

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Check out the 4-H 101 program to see what YOU can do to help make a difference by working with the youth of Bibb County

We at the Bibb County Extension Office deeply appreciate the receptiveness and enthusiasm shown by so many of you toward our efforts to establish quality Extension programs, and therefore improve the quality of life in the county. One success story I am happy to report on is that of the “What’s Up With Your Soil?” program presented at the Rock Building in Centreville on Thursday, May 6. Taylor Hatchett and Nelson Wynn, Regional Extension Agents for Home Grounds, Gardens, and Pests, delivered great programs on soil test interpretation and composting techniques.

Seventeen (17) people showed up, more than we expected. At one point, there was doubt as to whether we had enough chairs in place. Participants left with a much clearer idea of how to figure out how much lime, nitrogen, phosphorus or potash to add to their soil based on Auburn University’s test results. Also, the feedback from participant evaluations was highly positive. The program was so successful that we’re planning another horticulture program in May on tomatoes...so stay tuned.

Another success is the formation of our Bibb County Extension Advisory Leadership Council (EALC). Nearly all of our 15 new Council members assembled at the Rock Building Tuesday, March 11 to learn more about their roles as advocates and volunteers for Extension. Each councilor offered input and suggestions for new or redirected programs to improve quality of life in Bibb County.

Educational programs for youth in the areas of leadership, drug abuse prevention, abstinence, anti-litter, recycling and environmental education were identified by the councilors as priorities. We are already working on programs in some of those areas, and we look forward to developing or facilitating programs in the areas that we are not already working on. We would also like to hear from you or anyone else who has thoughts on what Extension should be doing. Call us at 205-926-3117 and let us know what you think.

If you would like to make a difference in our community by working with Bibb County youth, please consider attending **4-H 101** on Tuesday, March 25, from 5pm-6pm at the Rock Building. **4-H 101**, a program by Joy Maxwell for prospective adult volunteer 4-H leaders, offers a great opportunity to learn more about 4-H in Alabama and Bibb County, and the exciting programs available to our youth. There was a great article by Deborah Martin about **4-H 101** on the front page of the March 12 issue of the Press.

If you are interested in attending **4-H 101**, please RSVP by calling the Bibb County Extension Office at 205-926-3117 by Monday, March 24. Come and join the fun and “help make the best better.”

Finally, this is still a few weeks away but I want to mention a great opportunity to enjoy spectacular scenery and help clean up Alabama’s last free-flowing river---the Cahaba River. I’m talking about Renew Our Rivers on Saturday, April 12.

Alabama Power, the Friends of the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge, the Bibb County Commission, the town of West Blocton, the city of Brent and others are teaming up to lead a cleanup of the Cahaba in the vicinity of the County Road 24 (Cahaba River Drive) bridge. For more information call our office at 205-926-3117, or click on April 12 of our Bibb County Extension Calendar at www.aces.edu/Bibb There, you can download a volunteer sign-up form and explore the link to Renew Our Rivers.

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