



NEWSLETTER

President's Message

When someone asks "What are you passionate about?" perhaps you have a go-to answer: family, cooking, gardening, yoga... Or perhaps you take a moment, close your eyes and with a deep sigh reply, "I'll have to think about that."

As a CWA member you can think about directing your passion in at least four avenues: AGRICULTURE as a whole; LEGISLATION; MAKING CONNECTIONS; and EDUCATION.

The quote "If you eat food and wear clothes, you are involved in agriculture" is elegant in its simplicity. AGRICULTURE - not just food - fills every aspect of our daily lives. Yesterday I purchased a down comforter (on super sale!) and thought "down feathers and cotton cover - agriculture." CWA members support the sustainability of local agriculture - an excellent choice for directing your passion.

LEGISLATION is another avenue in which to direct your passion. Educating our state legislators and administration officials has never been more important to California agriculture than it is today. Data supported peer-reviewed scientific research coupled with thoughtful, economically viable solutions - shared by a "real farmer" - will help our legislators make informed decisions on issues critical to our

livelihood. On May 5 - 6 five Lake County members will have traveled to Sacramento to join CWA members from around the state to advocate for agriculture.

MAKING CONNECTIONS by interacting with family, friends and community folks gives us opportunities to have conversations about agricultural topics. Consider joining in like opportunities, or connect with folks on a daily basis - whether you are sharing a juicy pear, sipping a robust merlot, or admiring a colorful outfit. Agriculture is the universal connection.

EDUCATION connects with all the avenues. Our AgVenture program, now in its fifth year, is our concerted approach to educating community leaders about the history, science, and economic aspects of agriculture in Lake County. This program has led to many "AHA moments" among participants. Consider directing your passion here or in similar programs.

"Man is only great when he acts from passion." With these words, Benjamin Disraeli inspires us to act. As a CWA member, where will you direct your passion?

-Sharron Zoller, CWA President.

Calendar

*May 29th
LCCWA
Summer Social
Annual Meeting
Wildburst Winery
Courtyard*

**Upcoming
AgVENTURE
DATES:
Aug 8, Sept. 12,
Oct. 17, and
Nov. 7**



AGVENTURE 2014 UPDATE:

Planning for AgVenture 2014 is well underway! The Steering Committee this year includes Sharron Zoller, Paula Bryant, Toni Scully, Diane Henderson and Annette Hopkins. Claudia Street, a graduate of the 2012 AgVenture program, is the AgVenture Program Coordinator.

The sessions will cover such topics as economics, labor, history, marketing, water, land use, agri-tourism and sustainability. Additional topics this year will provide information on the GMO debate and drought conditions in California. Class members will gain a broad knowledge about agriculture and farming in general, and more specifically about the heritage, culture, economy and business of local agriculture. Session dates have been set for August 8, September 12, October 17 and November 7.

Community leaders will be invited to participate and the members of the class will be selected based on their interest in the program, professional position in the community, and ability to help maintain a viable agricultural industry in Lake County. Invitations for class participation will go out soon.

AgVenture is an innovative agricultural education concept designed for non-farming community leaders and others who wish to understand more fully the workings of the local agricultural industry.

- Claudia Street.



Passionate "Agvocates" at Common Threads Awards

L to R: Congressman John Garamendi, Claudia Street, Marilyn Holdenried, Sharron Zoller, Sausba Racine, Margaret Eutenier, Toni's daughter Katie Specht, Toni's husband Phil Scully, TONI SCULLY, Paula Bryant, Annette Hopkins, Diane Henderson, Janice Stokes, Toni's sister Terry Azevedo, and Garamendi District Manager Elly Fairclough. In front is Toni's mother Evelyn Olson.

SHOUT OUT!

This month we send a hearty SHOUT OUT to the following:

- TONI SCULLY on receiving the prestigious Common Threads Award!
- Our outstanding 2014 scholarship recipients: JENNIFER KEITHLY, LINDEE JONES, JESSIE FLYNN, ALEXANDRIA PRUETT, CODY SMITH, BLAIR BROOKES, MARCELLA STIFTER AND ASIA JONES!
- The KURTZ FAMILY on the recent birth of daughter CLAUDIA!
- Our LCCWA member LAKE COUNTY WINERY FAMILIES and their award winning wines!
- PAULA BRYANT AND UMPQUA BANK for continuing to let us use their conference rooms for our monthly meetings. Of special note: Umpqua Bank was recently listed as #19 on the national Forbes Best Banks list and Forbes list of best companies to work for (eighth year in a row)!
- RACHEL ELKINS for her work with our walnut industry and Cottage Food Operations.
- BARRY MORRELL AND FAMILY for their California Seed Stock Producer of the Year Award!
- RACHEL RAY for touting pears (on her national television cooking show) as being a great source of fiber, and for their ability to lower cholesterol and make us feel more full- helping us to make better nutrition choices!

TONI SCULLY - 2014 COMMON THREADS AWARD RECIPIENT

We continue to celebrate our Toni's 2014 Common Threads award, culminating in the April 24th recognition and reception at U.C. Davis, along with three other honorees.



Jennifer Ryder Fox of Butte County, Toni Scully of Lake County, Shelley Macdonald of Tehama County, and Twyla Thompson of Yolo County.

Toni's journey in agriculture began in childhood in Lodi, CA, where her multi-generational farming family operated a feed and farm supply business. After graduating UC Davis in 1974 with a major in Spanish, she and husband Phil moved to Lake County where they raised four children - Tom, Pat, Katie and Andy. Soon Toni became a strong advocate and promoter of the local agricultural industry.

In 1984, Toni and Phil launched Scully Packing Company, a fresh pear packing and marketing business, where Toni still serves as partner and office administrator. A prime grower, packer and shipper of California pears, Scully Packing Company today serves both domestic and international customers.

Early on, Toni discovered that local teens were restricted in their ability to work during the pear season. She then worked tirelessly with local leaders, school district administrators, and California State Senator Mike Thompson to pass a bill that would allow local teens the chance to work in the harvest and packing sheds during pear season. Since its inception in 1996 the bill has been renewed every year.

Toni has been a staunch advocate of farming practices and programs that protect the health and safety of local and migrant farm employees. She made national headlines in 2006 (including the front page of the New York Times) when Lake County and other California farming areas were up against a severe labor shortage during harvest. She worked with California Senator Diane Feinstein in support of the AgJobs bill, a farm labor law that would provide agricultural employers with a stable, legal labor force while protecting farmworkers.

Toni's many commitments and achievements include being named Woman of the Year for the 2nd Senate District by Wes Chesbro in 2006; Lake County Farm Bureau Presidents' Club member for 23 years; membership in the California Grape and Tree Fruit League since 1984, where she serves as a director and active member of its legislative committee; grower spokesperson for the California tree fruit industry- traveling nationwide on promotional tours; and charter member of the Lake County CWA Chapter, serving as its president from 2010-11, and currently as vice president.

Other involvements include a 20-year 4-H leadership stint, substituting in local high schools as a Spanish teacher, religious education teacher in her church, and serving on the Mendocino College Foundation board for 15 years - two years as president.

Common Threads North is a collaborative effort of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, the U.C. Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, California Women for Agriculture and various county Farm Bureaus. The program was designed to recognize Northern California Women who have deep roots in agriculture and have chosen to make a difference in their communities through their contribution of time, talent and treasure. Toni was nominated by LCCWA and the Lake County Farm Bureau.

Needless to say, we are extremely proud of and grateful to Toni for her relentless enthusiasm and passion for agriculture. She truly personifies the character and spirit of the Common Threads award!

-Adapted from various 2014 media reports



Toni Among the Pear Blossoms

LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

Here are recent highlights from Lake County Farm Bureau:

- 1) Held a "Train the Trainer" Workshop which allowed participants to become qualified to provide pesticide safety training to fieldworkers and pesticide handlers. Instruction was provided by University of California IPM Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator.
- 2) Held a Pesticide Applicator Workshop in conjunction with the Lake And Mendocino County Departments of Agriculture and the Lake County University of California Cooperative Extension. This workshop provided hands-on training for pesticide applicators to enhance their knowledge of pesticide safety, ways to prevent injuries and to understand current laws and regulations. Training was provided by staff from the ag departments and other local industry professionals.
- 3) Released the application for the 2014 Lake County Farm Bureau Scholarship.
- 4) Lake County Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted to support Measure L, the Healthy Lake Tax.
- 5) In conjunction with the Lake County Winegrape Commission, organized a Lake County Farm Response to Drought forum which brought in industry professionals, local farmers and businesses to discuss ways to manage for the 2014 drought.
- 6) Worked with local realtors and Lake County staff to develop a means to inform the public of the Right to Farm Ordinance.
- 7) Attended the California Farm Bureau Federation Leaders Conference and Commodity Advisory Committee meetings.
- 8) Continue to provide updates to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program requirements which will help local participants remain compliant with the program mandated by the California Water Quality Control Board.

- Diane Henderson.

SENDING LOTS OF SUNSHINE TO:

-The family and friends of faithful LCCWA South County Representative, NovaVine, Inc. founder and longtime educator ELLEN HEATH, on her recent passing.

-TONI (RENFRO) BROWN as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.

-PAMELA KIRKPATRICK and CHUCK MARCH, who are continuing to meet their health challenges head- on. (We wish Chuck the best as he hopes to walk his son down the aisle at his upcoming wedding!)

-Longtime members CARMEN CARPENTER and ELIZABETH SPRINGER.

-Family and Friends of BEVERLY (HANSON) SFINGI - one of the five founders of CWA and outstanding former women's golf pro - on her recent passing.



ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SELECTED

The scholarship committee, which met in April to review applications, was greatly impressed by the remarkable young men and women who applied. As I read through each one I couldn't help but think "How do I raise my daughter to be like this?"

I'm pleased to announce the following 2014-15 academic year scholarship recipients:

-JENNIFER KEITHLY, a past recipient, has been awarded a \$750.00 scholarship. Just finishing her first year at UC Davis' Veterinary School of Medicine, she continues to excel in everything she does. Specializing in large animals and food animals, she intends to graduate in 2017.

-LINDEE JONES, another remarkable young lady and past recipient, has been awarded a \$750.00 scholarship. She continues to pursue a career as a PCA and is scheduled to receive her Associate's degree from Shasta College this spring, then transfer to CSU Chico in the fall to complete a Bachelor's degree in Plant Science with an emphasis on Crop Management.

-JESSIE FLYNN, an outstanding senior at Middletown High School, has been awarded a \$750.00 scholarship. She wants to become a Veterinarian specializing in large animals, hoping to run her own clinic someday. She wishes to attend Lyon, a private university in Arkansas because of their excellent pre-veterinary program.

-ALEXANDRIA PRUETT has also been awarded a \$750.00 scholarship. This fine young lady is currently attending Mendocino College and is scheduled to graduate in the fall of 2015, then transfer to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She is pursuing a degree in Horticulture and wishes to teach agriculture and someday own her own nursery.

-CODY SMITH, stellar senior at Clear Lake High School, has been awarded a \$250.00 scholarship. He is interested in studying animal feeds and nutrition and would like to become a feed representative. He is passionate about livestock and is running for a board member position on the National Junior Swine Association. He plans to attend Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon.

-BLAIR BROOKES, extraordinary senior at Kelseyville High School, has also been awarded a \$250.00 scholarship. Blair has always been passionate about farming and the rural way of life. She has been accepted by UC Davis, Cal Poly SLO and CSU Chico, but may decide to attend Santa Rosa Junior College to reduce costs and explore possible careers within the agricultural industry prior to transferring to a four-year university.

-MARCELLA STIFTER, standout Upper Lake High School senior, has been awarded a \$250.00 scholarship. Along with her high school class schedule she has been taking classes at Mendocino College. She plans to attend CSU Humboldt and wants to play a role in helping feed Americans by working at a fishery, keeping fish grown for human consumption healthy.

-ASIA JONES, accomplished senior at Clear Lake High School, is also a \$250.00 scholarship recipient. She is interested in Ecology, which she addressed in her application as the study of how everything interacts. Asia gave an example of a cabbage farmer whose crop is being overrun and eaten by hares. She says he may call an ecologist who will evaluate the cause of the invasion. She argued, "Studying the interactions in the world around us and the reasons behind them is an extremely useful skill, especially in the world of agriculture."

I would like to congratulate these bright young students and wish them all the best in their continued success. We are inviting them to our May 29th social and are hoping some of them will be able to attend. I would like to give a very special thanks to Lori McGuire, Terry Dereniuk, Rebecca Southwick and Claudia Street for participating on the scholarship committee.

-Sausba Racine, Scholarship Chair

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