On Friday, April 4, 2014, Polk County 4-H held 4-H County Events Day. The purpose of this program is to help youth gain and develop communication skills whether it is through public speaking or performance or expressive arts. This year there was 16 public speaking demonstrations, 18 Share-the-Fun performances, 74 photography entries, and 5 poster art exhibits. Congratulations to all of our participants! All blue ribbon winners will advance to 4-H District Events which will be held on May 3rd in Pinellas County. Blue ribbon photography and poster art entries will be sent directly to State 4-H for judging. Score sheets and follow-up information will be sent to contest participants.

Thank you to the Polk County 4-H Foundation for sponsoring this event. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who served as judges, room monitors, and helpers. Your efforts make 4-H programs like this possible!

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“The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education.”

-Plutarch
4-H camp counselors and counselors in training (CIT’s) play an important role at camp. These teen volunteers are responsible for helping each camper get the most of the camping experience. Some counselor roles include working as a team member, assisting with camp classes, and being alert to the health, safety, and needs of campers. CIT’s are those teens who are aspiring to be counselors; they observe counselors while at camp.

Centered around the 4-H mission, the trainings and experiences of 4-H camp teen volunteers are designed to help them gain valuable life skills such as workforce preparation and communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Because counselors are serving as teen volunteers while in a residential setting, new screening requirements have been implemented this year. 4-H camp counselors (not CIT’s) will now be screened as Level 2 4-H volunteers.

Teens who are interested in serving as 4-H camp counselors or CIT’s should submit an application. They must also attend an interview/meeting with a parent or guardian on Thursday, April 17th. The application and details are available online at www.polk4-h.org.

Article by Amanda Squitieri.

4-H Club Report

The Homegrown 4-H club of Lakeland had four youth compete in the 4-H State Archery Competition- Chandler Boyer, Willow Boyer (instinctive recurve intermediate placed 9th and placed 3rd for team), Andy Phillips (team instinctive recurve intermediate placed 3rd), and Josalynne Christian (instinctive recurve senior placed 9th). And at the March club meeting, Homegrown 4-H recognized its many Florida State Fair participants. Congratulations to all of you!

Submitted by Marisa Taylor, Homegrown 4-H reporter

4-H Adventure Camp Dates
April 17: Counselor/CIT parent meeting/interview
May 1: Camp Scholarships Due
May 9-10: Counselor Training
May 27: Mandatory Camper/Parent Meeting
June 8: Counselor Training on Site
June 9-13: 4-H Adventure Camp

4-H Camp Scholarships
The Polk County 4-H Foundation offers scholarships for youth to attend 4-H residential summer camps. This includes the Polk County 4-H Adventure Camp and Florida 4-H specialty and open enrollment camps. For a listing, visit http://florida4h.org/camps. Applications can be found online at www.polk4-h.org and are due May 1, 2014 for consideration.

4-H Club Reports
4-H club reporters should submit their reports to Amanda Squitieri at amsquiti@ufl.edu by the 20th of each month to be featured in the upcoming newsletter.
4-H Shooting Sports

State 4-H Contests: Congratulations to our 24 archers and 6 shooters who competed in the State 4-H Shooting Sports contests held in March. Ryan Waldman, of the Bullseye 4-H Club, will advance to the National 4-H Shooting Sports competition held over the summer in the instinctive recurve bow division.

4-H Archery Matches: Upcoming archery matches include Marion County Fun Shoot on May 3rd and Polk County FITA 720 on May 17th. More information is enclosed.

4-H Instructor Trainings: Polk County 4-H will host a 4-H archery instructor training on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31 in Bartow and Polk City, respectively. Interested teen and adult volunteers should contact the 4-H office. Registration forms are posted online at www.polk4-h.org and are due May 16th.

Another 4-H Level I training for the various disciplines of archery, shotgun, and air rifle will be held the weekend of September 19th near Gainesville. More details are to come.

4-H Horse Project

Area C Horse Show: Congratulations to the 40 riders who will be competing in the Area C 4-H Horse Show on April 26th at the Sumter Equestrian Center.

4-H Horse Project Award Banquet: This will be held on Monday, May 5th at 6:00pm in the Stuart Center in Bartow. Please RSVP to the 4-H office by April 29th. Dinner, DJ, and fun will be provided. Bring a dessert to share and enter the best-tasting dessert contest!

4-H Horse Project Graduating Seniors: Please send in your full names to Jody Grant at jgrantcandles@msn.com to complete your gift to be received at the banquet.

4-H Horse Advisory Committee: Nominations are being collected for 4-H adult volunteers who are interested in serving on the committee and helping with the shows and other horse project activities. Contact Jody Grant if you are interested. Voting will be conducted at the banquet.
Upcoming Events

April 2014

4  4-H County Events Day
5  State 4-H Horse Judging
12  Honey Bee Seminar
12  4-H Dog Show
12  State 4-H Livestock Judging
12  State 4-H Forest Ecology Contest
17  4-H Camp Counselor/CIT Parent Meeting and Interviews
17-19  State 4-H Dairy Show
19  State 4-H Meats Judging Contest
23  4-H Day at the Capitol
26  4-H Area C Horse Show
29  Ag Literacy Day
30  4-H Legislature Reg Closes

May 2014

1  4-H Camp Scholarships Due
3  4-H District Events Day
3  4-H Archery Fun Shoot
3  Youth Farm Day
5  4-H Horse Award Banquet
6  4-H Youth Council Meeting
6  4-H Association Meeting
9-10  4-H Camp Counselor Training
13  4-H Shooting Sports Committee Meeting
16  4-H/Tropicana County Speech Contest

4-H Legislature

4-H’ers ages 13 to 18 years as of September 1st of the current 4-H year come together to develop their skills debating, analyzing legislation, and speaking publicly all while making new friends and having a ton of fun. At this civic education event, youth write bills, act as lobbyists, Representatives, or Senators to pass the bills through committees, and then present and debate them on the Capitol House or Senate Floor. It will be held June 23-27, 2014 in Tallahassee. The cost is $225 plus travel. Registration is from April 10-30th. More info can be found online at http://florida4h.org/programsandevents_leg/.

Ag Literacy Day

Florida Agriculture Literacy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2014. The annual reading event is a chance for agriculture industry representatives to read a children’s book about Florida agriculture to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This year’s book is titled Florida Farms at School. To sign up to be a reader or request a reader for your classroom or club, visit http://faitc.org/aglitday/.

Stay up-to-date on 4-H events by checking out the online Google Calendar, our Facebook page, or website www.polk4-h.org.
Announcements

Attention All 4-H Volunteers
There is a new online youth protection training that is required for current 4-H volunteers including organizational, project, and resource leaders. Once completed, please forward your quiz results to Rita, 4-H secretary, at ritawest@ufl.edu. The link to the training is available at www.florida4h.org.

Please complete this ASAP so that Polk County 4-H is in compliance with State 4-H and DCF policies.

4-H Office Help Needed
If you have good communication or computer skills, we could use your help in making phone calls and data entry. We are looking for adult office volunteers to serve a few hours a week. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated! If available, please contact Amanda, 4-H Agent, at 863-519-1054 or amsquiti@ufl.edu.

Featured 4-H’er Nominations
Nominate a 4-H member to be featured in the 4-H Forecaster by the 20th of each month. Include a story or reasons for consideration along with a photo to Amanda at amsquiti@ufl.edu.

Share your stories and successes with
The 4-H Forecaster
Did you just return from a 4-H competition or event?
Did you learn something new in your project this month?
Did you or your club receive an award or recognition?

The 4-H Forecaster wants to recognize the efforts and hard work of Polk County 4-H’ers. Please, share your stories and include pictures to go along with it, too.

Contact Amanda Squitieri via email at amsquiti@ufl.edu or phone 863-519-1054. Your story and pictures may make their way into the next 4-H Forecaster Newsletter!

Hope Equine Rescue
Hope Equine Rescue will host a Spring Clean Up and Open Barn Day, in celebration of the ASPCA’s Help a Horse Day, on April 26th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the second annual event which is a national effort on behalf of homeless horses and those who care for them. Hope Equine Rescue is located in Auburndale. Interested volunteers may find out more details at http://hopeequinerescue.com/ or contact 863-9447843 or 863-287-7503.
2014 Honey Bee Seminar

hosted in partnership with

Ridge Beekeepers Association

UF/IFAS Extension

Polk County

Saturday, April 12, 2014: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  Registration begins at 8:00 am

UF/IFAS Extension Polk County: 1702 Hwy 17 S, Bartow, FL 33830

A taste of everything you need to know about beekeeping ...

⇒ Hive construction
⇒ Starting a hive
⇒ Honey extraction
⇒ Bee transport
⇒ Queen bees
⇒ Nectar sources
⇒ Wax rendering
⇒ Tools
⇒ Looking inside the hive

Door Prizes!

Vendors!

Register NOW! On the calendar page of http://polksmallfarms.com OR

FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW, CLIP OFF AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Ridge Beekeepers Association, James Crauswell, 4515 Rushing Rd, Lakeland, FL 33810

Name: ___________________________________________ Email Address: __________________________

Address: ___________________________________________ ___________________________________________

City: ___________________________________________ State: ________ Zip code: __________

Day Phone: (______)_________________________ Night Phone: (______)________________________

How did you hear about this seminar? ___________________________________________________________

REGISTRATION FEES: Make check payable to Ridge Beekeepers Association

By April 8th: $15.00 per person x ______ people = $________ Number of Children attending

$10.00 per person age 11-18 x ______ people = $________ with registered adult ________

Day of Seminar: $20.00 per person x ______ people = $________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $________

For more information call
James at (863) 450-2670
Visit us at www.ridgebeekkeepers.com
Email: j_crauswell@yahoo.com
Youth Farm Tour
May 3, 2014 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Visit a blueberry U-pick and learn about agriculture!

Highlights of experience:

- Harvest your own blueberries!
- Check out their low cost hydroponic growing system.
- Gain experience with blueberry production.
- Learn about small scale agriculture.
- Bring your lunch for a picnic by the pond!
- Open to all students ages 9-18. Adult helpers are also welcome!

Where: Shady Oaks Fruit Farm, 3320 Shady Oak Drive East, Lakeland, 33810

Requirements: Open to all students but 4-H Participation forms must be completed

See details and register on the calendar page of http://polksmallfarms.com

Contact: Mary Beth Henry at 863-519-1049 or mbhenry@ufl.edu
SATURDAY-MAY 3, 2014

“FUN” DRAISER
ARCHERY SHOOT

Open to all 4-H and JOAD shooters

8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M. - CHECK IN/EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK

NO REGISTRATION AT EVENT

9:00 A.M. – PARENT/COACH MEETING & RANGE SAFETY MEETING

Welcome, Pledges, Introductions, Directions

9:30 A.M. – MOVE TO ASSIGNED LANES
9:45-2:45 COMPETITION

AWARDS CEREMONY TO FOLLOW AT COMPLETION OF COMPETITION

CONCESSIONS

SEMINAR ON BENEFITS OF MASSAGE FOR ATHLETES

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

This event is open to 4-H and JOAD archers. For more information, you may also email acarchery@cox.net or call 352-804-8911.
2014 4-H FITA 720 ARCHERY MATCH

TENOROC SHOOTING SPORTS - LAKELAND

SATURDAY, May 17, 2014

Times are approximate. Rain or Shine.

8:00 A.M. – VOLUNTEER MEETING (We need lane volunteers)

8:00 – 9:00 A.M. – REGISTRATION/CHECK IN  
8:30 - 9:15 A.M. – EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK

9:15 A.M. – PARENT / COACH MEETING & RANGE SAFETY MEETING

9:45 A.M. – MOVE TO ASSIGNED LANES  
10:00 – 2:45 P.M. – COMPETITION

The Awards Ceremony will follow as soon as scoring is complete. Rules and scoring are consistent with the 2014 State Match with the exception of distances.

Seniors: Three ends of six arrows at 60 and 50 meters each and six ends of three arrows at 40 and 30 meters each

Intermediates: Three ends of six arrows at 30 and 20 meters each and six ends of three arrows at 20 and 10 meters each

Juniors: Three ends of six arrows at 15 and 10 meters each and six ends of three arrows at 10 and 7 meters each

There will be a time limit of four minutes per end (three ends of six arrows) and two minutes per end (six ends of three arrows). Anticipate one hour per distance with 10-15 minutes between for set-up. Timing will be approximate based on number of participants and available lanes.

It is suggested that you bring a cooler. There will NOT BE a break for lunch. Archers will need to find time to eat/take a break during the down time between ends and during target set-up times. If a participant needs someone to help bring them food/drink let us know at check-in.

Registration Fee is $20.00 per archer. Make checks payable to “Volusia County 4-H.”

Registration is due by May 7, 2014. A late fee of $5.00 will be charged for registrations received after the deadline.

Mail to:  Mrs. Laura Cash, lcash@volusia.org  Phone: (386) 822-5778  FAX: (386) 822-5767
Volusia County 4-H, 3100 E. New York Avenue, DeLand, FL 32724-6410

The Foundation for The Gator Nation  An Equal Opportunity Institution

FWC Tenoroc Shooting Sports & Training:  3755 Tenoroc Mine Road  Lakeland, Florida

Registration and payment can be sent directly to Volusia County 4-H.
Polk County 4-H has multiple social media networks!

Twitter:
Follow us @Polk4h

Facebook:
‘Like’ our page Polk County 4-H

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/user/PolkCounty4H

The 4-H Forecaster is a newsletter designed by the Polk County Extension Service 4-H Youth Development program. Its intent is to keep the members, parents, leaders, and volunteers of Polk County 4-H informed and up-to-date on opportunities, events, and activities.

4-H Youth Development is an extension partnered with the University of Florida and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Its focus is to promote the development of life skills in the youth within the community.

Amanda Squitieri, Polk County 4-H Youth Development
Nicole Walker, Polk County Extension Director and 4-H Youth Development
Rita West, 4-H Secretary

UF/IFAS Extension Polk County

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