

## EXTENSION & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA) - GASTON COUNTY February 2021 Newsletter

### UPCOMING ECA MEETING - ONLINE OR PHONE

*Thurs., February 4th - 10:00am*

Join us for our monthly meeting - you can participate online or by phone. The program will be presented by Gaston County Extension Director, David Fogarty, who will provide a brief update on NC Cooperative Extension.

You can participate via computer or by phone:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/91262298769?pwd=bFYzbGp1bytNTkJSOENqUXRvZkpjdz09>

Join by Phone: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 912 6229 8769      Passcode: 622577

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's meeting. We had seven individuals who joined in and it was great to check in and hear your voices. Although our online meetings do not replace seeing folks in person, the online option is a critical tool for us to conduct business and make decisions. Your flexibility and willingness to try new things is greatly appreciated!

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

*Thurs., February 18th | 10:00am - 11:30am*

All board members are requested to attend this online meeting - please contact Audrey Hunt if you are unable to participate. This meeting is open to all members, but only Executive Board members can vote during this time. A zoom link will be emailed to Executive Board members prior to the meeting. *Please note that a contact person from each committee needs to participate in monthly Executive Board meetings.* Also, any member who would like to have an issue discussed at the next monthly meeting is encouraged to attend.

### CERAMIC ROOM UPDATE

The Ceramic Room Committee voted in January to remove the ceramic equipment/supplies, including all molds and kilns. With input from the Special Project Committee, Executive Board members, and staff the following actions will be taken:

- Molds and ceramic room supplies: large molds that are too heavy to safely move have been removed from the building. The remaining molds are now being distributed among ECA members starting Friday, January 22nd - first come, first serve. If you are interested in molds, please contact Pam Bryson to make an appointment. Molds need to be picked up by February 26th - remaining molds will be discarded.

- Kilns: both kilns will be sold by a silent auction and removed from the building as soon as possible. Please submit bids to Pam Bryson by February 26th at 12:00pm - either by phone or email. Minimum accepting bids: \$50 - large kiln; \$15 - small kiln. Bid winners (based on highest bid submitted) will be announced by email and phone call by close of business on February 26th. Kilns need to be removed from building no later than Friday, March 5th.
- Kiln room: this small room will serve as ECA Liaison storage space for office and class supplies, including supplies for Gaston Skills and youth workshops. (This results in more space for ECA use - in the project room and five hallway cubbies have been emptied for ECA use.)
- Ceramic room: will be used for ECA and other workshops, including a variety of crafting classes that can benefit from a sink and computer equipment. A small desk and computer will be placed in this room and can be used by ECA members and staff – this should make it easier to access internet for classes, as needed. The room will be renamed to the “program room” and can be reserved for use by contacting the ECA Liaison.
- Firing Fees - YR 2021: will be returned to ceramic room committee members, who paid firing fees for 2021.
- ECA Printer: the printer in the project room is not a county printer, so it cannot be connected to county computers.

### **2021 GASTON COUNTY ECA SCHOLARSHIP**

*Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 8, 2021*

Gaston County ECA plans to award at least one \$1,000 scholarship for 2021 - both youth and adults can apply. Scholarship applications are available on our website (<https://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston-eca/>) and for pickup by appointment starting Monday, January 25th. Please share this information with anyone you know who can benefit! Also, the Gaston County School system will have the application on their website.

### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION VIRTUAL RUN**

*Saturday, February 17, 2021*

It's time to plan for ECA's participation in this virtual run, in which proceeds benefit the ECA Scholarship fund. Currently, we need walkers and/or runners to participate in this virtual event.

Donation/info form: <http://www.cfgaston.org/Portals/0/2020%20Run%20Brochure.pdf>

### **COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER PROJECT**

Plans are being made to begin work on the ECA cookbook project with the planning committee. More details to follow after the first committee meeting.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

NC ECA held their Annual Conference per Zoom on October 28, 2020. The conference was done very well by being a Zoom conference. Listed below are the Gaston Co. ECA 2019 achievements:

### Outstanding Years of Service:

Nina Tarte - 55 years

Betty Willis - 25 years

Gaston Co. ECA received Gold Level recognition for volunteer hours

### Outstanding Leadership Award: Angela Nona

### Amazing volunteer hours:

Linda Jozwiakowski	1000	Angela Nona	500
Bertie Smith	1000	Martha Spurrier	500
Betty Willis	1000	Mary Upton	500
Audrey Hunt	500	Patti Wells	500
Rita Kincaid	500	Elsie Williamson	500
Pamela Myers	500		

## **Congratulations to ALL for a Fantastic job!**

Our Christmas project was to send gift cards to Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home - 5 cards were sent from Gaston Co. ECA.

## **WARM UP AMERICA**

From Rita Kincaid: Just wanted to report that I dropped off the *Warm Up America* blankets at *The Ivy of Gastonia* nursing home on Wilkinson Blvd. They were happy to have them, but still on COVID lockdown. I really hope the blankets and lap robes add a little Christmas cheer to clients there. Many thanks to everyone who spent time and talent knitting or crocheting the blankets.

## **PROJECT ROOM DONATIONS**

Due to COVID-19, staff are currently not accepting donations typically collected in the project room. Staff plan to work with the Building Committee to have completed blankets, lap robes, scarves, etc., distributed/mailed to their designated recipients as soon as possible.

## **ECA COMMITTEE WORK**

Although COVID-19 may prevent some of our ECA activities, such as in-person workshops, there is still much we can work on throughout 2021 through our committees. Both staff and ECA President will reach out to our committees to identify goals for this year - each of the following committee will be contacted soon to schedule a zoom meeting:

- Building Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Program Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Cookbook Committee

## **ECA WEBSITE UPDATE**

Please note that information has been updated on our website, located at: <https://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston-eca/>. At this site, you can find copies of the newsletter, forms, scholarship applications, and operational guidelines for ECA at both the state and county level.

## **Building Use Policy for the Lucile Tatum Center - Updated 12.13.20**

The following COVID-19 guidance is provided in accordance with the Governor's Phase 3.0, NC State University, and Gaston County Government:

1. The Lucile Tatum Center is currently open to the public by appointment only and individuals must wear a face covering. The building is not available for rental use during this time.
2. Visitors and volunteers are to enter the building through the front entrance only. Temperatures will be checked before entering the building. Anyone that has a temperature reading of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter the building. Three questions will also be asked to everyone entering the building. If they answer yes to any of the questions they will not be allowed in the building. Staff will follow county protocol and participants will not be allowed in the building.
3. During this time building use is for business only – this includes Extension & Community Association (ECA) activities. Volunteers are restricted from using the Center for personal activities.
4. *Due to recent increases in COVID-19 cases, all ECA workshops are cancelled until further notice.*
5. The Ceramic Room can be reserved for loading/unloading the kiln for ECA workshop activities only. This room is limited to one individual at a time for a maximum duration of two hours. Face coverings are to be worn and individuals are required to practice social distancing. Individuals are required to clean everything that is touched (including tables, chairs, used equipment, etc.) with provided sanitizing wipes. Disposable gloves will be provided and should be worn when loading/unloading the kiln and handling molds. No painting or other ceramic-related activities are permitted at this time.

For further information: Pam Bryson, Lucile Tatum Center Director  
704.865.3291 or pam.bryson@gastongov.com

### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION DEADLINE**

The deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is the 10th of the month. If the 10th falls on a weekend the information is due before the 10th. Information received after the 10th will be included in the following month's newsletter.

### **SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER**

Many thanks to Betty Agerton, who has agreed to send cards to ECA members who are sick, hospitalized, or experienced the loss of a loved one. Please let Betty know if any members who are in your special interest group have the need for a card. We would appreciate it if only one person from your Special Interest Group would contact Betty. If the ECA member is not part of a special interest group, please let Pam Bryson or Audrey Hunt know.

### **MEMBER UPDATE**

Many of our members are dealing with health issues and the isolation restrictions created by COVID continues to be a burden. Please reach out to ECA members with a phone call or card - your contact is so important and a great way to help check in with our members.

Please let others or Extension staff know if you become sick, develop health concerns, or have special needs, during this most difficult time. We are family and can work together to help look after each other!

Please give members a call during this time, since some of our members have had COVID and are dealing with other health issues, too:

- Mary Upton
- Faye Wiggins

### **CONDOLENCES**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of the following ECA members:

- *Ruth Ferns* - former ECA member who passed away on November 27, 2020
- *Ruby Setzer* - former ECA member who passed away on December 1, 2020
- *Frances Turner* - former member who passed away on December 13, 2020
- *Sarah Rollins* - former ECA member who passed away on December 21, 2020
- *Linda Jozwiakowski* - ECA member who passed away on December 23, 2020  
Mr. Dennis Jozwiakowski has requested in lieu of flowers please send any donations to Gaston Co. ECA Scholarship Fund, 959 Osceola St. Gastonia, NC 28054
- *Bobbie Ledford* - former ECA member who passed away on January 19, 2021

## **MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE (schedule is subject to change)**

Please note: We will continue with virtual meetings (1st Thursday of the month - 10am) until further notice due to COVID-19:

- January, February, March, October, & November
- April, May, June, August & September
- No meeting in July
- Christmas party in December

## **ECA 2021 PROJECTS**

The following projects are ongoing and supported by all ECA clubs:

1. Ronald McDonald House: collecting drink tabs (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
2. Gaston County Schools: collecting school supplies in August (contact: Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)
3. First Baptist Mission Trips: collecting eyeglasses (contact: Martha Spurrier)
4. Pennies for Friendship: supporting Association of Country World Women (contact: Dana Croston)
5. Baby Quilts & Baby Caps: making quilts and caps for infants in the neonatal intensive unit at CaroMont Regional Medical Center (contact: Gloria Snyder & Angela Nona)
6. Surgical Pillows: sewing pillows for surgical patients of CaroMont Regional Medical Center (contact: Pat Mantooth)
7. Operation Gratitude: knitting/crocheting scarves for the military
8. Shirt Savers for Holy Angels: making shirt savers for residents – cloth/supplies purchased by Holy Angels (contact: Martha Spurrier)
9. Farmers Market Activities: providing local food demos at the Gastonia Farmers' Market
10. Warm Up America: making afghans for the homeless (contact: Angela Nona)
11. Habitat for Humanity Women's Build
12. Food Pantry: collecting food supplies for local pantries, twice a year
13. Gaston Skills: providing workshops for adults with special needs (contact: Audrey Hunt or Pam Bryson, ECA Liaison)

## **GASTON CO. ECA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021**

President - Audrey Hunt

President-Elect - vacant

Secretary - Billie Taylor

Treasurer - Dana Croston

Advisor - Patti Wells

## **STANDING COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

- Building Committee - Jean Caldwell, Peggy Dameron, Jane Falls, Sandy Hamrick, Pat Mantooth, Martha Spurrier, & Patti Wells
- Ceramic Room Committee - Betty Agerton, Pat Mantooth, & Pamela Myers
- Marketing Committee - Dana Croston, Sandy Hamrick, & Patti Wells
- Program Committee - Pamela Myers & Patti Wells
- Scholarship Committee - Chairperson: Karen Rhyne, Martha Spurrier, Billie Taylor, & Patti Wells

## **AD HOC (TEMPORARY) COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

- Cookbook Committee - Dana Croston, Karen Rhyne, & Nina Tarte
- Special Project Committee - Pat Mantooth (this is a temporary position to be comprised of members of each Special Interest Group - to develop ideas for future workshops/classes)

Executive Board Meetings dates for 2021 every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am:

January 21st	February 18th	March 21st
April 15th	May 20th	June 17th
July 15th	August 19th	September 16th
October 21st	November 18th	December 16th

## **2021 ECA SPECIALTY GROUPS**

- Lucile Tatum - contact: Martha Spurrier
- Martha Goebel - contact: Mary Upton
- Quiltmakers - contact: Patti Wells
- Scrappers Unlimited - contact: Betse Cordell

## **2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- New Year's Day - January 1 (Friday)
- Martin Luther King Birthday - January 18 (Monday)
- Good Friday - April 2 (Friday)
- Memorial Day - May 31 (Monday)
- Independence Day - July 5 (Monday)
- Labor Day - September 6 (Monday)
- Veterans Day - November 11 (Thursday)
- Thanksgiving - November 25 & 26 (Thursday & Friday)
- Christmas - December 24 & 27 Friday & Monday

## **LUCILE TATUM CENTER**

Location & Mailing Address: 959 Osceola St., Gastonia, NC 28054

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 5pm (closed daily from 12-1pm)

For More Information:

Pam Bryson - Gaston County ECA Liaison

Phone: 704.865.3291

Email: [pam.bryson@gastongov.com](mailto:pam.bryson@gastongov.com)

**NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Mailing Address: PO Box 1578, Gastonia, NC 28053

Physical Address: Citizens Resource Center, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas, NC

Office Hours: Monday - Friday | 8am - 5pm

For More Information

Phone: 704.922.2111      Website: [gaston.ces.ncsu.edu](http://gaston.ces.ncsu.edu)

NC Extension & Community Association website: [go.ncsu.edu/nceca](http://go.ncsu.edu/nceca)

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[@ExtensionHealthyLiving](#) (NC Cooperative Extension: Nutrition & Wellness Programs)

[@GastonExtension](#) (NC Cooperative Extension)



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Gaston County Extension & Community Association**  
**December 3, 2020 10:00 a.m.**

Call to Order via ZOOM at 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Audrey Hunt, Pam Bryson, Pamela Myers, Patti Wells, Billie Taylor, Linda Minges, Patti Wells

Patti Wells opened meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Reminder to turn in your hours to Pam Bryson via US mail (959 Osceola St Gastonia, NC 28054) or via email (pam.bryson@gaston.gov). Please have yearly hours report to Pam Bryson by December 15. Patti and Pam Myers will do the input for NC State.

Minutes: were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Quiltmakers grant: roll of batting and walking feet have been purchased. Also looking at buying quarter inch feet. Those purchases will show on the January treasurer report.

Boys & Girls Home Gift Cards: Purchase a Walmart or Amazon gift card. Audrey will provide address to Patti. Patti will send email to all members. Deliver cards to Pam Bryson by noon on December 11 or mail the cards directly to the Boys & Girls Home.

Installation of Officers: The following individuals were installed as the Executive Board: President: Audrey Hunt, Secretary: Billie Taylor, Treasurer: Dana Croston, Past President: Patti Wells, ECA Liaison: Pam Bryson.

Programming Report: Pam Myers is teaching a painting class of ornaments on December 8. Patti Wells is teaching a quilt class on December 10 of a Cardinal. Limited number of participants. We are still looking at how to video tape one of the painting classes so we can post on Facebook.

Reminder of restrictions to Lucile Tatum building. Contact Pam Bryson if you want to enter the building. A sanitizer station has been placed in the lobby of the building. Further guidelines have been received by Gaston County. All people must wear masks at all times. No longer can remove mask when social distancing.

Ceramic Room: Linda Minges and Pam Bryson have pulled the heavier molds from the shelves. They will work with the Ceramic Room committee to determine what to do with the heavier molds. Also working with the county safety department on safety of shelving. They have removed some items from upper shelves.

Cards for Members: Patti Wells will contact Betty Agerton to send cards to Sandy Hamrick for loss of her brother, Mary Upton for her illness, Ruth Ferns family for death of Ruth Ferns. We need to be more consistent about how we address members' illnesses and losses.

Special Interest Groups: We should formalize who the contact persons are for the special interest groups. Perhaps the board can put together a meeting with the contact persons for the special interest groups. If group is not going to continue, January is a good time to clean out lockers and remove items from project room. We can try again to ask SIGs to give a report at each monthly meeting about what activities and projects they are working on. Audrey and Patti will talk about how to improve communications with the committees and SIGs.

Next meeting is January 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.