



# The Clover Voice

March 2008 ♦ Volume 3, No. 3

## Upcoming Events

### March

- Mar 28 State 4-H & FFA Land Judging Contest
- Mar 29 Archery and Hunting Competition
- Mar 29 - National 4-H  
April 3 Conference

### April

- April 5 State 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest
- April 12 State 4-H Forest Ecology Judging Contest
- State 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest
- April 18-20 Camp Counselor Certification
- April 19 State 4-H & FFA Meat Judging Contest

For more information on upcoming events, visit our website at [www.florida4h.org](http://www.florida4h.org)



## State Fair Gone to the Dogs... The 4-H Dog Project, that is.

*Submitted by: Sally Alford Manning, 4-H Dog Project Leader*

The Florida State Fair 4-H Dog Show was held February 9 & 10, 2008 at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa. This year, there were more than 180 pre-entries for classes in the four divisions of Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility. 4-H members and their dogs competed, representing 15 different Florida Counties.

In recent years the 4-H Dog Show has become the largest animal show at the Florida State Fair. The show has grown by leaps and bounds since it began in the 1970's. The State Fair 4-H Dog Show was started by Phyllis White of Valrico, Florida. Phyllis was a lifelong dog enthusiast who devoted a great deal of her time to volunteer work. She coordinated the State Fair Purebred Dog Exhibit, and started the 4-H Dog Show to serve as the State Championship Show for Florida 4-H'ers. Phyllis was known for her patience and compassion when it came to kids and helped countless children with their dogs and showing. In honor and in memory of Phyllis White there is an award offered at the Florida State Fair 4-H Dog Show for the overall winner of the Showmanship division.

For years the 4-H Dog Show was held in the State Fair's Purebred Dog Exhibit tent. In the early 90's the show averaged about 60 exhibitors. By the year 2000, the show really started growing, and in just a couple of years - it doubled in size. The Purebred Dog tent was soon outgrown when in 2005 the show attracted more than 150 exhibitors. For the last few years the 4-H Dog Show has been held in the Charlie Lykes and Covered Horse Arenas on the State Fairgrounds in order to accommodate all the exhibitors and their dogs.

In recent years, the Rally division was added to the list of classes offered in the State Fair Dog Show. And in 2007, the first 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl competition was held at the Fair. 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl gives 4-H'ers the opportunity to compete by answering questions in a game show type format on topics such as dog anatomy, nutrition, show rules and dog care.

"Being in the 4-H dog project prepares you for so much more than dog handling," says participant Kaydee West. "It's a great opportunity to learn about leadership, communication, responsibility, and other life skills while having fun at the same time. The dogs have a



4-H Youth at the Dog Show clinic.

*Continued on page 3*

# A Note from Your State 4-H Leader

Submitted by: Dr. Marilyn Norman, State 4-H Leader



In these times of competing resources and demands for a wide variety of programs, the State 4-H Office is sometimes asked if an international component is present. As county and state faculty have established priorities over the last ten years on several different occasions, international programs, exchanges, or professional engagement in international work have not emerged

at the top of the working list. Does that mean they are not important? Does it mean that Florida 4-H doesn't support quality programs that have a world citizenship focus? Does it mean that 4-Hers don't gain enough through international travel? No, it simply means that Florida 4-H is working on different priorities at the present time.

At one time, Florida 4-H employed a faculty member who coordinated statewide efforts of youth and faculty exchange trips. There were regular International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE --formerly International Farm Youth Exchange) trips and Japanese LABO exchanges that were routinely coordinated at the state and national level. Given reductions in staff and the challenges of placing or sending youth, that work was discontinued in the late 1990's. Several states continue to support international experiences for 4-H members, but assume the responsibility on an individual state by state basis.

National 4-H Headquarters has engaged State 4-H Programs in extensive dialogue about international programs for youth. Although 4-H Headquarters support the concept of world citizenship education, the current statement from 4-H Headquarters is as follows: ***If a state 4-H program decides to continue an exchange program, the state must take full responsibility for the program. There will be NO nationally sanctioned 4-H exchange programs, and the IPC does not function as National 4-H Program Leadership.***

The International Program Committee is comprised of State 4-H Programs who wish to continue supporting active international programs, but are not allowed to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. They are simply individual state 4-H programs who use the efficiency of a separate organization to help them accomplish the goal of international education. Just as several counties who work together on a joint project need to have authorization from the State 4-H Program, multiple states must also have the approval of National 4-H Headquarters to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. In this case, it has not been granted.

So, that leaves states to be completely responsible for international efforts within their 4-H Program. There is a very helpful fact sheet that describes the responsibilities of states related to this. It can be found at: [http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/fs\\_international\\_7-11-07.pdf](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/fs_international_7-11-07.pdf).

So, what is a county to do if it has world citizenship as a high priority? There are several different options.

- They may choose to conduct international efforts with 4-H members, leaders, or faculty as an individual part of their program. This may range from conducting international awareness activities to fully developed exchange trips.
- They work closely with the IFAS or UF International Offices to maximize interaction with IFAS or visiting international faculty.
- They may choose to take 4-H program development training to other countries to share positive youth development best practices while learning from others.

This issue of Clover Voice celebrates the efforts of several faculty who are sharing 4-H philosophies with others and teaching at the international level. We recognize the efforts of Nicole and Norma, and know that the efforts of others such as Kathie Roberts and Ivette Valentin have made a difference in several international locations. In addition, for several years, state and county faculty have traveled abroad to military installations in Europe to provide 4-H 101 Training. A group lead by Joy Jordan is currently in Germany providing training and several county faculty are participating and have done so earlier, as well. Several of our county agents have excellent international experience in other careers. Again, these are great ways to both share and learn the best of youth development.

We welcome your suggestions and success stories in international work. We encourage each faculty to engage in international work as time allows. But we know that sometimes other priorities will not raise it to the level of an active program. Additional resources can be found at the National 4-H Headquarters website, along with good global citizenship learning activities to use with both youth and adult. I encourage you to visit the 4-H Around the World website and learn more: [http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/about/4h\\_world](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/about/4h_world).

*Marilyn*



Continued from page 1

way of keeping me humble. Some of my highest - and lowest- moments have been shared with my dogs in the ring. I feel like I have grown immeasurably as an individual because of my involvement in the dog project."

It takes countless volunteer hours of planning by the Dog Show Committee to organize the Fair show for over 180 entries. It actually starts about a year in advance reviewing the rules, and brainstorming about improving show procedures. The Show Committee arranges the class schedule, ring layouts and determines the logistics of how to get the classes judged in the time frame we are given to work with.

Without volunteers this show would not be possible. Thank you to ALL members of the Show Committee, Judges, Leaders, Parents and other volunteers that helped run this show. Special thanks to SMSgt Don Scott who recruited military personnel from MacDill Air Force Base to work at our show.

In 2008 many Florida 4-H Clubs and Counties donated baskets for the 'Florida 4-H Dog Project Basket Raffle' at the State Fair. Due to the generosity of those who donated and those who bought tickets, enough money was raised to pay for our Florida 4-H Dog Project website expenses (for 2007), and the for Hospitality food expenses for the Fair volunteer workers and Judges.

The Florida 4-H Dog Project website: [www.FL4-H-Dog.com](http://www.FL4-H-Dog.com) is a great source of information for all 4-H Dog Project activities. Professional photos will be posted on the website along with information on how to order prints - at a special discounted price to 4-H members. Keep checking the website for show results and show photos! You can also contact Sally Alford Manning at [horsepny@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:horsepny@tampabay.rr.com).



Kaydee West talks with a judge during a Dog Show Clinic she attended in 2005.

## Bridal Bootcamp Makes Over Camp Ocala



Camp Ocala has had an unusual houseguest for the last eight weeks. The camp has been home to the production crew, contestants and trainers for the newest reality show – Bridal Bootcamp. This first season show will be airing this summer on the CMT network.

Ten contestants were selected to compete for their dream wedding on the show. The ladies were given weekly challenges and winners were given the opportunity sit with a wedding planner and start planning their wedding.

Leftfield Pictures, the production company that filmed the show, scoured the state for just the right location. The Orlando Film Commission did some initial scouting for the group based on what they were looking for - a site that would be conducive to shooting a television show and housing dozens of crew and cast, something rustic but not trashy. Camp Ocala just seemed to fit the bill! It was just the right size and had beautiful scenery—including the occasional bear sighting.



CANTEEN SET BEFORE

The production crew made some exciting renovations to the camp during their stay. New appliances were added to Cabin 7. Cabins 7 and 8 received new paint and repair while Cabin 8 received new lockers. The sign by the flagpole was repainted and the production company donated six new folding tables and chairs. However, some changes will not become permanent for the camp. For example, the pink wall in Cabin 7 probably isn't going to work so well. And the Bridal Bootcamp sign in the front, though it's pretty, will have to come down when production is over.



CANTEEN SET REDRESSED

"This has been a great group to work with," said Shawn Batzell, Camp Ocala Manager. "They've been very accommodating to our other scheduled groups, they've helped renovate some of our cabins and have been very professional. I'll be sad to see them go."

The group finished filming the challenges and eliminations at the end of February and will be heading back to Ocala sometime in April to tape the finale show.

Be sure to check out the show and see if you recognize Camp Ocala on CMT this summer!

# The Southern Region Volunteer of the Year Award Goes to....

National 4-H Council has recently announced that Melanie Baggs was selected as the Southern Region Volunteer of the Year for the 2008 National 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards program. Be sure to congratulate Melanie on this wonderful achievement and thank her for her commitment to the young people in Florida's 4-H Program.

Melanie was selected through a rigorous selection process led by a national committee, and as a regional recipient, is eligible to be selected for the national award for the Salute to Excellence program which will be announced in April 2008. The two national awardees will be recognized at National 4-H Council on October 10, 2008.

As a regional recipient Melanie will:

- Be provided a travel scholarship to participate in the Southern Volunteer Leader Forum to be held at Rock Eagle 4-H Camp, Georgia October 2-5, 2008. The cost of basic registration will also be paid for her.
- Receive \$200 to donate to a local 4-H program of her choice. This will be presented along with a recognition plaque to Melanie at the Southern Volunteer Leader Forum.
- Be highlighted on [www.4hvolunteers.org](http://www.4hvolunteers.org)

Florida 4-H is very lucky to have such an outstanding volunteer!



Melanie Baggs (far right) is getting ready for the 2007 DeBary Christmas Parade to begin.

## Florida 4-H Legislature

June 23 · 27, 2008 · Tallahassee, Fla.

**\$225** Registrati  
Fee

**APRIL 1**  
Registration Deadline

CONTACT YOUR 4-H AGENT FOR  
COUNTY DEADLINES, REGISTRATION  
FORMS AND MORE INFORMATION.  
[WWW.FLORIDA4H.ORG](http://WWW.FLORIDA4H.ORG)

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# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATION WORKSHOPS

## *At Florida 4-H Congress 2008*

Florida 4-H and The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering is providing an exciting new learning opportunity for 4-H Youth interested in Science. Three adventure-packed days of workshops will be offered at 4-H Congress.

This innovative pilot program is open to all youth ages 14-18, (*they do not have to qualify through district events to participate*). The goal of the pilot program is to give youth a hands on experience at the University of Florida's Agricultural and Biological Engineering Labs and to interact with professors. Interested participants should contact their County 4-H Agent and sign-up through the State 4-H Congress registration form.

### **Workshop Descriptions**

**Production of biodiesel:** UF ABE has developed a demonstration-sized reactor, where students can produce their own biodiesel from vegetable oil. They will have a chance to follow the process through all stages of refinement along with receiving instruction in process safety and proper handling of products.

**Space Agriculture (Mars Greenhouse):** Students will investigate plants growing in an experimental chamber which was developed as a prototype Mars Dome for NASA. They will learn how temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure are controlled in the dome and observe how plants are grown in a totally closed environment. A crop grown in the Mars Dome will be harvested and compared to plants grown under normal conditions.

**Energy and Construction:** A combination of demonstrations and hands-on experiences will be used to expose the students to a variety of construction related topics. Students will learn how to construct a typical wall structure and how construction techniques are different in Florida as compared to colder, northern climates. Students will also learn how to wire a typical residential electrical circuit and be able to compare the energy efficiency of different appliances. Demonstrations will also include the effects of hurricanes on typical structures.

**Search 4-Safety:** The Search 4-Safety experience will provide the 4-H youth with an exposure to several topics related to safety. They will have hands-on applications including learning the proper use of a fire extinguisher. They would also be exposed to learning how to 'search 4-hazards' by doing an actual 'search' here on campus.

**Satellites and Agriculture:** This module consists of short lecture and hands-on laboratory exercise. In the lecture, students will learn the concept of precision farming and how modern satellites are used in agricultural production. In laboratory exercise, students will have hands-on experience with a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver.

**Weather & Climate:** Students will learn the importance of a weather instrument shelter and automated weather station, and use the FAWN and AgClimate websites to obtain and use various kinds of weather data. They will generate daily and monthly data reports for one or more FAWN observing sites, then compare these reports to one or more climate reports from the AgClimate website.



# Exploring International Extension Opportunities: A Partnership with the Antigua 4-H Program

Submitted by: Norma Samuel, 4-H Agent II Marion County, and Nicole Walker, 4-H Agent II, Polk County

Unless you've taken an Eastern Caribbean cruise, you may never have even heard of Antigua. It is a small island in the West Indies that boasts 365 beaches (one for every day of the year)! As county agents, we (Norma Samuel and Nicole Walker) were afforded the opportunity to share our 4-H knowledge and experiences with colleagues from the Ministry of Youth department in the government of Antigua, in an effort to revive their dormant 4-H program. Norma Samuel, who was born and raised on the island, spearheaded the project in response to an increase in youth violence and other negative behaviors.

Our quest to begin international work started by attending several workshops on the subject at the 2007 Extension Symposium. We also participated in the Internationalizing Extension inservice training coordinated by Dr. Pete Vergot, Northwest District Director, and Dr. David Sammons, IFAS International Programs Director. We applied for (and were awarded) grants of \$1,000 each to travel to Antigua in January 2008, based on the following objectives:

1. To meet with local and regional officials to develop a support system for the Antigua 4-H program.
2. To teach 4-H leaders, Youth Department Staff, and youth how to effectively manage a 4-H club and conduct programs using the Experiential Learning Model and 4-H's Essential Elements.
3. To design, implement, and evaluate a Horticulture Judging Contest.
4. To gather information that would allow us to develop effective programs to reach audiences in our counties from that region.

On the first day of our trip we met with the Youth Department Director, a staff member and two volunteers for a briefing on 4-H's history. Interestingly, 4-H was brought to the island by a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1980's. Clubs became active, but lost momentum as government officials (and, therefore, priorities) changed. After the meeting, we gave a 4-H overview presentation to the Youth department staff, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Agriculture staff, representatives of regional and local organizations and businesses.

One of the unique aspects of work in Antigua is that "youth" refers to children, teens and adults up to age 35, whereas in Florida 4-H "youth" are ages 5-18. We had to ensure we make the distinction whenever we were referring to "youth." We also learned that 4-H



Antiguan "clubites" pose after the teen leadership workshop.

members throughout the Caribbean are called "clubites!"

Most of the 4-H projects in the region focus on developing a career skill through an entrepreneurship project and service learning through community projects. There was also discussion about the various youth programs on the island and the need for collaboration between groups to promote positive youth development and be more effective overall.

For four days, we conducted a 4-H 101 curriculum training for the youth department staff and other interested parties.

Nicole had quite a learning experience on the first day of the workshop. Each day was to begin at 8:30 a.m., but never actually got started before 9:30 a.m. Norma had to reassure her that they would come . . . we were operating on what's known as "Caribbean time." Eventually nineteen people showed up the first day. The participants were fully engaged in the workshop sessions, and let us know (through written evaluations and verbally) that the sessions were very helpful, they enjoyed the hand-on activities and were equipped to move the 4-H program forward. The major outcome of the 4-H 101 session was an action plan developed by the group that outlined the role of the Youth Department staff, partnering organizations in Antigua and the University of Florida.

One-hundred percent of the final evaluations for the training session indicated knowledge was gained in many areas, including: recognition of competencies critical for healthy youth development; understanding the history and culture of 4-H; how to target specific life skills in 4-H programming; apply the steps of the Experiential Learning Model; and starting 4-H clubs.



Norma enjoys the Atlantic Ocean breeze at Devil's Bridge on the Antiguan coast.

On day six of our trip we conducted a four-hour teen leadership program with 21 participants, including members of the island's only active school-based club. Activities from the Florida 4-H "Unlock Your Leadership Potential" curriculum and the Innovation Center's "Building Community" curriculum were employed to target the life skills of leadership, teamwork and self-motivation. Youth also worked in teams to "design" community centers, planning activities for other youth. Their plans were kept by youth department officials and will, hopefully, be used in the government's future plans for grass-roots youth support in communities throughout the island.

The final session, led by Norma, was a horticulture identification and judging event at St. Mary's School of Excellence (which has a 4-H club). Fifteen youth and five adults attended the two-hour session. Participants were briefed on plant characteristics that can be used in identification, then given a chance to identify 109 plant samples. It was amazing that the youth had seen most of the plants before, but had no idea what their names were. The Agriculture Extension Division and the Antigua Horticulture Society will help train youth for an official contest in the future.

Throughout the week contact was made with the School Meal Program personnel (an Extension program, similar to our Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program). Norma spent a day going on field visits with the Chief Extension Officer, and the Chief Chemist who is also Chair of the Pesticide Control Board. We learned of various areas of need for education and resources, for which other UF/IFAS Extension Agents could have international Extension opportunities.

Overall, the experience was an exciting one, and we look forward to fulfilling our role in the Department's action plan as technical support for the staff at the Youth Department. Such a partnership is mutually beneficial. We have gained skills and knowledge in teaching and supporting cultural groups from the Caribbean, and will share this knowledge with Extension and other IFAS colleagues in various formats, including upcoming professional development venues and publications.

If you would like more information on the Antigua 4-H project, please contact Norma Samuel at [norma.samuel@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:norma.samuel@marioncountyfl.org), or Nicole Walker at [naw@ufl.edu](mailto:naw@ufl.edu). For more information on International Programs and grant opportunities, contact Dr. David Sammons at [sammons@ufl.edu](mailto:sammons@ufl.edu).



St. Mary's School students exhibit their knowledge in horticulture identification.

## 4-H Day At the Capitol and Tallahassee Auction a Success!

*Submitted by: Georgene Bender, South Central RSA and Albert Gay, State Office*



Some 4-H Youth had the opportunity to meet Governor Charlie Crist.

The Capitol was a buzz on Wednesday, March 12, as nearly 200 4-H supporters joined the Florida Cattlemen and the Florida Water and Environmental groups to spend the day in Tallahassee.

4-H had a prime location just in the lobby of the new capitol building on the way to the Governor's office. Many capitol workers and guests visited our displays

which included 4-H Tropicana, GIS, Legislative Week, 4-H Military Programs, Teen Cert Teams and posters from youth about their projects.

The 4-H delegation met at 10am to hear remarks from Dr. Marilyn Norman - State 4-H Leader, Dr. Larry Arrington - Dean for Extension, Mr. Todd Parrish - 4-H Foundation President and Charles Bronson - Commissioner of Agriculture. Youth were treated to box lunches from the 4-H Foundation. Many groups attended various committee meetings that were being held or visited their representatives to talk about the importance of 4-H in their communities.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this event possible and to all of our participants.



Florida House Speaker Pro Tempore, Marsha L. "Marty" Bowen, is presented the 2008 Florida 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award by the Honorable James Harold Thompson. The award ceremony took place during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 4-H Reception & Auction in Tallahassee, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Representative Bowen was recognized for her outstanding support of 4-H and other youth organizations over the years both within her district and at the state level.

# 4-H Quick Hits

## What Do They Do After the Fair?

It's often a problem to get youth and parents to realize that a market animal project does not end on the last day of the fair. To increase the educational component of 4-H market animal projects, a new activity has been added to the Charlotte County livestock program – meat shopping and cooking. Fifty-three youth completed a fair-to-table experience by learning how to prepare different cuts of meat in several ways. Teams of members with beef projects practiced grilling, stir-frying, broiling, pressure cooking and roasting. Pork project member teams prepared meat by grilling, pan frying and oven roasting. All of the prepared dishes were shared by club members and their parents. In addition to learning which cuts of meat do well with different cooking techniques, this event provided an excellent opportunity to teach food safety, consumer skills, and teamwork.

## Students Speak Up in Collier County

Research has shown that multiple 4-H experiences are necessary in helping youth develop critical life skills such as decision-making, responsibility, interpersonal skills, a service ethic, and social skills. Increasing the leadership capacity and skills of youth in Collier County through education will increase volunteer involvement, increase learning environments for youth, and county resources with volunteers.

Collier County students were provided with training and competition in public speaking. These skills were utilized to host 700, fourth grade students from five Collier County schools, who participated in the first 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program. The program culminates in a countywide Public Speaking Contest where the first place winners from each participating school compete for top honors. A total of five middle schools participated to teach students the basics of public speaking as part of the program. Participants of the program were provided an opportunity to gain a broader understanding of public speaking, confidence, leadership experiences and abilities.

## 2008 Forest Ecology Event

**When:** April 12, 2008

**Where:** Austin Cary Memorial Forest, Gainesville, FL

### Registration:

The following Registration Forms can be found at [http://florida4h.org/events/fe\\_contest.shtml](http://florida4h.org/events/fe_contest.shtml). Payment is due in the State 4-H Events Office by March 28, 2008. Late registrations will be accepted until April 4 with a \$25 late fee per county.

### Reminders:

- Payment must accompany registration.
- Any adult OR youth observing should complete the observer registration form. They will not be charged the fee.
- You must wear shoes, socks, and long pants due to ticks in the area.
- All participants should bring lunch, water, pencils, and a clipboard.



## Thank you to our contributors:

**State office:** Albert Gay, Daniel Meyers, Dr. Marilyn Norman  
**County offices:** Georgene Bender (SC RSA), Adam Cletzer (Indian River County), Norma Samuel (Marion County), Nicole Walker (Polk County)

**Others:** Neva Baltzell (Camp Cherry Lake Resident Manger/State Program Coordinator), Shawn Baltzell (Camp Ocala Resident Manger), Sally Alford Manning (4-H Dog Project Leader)

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*Do you have an idea or story you'd like to share? E-mail Laura Lok at [lclok@ufl.edu](mailto:lclok@ufl.edu) and let your voice be heard!*

