

Changing With Today

COLUMBIA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



April 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We certainly were teased with some beautiful weather in March. Then at the closing of March, the "out like a lion" sure made everyone know that winter is not quite done. At least I had a little extra time to finish off my cultural arts entries.

I have always loved springtime. For me, it feels like a time when everything seems to slowly wake up out of its frozen winter sleep. Finding the first crocus flowers peeking out of the snow or preparing the land before planting is always a special time. My mom and I really enjoy the arrival of our spring visitors: the bluebirds! I love their beautiful blue color. Mom just loves everything about her bluebirds and wants a clean home for their arrival! Here are a few facts I found about bluebirds.

Vibrant Blue Color: The blue color of bluebirds is a result of an optical illusion, where their feathers have cells that scatter blue wavelengths of light, rather than containing blue pigment.

Insectivores: Bluebirds are voracious insect eaters, consuming hundreds of insects daily, including beetles, caterpillars, and grasshoppers, making them valuable natural pest controllers for gardens and agricultural lands.

Keen Vision: Bluebirds have excellent eyesight, allowing them to spot insects from great distances, even from 60 feet away.

Monogamous: They are generally monogamous, staying together throughout the breeding season, and may breed together for more than one season.

Cavity nesters: Bluebirds nest in cavities, like old woodpecker holes or nest boxes, and are known to return to the same box year after year.

Distinctive Song: Bluebirds have a distinctive song, often described as "chur-lee, chur-lee."

Territorial: Male bluebirds are territorial, defending their territory from other bluebirds and even other species that might compete for nesting cavities.

Symbolism: Bluebirds are often seen as symbols of happiness, love, and hope, and are part of many Native American legends.

If you are interested in setting up a bluebird home, the best time to start planning is now, so you can build (or buy) the perfect nesting home, and find a spot that would attract bluebirds. Fall is a perfect time to set up your new bluebird house.

SAVE THE DATE/ UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

Apr. 4, Cultural arts registration deadline

Apr. 10, Rendezvous registration deadline

Apr. 15, Scholarship deadline (extended)

Apr. 17, Rendezvous/ Cultural Arts & Textiles Contest and Show

May 8, "AI and Other Technology"

Sept. 20, bus trip to Milwaukee

View forms, newsletters, and WAHCE information at: <https://wahceinc.org/wahce-counties/>

Facebook group: Columbia County Home & Community Education

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Bluebirds search for a nest in the early spring, and it is most likely the bluebirds have already found their home by now. Here is a website that I thought was very helpful:
<https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/about-bluebirds/nest-box-information/>

Spring is also a time for HCE's Rendezvous at Savanna Oaks, Fall River, on April 17th. You still have time to register until April 10th. There will be a light breakfast provided by the executive board members, Cultural Arts & Textiles Contest and Show, speakers that will definitely gain your attention, a delicious lunch followed by announcements, and contest results. The Rendezvous is a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company, great food, a time to learn new topics, and find opportunities to volunteer and participate in HCE.

On Thursday, May 8th, the CCAHCE training program will be on Technology and AI update by Lori Knutson, Technology Instructor. This will be at the Columbia County Administration Building, Rooms 113 & 114, starting at 1:30 p.m. This is a different meeting place than usual. I look forward to this particular topic, as I never seem to be able to keep up with what is available and what AI really means in today's technological world.

The 174th Columbia County Fair will be from July 23-27, 2025. Our cream puff sales are CCAHCE's major fundraiser and

helps support our programs such as Bookworms, scholarships, community donations, and more. It takes many volunteers to help make this fundraiser a success. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the Rendezvous so you have a chance to enjoy our fundraiser and the fair. Last year, on the very last day of the Fair, Becky Gutzman and I did an art class for children. I'm not sure who had more fun, the children or Becky and I! This is another opportunity to help out.

I will be putting together the CCAHCE display board again for our state conference. If your club has done a special project or you have photos of your club's activities, please send them my way. I start working on this board usually in July and August. Just email or phone me. I love having a few samples of projects that have been done, and it makes a wonderful display for Columbia County HCE.

Warm Wishes,
Kim Sweney, Co-President

May Leader Training

Thursday, May 8
1:30 p.m.
Columbia Co. Admin. Bldg.
Rms. 113/114
"AI Update," Lori Knutson, Technology Instructor
Sign up with Donna Kohnke:
(920) 210-5037
kohnkedonna@gmail.com

Rendezvous/Cultural Arts & Textiles Contest and Show

April 17, 2025
Savanna Oaks
100 Savanna Rd., Fall River

Register your cultural arts entry (ies) by April 4. Use the form included with the March newsletter.

Register for Rendezvous by April 10. There is no registration form. Just send your name, phone number, club name (or individual) along with your check made payable to CCAHCE for \$20 to:

Carol Beck, CCAHCE Treasurer
5700 Prairie Stone Dr.
McFarland, WI 53558

NO MAILED REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 10.

8:00-9:00 a.m.—Cultural arts entries check-in

9:00-9:45 a.m.—Registration with coffee, juice, and snacks

9:45-10:00 a.m.—Opening announcements

10:00-10:45 a.m.—Baraboo River Equine-Assisted Therapies

10:45-11:00 a.m.—Break

11:00-11:45 A.M.—Ojibwe Spirit Horses & Il-Bit Ranch

Noon—Lunch: scalloped potatoes and ham, cornbread, brownie with ice cream

Cultural arts announcements

Food pantry donations of paper products or cash will be collected at the registration table.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

The CCAHCE scholarship deadline has been extended until April 15 for this year.

Liz Miller
Margo Holzman
Scholarship Co-Chairs