmas. Jamie then made the call to Charlie, Darling’s husband, who had no idea Darling had sent this letter. They talked and Charlie explained it was more extensive than originally planned.

After spending a lot of time in prayer yesterday and going back and forth at 9 p.m. the Holy Spirit spoke to me loud and clear and I was overcome by emotions and told Jamie, you are to go. If they don’t want your help that is okay, but maybe the reason you are to go is for some other reason. How many times do we miss the blessing because it doesn’t look exactly as we want it to look. Jamie, my brother-in-law, and my friend Dan headed out to their house at 8 a.m. today. By 9 a.m., Jamie called and told me I needed to head out and bring some of his tools. They were moving forward, so the kids and I headed out. The whole way there I was overcome with emotions. You see, I lost my mom when she was 56 and Darling is 56. Charlie is very quiet and proud. Oh my, he reminds me so much of my own dad who I lost 10 years ago. The kids and I prayed for Darling’s healing, for others to step up and help, for the family to be blessed, and so many other things. When we pulled in my eyes filled with tears because as I said “This is love”. This picture is love. As our kids walked up, they saw their dad working, but to me, they saw their dad (Jamie) serving and loving on others. They saw their dad being the hands and feet of Jesus and stepping up. They saw their dad giving a CHRISTmas wish to a lady who is sick.
They saw CHRISTmas in front of their eyes. I love Jamie but when I see him doing these things I fall so more deeply in love with him. I see a man that is willing to give of himself to help others NOT because he wants credit, because trust me we don’t like any credit, because all the credit and glory goes to God and God alone. We were put on this earth to serve. Imagine if every time there was a need, many stepped up to help. I met their son and 2 of their daughters and instantly fell in love with them. The kindest, sweetest family EVER!

Then Brittany invited me in to meet their mom. When I went in, Darling gave me the longest hug. We then sat down and just held hands. I listened to her and kept it together but inside I was falling apart. She so reminded me of my mom who I miss every day. All I could say was THANK YOU JESUS, THANK YOU for letting us serve you, thank you for knitting our life into their life. Thank you for this gift. We talked and then I asked if I could pray for her. We all joined together and prayed. My prayer was for complete healing of her body. The cancer has spread but that doesn't mean anything. God has the final say. God is the GREAT physician.

She goes for another treatment in Columbus on Tuesday, has a CT scan on the 23rd and then finds out the results on the 31st. Please join us in prayer. When I got back outside I saw Charlie and as you all know, I HUG!!! I am not a handshaker. I am touchy, feely – that is me. I went over and hugged him and he said “I am not much of a hugger” LOL Oh my, so my dad. My dad did not do well with hugs. They made him so uncomfortable. I could see Jamie over in the corner smiling, because he knows everyone that meets me will get a hug!! My heart was saddened more were not out there helping. I was sad others were too busy to step up. So on the way home after bawling my eyes out I decided I have enough contacts at the media outlets I would contact them.

I contacted Melissa Andrews from channel 11 (who we go to church with) and she called the station and they sent a crew out to do a story. It will air tonight at 6 p.m. The message of the story is that we need help. I can't way for you all to hear Darling talking. Oh how I LOVE her. We are going back out Saturday (12/19) at 8 a.m. and Sunday (12/20) at 8 am. If we have enough people we will go out on Friday too. If we had 20-30 people helping this could get done in 2 days. We need scaffolding. We need lights so they can work past dark, and we need helpers. I can’t think of a better thing to be a part of, a CHRISTmas MIRACLE. If we all got involved we could give Darling her CHRISTmas wish. Let’s brighter her day, give her a glimmer of hope with all that she is facing. I am begging all of you to step up and help us get this done. I am proud of every single person that has come out today to help.

Thank you, Aaron and Andy. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our world is a better place because people step up when others need help, and this is a time this family needs help. If you can help, please inbox me and I will let you know the details. I promise you will be blessed by this family. They are AMAZING, and I love them all. They have touched my heart is such a way. I know this is God-ordained. We are doing what God wants us to do and I am praying that many of you will step up. It is supposed to be 42-45 degrees on Saturday and Sunday, still not too cold. We need YOU PLEASE CONSIDER!!