

## WILDERNESS TRAIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2015

I am afforded the privilege of representing The Wilderness Trail Area which is comprised of 8 counties: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitley. Our Counties continue to support KEHA and their endeavors by:

- contributing 100% to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund
- sponsoring the Backpack for Hunger Program at local schools
- providing 4-H camp scholarship funds
- attending leadership training sessions
- volunteering service hours to their communities
- supporting our county extension offices
- Offering/instructing craft classes to our communities

County highlights:

**BELL:** Continue to support and conduct projects for the Cumberland River Comprehensive Care Centers, proud participant in the Quilt Show at the Mountain Laurel Festival, gave \$1,000 in scholarships for two deserving college bound students, and hosted the WTA annual meeting in October.

**CLAY:** Held a Photography Show as a fundraiser for Ovarian Cancer Research where 36 photographs were entered and \$90 was in addition to their 100% donation. The Pins & Needles Quilt Club is in the process of making a quilt for Veterans in the county. Proudly have 2 of our members serving on the Area Council: Secretary, Amy Smith and Environment, Housing and Energy Chair, Marsha Garrison.

**HARLAN:** Has 11 Clubs: 6 traditional and 5 specialty clubs with a total of 193 members. Our quilters adopted four names from the Angel Tree at Harlan High School and purchased gifts from their wish lists. Collected can goods for Christ's Hands. Made 30 lap quilts for the V.A. Nursing Home in Johnson City, Tenn. Are proud to say that our county continues to support the KEHA Scholarship Program and receive an award for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at the Annual State Meeting.

**JACKSON:** One of our youngest members won a Best of Category Purple Ribbon for her photography entry at this year's State Meeting. Another of our homemakers won Best of Category Purple Ribbon for her recycled entry of a teacup planter out of tires at the State Meeting. We are pleased that we have several writers who continue to submit their work to the Cultural Arts Writing Contest. Our quilters made hand-sewn ornaments for the Jackson County Nursing Home.

**KNOX:** Held our first ever evening Officer Installation/Open House dinner event. In memory of a deceased homemaker member a donation of \$100 was made in her name to Meals on Wheels. We participated in "Wipe Out Drugs" UNITE campaign by donating rolls of toilet paper for use in women and men rehab centers. A Christmas tree was decorated and auctioned off for the Barbourville Tourism Christmas Bazaar (the tree won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the judging.) Our quilting club made 17 lap quilts for the Barbourville Nursing Home. Our homemakers and quilters arose to the occasion and made 9 quilts and 15 pillowcases for the Center for Courageous Kids.

**LAUREL:** Has 14 active clubs (6 traditional and 8 speciality) with 238 members. They awarded two \$1,000 Emma Lou Cissell Memorial scholarships to college bound students. Extension Homemakers provided 126 blankets and quilts to needy children for Project Linus. 2 of our homemakers made a 4H t-shirt quilt that will represent Laurel County 4H's at the JM Feltner 4H Camp.

**ROCKCASTLE:** The Quail Club Homemakers sell food at the Annual Farm Machinery Sale to raise funds for the upkeep of the Quail Community Park. The club members cleaned 2 miles of highway in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. The Sunshine Club donated Coloring books and crayons at the local hospital at Christmas. The Quilting clubs made 51 girls' dresses and 35 rag dolls for children in Africa and Nicaragua, 13 quilts for "Quilts for Kids" project, 20 quilts for one of the youth resource centers and a total of 11 quilts were donated to organizations for fundraising in which 3 of them brought in \$1,600.

**WHITLEY:** Have 10 traditional clubs with 125 members. Sewed aprons, pants, bibs and baby blankets for Galilean Children's Home at Liberty and collected craft supplies for youth at the home. Made 2 quilts for a family who lost their home to fire. Made afghans for Project Linus. Made 17 scarves for Kentucky Special Olympics. Sponsored a bike ride to raise funds for burial of children under five years of age. Held a bean supper and raised \$1,000 for local fire department.

The WTA continues to support and help our communities. We are consistently looking for additional ways to share our talents, time and knowledge for the future homemakers and current residents of the area where we live.