

## Spotlight on Anson Cooperative Extension Agents



Dustin Adcock

Each week The Express will share some of the many accomplishments of our local Agricultural Extension agents. Their dedication to and work for Anson citizens benefits all of us either directly or indirectly. This week's spotlight is on new Local Foods Agent - Dustin Adcock.

*From Janine Rywak, County Extension Director:* We were pleased to welcome new Local Foods Agent Dustin Adcock in January 2013. The position was made possible by a joint effort of local governments and NC A&T University.

Dustin serves three counties, Anson, Stanly and Union, with his home base in Union County. A new and creative venture, Dustin's appointment with responsibilities in Local Foods is the first of its kind in the state. With the growing interest in local foods regionally, this program has tremendous opportunity.

Dustin works with both agents and farmers to develop stronger and safer markets, offering more profitability to local producers. He also is available to provide assistance to consumers with their small farms, markets, gardens or other local production questions. Rywak concluded with this, "We are excited to have Dustin aboard!"

## Extension Notes November 2013 Last Chance for NC Energy Star Tax Holiday

Many North Carolina residents are asking if the Energy Star tax holiday is taking place this year (2013). The answer is yes. And here is what you need to know. The Energy Star tax holiday is taking place November 1-3, 2013 and the tax holiday is not going to be funded after this year. A provision in the Tax Reduction Act (H.B. 998) calls for the elimination of the back-to-school sales tax holiday as well as the Energy Star tax holiday in 2014. It becomes effective July 1, 2014 and applies to purchases made on or after that date.

The North Carolina Energy Star tax holiday, introduced in 2008 to encourage the use of more energy efficient products while saving consumers money, will end in 2014. That means that the last chance to take advantage of this tax holiday in North Carolina is November 1-3, 2013, between 12:01 am on the first Friday of November and 11:59 pm the following Sunday.

The qualified products are clothes washers, freezers and refrigerators, central air conditioners and room air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, and programmable thermostats. This does not apply to the rental of a product or the sale of a product for use in a trade or business. Energy Star products can be found at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

To conveniently find Energy Star products, use the store locator to find retailers in your area at the same site. Because store locations change frequently, please contact the store directly before you travel.

In addition to saving through the tax holiday, there are many things that you can do to save money and conserve energy every day. The NC Cooperative Extension E-Conservation Program offers helpful tools to help North Carolina residents lower their utility costs by conserving energy. Learn other ways to save energy by going to their website <http://energy.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

You can also check out ideas and information on Pinterest and Facebook for E-Conservation at [pinterest.com/econservation/](http://pinterest.com/econservation/) and [facebook.com/pages/E-Conservation-Residential-Energy-Conservation](https://www.facebook.com/E-Conservation-Residential-Energy-Conservation).

By Janine Rywak,  
County Extension Director

## Call for Area Artists and Craftsmen

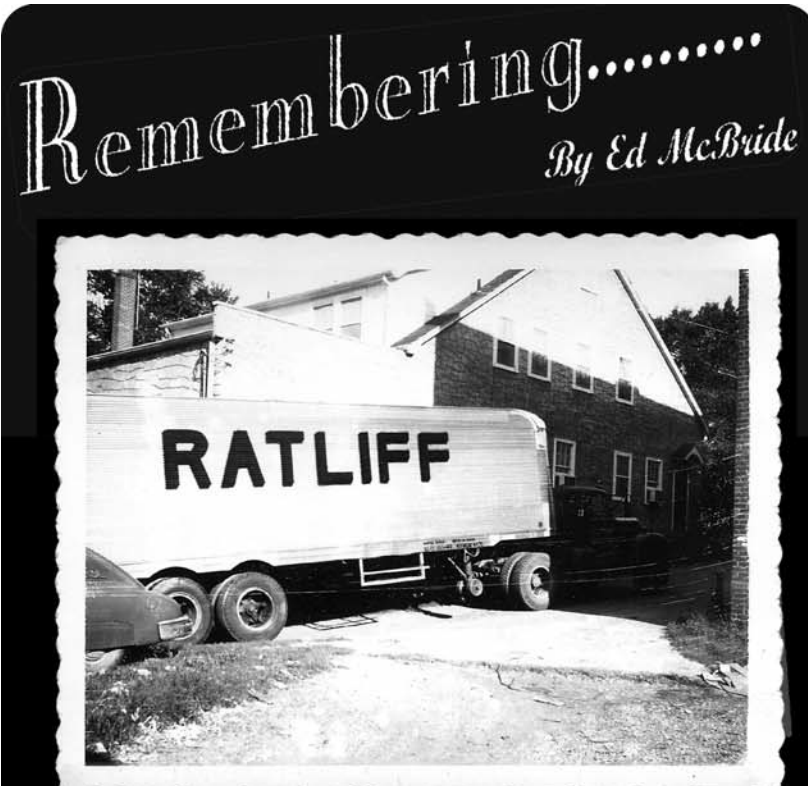
The Anson County Arts Council is seeking vendors for its third annual Christmas in November art and crafts sale on Saturday, November 23. This event is designed to provide local and regional artists and craftsmen a venue at which to sell their work at a time of the year when many people are shopping for holiday gifts.

This year's Christmas in November will be held at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro, from 10

3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Table rental is \$35 or two tables (for the same artist) for \$50. Each vendor keeps 100% of his/her sales revenue.

This event precedes Black Friday, the traditional day after Thanksgiving when holiday shopping begins in earnest. It will offer shoppers a unique shopping experience and unusual gift ideas.

This is an opportunity to introduce your work to a new audience and to showcase it for those who are already familiar with it. Contact the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or [ansonarts@windstream.net](mailto:ansonarts@windstream.net) if you are interested in being a part of Christmas in November or have questions.



## Ratliff & Ratliff, Inc.

Among the first big trucks and trailers that I lettered were those of Ratliff & Ratliff, Inc. The year was about 1946 that I began lettering "big" trucks for Steele Ratliff - usually White, Mack, International, etc. - but, always red!

Steele stayed in the long distance hauling while brother Lawrence developed a great business of earth moving, grading and the like. Brother Charles organized Morven Freight Lines, competing with rail and Railway Express.

Each of the above fellows could be a story in his own right.

Back to the trailer in the picture - even though this to me was a very big piece of equipment, it would be a small unit as compared to trailers of today. I painted the trailer above in 1956 - with red 34 inch letters and black 2 inch shadow (Steele's favorite colors). (Of course the colors do not show up in the picture - because I was using a very

early Polaroid 95 camera and color film wasn't ready at the time.)

The letters were painted on the stainless steel corrugated body - the corrugations were a half inch apart and a half inch deep. Now those jobs were the ones that required hours and hours - sometimes days to do, even though I used (later on) an air brush on the big side letters, and a regular sign brush on the smooth stainless skirting (where we painted the company name, address and permit/unit numbers).

Some North and South Carolina granite was trucked all the way to California by Ratliff - and when I asked about what kind of price to haul "rock" to California, Steele would grin and say, "Oh, about \$25 added to the average tombstone!" Would you even dare to compare those hauling costs to this day and time's rates?!

Steele died some years back with his trucking company.

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## Don't Forget Your Sunglasses!

UV rays can increase the risk of cataracts, macular degeneration and other eye diseases.

50% of UV damage to eyes is done before a person is 18 years old, so kids need sunglasses too!

Sunglass frames with a close fitting wrap around style provide the best UV protection.

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## NCDOT Looks to Help Communities Improve Walking and Bicycling

Department accepting proposals for 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants

Are you a community that wants to improve walking and bicycling? The N.C. Department of Transportation is here to help. The department is now accepting proposals for its 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, which provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans. Smaller communities with populations of less than 5,000 can apply to develop combined bicycle and pedestrian plans.

The deadline for application submittal is Thursday, December 19, at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified in June 2014.

"Plans like these help communities lay the groundwork for future projects that enhance biking and walking options, which in turn can have positive impacts on the economy, health and safety of the local population," said Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Director Lauren Blackburn.

Rather than being focused upon a specific project, the plans represent a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within a given municipality. Plans address facilities, programs, services and regulations that encourage safe walking and bicycling.

Proposals will be judged in geographical groups to ensure an equal distribution of funding across the state. The final selection will incorporate a diverse mix of large cities to small towns.

Since 2004, approximately \$3.8 million has been awarded to 143 communities across the state through the planning grant program. The program is sponsored by NCDOT's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch.

For more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, contact Helen Chaney at (919) 707-2608 or [hmchaney@ncdot.gov](mailto:hmchaney@ncdot.gov).

**2001 Chevy Tahoe**  
  
SPECIAL OF THE WEEK!  
**\$4,995 obo**

**2013 Ford Fusion**  
Nicely Equipped! 10K Miles  
  
New Body Style  
**\$299 per month**

**2012 Ford Focus SEL**  
25K Miles, Auto, Loaded!  
  
**\$189 per month**

**2009 Mercury Sable** Loaded, Like New!  
Moonroof, 55K Miles, Leather  
  
**\$179 per month**

**2012 Ford Escape**  
Moonroof, Super Sharp!!!  
  
**\$238 per month**

*Is it about time to buy a new ride?*

**2006 Dodge Charger** Black  
  
**\$9,995 obo**

**2009 Chevy Silverado LT Crew Cab**  
2WD, Low Miles, Immaculate!!!  
  
**\$299 per month**

**2010 Lincoln MKZ**  
AWD, Moonroof, Loaded!!!  
  
**\$279 per month**

**2009 Ford Ranger**  
White, Locally Owned  
Ext Cab 2WD  
  
**\$299 per month**

**2013 Ford Flex SEL**  
Leather  
  
**\$299 per mo**

**2009 Ford Focus SES**  
Nice!!!  
  
**\$149 per month**

**2011 Ford Expedition** 4 Door  
  
**\$359 per month**

Special Used Car Low Rate Financing: 2013 3.49% for 78 months; 2012 3.49% for 78 months; 2011 3.49% for 78 months; 2010 @ 3.49% for 75 months; 2008 - 2009 @ 4.5% for 72 months; 2006 - 2007 @ 6.5% for 63 months; 2004 - 2005 @ 7.9% for 60 months. Based on \$1,800 cash or trade. Certain conditions apply; 720 or higher Beacon; does not include tax, tag, title & \$169 doc fee.

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