



4-H Newsletter

Volume X Issue 2

February 2005

Volunteer *It's all for the kids!*

Youth development programs like Lee County 4H depend heavily on the strong shoulder support of volunteers who care about youth, their safety and well-being. They encourage positive attitudes in young people and guide them in making right choices for healthy and happy living. Opportunities to volunteer for Lee County 4H can take place anywhere – community clubs, after school clubs, fair, field classes, chaperoning at the Capitol in Tallahassee - there are many places for the right person.

Recently, on February 5, seven volunteer judges and a Club Leader/Coordinator put on the annual 4-H Fair Exhibit Judging Event. Over 60 youth, their families and friends brought projects to show and tell before entering these as exhibits in the club Fair booth.

From February 24 through March 6, 4-H members in animal projects will be exhibiting livestock and horses through the combined effort of 4-H and Fair Committee adult volunteers.

Every month of the year volunteer community and afterschool club leaders work with 4-H members, parents and other resource adult volunteers in a “learn by doing” informal educational program for kids ages 5-18.

Contact Mel Markward, 4-H Agent (239) 461-7516, or Rhonda Tice, 4-H Assistant (239) 461-7517, for more details.



92 percent of Americans agree that connecting with others through volunteer service can help solve community problems, especially those that affect children and youth.
 Point of Light Foundation, 1998



For more information about the 4-H Program, please contact the Lee County Extension Service at (239) 461-7517 or (V/TDD) 1-800-955-8771. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for any scheduled 4-H program or event, please contact the 4-H Office at the above number within three days of the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request.

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Florida Scrub Gang

The Florida Scrub Gang was very busy during the holidays. We welcomed the Mullaney family into our group, and our first meeting with them was spent making dozens of glittery construction cards for a nursing home. Besides cards, we also made a bunch of little sock gifts by rolling up a pair of long white socks and tying it with a bow, then placing a candy cane through it. It took a long time to make them all.

On December 12, three days after the card-constructing meeting, we all went to Tandem Nursing Home where we huddled together in the center of a room filled with people and caroled. We received a unique yet powerful joy in serving our elders in such a way as we did. Old folks are such special people, and we realized that more than ever as we watched their gentle faces spark up with much needed joy when they laid eyes on us (I suppose we're all cute or something).

We've been doing a lot of work in our Marine Biology studies and are learning how to identify Florida seashore life. Getting up close up to God's gorgeous creations has given us all a deep respect for the beauty of the earth. Even the most "simple" shells have intricate and complicated designs on them.

We enthusiastically look forward to our upcoming field trip - a sunset cruise (that I proudly say my Father will captain). Our gang is hoping to see dolphins, and manatees if we are lucky. I'll be sure to fill you all in on how everything goes. I won't let you miss out on any adventure. I hope 2005 is filled with many blessings for you. God bless!

*With many humble bows,
Alanna McLaughlin, Reporter*

Radical Rangers

This year our club is studying Marine Science. We learned about sharks in October and did a large community service at ECHO and dissected fish on a club member's dock in November. The month of December found us caroling and handing out gifts at an area nursing home and visiting a senior center to fellowship and sing with the senior adult clients. We met in January and discussed the upcoming Fair and building our booth. We learned about the by-products of seaweed. Did you know you eat seaweed when you have ice cream? At our next meeting we will learn about sea turtles. Our officers are:

President:	Josh Cooner
Vice President:	Michael Glasener
Treasurer:	Kelsey Fox
Reporter:	Matthew Cooner

Southern Livestock

Greetings from Southern Livestock 4-H.
Congratulations to our new officers:

President:	Amy Porter
Vice President:	Chris Martin
Secretary:	Storm Slaybaugh
Treasurer:	Kelly Clemons
Reporter:	Sydney Slaybaugh
Historian:	Jacob Sturm

We have been very busy with community service projects. We helped with the hurricane clean-up of one of our members whose family was hit hard by Hurricane Charley. We also delivered Thanksgiving dinner to three of our local Fire Departments. Our Christmas holiday party was held at Babcock Ranch. We have had quite an eventful year so far and are all anticipating Fair time.

Sydney Slaybaugh, Reporter

4-H Gives Adults the Opportunity to Help Kids

4-H promotes positive values, social responsibility, and lifelong learning. Adult volunteers are the foundation of 4-H, which engages youth in all aspects of learning and development as a whole person as symbolized by the 4-H emblem:

- **Head:** Learning to think and make decisions.
- **Heart:** Developing acceptance, appreciation and welfare of others.
- **Hands:** Developing skills and pride and respect for work.
- **Health:** Understanding a growing and changing body and practicing healthful living.

Wild Wranglerz

In September we collected food, water, ice, diapers, and toiletries for hurricane victims in DeSoto and Hardee Counties and delivered them to the Hendry County Sheriff's Department for their final destination. Eleven of our members went to Charlotte County with other Lee County clubs and repaired roofs and cleaned up yards. In November we started collecting clothing for a family that takes care of older, mentally challenged men. Along with that we found a family that was in need of Christmas. The father had been ill and out of work and there was no mom. He has four children, and Christmas was going to be bleak. We got everyone's clothing sizes

and toy wishes, and many members had a great time shopping for this family. For those that weren't able to shop they donated money for gift cards. Our kids are awesome, and so are the parents!! We ended up with three to four gifts for each family member and almost \$300 in gift card money! If that wasn't enough, we managed to collect canned goods for the Nations Association!

Most of our club members are doing animal projects. The total hog projects are 25, and the rest are small animals and photography.

One of our parents had access to a scale, so on January 24, 25 and 28 we weighed hogs to make sure we are on track for the Fair final weigh-in.

Anna Yochum, Co-Leader

Fair Exhibit Judging Event

Sixty 4-H'ers had exhibits judged on February 5 & 8 to display in their club booths at the Fair. These members created exhibits to show what they are learning in the project they are working on this year. The exhibits were judged by 4-H judges and will be displayed in the club booths during the Fair. Blue, Red, White, and Green Cloverbud ribbons are awarded by Fair and will be attached to the exhibits the night of booth set-up. The Fair also awards premiums for these exhibits. The exhibits must be displayed in the booths in order to receive the awards.

These are the clubs and the 4-H members with their exhibit projects who participated this year:

America's Farmers & Ranchers

Sarah Bestrom: Gardening
Nate Cook: Outdoor Adventures
Alex Feiock: Goat
Kevin Feiock: Goat
Matthew Feiock: Cat
Ranae Feiock: Gardening
Amanda Finau: Sewing
Catherine Glase: Theater Arts
Christina Glase: Photography, Citizenship

Michael Glase: Citizenship, Electricity
Ashlee Pavel: Horse
Taylor Pavel: Horse
Cody Reisen: Citizenship
Stephanie Waters: Photography

Florida Scrub Gang

Abigail Howie: Marine Science
Elisabeth Howie: Marine Science
Samuel Howie: Marine Science
Sarah Howie: Marine Science
Caleb McGuire: Marine Science
Esther McGuire: Marine Science
Aaron McLaughlin: Marine Science
Alanna McLaughlin: Marine Science
Melody McLaughlin: Marine Science
Grace Mullaney: Life In The Sea
Katie Mullaney: Life In The Sea

Goats R Us

Jeff Roseman: Gardening

I Can Do It

Jessica Bryant: Photography
Morgan Johnson: Arts & Crafts
Molly Metzger: Photography
Taylor VanVliet: Photography

Paw Power

Heather Metz: Dog Obedience
Mikaila Shults: Dog Obedience
Courtney Todd: Dog Obedience

Pony Express

Alexandria Carroll: Horse
Victoria Carroll: Cat

Jessica Drye: Rabbit, Poultry, Sewing
Kelly Drye: Rabbit, Poultry, Sewing
Matthew Hunt: Sportfishing
Olivia Muchmore: Sewing
Victoria Muchmore: Cat
Bethany Namour: Photography
Danielle Namour: Horse
Jesse Namour: Sportfishing
Marissa Osterhouse: Sewing
Sarah Osterhouse: Sewing
Wesley Osterhouse: Entomology
Jordan Santoro: Cat
Justin Schaffer: Sportfishing
Lauren Schaffer: Sewing
Megan Schaffer: Horse

Radical Rangers

Matthew Cooner: Marine Science, Fins & Scales
Kelsey Fox: Marine Science
Tommy Fox: Marine Science
Michael Glasener: Marine Science, Electricity, Money Fundamentals
Jordan Henley: Marine Science

4-H Round UP

Jamie Bryant: Embryology
Nichole Canady: Gardening
Cody Flint: Embryology
Jessica Kobie: Arts & Crafts
Wade Sites: Arts & Crafts

Great Job!



Lee County 4-H'er Brings Home Top Awards From State Fair 4-H Dog Show



Casey Barley, age 17, of Goats R Us and Paw Power 4-H Clubs, Lee County, took top honors at the Florida State Fair on February 12, by winning the prestigious *Phyllis White Top Showman Award* while showing her Australian Shepherd "Carrotwoods Run for the Roses" (Derby) in the Youth Showmanship competition. Casey placed 1st in her division, Senior Showmanship (winning with a perfect score), then went on to compete against eight other Division Champions to capture the Top Showman Award.

While at the State Fair, Casey also competed against over 100 other competitors with three of her dogs that also took top honors in their classes:

Carrotwoods Whippin Up Trouble: 1st Place in 20" Senior Advanced Agility

Carrotwoods Kingsized Snickers: 1st Place in 20" Intermediate Agility & 2nd in Novice B Obedience

Carrotwoods Run For The Roses: 1st Place Senior Showmanship, Winner Top Showman Award, 2nd in Elementary 20" Agility, 3rd in Pre-Novice Obedience

Casey is the breeder and handler of her own kennel, Carrotwood Kennel Australian Shepherds, in which she breeds Aussies and shows in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, and her newest venture Dock Dogs. She also has her own web site: www.carrotwoodkennelaussies.com.



4-H County Events
Saturday, April 16
Lee County Extension Office



4-H Share-the-Fun
Saturday, April 2
Riverdale High School
Auditorium



Project Butterfly WINGS



"A youth-centered scientific inquiry adventure into the world of butterflies"

Project Butterfly WINGS, "Winning Investigative Network for Great Science," is designed to foster interest in science. 4-H youth in fourth through eighth grades will design projects to collect information about the butterflies in their areas and share it online. WINGS starts this summer in pilot counties in Florida and will expand to other 4-H groups in the southeast within three years.

WINGS is designed to allow leaders and youth to participate without previous knowledge of butterflies. Fun and easy inquiry activities provide a quick way for leaders and participants to learn about butterflies before launching into their investigations. A range of possible projects provides flexibility for participation so younger and older students with varying skill levels, resources and time availability all can participate in a meaningful way. Finally, WINGS integrates the 4-H life skills through experiential and cooperative science learning. Decision-making and problem-solving skills encourage ownership among the participants.

Youth will enter their data into the interactive WINGS web site beginning this fall. Scientists, the public and other participants can use the information to view trends in butterfly populations.

The 4-H office is collaborating with WINGS and the Florida Museum of Natural History. If you or your club would like to participate, please call Mel Markward at 461-7516 at the 4-H office.

Why volunteer?

Evidence suggests that staying connected with others can buffer or reduce some of the health-related effects of aging and stress - and even add years to a volunteer's life. "People gain a lot from directly interacting with others and giving back to society" says Paul Takahashi, M.D., a specialist in geriatrics at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. "A relationship with the community is not necessarily as close and intimate as with family and friends, but it's equally important."

And that goes for being optimistic as well. Researchers found that people who scored high on optimism in a

long-range study of personalities had a 50 percent lower risk of premature death than those who scored more pessimistic. The study also produced results regarding other health benefits for optimists such as less pain and fewer limitations due to pain, less interference from physical or emotional problems when engaging in social activities or work days, increased energy, and feeling more peaceful, happier and calmer. Whether it's volunteering for a youth organization like 4H or any good cause, you can benefit both physically and mentally. Links between quality of life and involvement with others just seems to make sense without knowing the research. If you feel needed and involved in your community, you'll likely feel better about yourself and enjoy life more.



The State **VOLUNTEER** Forum
20th Anniversary and the Next Generation




Adults from the various counties in Florida come together for two main purposes:

- Foster educational development of Florida 4-H volunteers.
- Improve communication for 4-H volunteers within the organization.

**State Volunteer Forum
April 22-24, 2005
Camp Ocala**

**Please contact 4-H office for attending with a group of
Lee County volunteers and leaders.**

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 SWFL & Lee Co. Fair	2	3	4	5
		3rd Executive Board Registra- tion Deadline to UF				
6 4-H Ice Cream Social at Fair	7 4-H Club Fair Booth Break- down & Clean- Up 9am-7:30pm	8	9	10	11	12 Lee Co. Parks & Recreation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 10am-2pm Manatee Park
13	14 4-H District Council Mtg. 5:30 pm Hendry Co. Ex- tension Ofc. LaBelle	15	16	17	18 3rd Executive Board Camp Ocala <i>All senior 4-H members invited to attend to learn more about leader- ship and 4-H in Florida.</i>	19 Small Farms Livestock Pro- duction Confer- ence, 9am-3pm DeSoto Exten- sion, Arcadia Registration Required \$10
20	21	22	23	24	25 Share-the-Fun Registration Deadline (No Exceptions)	26
27 Easter 	28 School Spring Break	29	30	31	(April 1)	

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 April Fool's Day	2 Share-the-Fun, Riverdale High Auditorium <i>A fun experience showing off and sharing your singing, playing, dancing, & acting talent. Open to all 4-H members, including Cloverbuds.</i>
3	4	5	6	7	8 County Events Registration Deadline (No Exceptions)	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 County Events Lee County Extension Ofc. All 4-H members, including Cloverbuds, invited to present, demonstrate or give talks. Photo & poster exhibits also.
17	18	19	20	21	22 State 4-H Volunteer Forum Camp Ocala <i>Adult leaders, co-leaders & parents are invited to attend & meet volunteers.</i>	23
24 Passover →	25	26	27	28	29 Area "F" Horse Show (Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Broward, West Palm Beach, Monroe) Tropical Park, Miami	30 → May 1

Head, Heart, Hands, Health

4-H Program
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[Http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu)



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We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill



Mel Markward, Extension Agent - 4-H

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