

## MACON COUNTY YOUNG PRESERVATIONIST ASSOCIATION (MCYPA) IS LAUNCHED



*Photo left: MCYPA members with Daniel Sullen, Macon County Youth Council members and Mr. Jerry Washington. Photo right: Purple Hull Pea plant in our garden!*

Children from the Creek Stand community, ages 9-17, have met three times this summer to launch the Macon County Young Preservationist (MCYPA). The association is sponsored by The Ridge Project, for young people in grades 4-12, to:

- Expose members to the lesser-known rural historic and cultural assets, sites and collective history of Macon County, Alabama
- Encourage participation in multi-cultural enrichment projects, programs, and engaging educational opportunities that are based on Alabama State College and Career Ready Social Studies/History standards
- Promote civic engagement through the exploration of challenges and solutions related to stewardship and preservation in Macon County
- Provide opportunities to meet academic course credit requirements, explore historic preservation careers, develop critical thinking, leadership, and mentoring skills, experience realistic job previews, hone presentation, advocacy and debate skills, create innovative uses for technology, media and the arts, and develop networks for pursuing college and career aspirations.
- Develop the next generation of historic preservationists

The goal for the group is to acquire enough members to eventually apply for a 4-H Charter.

The MCYPA activities for 2015 include:

Summer/fall - Planting and maintaining an intergenerational community garden. Our garden is growing! The MCYPA has named it Washington Meadows Garden.

Fall - Conducting a survey of the Warrior Stand Cemetery

Fall - Participating in a workshop to learn the ancient art of Native American finger weaving (twining)

Fall - Participating in a historic preservation youth summit

Several adults from the community have worked with the MCYPA to plant and maintain the garden. Daniel Sullen, Macon/Bullock County 4-H Extension Agent, and two members of the Macon County Youth Council have also pitched in to help the group with planting and maintaining the garden. See more photos on [www.facebook.com/4HBMC](http://www.facebook.com/4HBMC)