THIS ISSUE IS FOCUSED ON CONNECTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS THROUGH INTERGENERATION ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES.
A TEAM COMMITTED TO HELP SAVE RURAL AMERICA

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WCSHC OFFICERS
Frank Taylor
President
fltaylor@bellsouth.net
601-291-2704

Hubert Nicholson
Vice President
hubertnicholson@bellsouth.net
662-736-0497

Dorothy Harper
Youth Director
jeanh29@bellsouth.net
662-312-8004

Omerio Dotson
Treasurer

Carol Williams
Secretary

Gloria Moore
Finance Secretary

Co-op mailing address:
P O Box 23813
Jackson, MS 39225
Phone: 601-291-2704
E-mail fltaylor@bellsouth.net

WCSHC’S 2009 MANTRA:
“Through shared commitment and knowledge among community partners, we can achieve uncommon things together.” Winston County Self Help Cooperative is committed to building strong and vibrant communities, improving quality of life and making a positive impact where we live and work.

Dorothy Harper
WCSHC Youth Director

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WCSHC YOUTH GROUP CONTACT JEAN HARPER 662-312-8004 OR JEANH29@BELL SOUTH.NET
Winston County Self Help Cooperative youth group hosted its 4th Annual Youth Agriculture Conference at the National Guard Armory and the Extension Office. The theme was “Leadership and Capacity Building for Youth and Family Development.” There was an attendance of over 100 youths from all over.

Our facilitators for the conference were:

- **Crayton Coleman** – He presented interactive games and physical exercises for the youth. He used hula hoops, jump ropes, and building a pyramid out of balloons.

- **Linda Floyd** - She worked with grades k-4th with “Sammy Soil Coloring Story”. It was about the importance of water to your body and your community.

- **Joseph McCain** - He discussed with the youth about the newspaper. He stated that the average newspaper was written on a 6th grade level. All the youth was asked to write an article about the conference. The best ones were chosen for the local newspaper.

- **Rev. George Miller** - His presentation was on the things you needed to be successful in life such as: education, religion, respect and obeying your parents.

- **Dennis Murray** - He had a session on getting an education outside of your state. He challenge each youth that there are more colleges beyond Mississippi. He also advised them that you can be successful outside of your state and that they needed to start preparing for college early.

- **Dr. Hall, Dr. Felton, and Dr. Newsome** - Their presentation was on biodiesel. They discussed how important biodiesel is to the economy and products that produce.

We had delicious meals everyday of the conference, especially the barbecue. On Friday night, we had a youth social with live music. The youth had a wonderful time relaxing, dancing and talking with each other. This conference was the best one yet. I pray that next year will be able to top this one.
The MLK Program was held at Mt. Sinai. The theme was “Celebrating the Dream.” The program opened with three very popular Negro hymns. The guest speaker was Mr. Robert Beck. His subject was “Keeping The Dream Alive.”

His most helpful pointers were:

- Read.
- Go to school and apply yourself.
- Don’t let other people define you.
- Be respectful and stay focused.
- Walk and work with a vision to change things.
- Show gratitude to your leaders.
- Some things that will destroy you; drugs, wrong friends, dropouts, and bad preparation.

He challenged each youth to go out into their community and be a leader and not a follower. Our youth did a presentation on MLK Jr. Scholarship awards were given away. We had three youth to win a $25 scholarship. They were Ebony Mays, Dylan Nicholson, and Taracious Carter. We also learned that life is a two way street. We need to help each other in this world to survive.

WCSHC 4–H Attends Pre Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

By Ebony Mays

WCSHC members attended a SAWG conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (Southern SAWG) is an organization that supports sustainable agriculture. We had the advantage of meeting new people and learning about the exciting things they are doing in their state and around the region. It was suggested that a network be establish so that we would know what is going on in each state.

Babcock and Kellogg Foundations. They enlighten us on what a foundation looks for in an applicant? There were booths with all types of organic products. They had organic soap, hair products, food, t-shirts, bags and seeds on display. Silent auctions were held every day. Also, we signed a letter of encouragement to President Obama. We had a Tennessee Dinner in which the food was donated by organic farmers. The guest speaker was John Ikerd, who spoke on “Why Sustainable Farming is Critical for the Future of the World?” It was very inspiring. We left the conference with the knowledge that sustainable farms will play an important part in our economy today and years to come.

WCSHC members Dorothy Jean Harper, Jack Miller, and Bettye Cooper attended Southern SAWG Conference
Winston County Self Help Co-op Future Generation 4-H Participate in a Religious Workshop

By Bro. Billie Metts

On February 7, 2009, our youth had the opportunity to participate in a workshop which was sponsored by the New Educational State Convention Laymen Ministry of Mississippi. Mrs. Harper, the youth coordinator along with 14 youths attended this workshop. The theme was “Empowering Christians for Church Ministry and Mission.”

Emphasis was placed on:

1. Leadership development
2. How to use evangelism as a growth tool for the church
3. Steps to sharpening the mind spiritually and academically

The youth were also involved in bible drill contests. The purpose of the bible drill was to help the youth to become familiar with the contents of the bible. Mrs. Harper conducted an activity that demonstrated the importance of listening, following instructions, and cooperation. Mrs. Harper is to be commended for the hard work and commitment that she put forth to help the young people to be the best they can be.

Happy Birthday

(January - March)

Chad – January 9
Tierra - January 12
Alice - January 15
Jacqual - January 31
Taracious - February 14
T J - March 23

WORDS TO LIVE BY

“My child, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in mind. Then you will live a long life and your life will be successful.

Proverbs 3:1-2
Jean Harper

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”
George Washington Carver

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

March 2.............................................................Disk garden spot
March 8..........................................................WCSHC Youth meeting
Planting Date for Garden (to be determined)
March 16...........................Parenting workshops for girls
March 18...............Forestry Workshop (Choctaw Lake)
March 21.........Community Service Project (Eiland Plaza)
Bible Bowl / Basketball game (Millspring)
March 27-28.................................Young Women Summit

**Vegetables to be planted (turnips, onions, cabbage, mustard, potatoes,
By Chris Mays

WCSHC 4-H traveled to Emory University in Atlanta Georgia for a conference. We had seventeen youths and three adults. The facilitators were:

- **Dr. Zimmerman**
  1. Challenged the youth to see themselves as college students
  2. Take advantage of all presented activities
  3. Meet new people
  4. Informed us on summer programs; challenges and champions, which is academic in the morning and sports in the afternoon

**Summer science academy** – 3 or 4 weeks of study for students interested in medicine

**Prep - Academic Enrichment**

Dr. Shulman (Red Skeleton look alive) – He engaged in a question and answer session about what they wanted to be when they grow up. Dr. Shulman did an interactive demonstration with Jonathan to show how to test for meningitis. Dr. Shulman along with 350 other doctors wrote a book called, “Your Body’s Red Light Warning Signal.” He had several youth to read excerpts from the book. Then they were given a quiz on their knowledge of the material that was read. The youth responded well. He donated several books to the 4 – H group. He wanted them to realize how important humor is in your life. With a good sense of humor, you will live longer.

Dennis Murray gave Ebony a letter that he had received from Harvard University. Mr. Murray and Dr. Shulman had the group to act out scenes from a book called, “Corporate Kid.” They both hope that it will become a hit movie one day. Mr. Murray challenged each youth to read more. He gave each youth a book to read afterwards pass it on to another member of the group and outside the group. After all books are read, they are to be turn in to our club library.

Our trip to Atlanta was fun and exciting. We had a chance to embark on new challenges.

Dr. Shulman did an interactive demonstration with Jonathan to show how to test for meningitis.
Mike Skipper, Winston County 4-H County Agent, and Sandra Jackson, 4-H Coordinator, took the group on a nature walk to demonstrated techniques on how to classify / identify trees using a simple key. He used a basic practice of identifying trees by their leaves. The group practiced the concept by taking leaves from different trees and telling what kind of tree it was. This practice will help us in a forestry competition that is coming up later. Our goal is to be ready for the event and win the competition. Thanks to Mike Skipper we know a lot more about trees.

After the tree classification presentation, our next task was to go our garden spot. First, we removed rocks, pulled up okra stalks, and gathered turnip bottoms. It was hard work, but doing it as a group made it fun. Each youth was asked to grab a bag and take it home or give them to someone they knew. Once that was completed, Rev. Matthews started up his tractor and began to disk up the land. The smell of freshness of the soil came over us. We knew then that planting is just around the corner. Thanks to Mrs. Harper (4-H leader), Ms. Cooper, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Harris, Mr. H. Nicholson, and Rev. Matthews for helping us to get our garden ready for planting.
Winston County Self Help Cooperative Youth Group will host a Young Youth Female Conference on March 27-28, 2009 for young females 11–17 years of age. The conference will be held at Louisville Coliseum, 201 Ivy Avenue, Louisville, MS. Conference theme, “Bridging the Gap and Passing the Torch to these Dream-makers.” The keynote speaker will be Dr. Velma Charles Shannon from USDA Office of Outreach and Civil Rights. Also, attending will be Linda Jones-Howell from USDA. This conference will bring together leaders from agriculture and business to demonstrate the following components:

~Leadership Building
~Health and Nutrition
~Workforce Development
~Youth Farm Loans
~Communications

We are encouraging your young females to come and participate. There will be speakers and trainers there to help build young females appetite and appreciation for learning. For more information on this conference, please call WCSHC Youth Director, Jean Harper at (662) 773-8264 or email: jeanh29@bellsouth.net

Louisville Coliseum 201 Ivy Ave Louisville, MS 39339 (662) 773-7896