

**TOGETHER AGAIN**



The Perquimans County High School class of 1945 celebrated its 60th reunion on June 25 at Burgess Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Those attending were Helen Baker Domitrowski, Esther Winslow Markham, Myrtle Whedbee Copeland, Charles Hoskins, Colin Jackson and Floyd Benton. Guests were Robert Domitrowski, Sidney Copeland, Vida Hoskins, Johnnie Jackson, Betsy Benton, Janie Proctor and Peggy Winslow.

**FSA saves bobwhite quails**

State wildlife enthusiasts no longer wonder where all the quail have gone, thanks to the efforts of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and its many partners.

"All species seem to have their dedicated devotees, but no game species seems to provoke more passion than bobwhite quail," said Keith H. Weatherly, state executive director of the FSA.

Northern bobwhite quail are a native quail species with an historic range in the Midwest and Southeast areas of the country. The birds are a valued inhabitant of farm landscapes, an important aspect of rural culture and key to the heritage of hunting. The Northern bobwhite quail population declined dramatically over the last quarter century. Their habitats are disappearing due to urbanization, increased grassland cultivation and a transitioning of once-grassy fields into woods and forests — a process called succession.

To underline the bird's importance, FSA, which has the largest conservation partnership involving private land in the United States, is paying private land owners in 35 states to set aside land for quail habitat. The CRP Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative introduced a conservation practice intended to create 250,000 acres of early successional grass buffers along agricultural field borders. To date, more than 48,000 acres have been enrolled with 2,264 of those in North Carolina. Also, 2,900 acres are pending approval.

FSA estimates this nesting and brood-rearing cover will increase bobwhite quail numbers by 750,000 birds annually. Planted buffers will also benefit reptiles, amphibians, aquatic species and upland birds, many of which are being considered for listing as endangered

species. In addition, the initiative will reduce soil erosion and protect water quality by trapping field sediments and nutrients.

Wildlife groups and sportsmen's organizations have organized studies and launched efforts to boost North Carolina quail populations. They all point to one thing: the need for more habitat.

Weatherly said North Carolina has been involved with research on field borders and early succession birds for the past decade. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission cooperated with N.C. State University to compare bobwhite populations and ecology on replicated study areas with and without field borders.

Results from the research projects were used to develop the Cooperative Upland Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (CURE) PROGRAM. Habitat work was initiated in 2002.

The USDA estimates the CRP Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative Program may provide about \$125 million in payments to participants through 2007 when the overall statutory enrollment limit is expected to be reached. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and 32 state fish and wildlife agencies are providing technical, monitoring and evaluation assistance.

FSA has partnered with Quail Unlimited, the Southeast Quail Study Group, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation and other conservation groups, as well as local conservation districts, to provide outreach, technical expertise and other assistance.

The project contact is Donald McKenzie, Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative Coordinator, 501-941-7994, wmidm@ipa.net.

**DEATHS**

**Joyce P. Sawyer**

Joyce Patrick Sawyer, 73, of 2744 Rocky Hock Road, died Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005 in her home. Ms. Sawyer was the daughter of Mary Swain and Seaton Patrick and the wife of the late William "Bill" Douglas Sawyer. She was a member of Faith Fellowship Baptist Church.

Surviving include her three daughters, Brenda S. Harrell and her husband Louis of Edenton, Janice S. Oden of Bath and Mary A. Sawyer of Edenton; two sons, David Sawyer and his

wife Mary of Edenton and Bill Sawyer of Raleigh; and six grandchildren.

Ms. Sawyer was preceded in death by her son, Glen Sawyer, and her son-in-law, John H. Oden III.

Friends may sign the online register by visiting [www.evansfuneralsandcremations.com](http://www.evansfuneralsandcremations.com).

A celebration of Ms. Sawyer's life was held Sept. 2 in Faith Fellowship Baptist Church with the Rev. Tom Gregory officiating. Burial followed in Scuppernon Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Albemarle Hospice, PO Box 189, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 or to the Shephard-

Pruden Memorial Library, 106 W. Water Street, Edenton, NC 27932. Evans Funerals and Cremations of Edenton served the Sawyer family.

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