



NEWSLETTER

Editor's Note: *I would like to extend a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to Brenna and all our board members who so faithfully contributed to our newsletter over these past 8 years. It couldn't have succeeded without you! It was a joy to have served as co-editor!*

-Lori McGuire, outgoing co-editor

President's Message

As I think about how anxious we all are to close out 2020 in hopes for a brighter 2021, I would be remiss in not giving thanks for all that my family has been blessed with despite the chaos of the past 9 months. Undoubtedly, COVID has brought uncertainty and severe hardship to many. For my family, the burden has been minimal when measured against what others have faced. This is partially due to my viewpoint of where I live and the community that surrounds me.

We as members of Lake County CWA are united in our value of agriculture and a rural way of life. We have known all along what the folks fleeing the cities to join our community or communities like ours have realized.

Suddenly, the idea of less congestion and a back yard has appeal. But you and I knew that attraction all along. Quite frankly, I'm not sure why it took a pandemic for others to figure it out. Perhaps COVID will provide us with an opportunity to expose these new neighbors to an agricultural community first hand and in a positive light. We may be challenged with getting these new community members to understand and accept farming practices and the processes involved in production agriculture, but it is crucial that we distinguish ourselves and our love for the land as we engage with these new friends if we want to preserve our rural way of life. More than ever we must be proactive and continue telling the story of agriculture.

Your friends in CWA are telling this story, each in their own way. Lake County has evolved. Pears, walnuts, olives and wine grapes can coexist with specialty crops like saffron and all the other commodities and products we see pop up at the farmer's market. It has also evolved in that Lake County is both the multi-generational family farmer and the new farmer who wants a different way of life. With enough strength and perseverance to withstand the surprises and financial challenges farming brings, they design their own family dream. Each plays an important role in our community, and with harmonious relationships and respect for the value of each other's operation we can continue to tell the many different stories of a sustainable agricultural community. A united front, just as we are through CWA, is the most prolific approach to achieve this goal and preserve our way of life.

Though each of our Christmas experiences this year will be different, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful season. Though 2021 will certainly continue to challenge us, I also believe we will find encouragement and creativity in learning to do things a little differently. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Calendar

- ❖ **January 20, 2021** – LCCWA Board Meeting via Zoom
- ❖ **January 20-21, 2021** – 45th Annual State CWA Convention & January SWM via Zoom
- ❖ **February 17, 2021** – LCCWA Board Meeting via Zoom



Merry



Christmas



Sausha

SHOUT OUT!

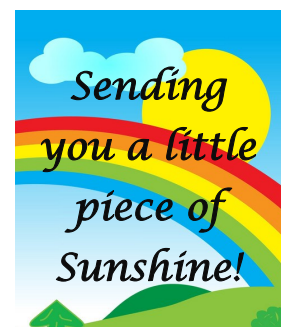
We are pleased to give a hearty SHOUT OUT! to the following:

- ❖ BLAIR (BROOKES) SMITH, daughter of Steve and Lynn Brookes, on her marriage to Jonathan Smith, son of LCCWA member and Lakeport District Rep and Pear Festival co-chair JILL JENSEN! Congratulations!
- ❖ ALL of our recent sponsors without whom we could not realize our goals!
- ❖ JESSICA PYSKA on her recent Supervisor election win, and for her support of agriculture!
- ❖ ANDY AND PAM SCULLY and the entire SCULLY FAMILY for their generous donation of delicious pears for the Lake County Meals on Wheels Program!
- ❖ LAKE COUNTY FARMERS' FINEST for their "Celebrating the Walnut" feature!
- ❖ THE GOOD FARM FUND which supports Northern California local farms through private grants and donations. Lake County's Edenberry Farms was a recipient last year!
- ❖ SCULLY PACKING for their extraordinary feat of no Covid-19 cases throughout the packing season, a result of proactive planning, coordination with Dr. Pace, and following strict guidelines. Well done!
- ❖ BLAIR SMITH for accepting her new post as co-editor of our quarterly newsletter beginning 2021!
- ❖ RACHEL ELKINS for her willingness, post-retirement, to continue to work part-time for ag in Lake County! (see article)
- ❖ CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY—State Assembly District 4—for her support of ag in Lake County!
- ❖ ALL THOSE involved in the continuing efforts to get abandoned or excess crops to those in need. FARM LINK-FARMERS TO FOOD BANKS is one. Our own LAKE COUNTY GLEANERS is another!
- ❖ BLAIR SMITH for her outstanding work in putting together our recent well-received "Pear Extraordinaire" virtual fund-raising event. Even the title was her idea! Thanks, too, to ALL who helped out!
- ❖ THE HAT FAMILY of WILDHURST VINEYARDS for their generous donation of funds from their annual Corn Maze/Pumpkin Patch event to Kelseyville High School's FFA program!
- ❖ LCCWA members TAMMY AND MARK LIPPS of THE RIPE CHOICE FARM STAY AND CATERING for winning the Best Lakeport Business and LISA WILSON of CLEAR LAKE BOAT RENTAL for winning second place at the Hands Up Lake County 2020 Business Competition. Congratulations!
- ❖ ALL who contributed their input, information and photos for our Grand Marshal article!
- ❖ LORI MCGUIRE for all her tireless effort in editing the LCCWA newsletter the past few years! She always delivers an excellent and informative newsletter about Lake County agriculture and our LCCWA members! Thank you LORI!

SENDING SUNSHINE

Our hearts and thoughts are with the following as they continue to brave health challenges:

KEITH PETTERSON, PAT MCGUIRE, CHUCK CARPENTER, TONETTE BROWN, BUZ DERENIUK and CHUCK MARCH!



FEATURED RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

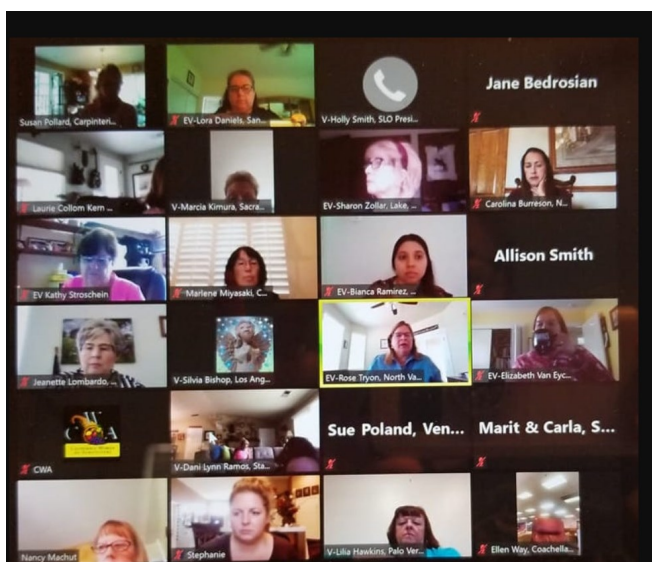
It's walnut season in Lake County! We thought you would enjoy this simple but delicious Walnut Squares recipe made often by Martha Salter in days past. ENJOY!

WALNUT SQUARES

- Beat well 1 egg.
- Add 1 cup packed brown sugar and beat well again.
- Sift together and add 5 TBS. flour, 1/2 tsp. baking soda, and a pinch of salt.
- Add 1 tsp. vanilla and 1 cup walnut meats.
- Bake in 8x8 pan in 350 degree oven for 15 minutes.
- Let cool, then cut into squares.



STATE CWA UPDATE



The COVID-19 pandemic sent the global economy and social interactions into a tailspin of unknown. The challenge we faced as an organization was how to arrange virtual meetings that would offer CWA members the same value as they would get from an in person event or conference. Yikes! Our two Zoom statewide meetings, September and November, were increasingly well attended and we continue to work on striking the right balance of business and program. The annual conference in January 20 and 21, 2021, is our first two-day event. The conference committee is working on speakers, a virtual tour and CWA business. Please watch for the announcement flyer! Put the dates on your calendar!

Sharron Zoller

State President-elect California Women for Agriculture



We look forward to a New Year of hope for good health and a brighter future! Stay Well!

FEATURE ARTICLE: BRENNA SULLIVAN

*Brenna and Sky*

It is my pleasure to feature our own Brenna Sullivan in this month's newsletter. It has been a joy and privilege to have worked with her as co-editor of our quarterly publication. In addition to her co-editor responsibilities, Brenna is our AgVenture contact and Farm Bureau liaison. As concerns her work ethic she is a shining example of the "grace under pressure" phrase made popular by author Ernest Hemingway. You will not hear a negative word or complaint from Brenna even under the most pressing challenges. I am excited to be "passing the pen" as co-editor to Blair Smith beginning 2021, but will miss our partnership in past endeavors over the years.

Brenna was awarded 2020's Star of Lake County for Agriculture. The following is a copy of the letter of recommendation. We continue to be proud of the women like Brenna in our organization who work tirelessly to promote our goals.

"Brenna Sullivan became the Executive Director of the Lake County Farm Bureau in July 2015.

Raised in Lake County on a small farm with a walnut orchard and several horses, she became an expert horsewoman and is currently a board member on the local Horse Council. Brenna also excelled as a competitive swimmer in high school and at UC Santa Cruz, after which she worked as a lifeguard and licensed EMT for the State Park Service in Santa Cruz. It was there that she developed her diplomacy skills patrolling the beaches to keep people safe. In the process, she also saved several lives.

While Brenna did not have a deep background in agriculture when she joined the Farm Bureau, her quick mind and wide assortment of skills enabled her to quickly become knowledgeable and effective. She has built relationships at all levels and has become a tireless advocate for all aspects of Lake County agriculture. During the often contentious, yearlong process of promulgating county regulations for the cannabis industry, Brenna worked hard to understand the positions of all sides and find ways to resolve differences. Her diplomacy and pragmatism earned her widespread respect. She continues to look for ways to unite the new breed of farmers with the traditional ones, which will help us to sustain a viable agriculture industry in Lake County.

Brenna continues to represent the county agricultural community in the discussions on listing the Clear Lake hitch as an endangered species. During this lengthy process, she has worked closely with her Farm Bureau Board to identify the issues and potential impacts surrounding the hitch listing effort and kept growers abreast of requirements and ways to minimize farming disruptions while protecting the spawning areas of the hitch.

When disaster strikes, we can count on Brenna to roll up her sleeves and figure out how to help. In 2018 the Mendocino Complex fire was raging as pear harvest was set to begin. As the situation grew more critical by the day, Brenna collaborated with the incident commanders for Cal Fire, District 5 Supervisor Rob Brown, the CHP and Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin to agree on a plan to allow harvest to safely move forward. During the Valley Fire she helped Sonoma Action for Equine Rescue (SAFER) to find a depot for collecting feed, tack and other supplies for rescued horses and their owners.

An important part of Brenna's work is managing the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program that helps farmers to meet state requirements for surface water testing. She represents Lake County agriculture in meetings with the Sacramento Valley Watershed and the Regional Water Board. Brenna has been resourceful in finding cost-effective solutions to the many requirements under this program. For example, she identified an opportunity to partner with Yolo County and join their new on-line system that will be used to input information by all Irrigated Lands members. This system will meet the Sacramento Valley Watershed requirements at a significantly reduced cost. Brenna also successfully advocated for a reduced monitoring agreement for Lake County, which reduced costs while maintaining the effectiveness of our surface water quality monitoring program.



LCCWA members Terry Dereniuk, Marilyn Holdenried and Brenna Sullivan at the 2020 Stars of Lake County Awards

(Cont'd on next page)

BRENNA SULLIVAN FEATURE ARTICLE CONTINUED



Brenna (second from right) with fellow AgVenture Steering Committee members from left: Annette Hopkins, Terry Dereniuk, Diane Henderson and Toni Scully.

When the Upper Lake and Scotts Valley watersheds were classified as medium priority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Brenna worked tirelessly with the Lake County Department of Water Resources Director and the California Department of Water Resources to present data that showed that these watersheds were misclassified. Due to her efforts, both watersheds were reclassified as low priority, saving them from having to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies at a cost of millions of dollars and unnecessary regulations that would impact the entire community.

Lake County has a staunch protector and promoter of the agricultural industry in Brenna Sullivan. She is highly deserving of the Stars of Lake County Award for agriculture.”

Postscript from Diane Henderson: Brenna is pursuing an online Masters of Science in Geosciences offered through Ohio University. She says it offers flexible hours designed for working professionals. She is not planning to leave us; she just thinks that this program, which has an emphasis on hydrology, geomorphology and groundwater, will give her more understanding and credibility when dealing with issues like our algae blooms in the lake.

~ Lori McGuire

RACHEL ELKINS UPDATE



Although “officially retired,” Pomology Farm Advisor Emeritus, and Recall Non-Faculty Academic Appointee (pear and walnut), Rachel continues to work part-time for the University of California Cooperative Extension. Twenty percent of her time goes to supporting the pear industry assisting in the statewide industry and also continuing research trials. She is also utilizing other grant funds to assist walnut growers. We are fortunate to have her continuing in this capacity! Rachel stated “It is important to UCCE that we remain committed to serving local agriculture, as well as maintain our Master Gardener and 4-H programs. Our new Forestry Advisor, Michael Jones, has been working hard on fire hardening programs as well.” She can be reached at 707-349-4410.

SUPPORTING LAKE COUNTY'S SCHOOL GARDENS

Our Chapter has actively supported school gardens as well as individual teacher projects that utilize agriculture in their classroom through our Mini-grant program. In 2019, we awarded grants to support school gardens at Kelseyville Elementary, Rivera Elementary, and Cobb Elementary schools plus teacher project grants to 4 teachers.

At our last Board meeting for 2020, \$1,000 was authorized to be used in support of school gardens. We have reached out to the school garden consortium to see if they needed any funds this year, but so far no one has requested funds and none have been awarded. This is due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. We will continue to explore opportunities to support the gardens and keep the important opportunities for Ag education alive.



~ Terry D. and Annette H.

PEAR EXTRAORDINAIRE



Due to the impact of the pandemic, the Lake County CWA chapter had to adapt the tradition of selling pies and turnovers at the Pear Festival. This year, we hosted a virtual event, the Pear Extraordinaire, to raise scholarship funds for students in our community. Though nothing can compare to the camaraderie of mingling with one another during a full day of baking, the Pear Extraordinaire allowed our members and guests to socialize over Zoom. The program included a baking tutorial for our famous pear pie, pear-themed trivia, and a historical slideshow of the Pear Festival featuring many of our founding CWA members. I would like to give a shout out to Diane Henderson and Toni Scully for supplying questions and content for the trivia. We all learned something new about one of Lake County's most prominent crops. Watching the slideshow together caused us all to reflect on how blessed we are to live in a tight knit community with treasured traditions. Our pear pies aren't just a way to share delicious dessert with the community – we simultaneously impact the lives of young students and help them in reaching their goals. Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, our club was able to raise a few thousand dollars that will go directly towards student scholarships. Thank you to all who joined in on the Pear Extraordinaire- your support does not go unnoticed and we are SO grateful for your participation and support!

~ **Blair Smith**



SPONSORS SINCE OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS, WITHOUT WHOM WE COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS:

Mower and Shaker

Bernie and Lynn Butcher
Umpqua Bank

Shiny Red Tractor

Lakeport Tire
Brent and Debbi Holdenried
Wilda Shock
Janice Stokes



thank you



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR LAKE COUNTY CWA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021!

Our Lake County Chapter members join with 18 other county chapters to create the California Women for Agriculture organization. With your continued support we will remain strong and effective. In 2020, despite all the challenges of COVID our Chapter:

- ❖ Awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to students pursuing agriculture related studies.
- ❖ Despite the cancellation of AgVenture 2020, the Ag Venture Steering Committee has continued to educate the community with a series of press releases highlighting the Lake County Ag Industry and actions taken to keep workers safe.
- ❖ Continues to work with legislators such as Senator McGuire to remind our elected officials of the importance of Lake County Agriculture. We have fostered a positive relationship of open dialogue which promotes a voice for agriculture.
- ❖ Continues to seek ways to support mini grants and K-8 agricultural education programs.
- ❖ Raised scholarship funds for 2021 with our Virtual Pear Pie Extraordinaire.
- ❖ Brought you a quarterly newsletter keeping you informed on Chapter activities and legislation.

Renew your membership by filling out the enclosed application and mailing it along with your check. Ask a friend to join! For a mere \$40 per calendar year, your membership will help us continue to promote agriculture and the value it brings to our community.

If you wish to also support American Agri Women (similar to CWA on a national level), you can indicate this on your form and pay those dues at the same time.

Remember, you don't have to be a farmer or rancher to care about agriculture; if you eat food and wear clothes, you are involved in agriculture!

Thank you for supporting LCCWA!

Follow us on Facebook and find us at www.lakecountycwa.org

FARM BUREAU NEWS

Happy New Year from the Lake County Farm Bureau!

As a reminder, information for the Irrigated Lands Program is due in the www.subwatershed.com site by December 31, 2020! The information you need to complete this task includes your parcel numbers, acreage, general management practices and nitrogen application information. The Lake County Farm Bureau is happy to help walk you through these new requirements. For most accounts, this should take between 15 and 20 minutes. Please call us at (707) 263-0911.

We wish you and your family a safe and merry holiday season!

AGVENTURE UPDATE

The AgVenture Steering Committee is looking forward to meeting in early 2021 to discuss the option for next year. The Committee is getting ready to publish its third installment of agriculture-related press releases. The point of these articles is to highlight the Lake County farming community during this challenging year. Watch for the article on olives in Lake County News and the Lake County Record Bee!





Lake County Chapter CWA Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Circle one: (home) (cell) (work)

Secondary Phone: _____ Circle one: (home) (cell) (work)

Employer/Occupation: _____

Areas of Interest:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Pear Festival Fundraiser
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Mini-Grant Program |
|--|---|

Is there anything we can do better to serve our membership? _____

Type of Membership: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

☐ CWA Membership \$40 (website renewal is \$42.00)

<http://www.lakecountycwa.org/>

☐ American Agri-Women \$30 (optional additional membership fee)

<http://www.americanagriwomen.org/>

☐ Additional Chapter Donation \$ _____ ☐ AgVenture ☐ Scholarship ☐ Greatest Need

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____ Payable to: Lake County CWA
 P.O. Box 279
 Finley, CA 95435

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