



N.C. Cooperative Extension  
Gaston County Center  
gaston.ces.ncsu.edu

959 Osceola St.  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
Ph. 704-866-3607

# Extension & Community Association (ECA)

# December 2023 Newsletter

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- **Martha Goebel** - Cancelled for December due to holiday
- **ECA Monthly Meeting** - 1st Thursday @ 10am
- **Creative Needlers** - 2nd & 3rd Thursday 6-8 pm @ Lucile Tatum Center (contact Rita Kincaid 704-907-3607)
- **Monthly Craft Day** - 2nd Saturday 10am-6pm (contact Kayla Adams 704-866-3607)
- **Quiltmakers Sup & Sew** - 2nd Thursday 3pm (contact Patti Wells 980-636-3841)
- **Quiltmakers Meeting** - 3rd Thursday 6pm (contact Patti Wells 980-636-3841)
- **Quiltmakers P.H.D.** - Cancelled for December due to holiday
- **Scrappers Unlimited** - 1st Saturday 10am & 3rd Friday 5pm-9pm (contact Kayla Adams 704.866.3706)

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHT

At the end of October 4 of our ECA Members and our ECA Liaison attended the NC ECA State Conference in Kill Devil Hill, NC. This conference was an opportunity for ECA Members across the state to come together, learn updates about ECA, meet fellow Members from across the state and so much more. Gaston County was well represented this year and even brought home some amazing awards!

Read more about our State Conference Recap on the next page!



## MEET OUR SPECIALTY GROUPS

### MARTHA GOEBEL

*No meeting for December*  
This is the regular member meeting. Visitors and guests are always welcome to attend!

### SCRAPPERS UNLIMITED

*Sat. Dec 2 @ 10am-6pm & Fri. Dec 15 @ 5pm-9pm | LTC*  
This ECA Specialty Group enjoys paper crafting - from community projects to personal projects. Visitors are always welcome - a little business is discussed and lots of crafting!

### SUP & SEW

*Thurs. Dec 14 @ 3pm-8:30pm | LTC*  
Sponsored by the Quiltmakers ECA Specialty Group, this monthly session is an informal time to work on personal projects with ECA members. A great time to get out of the house, socialize and enjoy time together.

### MONTHLY CRAFT DAY

*Sat. Dec 9 @ 10am-6pm | LTC*  
Do you have sewing or craft projects that you're working on? If so and you want to join other crafters, this monthly event may be for you! Bring your project & supplies and join the ECA volunteers to connect with others and work on your projects. This is an informal drop-in style event.

### QUILTMAKERS

*Thurs. Dec 21 @ 6pm-8:30pm | LTC & P.H.D. has been cancelled for Dec*  
The Quiltmakers is a special interest group of the ECA that focuses on quilting and sewing projects. Open to ECA members and visitors welcome!

### CREATIVE NEEDLERS

*Thurs. Dec 14 & 21 @ 6pm-8:30pm | LTC*  
This ECA specialty group focuses on knitting and crocheting. Members work on various personal and community projects. ECA members and visitors are welcome. One-on-one lessons are offered during this time for those who want to learn to knit or crochet.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CLASSES

See Upcoming Workshops & Classes for detailed info

**UNDERSTANDING ECA MEMBERSHIP**  
JAN 30 @ 10AM @ LTC

**UNDERSTANDING ECA MEMBERSHIP**  
JAN 30 @ 5:30PM @ LTC

**UNDERSTANDING ECA MEMBERSHIP**  
FEB 3 @ 9AM @ LTC



# DECEMBER LUCILE TATUM SCHEDULE

LTC normal operating hours are Monday-Friday 8-12/1-5, however there are some days that LTC will close for meetings or Staff obligations

December 8 - Extension Staff Retreat @ LTC; Office Closed 8am-2pm

December 11 - Kayla at CRC

December 12-14 - Extension Staff Training @ LTC; Kayla in the Office but Building is Closed

December 25-Jan 1 - LTC Closed for Christmas/New Years

When LTC is closed, contact 704-922-2111 for immediate assistance.

## Important Dates

- Dec 2 - Scrappers
- Dec 7 -ECA Monthly Meeting & Christmas Party
- Dec 8 - LTC Closed 8-2
- Dec 9- Monthly Craft Day
- Dec 11 - LTC Closed (Kayla at CRC)
- Dec 12-14 - Building Closed for Extension Training; Office is open
- Dec 14 - Sup & Sew | Creative Needlers
- Dec 25-Jan 1 - LTC Closed for Christmas & New Years

Happy  
holidays



## UNDERSTANDING ECA MEMBERSHIP

A WORKSHOP FOR ALL MEMBERS

**WHEN: JAN 30, 2024  
@ 10AM OR 5:30PM;  
FEB 3, 2024 @ 9AM**

Learn about ECA, what membership includes and how to remain an active member



Your NC State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, political beliefs, family and marital status, sex, age, veteran status, sexual identity, genetic information or disability. NC State University, N.C. A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.



## UNDERSTANDING ECA MEMBERSHIP

As an ECA Member, there are certain things that you're responsible to do to maintain Active Membership, but more importantly there are so many ways you can be involved within the Community that many of our members don't know about! As we enter the new year, it's important that all of our members have a clear understanding of what ECA is, who we are as ECA Volunteers, what perks we get as being members and how to stay involved. While this workshop may sound like it's only for new members, it's meant for all ECA Members regardless of how long you've been a member.

There will be 3 sessions, and the ECA Board has asked that each member attend one if possible. The dates are as follows:

Tues, Jan 30 @ 10am OR 5:30pm | Sat, Feb 3 @ 9am

Please let Kayla know which class you plan to attend by emailing her at [kayla.adams@gastongov.com](mailto:kayla.adams@gastongov.com) or calling 704-866-3607.



# ECA STATE CONFERENCE

In October, 4 Members & our ECA Liaison attended the ECA State Conference and was able to represent Gaston County in various ways. From "ECA Sparks" where Kayla and Dana spoke about the success that Gaston County has had through our Learn to Sew Classes and introducing electronic payment to ECA all the way to bringing home various awards and ribbons from Cultural Arts. Take a look at how their week went!



*Sandi Henderson won First Place in the Handmade Quilt Category along with Best of Show for the 2023 State Cultural Arts!*



*Marsha McLamb won 2nd place for Handmade Ornaments!*



*Gaston County ECA 2023 President, Karen Rhyne, accepted the Gold Award of Excellence for Gaston County from Dr. Bonanno at NCSU. This award was presented to Gaston County for the amount of volunteer hours our volunteers completed for the last year!*



*Pam Davis won 2nd place for Handmade Jewelry & 1st place for Scrapbooking!*



## Have an idea for a class or workshop?

Let the Program Committee or Kayla Adams know what you want to see offered!

Not all ideas are guaranteed to be available, but we will work on getting a variety of classes and workshops scheduled to offer something for everyone!

## Want to attend but you're not an ECA Member?

That's okay!! Our classes and workshops are open to the public. Contact Kayla Adams (704-866-3607) to learn more and register for upcoming classes or workshops.

All monies are due at the time of registration. Should an event be cancelled, you will be refunded. If there are any changes in event information post-registration, you will be notified via phone and/or email.

## Want to become an ECA Member?

Now is the perfect time to become an ECA Member. From creative workshops to volunteer projects, ECA offers something for everyone.

Yearly membership is \$20 and renews every September.

For questions about joining ECA or to become a member, contact Kayla Adams (704-866-3607) or stop by Lucile Tatum Center.



# WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH ECA

If you are wanting to learn more about ECA, stay connected with everything happening at Lucile Tatum Center and ECA Programs, Events and more there's two ways to keep up with us!

Email: Email [kayla.adams@gastongov.com](mailto:kayla.adams@gastongov.com) or call 704-866-3607 to be added to our monthly email list.

Text: Text **GASTON ECA** to 844-311-2991 to be added to our text updates for projects, meeting reminders, important updates and more. You can also email [kayla.adams@gastongov.com](mailto:kayla.adams@gastongov.com) or call 704-866-3607 to be added to the text list.



## ONGOING ECA PROJECTS FOR 2023



- **Ronald McDonald House:** The Martha Goebel Group is collecting drink tabs
- **Gaston County Schools:** collecting school supplies in August
- **First Baptist Mission Trips:** collecting eyeglasses
- **Pennies For Friendship:** supporting Association of County World Women
- **Baby Quilts & Baby Caps:** making quilts and caps for infants in the neonatal intensive care unit at CaroMont Regional Medical Center
- **Surgical Pillows:** sewing pillows for surgical patients of CaroMont Regional Medical Center
- **Operation Gratitude:** knitting/crocheting scarves for the military
- **Shirt Savers:** making shirt savers for residents at Holy Angels with supplies purchased by Holy Angels
- **Warm Up America:** making afghans for the homeless
- **Gaston Skills:** providing workshops for adults with special needs

## ECA UPDATES

- Make sure you submit any information and classes for the newsletter no later than the 15th of the month to Kayla Adams via email ([kayla.adams@gastongov.com](mailto:kayla.adams@gastongov.com)) or by phone (704-866-3607)
- Sunshine Volunteer: Pam Davis has volunteered to be the Sunshine Volunteer. Pam's contact info is 704-689-1708 or [pammy0402@msn.com](mailto:pammy0402@msn.com)
- The ECA Website is updated regularly. You can find the monthly newsletters, forms, scholarship information and more here.
- The Martha Goebel Special Interest Group is our Call Tree partner that provides reminder calls for the monthly meetings.
- Feeling under the weather? To help protect our members and staff, if you are sick please stay home.
- ECA's primary source of sharing updates and happenings is done through the monthly newsletters. Newsletters are sent via email and can be mailed upon request.
- LTC is a fragrance-free building. No perfumes, lotions, body sprays, aftershaves, etc.

## PROJECT INFO

**OPERATION GRATITUDE:** Please be aware of size requirements for scarves. No smaller than 4" x 48" or larger than 5" x 50". Any that are outside that size will be saved to gift to schools in the fall along with ear warmers.

**WARM UP AMERICA:** Contact Bertie Smith (704-864-6655) for more information or questions about this project.

## ECA CONTACT INFO

### 2023 ECA Executive Board

President - Karen Rhyne  
Vice President - Lori Friesenhahn  
Secretary - Betse Cordell  
Treasurer - Dana Croston  
Advisor - Audrey Hunt  
ECA Liaison - Kayla Adams

### Standing Committee Contacts

Building Committee - Peggy Dameron (chairperson), Pam Davis, Martha Spurrier & Patti Wells

Marketing Committee - Pam Davis, Audrey Hunt, Sheri Vance

Program Committee - Patti Wells (chairperson), Marsha McLamb, Ann Mustian

Ad Hoc Committee - Betse Cordell (chairperson), Patti Wells

Scholarship Committee - Audrey Hunt (chairperson), Karen Rhyne, Martha Spurrier, Billie Taylor, & Dana Croston

NC State ECA Website: [go.ncsu.edu/nceca](http://go.ncsu.edu/nceca)

**Quilmakers PHD**  
PROJECTS HALF DONE

JOIN US THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 10A-4P TO WORK ON YOUR HALF DONE PROJECTS! BRING YOUR OWN PROJECTS AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF OTHER QUILTERS!

## EXTENSION CONTACT INFO

### Lucile Tatum Center

959 Osceola St. Gastonia, NC 28054  
Phone: 704-866-3607  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-12pm / 1pm-5pm

### Citizen Resource Center

1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy. Dallas, NC 28034  
Phone: 704-922-2111

### NC Cooperative Extension

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053

### Website

[gaston.es.ncsu.edu](http://gaston.es.ncsu.edu)

### Facebook

@[gastoneca](https://www.facebook.com/gastoneca) (Gaston Co. ECA)  
@[ExtensionHealthyLiving](https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionHealthyLiving) (NC Cooperative Extension Nutrition & Wellness Programs)  
@[GastonExtension](https://www.facebook.com/GastonExtension) (Gaston Co. Cooperative Extension)

### Instagram

@[gaston\\_county\\_nc\\_ces](https://www.instagram.com/gaston_county_nc_ces) (Gaston Co. Cooperative Extension)

Your NC State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, political beliefs, family and marital status, sex, age, veteran status, sexual identity, genetic information or disability. NC State University, N.C. A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.