

## Achievement Night

Christi Nicholls, 4-H Program Coordinator

This year's Achievement Night was definitely a little different. Wild for 4-H was our theme and it was totally fitting. Not only was it a busy night in our community with our families going in a million different directions but there were actually real live WILD animals there. This year we invited Scales and Tales Exotic Bird show to come.

Confession time: I am actually afraid of birds! I know what you're thinking, probably not a great choice for someone with my phobia. Oh well, sometimes I like to live dangerously. Talk about leaning into the fear, a bird actually left the stage and flew right to me. I think she could totally smell my fear. It made for some laughs for the group of 4-Hers sitting at our table. They knew I was totally freaking out inside as I tried to put on a brave face. I think that is an experience a few of the girls will probably remind me of until the end of time. Other than my near-death experience, the bird show was awesome and in the end the kids were able to come to the stage and take pictures.

Phew, now that's over. Let's talk about awards. We have had some outstanding service in our county over the past year. We are very blessed with leaders and members of the highest caliber. These are the awards that were given:

Salute to 4-H Volunteer- Neil Menlove

Salute to Youth Volunteer- Cley Hancock

Friend of 4-H- Brady Blackett

4-H Alumni Award- Aaron Stephenson

New Leader Award- Rakel Savage

New Leader Award- Sandy Wilkey

Clover Key Award- Melonie Brinkerhoff

4-H Family of the Year- Mike and Kensey Worwood Family

4-H Afterschool Leader- Amanda Jarrett

Doorknob Award- HeatherAnn Zufelt

We also gave 1<sup>st</sup> year and 4<sup>th</sup> year member pins to our youth as well as leader tenure awards. Overall it was a great night with "exciting" entertainment, awards, and a delicious dinner. I hope you can join us next year. Who knows what kind of crazy theme we will try next. Guess you will just have to wait and see. Thanks again for your continued support and if you would like to be a part of this awesome program. Give me a call sometime. I would love to hear from you!