

Tribute to Rita Natale Saathoff /PURPLE STAR AWARDS

When Rita Natale Saathoff (1956-2005), South Jersey Region Agent, Interim Department Chair, colleague and friend, lost her battle with leukemia in 2005, the NJ 4-H department lost not only a state leader but a national leader as well. Rita has been recognized for her innovative educational programs, including curriculum for youth in grades 1-3, volunteer training materials, and youth/adult partnership programs. She led her colleagues in the New Jersey 4-H Program through many changes and challenges with unwavering commitment and dedication. As a result, the NJ 4-H Program is recognized throughout the nation as a leader in 4-H youth development programming.

In tribute to Rita, the NJ 4-H Department instituted the Purple Star award in December 2005. The award recognizes 4-H department members who rise to the challenge and in whose performance Rita would take great pride.



We chose the color purple as it was always Rita's favorite color. Purple is said to be the color of good judgment and people seeking religious fulfillment. It is said that if you surround yourself with the color purple you will have peace of mind. Purple is also the combination of red and blue, the warmest and coolest of the colors. Therefore, purple is thought to be the ideal color.

Since the December 2005 4-H department meeting, a Purple Star Award has been presented to a different individual who has shown outstanding performance in 4-H. The last recipient chooses a new person to receive the award the following month.

Aside from the award, a Purple Star card is given to each 4-H department member with an inspirational quote.

We would like to thank Sue Makres, Atlantic County 4-H Program Associate, who creates the Purple Star designs.

Purple Star Recipients

December 2005 – Gloria Kraft, Burlington County 4-H Agent

March 2006 – Macy Compton, State 4-H Program Coordinator

June 2006 – Annette Devitt, Salem County 4-H Agent

September 2006 – Carol Ward, Somerset County 4-H Agent

December 2006 – Betty Jean Webersinn, Cape May County 4-H Agent

March 2007 – Karen Mansue, Ocean County 4-H Program Associate

June 2007 – Sharon Gore, Mercer County 4-H Program Associate

September 2007 – Jeannette Rea-Keywood, Cumberland County 4-H Agent

December 2007 – Carol Kesely, 4-H Dept. Administrative Assistant

March 2008 – Ginny Powell, Chair

June 2008 – Karyn Malinowski, RCE Director

September 2008 – Debi Cole, Atlantic County 4-H County Agent

December 2008 – Peggy McKee, Gloucester County 4-H Program Associate

National 4-H Hall of Fame

The National 4-H Hall of Fame is a 4-H Centennial project of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. In 2002, the first laureates were honored. They included volunteers, supporters, staff and pioneers – all who made major contributions to 4-H at local, state and national levels.

It is with great honor that on Friday, October 5, 2007 Rita Natale Saathoff, South Jersey Region Agent and Interim Chair, was inducted posthumously into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Her husband, Ron, received the award on her behalf. A contingent of NJ RCE colleagues, friends, and family were present at the ceremony at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

For more information about Rita and the National 4-H Hall of Fame, please see:

<http://www.nae4ha.org/hof/rsaathoff.html#> or
<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/news/release.asp?n=531>.

Rita is the 5th New Jersey honoree inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. The other NJ laureates include Ted Blum (2002), Cathy Rupner (2002), Rollyn Winters (2003), and Ken Pickett (2004).

We would like to remind everyone that the Rita Natale Saathoff Memorial 4-H Endowment Fund has been established. Donations made in remembrance of Rita will be awarded in accord with her strong belief in professional development. We have not yet met the minimum goal of \$25,000 for an endowment. Once this is reached, we will be able to use the interest for 4-H professional development activities. If you are interested in contributing in memory of Rita, please make checks payable to: Rutgers University Foundation, with Rita Natale Saathoff fund in the memo, and send to:

Department of 4-H Youth Development
Rutgers, the State University of NJ
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension
88 Lipman Drive, 329 Martin Hall
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525

On a separate but related note, NJ 4-H Endowment Fund was established in September 2006 after the dissolution of the NJ 4-H Development Fund. This fund is also with the Rutgers University Foundation. The Guernsey Dairy and Gerwig camp accounts are included here. Again, the interest only from this account will be used annually for overall NJ 4-H program support, dairy program support and 4-H camp scholarships respectively. Donations to any of these are always welcome!

Words of Wisdom Inspirational quotes

The Young Man and the Starfish



A wise man was taking a sunrise walk along the beach when in the distance he caught sight of a young man who seemed to be dancing along the waves. As he got closer he saw that the young man was picking up starfish from the sand and tossing them gently back into the ocean.

“What are you doing?” the wise man asked. To which the young man responded, “The sun is coming up and the tide is going out; if I don’t throw them in, they’ll die.” “But young man, there are miles and miles of beach with starfish all along it – you can’t possibly make a difference.” With that, the young man bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it lovingly back into the ocean, past the breaking waves and said, “It made a difference for that one.”

Thanks for Making a Difference!

- A story inspired by Loren Eiseley



It is a fine thing to have ability, but



the ability to discover ability in others
is the true test.

Most look up and admire the stars.
A champion climbs a mountain and grabs one.

- Unknown

*When you reach for the stars,
you may not quite get one,
but you won't come up with a handful of mud, either.*

- Leo Burnett -

Accept
differences
Be kind
Count your
blessings
Dream
Express thanks
Forgive
Give freely
Harm no one

Alphabet for Life

Imagine more
Jettison anger
Keep confidence
Love truly
Master something
Nurture hope
Open your mind
Pack lightly
Quell rumors
Reciprocate

Seek wisdom
Touch hearts
Understand
Value truth
Win graciously
Xeriscape
Yearn for peace
Zealously support
a worthy cause

Shoot for the Moon

Even if you miss, you'll be one of the stars.



Fear less, hope more;
Eat less, chew more;
Whine less, breath more;
Talk less, say more;
Hate less, love more;
And all good things are yours.
-Swedish Proverb

Good friends are like stars.
You don't always see them,
but you know they are there.

"If your actions encourage others to dream more, learn more, do more
and become more, then you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams

"Strive not to be a success,
But rather to be of value."



Albert Einstein



"In recognition of singularly meritorious action, not only instances of
unusual gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service
in any way shall meet with due reward."