



Oak Island

THE MAINTENANCE BEACON

The Monthly Newsletter of the North Carolina Public School Maintenance Association

Volume 51, Number 7
July 2014

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SIXTH ANNUAL NCPSMA WESTERN CONVENTION



Ken Goforth



Attendees



Brian Burkhardt



Asbestos Workshop



Patti Aider

The Sixth Annual NCPSMA Western Convention/Workshop was held May 29-31, 2014. Even though registration was still down from what we could have if the economy was better, things turned out well. 16 LEA's participated in the event with just under 100 maintenance employees registered. The LEA's include: Asheville City; Avery County; Buncombe County; Catawba County; Clinton City; Davie County; Guilford County; Haywood County; Hickory City; Moore County; Nash Rocky Mount, Public Schools of Robeson County; Rowan-Salisbury, Union County; Wilkes County; and Yadkin County. Those who were able to attend seemed to really enjoy the facility at Ridgecrest, the meals, the classes and the fellowship. The weather was nice this year with minimal rain. There were around 61 vendors present and 30 display spaces.

The first morning of the event the exhibitors chose their display spaces and setup their displays. The opening session got underway at 1 pm. NCPSMA State Vice President Ken Goforth welcomed everyone to the event. He thanked all those present for their support. The vendors introduced themselves and invited participants to visit them at their displays.

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JAY PALMER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Larry McClain, Jay Palmer Scholarship Chairman recently announced the winners of the 2014 Jay Palmer Scholarship Awards. Each winner will receive \$810.00. The winners are as follows. Elliot Tyler Draugh, parents are Robert Draugh and Vickie Ramey. Elliott will be attending Wingate University. Chesley H. Long, parents are Reggie and Donna Long. Chesley will be attending Sandhills Community College. Taylor M. Oxendine, parents are Billy R (Dollar Bill) and Phyllis Oxendine. Taylor will be attending UNC-Pembroke. Lacey Catherine Triplett, spouse of Zachary Triplett. Lacey will be attending Appalachian State University.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT 2

July 14, 2014: Duplin County Cooperative Extension Office
165 Agriculture Drive, Kenansville, NC 28349
10-11 am Sign in and meet and greet vendors and fellow tradesmen
11-12 am Begin Safety Workshop Presentation
12 -12:30 pm Lunch
12:30 pm Finalize Workshop Presentation;
Business Session; Door Prizes

DISTRICT 1

July 17, 2014 Place: Northeastern High School
Elizabeth City/Paquotank to host
Meeting begins at 6:00 pm
For more information contact Frank Stevens 252.793.5562

42nd Annual NCPSMA Eastern Convention

Sep. 24-26, 2014 Place: Double Tree (former Sheraton)
Atlantic Beach, NC
For more information contact Roxie Mack 336.366.4939

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MEETING DATES

The districts of NCPSMA meet twice yearly.

District 1

January, July
Pres. Frank Stevens
Phone: 252.793.5562

District 2

January, July
Pres. Kevin Sandlin
Phone: 910.592.8688

District 3

February, August
Pres. Mark Letchworth
Phone: 252.399.7822

District 4

February, October
Pres. Reggie Long
Phone: 910.947.2258

District 5

March, September
Pres. David Burge
Phone: 336.593.8146

District 6

April, October
Pres. Sam Watkins
Phone: 980.343.0832

District 7

May, November
Pres. Robin Rudisill
Phone: 828.464.3191

District 8

March, November
Pres. Adam Robinson
Phone: 828.456.2402

Meeting Dates & Locations

Should be sent to The Maintenance Beacon two months in advance for publication.

Deadlines

Publication deadline for articles and advertisements is first day of the month prior to month of publication.

GUIDELINES FOR TOP NCPSSMA AWARDS

Nominations are being sought for the 2014 NCPSSMA Maintenance Supervisor of the Year, Maintenance Employee of the Year and Superintendent of the Year. The Maintenance Supervisor of the Year and Maintenance Employee of the Year awards were established 27 years ago by Milt Saffelle and are sponsored annually by Saffelle, Inc. This is the 18th year the Superintendent of the Year award has been sponsored by Saffelle, Inc.

Should you wish to nominate a candidate, please supply the information outlined below and return to the chairman of the NCPSSMA Awards Committee by Aug. 10, 2014. To qualify as a candidate for Superintendent of the Year, candidates may be superintendents, associate/assistant superintendents, who have the responsibilities for maintenance. They must be current members of NCPSSMA.

Maintenance Supervisors are defined as those who serve as direct heads of maintenance departments. Maintenance Employees are defined as other members of maintenance staffs.

1. Nominees for Supervisor of the Year or Employee of the Year awards must be currently employed as a maintenance person in an educational system in the state of North Carolina.
2. The nominee must have been an active member of the NCPSSMA for the last five consecutive years.
3. The nominee cannot be the current state president.
4. Nominations must be made by an active member of NCPSSMA. There should be a letter of nomination signed by the active member. Only one nominee may be submitted from each LEA, not one per category, one period. If more than one nominee from an individual LEA is submitted, all nominations from said LEA will be disqualified. This decision was passed unanimously by the selection committee, August 2001.
5. Nominees must be from the school system making the nomination.
6. The following data must be supplied for each candidate:
 - A photograph of the nominee must be included and placed on a separate sheet of paper.
 - A biographical sketch, preferably in narrative form and no more than two pages in length, including the nominee's achievements that have contributed to success in NCPSSMA and other professional involvement.
 - Two letters of recommendation—no more or less.
 - No other information on nominee will be accepted.

The Awards Committee is comprised of the NCPSSMA One Year Advisory Council Members and Milt Saffelle, chairman. Saffelle serves in an ex officio capacity and does not have voting privileges. In case of a tie the current state vice president will have voting privileges. All nominations must be submitted no later than Aug. 10, 2014 to: Milton Saffelle, Chairman, NCPSSMA Awards Committee, PO Box 1499, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

SIXTH ANNUAL NCPSSMA WESTERN CONVENTION

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Will Hill



Electrical Workshop



Glen Bowen



Bard Workshop



Pesticide Workshop



Sandra Ganus and Kandy Collins



Cornhole Tournament



Wes Lee

SimplexGrinnell sponsored a refreshment break.

Classes were held from 3-5 pm. "Indoor Air Quality" was presented by Dan Myers and Richard Drake of Reece, Noland and McElrath; Part One of "Electrical Review" (credit hour class) was presented by Will Hill, Industrial Services Manager for Ligon Electric; Part one of "Sand Filter Design and O & M Continuing Education for WWFT Operators" (credit hour class) was presented by Bob DeWeese of NCDPI Plant Operation and "Structural Pest Control" (credit hour class) was presented by Patty Alder of NCSU.

Classes got underway again early Wednesday morning. Part two of "Sand Filter Design and O & M Continuing Education for WWFT Operators" (credit hour class) was presented by Bob DeWeese; "Asbestos Refresher" was presented by Brian Burkhart, NCDPI Plant Operation; "Structural Pest Control" (credit hour class) was presented by Patty Alder of NCSU; "Part Two of "Electrical Review" (credit hour class) was presented by Will Hill; "Heat Pump Service School" was presented by Glen Bowen of Bard Manufacturing.

A "Vendor Reception" was held from 11 am to 1 pm. It provided attendees the opportunity to talk with fellow maintenance employees and visit with the exhibitors. The food was great and we had a nice variety from which to choose. The menu included a Mashed Potato Bar with butter, bacon bits, cheese, sour cream, chives, etc.; Mini Egg/Spring Rolls with assorted dipping sauces; Deviled Eggs; Ham and Cheese Sliders; Beef Sliders; and Hot wings with assorted dipping sauces.

Classes continued with "811-Call Before You Dig" was presented by Mark Schuman, NC 811; "Janitorial Floor Summer Cleaning and Stripping" was presented by Keith Freeman of Brittany Supply; "Ornamental Pest Control" (credit hour class) presented by Cliff Ruth, NCSU Cooperative Extension Agent; Part three of "Sand Filter Design and O & M Continuing Education for WWFT Operators" (credit hour class) was presented by Bob DeWeese; Part Three of "Electrical Review" (credit hour class) was presented by Will Hill; "Asbestos Refresher" was presented by Brian Burkhart; "Bleacher Safety and Liability" was presented by Stephen Bishop of Seating Safety Solutions.

At the conclusion of the afternoon classes a cornhole tournament sponsored by The Vendor Association was held. The companies who sponsored the event include the following: Ken Staley Company; Hardware Distributors, Inc.; The Garland Company; BIRS, Inc. Even though it was warm outside, it was a lot of fun. Wes Lee and Gene Hill, both retired from Haywood County Schools provided the boards and bags for the game. Wes Lee organized and directed the event. Many thanks to the sponsors and to Wes and Gene for loan of the boards and to Wes for all his work on the tournament. Since his retirement Wes started a business making corn hole boards and the boards he makes are awesome! Winners for the event are as follows: Wes Lee and Jacob Monroe (Moore County Schools) won first place and split \$200; Rick Benton (Union County Schools) and Ricky Caldwell (Haywood County Schools) won second place and split \$150; Phillip Boles (Moore County Schools) and Reggie Long (Moore County Schools) won third place and split \$50. Other players include the following: Ken Goforth (Rowan-Salisbury Schools), Bergie Speaks (Wilkes County Schools), Colden Locklear and Barbara Baker (Public Schools of Robeson County) David Early and Kristie Keener (Haywood County Schools).

The final session of classes began at 8 am on Thursday. "Safety and Security/Closers and Locks" was presented by Greg Dobis and Bruce Negus of ASSAAbloy. "Electrical Review" (credit hour class) Part Four was presented by Will Hill. "Ornamental Pest Control" (credit hour class) was presented by Cliff Ruth. "Food Service Equipment" was presented by

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LIFE AND TIMES OF A SEMI-RETIREE



Summer is officially here and we have had some hot and dry days. Roxie and I attend Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church here in State Road. We have a wonderful church family. Last year, by the grace of God, we were able to pay off our 1.3 million dollar mortgage on the new Sanctuary which was constructed in 1999. Praise God- we are so blessed. Roger Cockerham, our Buildings and Grounds Team Chairman does a super job seeing after everything. He's al-

ways on top of the maintenance and care of our buildings. One rainy day he noticed some damp places on the ceiling. He did some investigating and checked out the steeple from the inside. He found where water was seeping in. He made some calls to several roofers and after their inspections of the roof they all determined our shingles had split vertically about every six feet apart. I remember we had a shingle roof on one of our school buildings that did the same thing when it was about the same age. Roger acquired quotes from the roofing companies and one was selected for the project. It was almost 150 squares. The roofer said he would be glad to power wash the steeple if we would rent the lift so we didn't hesitate to take him up on the offer. He stated we would need at least an 80 foot high lift for the job. We rented an 86 foot high lift from Horizon Equipment Rentals in Mt. Airy. While the lift was on site we decided to take advantage of it by taking some pictures and also painting a large circle vent that was located on the front of the steeple. I decided to take on the task.

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GUS

In February, Gus visited his cousins who live in Burke County. Since they are musically talented, there are always instruments lying around. On this occasion, his cousin Avery let him play his slide Trombone. Gus enjoyed playing with it but the next instrument really got Gus' attention. Avery brought out a Tuba they had on loan from the school. Gus fell in love with the Tuba! Once he got the hang of "blowing" in it, Gus wouldn't put it down. Gus told everyone for several days he played a Tuba. I thought he had long forgot about the Tuba until out of the blue one day, Gus asked, "Would you buy me a Tuba?" This was a milestone; Gus had never asked me to buy him anything! Of all things, he wants a Tuba - so much for cheap toys.



Several weeks ago, Gus asked his father, "Would you go to the grocery store and buy me a Tuba?" We don't take Gus to many stores because it is so hard to keep up with him. I guess he thinks you can get anything at the grocery store since that's about the only store he gets to visit - besides the auto parts store.

We visited family again in June. As soon as I told Gus we were going to see his cousins, he asked to play the Tuba. It was all he could do that day to eat lunch before he played the Tuba. Even after I got tired of helping him hold it, he was still playing it in when we put it back in the box.

Red Blanton

Gus sure does enjoy playing with that Tuba. If any of y'all have one stored that you'd like to sell cheap, please let me know.

Roxie




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LIFE AND TIMES OF A SEMI-RETIREE

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It reminded me of renting a 110 foot high lift at school for a job we need to do on our boiler stack. My son Rupard was working with us that summer. Using the lift we were able to wash all of the windows outside the high school. He kept asking me to let him extend the lift up as high as it would go. I wasn't looking forward to that, but I wasn't about to let him do it alone so when we had the lift on a very level spot we extended it straight up. WOW what a view! But oh how that lift swayed. I took some pictures very quickly and then we descended very quickly as well.

Back to the church steeple. When I got up in this 86 foot high lift - it quickly brought back those "swaying" memories. I thought to myself, "Lord what in the world have I volunteered to do here?" I did some praying and God strengthened my nerves and I took some very pretty pictures on that beautiful afternoon of the church and grounds and the surrounding area. I also painted the large vent which took about three hours. It hadn't been painted since 1999. It was made of foam and it really soaked up the paint. Roger was my ground man and he said he looked like I was painting a moving target with the lift swaying so much. After the first coat of paint I extended the lift up as high as it would go to take the pictures and believe it or not it lacked about 10 feet or so reaching the very top of the steeple. It was after sundown when I finished and I returned to the ground safely and I was so glad to set foot on solid ground again.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and is able to take some time off and enjoy their families and possibly some time to their self. God Bless you all.

By Ron Mack
Retired Elkin City Schools

WAITING ON GOD



Annabella

Ron and I have a new "family" member. We have a new puppy that we named Annabella. She is such a joy. I wish I could spend all day with her. We had a wonderful dog named Sophie for many years. When she was a little puppy she showed up at our house one day. She was such a good dog. She kept the deer, squirrels, chipmunks, moles and everything else out of our yard. Sometimes she'd bark and bark at night, which could be annoying, but she was doing her job. She grew

old and developed glaucoma. She went blind in one eye and she was in pain with the other eye so we had her put to sleep. It was a sad time, but she had enjoyed a full life. She was the neighborhood dog. Everybody loved and fed Sophie. But she was not fat from overeating. She kept it worked off. We've been thinking off and on about getting another dog, but it just never felt like the right time. The deer, rabbits, squirrels and moles that are attacking my plants made us decide it was time to get another dog. I started checking Pet Finder on the web often for a dog.

Several months ago we found one we thought would be a good fit for us and went to see her. She was at the Forsyth County Humane Society. We filled out all the necessary paperwork to adopt her. When we finished we submitted the paperwork to one of the employees and when she looked over it she was "appalled" that we wanted an "outside only" dog. We have two cats in the house and we are keeping Rupard's cat for him while he's in Alaska, so right now we have three cats in the house that would not take kindly to a new puppy. Besides, we wanted an outside only dog anyway. Needless to say we didn't get the puppy. In the future when I looked on Pet Finder I only looked at the dogs that were in animal shelters. I figured they'd be glad to have a loving owner adopt a pet-even to live "outside only." I kept looking and praying for God to send us the right dog.

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DISTRICT SEVEN GOLF TOURNAMENT



Bergie Speaks, far left, awards 1st place winners, Jim Byrd, Doug Cheek, Daniel Hensley, David Hutchens



Bergie Speaks, far left, awards 2nd Place winners Todd Sale, Wayne Tuttle, Keith Secreast



Lunchtime

The District 7 Golf tournament was held May 24, 2014 at Silo Run Golf course in Booneville, NC. Elaine Martin, Keith Holloman, and Bergie Speaks of Wilkes County Schools hosted the event for District Seven. Roxie were unable to attend this year due to packing to leave the next day for the Western Convention. It was a beautiful day for the tournament and I'm sure everyone enjoyed playing the course on the rolling hills of Yadkin County, one of the 13 counties that make up NCPSMA District Seven. Preregistration was requested but registration was allowed the day of the event. Registration was \$50.00 each which included cart, green fees, meal and refreshments. Wow! What a deal. Players could visit the course

website at www.silorun.com to view the course in advance to gain knowledge of the layout. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all before the tournament and refreshments were served during the tournament. The tournament began with a shotgun start at 2:00pm.

We had 12 teams of four players each this year and it was Captain's Choice. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners. First place was won by Jim Byrd, Doug Cheek, Daniel Hensley and David Hutchins. Second place was won by Todd Sale, Wayne Tuttle, Scottie Prevette and Keith Secreast. Longest Drive was won by Daniel Hensley and Closest to Pin was won by Marvin Sanifer.

We had 32 hole sponsors including the following: Pinnacle Architecture; Bond Tec, Inc.; Blue Ridge Engineering; Quality Business Supply; NWCD; Wilkes Fire Systems; Secure South; Wilkes Electric Motors; EEC, Inc.; All Seasons HVAC; MECI; Premier Supply; A&J Rental; Taylor & Viola Structural Eng.; AllStar Rentals; Wilkes Connections, Inc.; Cregger Company; Lewis Boiler Supply; BIRS, Inc.; Keller Electric Co.; Saffelle, Inc.; Rid-A-Bug Exterminating; Associated HVAC; Sign Factory Direct; Seven Oaks Supply; Hayes Paint Contracting; Horace Mann; Pioneer Eclipse; Kelsan; Sherwin-Williams Company; Trayco, Inc. Companies who donated toward the tournament in other ways include the following: Porter's Hardware; All Seasons HVAC; Bryant Electric Supply; C.C. Dickson Company; US Lock; ASSA Abloy; PlumbMaster; Quality Business Supply; City Electric; Hilti; MECI; A&J Rental; Western Carolina Electrical Supply and Cintas Corp. Many thanks to all these companies for their generous donations which made this tournament a success.

A big THANK YOU to Elaine Martin, Keith Holloman and Bergie Speaks of Wilkes County Schools for all their hard work in organizing and directing the tournament. We appreciate all you do to make NCPSMA District Seven a successful and active district!

Ron Mack,
NCPSMA District Seven News Coordinator

My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!

Thomas Jefferson

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SIXTH ANNUAL NCPSMA WESTERN CONVENTION

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Dale Richardson of Whaley Food Service Equipment.



Cornhole Tournament



Cornhole Tournament



Reggie Long and Phillip Boles



Raven Broeker, Rickey Caldwell, and Rick Benton



Wes Lee, Jacob Monroe, and Raven



Cornhole Tournament



Closing Session

The closing session got underway around 10:30 am. State President Ken Goforth thanked everyone for attending. Raffle prizes were awarded. Thanks to the following for donating the prizes: Jimmy Pickler, Retired Rowan-Salisbury Schools, donated a \$150 Tractor Supply Gift Card which was won by Ken Goforth of Rowan Salisbury Schools; Randy Swicegood of Swicegood Supply donated \$50 cash which was won by Michael Pollard of Davie County Schools; NCPSMA District Eight donated two \$25 Lowes Gift Cards which were won by Kelly Pink of Saffelle, Inc. and Rick Benton of Union County Schools; Milt Saffelle of Saffelle, Inc. donated a Blu Ray DVD player which was won by Gene Hill, retired Haywood County Schools; Ken and Jan Goforth donated \$50 cash which was won by Phillip Boles of Moore County Schools; Ron & Roxie Mack donated a \$50 Visa Card which was won by Cecil Arthur, retired Buncombe County Schools; Bobbie Jobe of Guilford County donated handcrafted jewelry which was won by Jan Goforth. The raffle drawing raised \$410.00. The meeting concluded with the door prize drawing. Thank you to all the vendors who donated prizes for the drawing.

Many thanks to all the vendors who participated in the event. They include the following: Advanced Electronic Services; All Seasons HVAC Sales; ASSA Abloy/DSS Carolinas; BIRS, Inc.; Bradford Sales; Charron Sports Services, Inc.; Cook and Boardman, LLC; Correction Enterprises; Davidson Sash & Door, Inc.; Handi-Clean Products, Inc.; Hardware Distributors, Inc.; Hoffman & Hoffman; James M. Pleasants Company; Ken

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JULY RECIPE

Even though Ron and I are trying to cut back on sweets, I could not resist making us a blackberry pie. There are a few wild blackberry bushes near the edge of our property. They are not actually on our property, but we've noticed in past years the owner does not use the berries and the deer eat them, so this year Ron beat the deer to them. I made a pie with some of them and froze the others he picked. The pie was delicious. Hope you'll be able to make one to enjoy!

Blackberry Pie

Ingredients:

1 cup sugar
1/3 cup quick-cooking tapioca
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 cups fresh blackberries, divided
2 tablespoons butter
Pastry for double-crust pie (9 inches)

Directions

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, tapioca and salt. Add 1-cup blackberries; toss gently to coat. Let stand for 15 minutes. Cook and stir over medium-low heat until berries burst and mixture comes to a gentle boil. Remove from the heat; gently stir in remaining berries.

Line a 9-inch pie plate with bottom pastry; trim pastry even with edge of plate. Add blackberry filling and dot with butter. Roll out remaining pastry to fit top of pie; place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edges. Cut slits in top for ventilation.

Bake at 400° for 35-40 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 6-8 servings.

SIXTH ANNUAL NCPSMA WESTERN CONVENTION

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Closing Session



Kristie Keener and Ken Gotardt

Staley Company, Ltd; LaFave's Construction Company, Inc.; Lewis Boiler Supply & Service; Luxout Stage Curtains; NC Sound of Goldsboro; PPG-Glidden Porter Paints; PSNC; Pioneer Eclipse; Playworld Preferred; Saffelle, Inc.; Seating Safety Solutions; Seven Oaks Doors & Hardware; Seven Oaks Supply Company; Simplex Grinnell; Spartan Tool; The Garland Company, Inc.; Weeks, Williams & DeVore.

Many thanks to D H Bruch Marketing, Inc., for sponsoring the nametags and to the Vendor Association for sponsoring the Cornhole Tournament. Thank you to Simplex Grinnell for sponsoring a refreshment break. A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped in so many ways. I truly appreciate your help. Thank you to those who donated raffle prizes. Thank you to all the members of the planning committee and the advisory council members who have spent time and some spent their own money to attend the meetings. Special thanks to all the presenters who taught workshops during the convention.

Most were presented free of charge. Many thanks to all the volunteers—we could not do it without you! We appreciate everyone's support and feel all our efforts were well spent, as the Sixth Annual Western Convention/Workshop was a success, despite the tough economic times.



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NOT WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE

Have you ever thought about or discovered that some things aren't what they seem or appear to be? I suppose as we get older and have experienced many life situations, chances are you probably could think of a few, "Not what it appears to be" moments.

My first new car, a 1979 Chevy Caprice Classic, had side-mirrors with a label stating, "Objects in Mirror are closer than they appear!" My argument was why would GM install mirrors which make objects seem further away and smaller than they really are or appear to be? A few months ago I retired from the Haywood County Schools Maintenance Department. I had spoken with several retirees and thought I knew what being retired would be like. Now I'm positive one's perception of my leisure lifestyle would certainly be an indicator of such a thing which definitely contradicts what it appears to be and what it really seems to be.

Four weeks after retirement I was on the road, camper in tow and three weeks of rest and relaxation waiting on me at St. Andrews State Park in the Florida panhandle. As usual it would be raining and a little on the cool side as we headed south. My dog Willy actually made the trip without being stressed or too anxious and I was glad to have a good listener in the co-pilot seat next to me. Jane's work would not allow for her to be with us for the first week, but she would fly in the following weekend and be with us for the next two weeks. Upon arrival Willy and I were greeted by some friends who had been camping a week or so already, and soon our campsite was set up and ready for R & R. The fishing was sporadic and finally on Tuesday I would catch a limit of Spanish mackerel early and was content in doing so. My friend Wayne from Michigan daily took Willy on walks and kept an eye on things while I was fishing at The Point. Mike and Eleanor had us over for supper with friends at their campsite, and we set up the corn hole boards and laughed and played much of the evening till bedtime. Al and Gayla arrived mid-week and Pete and Nancy as well. You know you are a senior citizen when you are in our end of the campground where the sound of children's laughter does not exist and the smell of Ben-Gay is dominate over suntan lotion. I would again catch a limit of Spanish on Thursday but weathered the rain and wind in order to do so. Jane's flight touched down at Panama City Airport Saturday evening and Willy and I would be there waiting to haul her and baggage back to the campground. Jane took up, as usual, the chores she handles to make things easier for me and make the camping experience pleasurable for all. The weather for the most part was seasonal, although a little cool and breezy. The worst problem we had was that the Spanish were not entering the bay as they congregated by the thousands offshore in the warmer Gulf waters.

Each day was a challenge and puzzling as the fish behavior and presence was a mystery. Finally I decided that one must spend all day on the banks in order to catch Spanish at some point and time. The fish would eventually come, I kept telling myself, but the wait was often long and unpredictable. Around the campfire we debated and predicted our fate for the next day regarding success or failure. You can't accurately predict tomorrow by what happened today but we agree luck, Mother Nature and animal instincts must be in harmony for memories to be retold and reflect upon. This annual event brings us back each spring and reunites us with friends, some whom we see once a year.

By week three our catch, I figured, was about half the amount we normally have frozen and packed away. Knowing the last few days would be crucial in increasing our catch, our efforts

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Do you read The Maintenance Beacon? YES NO
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WAITING ON GOD

continued from page 4

Late one afternoon I looked on Pet Finder and found there where nine puppies at the Yadkin County Animal Shelter, five girls and four boys. I called to find out if they were any still available and only one female was left. I told them we'd be there when they opened at 1pm the next day. I had picked out which one I wanted from the pictures online, but when I heard only one was left, I didn't think there was a chance I would get the one I wanted. When we arrived at the shelter that day an employee went to get the one remaining puppy. I could see her through the glass window in the door and she came out of the pin with a brown puppy. I thought to myself, that was my least favorite (from the picture online), but God if that is the one you want us to have then that is the one we will have. But she didn't come out with her. She went out of view from the window. I thought maybe she needed to walk her or something before bringing her out. Finally she came through the door with the very puppy I had picked out online - I could not believe it! I didn't understand, I thought only one puppy

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NOT WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE

continued from page 7

intensified. Thankfully after enduring a nasty lightning storm, wind and rain, the Spanish filled our cooler on two occasions. That's a rainbow in my book! Soon our vacation would end and farewells were exchanged. Upon returning home spring had arrived, the dogwoods were in bloom, blossoms on maples and sourwoods and the flower garden a display of purple, yellow and red.

The best part of being retired is being able to plan one's schedule for the upcoming week. Jane and I get up around 6:00 am; I cook breakfast while she is preparing to go to work. By 7:00 I'm at work sanding, staining, and building frames for corn hole boards. Each day is much the same but what's not to like about

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**42ND ANNUAL NCPSMA EASTERN CONVENTION/WORKSHOP
DOUBLETREE, ATLANTIC BEACH, NC
SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2014**

WEDNESDAY 24TH

8:00-5:00	REGISTRATION	FOYER
10:00-11:00	"CODE CHANGES & WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE BUILDING ENCLOSURE" "ARE YOUR BLEACHERS A SAFETY AND LIABILITY RISK?" "STATE RETIREMENT UPDATE" "EMERGENCY DURESS BY LYNX"	PAMLICO CAPE FEAR HATTERAS CAPE LOOKOUT
10:00-NOON	"ORNAMENTAL PEST CONTROL" 2 CEU'S "MECHANICAL CLOSURES" CEU'S WESTERN CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING	BOGUE SOUND SANDCASTLES ATLANTIC
NOON	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
2:00-3:00	OPENING & BUSINESS SESSION	ATLANTIC
3:30-5:00	ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING	ATLANTIC
3:30-5:30	"ORNAMENTAL PEST CONTROL" 2 CEU'S "ADVANCEMENTS IN CLEANING EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY & TECHNOLOGY" "FIRE DOORS & SECURITY WALLS" "PAINT SAFETY" "BUILDING ENVELOPE" "BARD TECHNICAL WORKSHOP"	BOGUE SOUND PAMLICO CAPE FEAR HATTERAS CAPE LOOKOUT SANDCASTLES

THURSDAY 25TH

7:00	"31ST ANNUAL HANDI-CLEAN JAY PALMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT" "FISHING TOURNAMENT"	
7:00-9:00	"ELECTRICAL" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES "STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL" 2 CEU'S	SANDCASTLES BOGUE SOUND
8:00-5:00	REGISTRATION	FOYER
8:00-9:00	"METIS MASS NOTIFICATION"	CAPE FEAR
9:00-9:30	EXHIBITOR DISPLAY SELECTION	ATLANTIC
9:30-11:00	EXHIBITOR DISPLAY SETUP	ATLANTIC
9:30-11:30	"ELECTRICAL" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES "STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL" 2 CEU'S "WASTEWATER" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES	SANDCASTLES BOGUE SOUND GIFT SHOP
11:00-NOON	SUPERINTENDENTS & DIRECTORS VISIT WITH EXHIBITORS	
NOON-1:00	STATE OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENTS AND DIRECTORS LUNCHEON	SANDCASTLES
1:00-2:30	"SCHOOL SECURITY"	SANDCASTLES
2:00-5:00	VISIT WITH EXHIBITORS -DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS	ATLANTIC

FRIDAY 26TH

8:00-4:00	REGISTRATION	FOYER
8:00:10:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS-DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS	ATLANTIC
10:00-NOON	"ELECTRICAL" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES "WASTEWATER" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES EXHIBITOR DISPLAY BREAKDOWN	SANDCASTLES GIFT SHOP
1:30-2:30	OVERVIEW OF USI DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	BOGUE SOUND
1:30-3:30	"ELECTRICAL" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES "WASTEWATER" 2 CEU'S, MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES	SANDCASTLES GIFT SHOP
6:00	AWARDS BANQUET (GOLF & FISHING AWARDS ALSO) RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING	ATLANTIC

READ ME

Room Reservations

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WAITING ON GOD

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was left. I later learned the brown puppy was already spoken for. A family from Maryland was coming to get her that following Saturday. I was so excited to see the sweet puppy I'd picked out. She's part Austrian Shepherd and part Labrador Retriever. She is precious! She's pretty laid back, but can be in charge if she needs to be. She already tries to "corral" me. She'll get in front of me and sit down. If I try to move she'll bark at me. My pastor (who is a true dog lover-I think he has 9 or 10) told me I must show her who is in charge, that "I" am the "pack leader", so I've been working with her and she's learning fast that "I" am the boss, lol (I know y'all can believe that). She's two months old. This week I started teaching her to sit and she caught on very quick. I've ordered a book on puppy training so hopefully I'll do it right. When she's old enough we'll teach her about the underground fence Ron installed to keep her safe from the road. Ron built her a HUGE cage to stay in for now. It's located on our front porch and I can't resist sneaking a peak to see what she's up to. Mostly she just sleeps as I try to tire her out as much as possible when she's out of her cage.

It's so hard to wait on God sometimes. It was disappointing not to get the other puppy. I was sad about it. But God knew Annabella would be born soon and she would be the perfect fit for us. I'm glad we waited on God. He gave us a jewel. I'm sure you'll be hearing more about Annabella in future issues.

Roxie

NOT WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE

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constructing game boards from wood and seeing each one transform into a polished finished product. Soon Willy's Corn hole Emporium will have a new shop. We are in the planning stages and hopefully will begin soon. So retirement, as wonderful as it appears or seems to be to many of my friends, is really a busy life. They just don't realize the amount of work and time involved in pursuing a passion I have chosen to occupy my time and clutter my home. My mom asked me if I would be fishing all the time when I retired? "No, I explained, I couldn't afford the fuel and expenses incurred too frequently." So far we have had our boat on the water only twice this year, but we're on vacation this coming week on Lake Tillery. This vacation week we both needed to enjoy life at a leisurely pace and leave work behind.

I was told by several retirees that I would be busier than when I was still working. I've realized they knew what they were talking about. This past week I took Willy's Corn hole Emporium on the road to Maggie Valley's Bike Fest Weekend and had a great time talking to folks and other vendors. We were exhausted when it concluded, but pleased and satisfied with the results. Something's are not what they appear or seem to be. But we must recognize the flipside and be willing to accept the reality and make the most of it, even when it's an apparent contradiction of what it appears to be.

Remember, "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get!" Forrest Gump could not have explained this any finer than in simple terms for ordinary people. Enjoy life, family, friends and retirement whenever you can. Hopefully, you'll find time.

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