



THE TORCH

THE WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS

WV 4-H ALL STARS

THE TORCH

FALL 2009

A Patchwork of Service—and Fun— at the 2009 All Star Conference

By: Sandy Sims

Shiny red stars and colorful quilts were the inspiration for the attendees at the 2009 All Star Conference. With the theme “A Patchwork of Service,” All Stars from around the state had a busy weekend of fun, fellowship and service.

The weekend began with a lively game of All Star Jeopardy led by Billie Jo and Jeff Ryman. With categories like All Star Chiefs, traditions, and song phrases, the group was challenged and learned more about 4-H and each other. Our evening of fun continued when Barby Frankenberry introduced a magic All Star wand. Each time Barby raised her wand the room echoed with How How’s keeping the spirit of 4-H in our weekend.

Focusing on the weekend’s theme of service, Carolyn Elliott inspired attendees with stories of her service to Hospice of the Panhandle. She uses special personal items from a loved one that has passed, and develops the item into a quilt or other item to honor that person’s life, then giving family members something to cherish.

With twinkling candlelight and glowing stars, the All Stars journeyed to council circle with Courtney Kilmer and Heidi Chrisman serving as the evening’s Big Chiefs. Around the crackling campfire, All Stars shared 4-H songs and fond memories. A “first time” council circle activity found each tribe developing their symbol of “A Patchwork of Service”.

Betsy Chrisman led All Stars in song all weekend. Betsy was a fan favorite from last year’s conference with her special rendition of “Green Eggs and Ham.” She developed a keepsake All Star songbook so everyone knew the words to the songs, and for everyone to take home.

After council circle, the weekend of shining stars continued as a path of lovely luminaries guided participants to a glowing red star in front of the chapel for the evening’s meditations. Led by the Sherman and Joan Toler family, everyone added a star of service to the giant star, patching us together as one.

On Saturday afternoon, fourteen new All Stars were inducted during our annual consecration service. In addition, WVU Extension Educator Doug Hovatter led a rededication and memorial service in honor of the Jim V. Morris Rose Garden. Jim passed away over the past year, so his name along with the names of other All Stars lost since last conference, were honored.

At the evening’s annual banquet, the Outstanding All Stars were special guests receiving recognition. Guy Stewart spoke to the group, reminding everyone that we are a patchwork of service, both young and old. As the Legislative Representative for the All Stars, he also impressed on the importance of taking action in our community and state.

Saturday evening concluded with our “Hand Made Home Made” auction that raised \$3400 for state camp snacks. As Debbie McDonald said, “The kids will eat well this summer.” All Stars had many bidding battles, egged on by auctioneer Alden Butcher. I would like to thank everyone who donated the wonderful items to the auction.

A damp Sunday morning brought everyone together in the chapel for Reflections entitled “A Patchwork of Praise” by Betsy Chrisman. After brunch in the Mt Vernon Dining Hall, goodbyes were shared and plans were made to gather for next year’s conference scheduled for September 24-26, 2010.



Photograph by Jeff Yokum

The Chief's Signal

*Barbara Teter
Chief, 4-H All Stars*

As I walk around Randolph County 4-H Camp, I enjoy the view of the mountains, the leaves are changing, and I reminisce about the times I've spent here and at Jackson's Mill. I realize some of my most precious memories include my 4-H family and so many of the activities I have been fortunate to take part in was due to being a 4-H'er. The program continues to provide exceptional experiences to our youth. I am so fortunate to be part of an organization that feels 4-H is important to continue and to "Make the Best Better!"

The West Virginia 4-H All Stars can stand proud because they are your local leaders and volunteers that help make these programs happen.

As of this date we have taken in 121 new members during OMC, Alpha I, Alpha II, VLW, and Annual Conference. I would like to thank all the people that organized each of the All Star Consecration and Initiation Ceremonies this summer. They were all very well organized and all information was given to Carl Townsend in a timely manner. He was able to be at most of the services and work on the data base information that is ongoing. The sales table sold a lot of All Star Pins, Blankets, and shirts, etc. Marilyn Dague is doing a great job with the fundraising. Go to our website to view some of the items that are being sold.

I would like to thank Jeff Yokum for doing such an outstanding job as our Editor of *The Torch*. I have had a lot of comments about how helpful the information is that is being included and the interesting people that have been highlighted. Thank you, Jeff!!

I got the opportunity to go to Huntington this summer and be a small part of the 2009 West Virginia 4-H All Star Interstate Conference. Clara Mae Spray, Sally Lou Darst, and KJ Keys hosted and organized a GREAT Conference. Thanks to all of you!

Outspoken ... I can't say enough about the AMAZING PEOPLE that go on that bike ride. You all can be proud because there were 17 people that was either a rider or crewmember that were WV All Stars. There were 19 riders and 9 crewmembers this year; so over half were All Stars. We were fed by All Stars and volunteer leaders along the way, and housed by

County 4-H Camps. The bike ride raised approximately \$10,000 this year. HOW! HOW! to you all!

During Annual Conference the All Stars voted to continue their support with the History Hitting the Road program that Dean Hardman directs by donating \$500.00 to help in purchasing supplies for the program. We also raised \$3,400.00 at our annual auction to divide between the state camps to help purchase snacks. Sandy Sims did an outstanding job in organizing this year's annual conference, A Patchwork of Service.

A special thank you goes to my parents, Jean and Bill Varner, and 4-H leaders Sandy and Joe Godwin, and Helen and Jack Ratzer for keeping me involved in the 4-H program as I was growing up. I would not be the Chief of the West Virginia All Stars if it were not for the encouragement I received and continue to receive from you all! Thanks!

I look forward to the challenges that next year brings! Go out and make a difference in the West Virginia youth.

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Jeff Yokum, Torch Editor

This year's conference featured a "patchwork of service" by All Stars across the state, so I thought the following from "The Quotem Pole Legacy," by Harley Cutlip would be appropriate to share.

When a retired minister – a doctor of divinity living with his son who is a doctor of medicine – recently answered the phone and the caller asked, "Is this Dr. Smith?" "Yes it is," the minister replied. "Well, doctor," continued the caller, "I've got this scratchy throat and –" "Just a moment please," said the minister, "you've got the one who preaches – you want the one who practices."

As 4-H All Stars, we need to remember not only do we "preach" what 4-H means, but also we must show that we practice what we preach - continually providing service whenever it is needed.

In this edition of *The Torch*, we highlight many ways that 4-H All Stars have been practicing what they preach – through their service to the 4-H Program. We also provide more ways that you can continue to contribute to the success of the West Virginia 4-H Program.

The next *Torch* will feature an article by Jeff Orndorff. This article will share a special opportunity for past Alpha campers to regain some of that lost youth.

Finally, I am developing a special project to help celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in 2011 – I can't provide you any details yet, but let's say that I hope to help you follow the "4-H Trail."

New Conference Banner Honors County Attendance

By: Sandy Sims

All Star 1st Lesser Chief Sandy Sims and Berkeley County All Star Carolyn Elliott created and presented a banner to honor the county with the greatest attendance at All Star Conference. The banner, donated by sisters Sims and Elliott during the annual banquet, will be awarded each year to the county with the largest conference delegation, as determined by attendees participating in at least one full day of the conference. The winning county will hold the banner until the following year's conference.

Designed in the shape of WV, the banner illustrates all 55 counties with different pieces of material. Patches note events or places in that county, including: a star for our capital city, Charleston; the Buckwheat Festival in Preston County, the Apple Harvest in Berkeley County; Strawberry Festival in Upshur County; the Poultry Festival in Hardy County; and a clover for Jackson's Mill, just to name a few.

Since the banner hailed from Berkeley County, Sims and Elliott requested that Berkeley County not participate this year and challenged the other counties to beat Berkeley's attendance count of 27. Wood County won the honor of holding and displaying the banner until next year. Congratulations, Wood County All Stars!



REFLECTIONS



By: Joan Toler

During reflections at the September 2009 annual All Star Conference, attendees shared service activities that have continued since their inductions. They not only are 4-H club leaders, project leaders, clover bud leaders, and club fund raisers, but many have served the 4-H county and state camping programs. They've planned camps, directed camps, built camping facilities, counseled, and taught classes. They've built concession stands at fair grounds, cooked in them, and tended windows for orders. They've built fair barns, organized and monitored exhibits, and provided financial support for members and their animals. They help their communities with local festivals, nursing homes, Christmas service programs and cleaning highways. They are active in leaders' associations and 4-H Foundation programs. Each All Star is one small facet of the diamond in the All Star pin. It shines with service.

Interstate Conference Over the Rainbow in West Virginia

By Sally Lou Darst

West Virginia 4-H All Stars hosted the Interstate 4-H Conference in Huntington, WV, July 30-August 2, 2009. There were approximately 52 full time attendees. On Thursday evening during a tour to Heritage Farms, we were delighted to see a beautiful rainbow stretching across the sky. The Cabell County All Stars served the evening meal at their fairgrounds.

Despite torrential rain, we boarded the bus on Friday morning for a trip to Mason County. We detoured due to water but had a great day visiting Tu-Endie-Wei Park, River Museum (quite appropriate with the flooding), Floodwall murals, Mothman Museum, West Virginia Farm Museum and Fort Randolph. Mason County All Stars prepared and served lunch at the Farm Museum. Committee meetings were held after lunch. The evening meal at



Mason County All Stars: Sally Lou Darst, Sheila Parsons, Samantha Hoffman, Eleanor Hoffman, Alice Keefer Lydia Gordon, Rodney Wallbrown, Benny Hiffman, Ruth Dunham, Konedra Devrick, and Lucy Cullen.

Gallipolis Ferry gave some time to relax and participate in singing and group activities.

Saturday was also a busy day. After the business meeting, there were tours of the Radio Museum and the Huntington Art Gallery with lunch at Marshall University. Dr. Patrick Nestor, Extension Volunteer Development Specialist, was the speaker for the banquet that evening. A lively auction followed with \$863.00

raised for the Dorsey Center at Jackson's Mill.

Craig and Donna Gail Michel led a memorial service on Sunday morning. The Conference closed with wishes for safe trips home.

Next year, the Interstate Conference will be held in Jackson, Mississippi, on August 2-5, 2010. The 2011 conference will be in Virginia.

Legislative Update on Jackson's Mill

PROGRESS is our theme in terms of the renovation of Jackson's Mill

By: Guy Stewart

We have come a long way since we embarked on our mission about 14 years ago. Just think--Lewis Co. Cottage has been renovated, a new pool has been built, Mt. Vernon Dining Hall has been renovated to the tune of \$3.6 million and infrastructure improvements are underway at a cost of \$1 million. Private money also has been raised to renovate the Northern Panhandle Collage (renovation should start before the end of 2009) and money is in hand for the renovation of Upshur Co. Cottage. And--Terry Patterson and the Extension Service have managed a number of other improvements.

Much still needs to be done. Watch for a letter in two to three months that will ask you to go to work again with contacts with the Governor and your respective members in the West Virginia Legislature. We will be seeking more money for infrastructure. A new water system will probably be our next major concern, but more about that later. Money will be get-

ting tighter in the State budget, but Jackson's Mill must remain a priority. Our beloved State 4-H Camp was ignored for far too many years, despite the fact that it is one of West Virginia's treasures. The Governor and the Legislature have responded well to our pleas in recent years, so don't forget to tell your Legislative senators and delegates how much we appreciate their help when you see them.

Pete White and Stan Cavendish, both of Charleston, are chairing the campaign for the renovation of Kanawha Co. Cottage. We hope to re-start that drive in the months ahead. We need some major gifts to help this campaign get on track. If any All Star knows of any good prospects for such gifts, please contact Pete or Stan or Guy Stewart, Chair of the All Stars Renovation Committee. If any All Star knows of a good prospect for a major gift for any other cottage, don't hesitate to contact Stewart.

Again, PROGRESS is our theme. Let's keep it going. WV 4-H All Stars are at the heart of our success at Jackson's Mill.

News from WVU Jackson's Mill



By: Marie Burleigh

After a one-year hiatus, October saw the return of the West Virginia Storytelling Festival. Elementary and middle school students from nine schools in six counties visited the Mill October 20th and 21st for a day of storytelling.

Information has gone out to local county Extension offices about our annual 4-H cottage-decorating contest. This year's theme is "A Cartoon Christmas" and groups will be allowed to use colored lights for the first time. As in the past, voting for "People's Choice Award" will take place between 5pm Friday and 6pm Saturday during our Winter Lights Celebration December 4 & 5. Each club receives the money it raises through the penny-per-vote process, so we hope you can come out for a great meal and to support our local 4-H clubs.

The Winter Lights Buffet on Friday evening will feature roast turkey, baked steak, and all the trimmings. Hours will be from 5-7pm. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4-12.

Winter Lights will also include our traditional lighting of luminaries around the grounds both nights beginning at dusk. (Weather permitting) There'll be a fresh tree in the Historic Area, decorated with hand-dipped candles. The tree lighting is scheduled for 7:30 each evening.

In conjunction with 2009 Winter Lights, the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association will be holding a Trade Fair, Banquet and Novelty Shoot. The Trade Fair will be held in the Assembly Hall all weekend.



The NMLRA banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th. For more information about these or other events at WVU Jackson's Mill, visit us on the web at jacksonsmill.wvu.edu.

This Just In!

The American Camping Association has re-accredited Jackson's Mill. This prestigious distinction is only given after many standards for excellence in camp facilities and programming are met or exceeded. The process involves documentation that demonstrates that each standard is met and a team of reviewers makes a visit to the camp to see it all in action. Special congratulations are in order to Mill Director, Terry Patterson and his staff for achieving this very special honor for our beloved State 4-H Camp.

“Is That Seat Taken?”

An Opportunity to Recognize Loved Ones at Jackson’s Mill



By: Michele Hale

Over the years, I have had a chance to camp, learn, and grow at WVU Jackson’s Mill as a young Cabell County 4-H’er and as a current Jefferson County 4-H club leader and volunteer at state camp.

I traveled to Germany in 1987 as an International 4-H Youth Exchange student, served as the chief of the WV 4-H All Stars and chairman of the 4-H Funds Advisory Committee. I know the importance of 4-H and of WVU Jackson’s Mill.

To thousands of current, former, and “retired” 4-H’ers, WVU Jackson’s Mill is the heart of the 4-H program, the place where lifetime friends, memories, and goals are made. It’s a place where our youth grow in spirit, thought, and heart.

With this in mind, I began a few years ago to think of ways that many could have a lasting legacy at the Mill and share in the rejuvenation of its many landmarks – Mount Vernon Dining Hall, the 14 cottages, and the other buildings that have stood the test of time.

When I started thinking about a way that many could have an impact, and where all could see their legacy gift, I looked to the Mount Vernon Dining Hall. The dining hall’s more than 300 chairs seemed like a perfect opportunity for people to honor their families, their friends, or themselves in a place that we have all been and continue to gather often.

With the help of Terry Patterson, the Mill’s direc-

tor, and the WVU Extension Service Development Office, we’ve come up with a naming opportunity that we hope many can take advantage of and that will have a huge impact on the current renovations of WVU Jackson’s Mill.

We’re asking our loyal 4-H’ers and 4-H supporters to help us by naming the chairs in the Mount Vernon Dining Hall. Imagine for a moment if just 20 people name chairs, with a naming opportunity at the \$500 level. Twenty people would provide \$10,000 extra for the renovations at the Mill. And if we were lucky enough to name 350 chairs, we would have an additional \$175,000, a significant influx of funding.

With your chair-naming gift, you and your loved ones will receive a permanent reminder of your connection and loyalty to the place that has helped so many succeed.

Your engraved inscription will be permanently mounted on a brass plaque on your chair to remain in the Mount Vernon Dining Hall. Your gift will help keep the “heart” of Jackson’s Mill beating well into the 21st century. There are three options for engraving so that you can make a gift in honor of yourself, a friend, or a family member.

This is a meaningful way to contribute to Jackson’s Mill as it continues to build a legacy of leadership education and cultural appreciation.

For additional information, or to make a contribution, contact Julie Cryser at Julie.Cryser@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-5691.

Sincerely,
Michele Hale

GIVING BACK

Pietrantozzi Adds to Existing Endowment, Takes Advantage of Tax Credit Program

Susan Pietrantozzi wasn’t a 4-H’er growing up, but after working as a 4-H Extension Agent in Raleigh County, she built a bond with the program and the people it impacts that has lasted a lifetime.

“4-H has been a very important part of my life. While I was not involved as a young person, I have watched many young people grow up with 4-H as a part of their life,” Pietrantozzi said. “Not only do the 4-H youth learn and grow but so do the leaders and professional staff. 4-H teaches everyone how



important it is to have a meaningful and successful life and how to achieve that status.”

Pietrantozzi recently expanded an endowment she established several years ago to support programming at state 4-H Alpha camps to include 4-H youth scholarships so more youth can attend the camps. She also made a five-year commitment to provide additional funding to the program using state Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits.

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GIVING BACK (Continued from page 6)

The NIP program allows donors to receive tax credits of up to 50 percent of their total contribution. The donor can then use the credits to reduce their state taxes at the end of the year by up to 50 percent. WVU Extension Service applied for the credits and received more than \$34,000 to provide to donors until June 30, 2010.

"It's a great feeling when you realize that the certificate allows you to take the listed amount off of your total taxes," Pietrantozzi said. "It's West Virginia's way of giving a donor an extra incentive to give to something they love and care about and receive a reward for doing so. The NIP program is a marvelous opportunity for donors to give, especially right now."

Pietrantozzi, a State Farm agent in Raleigh County since 1987, said her love for 4-H and the tax credits made this the perfect time to expand her endowment.

"Working within the financial services area as a State Farm agent, I know all too well what is currently happening in the area of endowments," she said.

Pietrantozzi started her career working with WVU Extension Service's nutrition program in 1976. In



1978, she became a 4-H agent in Raleigh County, focusing on home economics projects, camping, and National 4-H Congress, where she chaired the Fashion Review.

Pietrantozzi said the most significant impact 4-H had on her life was having people believe in her and giving her the opportunity to learn her strengths and how to incorporate them into her personal, professional, and volunteer activities.

While working for 4-H, she had the opportunity to work with state 4-H camps. She originally started with the 4-H girls' camp in 1979, but changes in federal law required the camps to become co-ed, creating the two Alpha camps.

She experienced first-hand the struggle 4-H camps had in finding program money. She had to help answer the question of how 4-H could have the greatest impact on youths' lives and keep within budget.

Through her endowment, Pietrantozzi said she hopes she is helping to answer that question. Pietrantozzi's donation will be made through the WVU Foundation, a private, nonprofit corporation that generates and provides support for West Virginia University.



LEAVE A LEGACY®

Make A Difference in the Lives That Follow

By Deborah Miller, JD
WVU Foundation

It's great to dream big dreams. Those involved with 4-H know that's where any good project starts. Support for 4-H may seem like a big dream for some, but others know that a very practical choice for carrying out your special dream is to include a gift provision in your will. The wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation for the benefit of West Virginia 4-H" will assure that good result.

An option for such a gift is an endowed fund that will last forever. The endowed gift fund, named for someone you wish to honor, is invested by the Foundation and its annual earnings will be used to

carry out the purpose you choose. For example, an endowed academic scholarship for 4-H members to attend WVU can be set up through a will with a gift of \$25,000 or more. It will operate on a permanent basis to aid those students, year after year.

Other ways to help 4-H include providing funding for future renovations at Jackson's Mill, camp scholarships, or other program support.

Perhaps you have already included a gift to help 4-H or 4-H'ers in your will. That's great, and we'd certainly like the opportunity to say two important words to you: thank you. Please let me know at dmiller@wvuf.org or at 800-847-3856 about your great way to make memorable things happen through 4-H.

AT THE CO



CONFERENCE



In Remembrance

Obituaries will be printed upon request as space permits.

1953 WV 4-H All Star Chief **David Lloyd Bergdoll**, age 90 of Petersburg, WV passed away July 2, 2009 at the Grant County Nursing Home. He was born March 26, 1919 in Petersburg, WV and was the son of the late James E. and Rhoda (Sites) Bergdoll. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosa Lee (Smith) McNemar Bergdoll, April 25, 2007, one brother, Merlin S. Bergdeoll and two sisters, Velma Johnson and Mila Yutzky.

Mr. Bergdoll graduated from Petersburg High School and attended West Virginia University. He was a farmer and was a machinist at SCM Allied Egry until his retirement.

He was a member of the North Mill Creek Baptist Church and attended the Petersburg First Baptist Church. He was a member of the Petersburg Kiwanis Club and Petersburg Masonic Lodge No. 145 A.F.&A.M. for over 50 years. He was Past President and District Governor of the local Ruritans. He was a charter member of the Landes Ruritan Club. He also served as a chaplain of both the Ruritans and Gideon's International.

He also was a member of the West Virginia 4-H All Stars and a member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Landes Ruritan Club, HC 72, Box 177 Petersburg WV 26847, Gideon's International or Grant County Nursing Home, 27 Early Ave, Petersburg, WV 26847.

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Nera E. Cox, 68, resident of Wheeling, WV, died Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the Cleveland Clinic.

She was born July 18, 1941 in Jacobsburg, OH, the daughter of the late Charles O. and Ednetta Cole Williams.

Nera was a retired school bus driver for Ohio County, with 34 years of service; a 4-H Leader for 40 years and was an active member of the WV 4-H All Stars; she was also a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church and the Corpus Christi Women's Club; she was given an award for Volunteer of the Year, serving as PTA President, 2007-2008.

Surviving are her husband, Gerald R. Cox, Sr.; sons, Gerald R. Cox, Jr., and Robert Charles Cox; daughters, Regina Cox, and Ednetta Cook and her husband William; 10 grandchildren, and 2 great-

grandchildren.

Interment is in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Cleveland Clinic Transplant Center Foundation, Attn: Rose Wells-Mines, 9500 Euclid Avenue, UU FL 2, Cleveland, OH 44195.

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Helen I. Baker, 83, of Dayton, Ohio, formerly of Vienna and Shirley, WV, passed away Nov. 2, 2009, at the Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton.

She was born Aug. 21, 1926, in Miletus, W.Va., Doddridge County, a daughter of the late Charles and Belva Corder. Prior to retirement, she was the Postmaster in Shirley. She was a member of the Wayside United Methodist Church, Vienna; a WV 4-H All Star and club leader; and worthy matron of the Order of Eastern Star, West Union Chapter 56.

Burial will be follow at the Masonic Cemetery, West Union, WV.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Wayside United Methodist Church Building Fund, 3001 Grand Central Ave., Vienna, WV 26105, or the 4-H Annual Fund, at WVU Foundation, One Waterfront Place, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507-1650 (write check to WVU Foundation, with Fund 2V530 Helen Baker Memorial on memo line).

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Lisa Horton Mitchell, Mercer County Families and Health Extension Agent passed away suddenly on November 8th. Lisa grew up in the 4-H program in Virginia and was an All Star in that state. Her WV Extension career included working with the 4-H program in McDowell County for several years before becoming assuming her position working with families in Mercer County in 2000. Lisa served as the advisor to the state-wide CEOS program (formerly known as Extension Homemakers). She was known for her positive outlook, her dependability, her outstanding teaching skills and her creative, effective methods to meet the needs of her clientele. She conducted many high impact programs with families that included Dining with Diabetes and a number of family strengthening projects. Lisa has received many awards and honors for her outstanding work. Recently she has been recognized as a key member of a team of Agents that received the WVU Ex-

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State NIP Credits Benefit Donors at Tax Time

Provided by: Julie Cryser

Donors who make contributions to certain WVU Extension programs from now until June 30, 2010, may be eligible for a tax credit that can help reduce their state tax liability.

WVU Extension Service's Development Office applied for and received \$34,118 in Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits for fiscal year 2009-2010. The tax credits can be given to donors who contribute to one of nine programs: the 4-H Health Initiative; Community Development Institute East; the WVU Extension Service's Fire Training Academy; 4-H State/County Camping Program Scholarships; Energy Express; WV Small Farms; Master Gardeners; the Youth Safe Farm; or the Community Design Team.

"This is an exciting program that allows us to offer an incentive to corporations and individuals for contributing to a variety of programs that have considerable impact on a wide range of West Virginians," said David E. Miller, WVU Extension Service Associate Provost and Public Service Director.

Businesses and individuals who contribute to any of these nine programs are eligible to receive up to 50 percent of the contributed amount in the form of state tax credits. Donors may use the credits to reduce liability for the Corporate Net Income Tax, the Business Franchise Tax, or the Personal Income Tax.

"NIP increases charitable giving to local nonprofit organizations," said Miller. "We are grateful to the West Virginia Legislature, which sets aside \$2 million annually in state tax credits for the NIP."

WVU Extension Service initially has set the mini-

imum donation for receiving the credits at \$5,000. A tax credit differs greatly from a tax deduction. A tax deduction reduces the amount of total income on which taxes are based. A tax credit is used to reduce total tax liability. Generally, a tax credit is worth substantially more than a tax deduction.

There are three primary limitations on the use of the tax credits:

- The amount of credit allowable must be taken within a five-year period, beginning with the tax year in which the donation is made.
- A donor may receive no more than \$100,000 annually in NIP tax credits.
- A donor cannot use NIP tax credit to reduce total tax liability on any one tax by more than 50 percent annually.

If you would like more information on the NIP program, please visit www.wvdo.org/community/nip.html or contact WVU Extension Service Development Director Julie R. Cryser at julie.cryser@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-5691

The 4-H programs that are eligible include:

4-H Health Initiative: The 4-H Health Initiative provides health training and programming to youths and their families throughout the state, focusing on areas that particularly impact low-income and less-advantaged youths. 4-H leaders in clubs throughout the state have been trained to deliver the 4-H Health Initiative curriculum. The program needs \$25,000 annually to cover operating costs and printing of free youth health planners.

4-H State Camping Program Scholarships: More than 13,000 youths participated in 4-H youth camping programs in West Virginia last year. More than 2,000 youths from throughout the state participated in state camps in summer 2009, learning leadership and life skills. An endowed camp scholarship will ensure that youths continue participating in state camps in perpetuity.

Energy Express: Energy Express is a six-week summer program dedicated to promoting the school success of children living in rural and low-income communities across West Virginia. It provides summer learning experiences focused on reading and nutrition; it engages college students in service through AmeriCorps; and it develops strong partnerships by involving parents, schools, communities and state agencies and organizations. Support of Energy Express will help maintain youth scholastic efforts and proper nutritional well being during the summer months.

In Remembrance

(Continued from page 10)

Extension Service New Program Excellence Award for The Strong Families Eat Together, a program aims to improve family mealtime experiences and increase the amount of time families spend eating together. Lisa also was a member of the Walk Across West Virginia group, which was just named the Eastern Regional Finalist for the Healthy Lifestyles Education Grant by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

A memorial fund to continue Lisa's work in the area of family strengthening has been established to honor her. Checks can be made out to the Mercer County CEOS and mailed to 1500 West Main Street, Princeton, WV 24740.

4-H UPDATES

By: Debbie McDonald, WV State 4-H Program Leader Director, 4-H and Youth Development Program Unit

The West Virginia 4-H program broke all previous records for total membership by reaching over 83,000 young people in the 2008-2009-club year. We continue to reach one out of every four West Virginia youth who are between the ages of 9 and 19. Our most popular program delivery method is residential camping. Our community clubs remain strong and are still considered to be the very best ongoing experience that we have to offer. Many new or "improved" activities have been added to our program in recent years. Some of those offerings include the Cloverbud memberships that give children in kindergarten through second grade a chance to participate in age appropriate 4-H activities and the renewed emphasis on core programs that focus on high quality programming in the areas of healthy lifestyles, citizenship and science, engineering and technology.

We continue to work to recruit and retain top-notch adult volunteers to work with our youth and have added several new training programs for this essential group. While the program has faced challenges with this tough economy we find ourselves in, we have generally been able to keep pace with our funding needs through grant writing and generous donations from our many alumni and supporters.

Here are a few of the highlights from the past year:

- 4-H University was held for the second year at Jackson's Mill. This is a special training program that offers several different learning tracks for volunteers to choose from, including how to support 4-H project work through skillathons, how to conduct recreation that supports fitness and team building and the essential elements of positive youth development. Volunteers choose a track and focus on it all weekend and also have an opportunity to showcase what they have learned for the others who attend.

- National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Train-

ing Conference was conducted in May during a rainy week at the Mill. Adults came from all over the country to become certified to teach in the various disciplines that are part of the 4-H Shooting Sports program.

- State 4-H Days was expanded and held on the West Virginia University campus in Morgantown. This event is modeled after the State 4-H Round-ups that were held for many years. The activities at this event included project workshops, public speaking and visual presentation contests, livestock, horticulture and land judging contests, campus tours, special activities such as a scavenger hunt in the WVU Arboretum and a chance to sample college life by staying in the residence halls.

- The National 4-H Science Experiment was held for the second year and WV participated with our Extension Agents and staff members conducting the experiment with youth all across the state as part of the National 4-H Week activities. This year's experiment gave young 4-H scientists a chance to explore biofuels and learn about how they might be used in the future. The week kicked off with Jeff Gordon, NASCAR driver, lending his support to 4-H by driving his car with a 4-H clover on the back and with press coverage about 4-H at the NASCAR race that weekend.

- The popular 4-H Health Club Officer program is continuing. Each of our 4-H clubs now have an officer who is designated to share health tips and 4-Hers are encouraged to track their progress with healthy habits in special planners that are provided each year. This year the 4-Hers are learning about safety. In previous years they have learned about good nutrition, physical fitness and dental health.

Our 4-H programs give young people the opportunity to learn by doing in safe, positive environments. Nothing beats fourfold living with its emphasis on clear thinking, respectful relationships, serving others and caring for one's health....no matter what the trends of the times may be!

4-H Zooms into National 4-H Week

Thanks to Jeff Gordon and DuPont



4-H Clover Takes to the Track

From the National 4-H Press Release

Chevy Chase, MD (Sept. 17, 2009) — National 4-H Week will take off with a speedy start on October 4th, as the 4-H emblem makes its debut appearance in a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race. The well-known national icon will be featured on the 'TV panel' of the No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet driven by Jeff Gordon at Kansas Speedway that day. The placement of the 4-H clover on the No. 24 Chevrolet was made possible through a generous donation by DuPont, sponsor of both the No. 24 team and of 4-H.

National 4-H Week is an annual celebration for the 100-year old youth development organization. The highlight of the week includes the highly anticipated, 4-H National Youth Science Day, which brings together millions of youth to participate in the National Science Experiment. This year's experiment, Biofuel Blast, will introduce youth to alternative energy. DuPont is a premier sponsor of 4-H National Youth Science Day and the Biofuel Blast National Science Experiment.

"The appearance of the 4-H emblem on Jeff Gordon's car in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup is a wonderful salute to 4-H by DuPont, and an amazing way for us to begin National 4-H Week," said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., president and CEO of National 4-H Council. "Now, millions of current 4-H'ers, 4-H alumni and racing fans alike can watch with excitement as the clover takes to the track for the first time."

The Kansas event is the third in the 10-race Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup, and the 1.5-mile track is the site of two of Gordon's 82 career victories in NASCAR's premier division.

"4-H has been a leader among youth development organizations, enriching the lives of millions of young people for more than 100 years," said Gordon. "It is an honor to have such an iconic emblem featured on the DuPont Chevrolet and to provide such an exciting way to help the nation kick-off National 4-H Week."

(Continued on page 14)

4-H Zooms *(Continued from page 13)*

4-H National Youth Science Day was created to spark an early youth interest in science education and to combat a national shortage of young people pursuing science in college and future careers. Participants in this year's National Science Experiment will learn how cellulose and sugars in plants – such as corn, switchgrass, sorghum and algae – can be converted into fuel, and how alternative energies can be used in their own communities. Youth will create their own biofuel through Biofuel Blast, lead discussions about what they've learned, and see how their small creations are a part of a larger, global discussion.

“Research into biofuels and bio-based materials is an important area for our company, and we are proud to sponsor 4-H in their extraordinary effort to help young people understand one of the most im-

portant issues facing our nation today,” said James C. Borel, group vice president, DuPont Agriculture.

Currently, more than five million youth across the nation take part in 4-H science, engineering and technology (SET) year-long programming that introduce youth to new areas of interest and help them explore environmental and scientific issues. 4-H SET programming span from robotics, rocketry, and computer science, to agricultural science, GPS mapping and renewable energy. According to a longitudinal study by Tufts University, youth who participate in 4-H programs are more likely to get better grades in school, to seek out science classes, to see themselves going to college, and to contribute positively in their communities. In addition, 4-H youth have been shown to better resist peer pressure and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

WV 4-H Goes Global!

By Debbie McDonald

The International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) program is alive and well in West Virginia. Emily Evert completed her tour of the state this past spring with her tales of her life while in Germany and now Emma Faulkner has headed off to Chile for the next six months to live with families and to help to establish 4-H club work in the state of Patagonia. The WV 4-H program has projects to establish 4-H in two areas. For several years now 4-Hers, volunteers and staff have been traveling to Guanajuato Mexico to work with communities there to set up 4-H clubs. Folks from Mexico have visited WV camps and programs as well. The newest efforts are in Chile and Oscar DeSoto from that country came to WV for 6 months to learn about our state and programs that could be taken back to his native country. The global efforts are sponsored by a number of donors and grants and offer WV 4-H members a chance to learn about the world beyond our borders and also to share what we have learned in many years of conducting 4-H club work.

WV 4-H is also proud to have been selected to host the next National IFYE Conference in August of 2010 in Charleston. We look forward to the arrival of IFYE alumni from all over the country and are working to be certain that a large number of the IFYE alums from WV are in attendance.

Address Changes

For any address changes, please cut out and mail to:

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304-639-3622
C-Townsend@comcast.net

Last Name, First Name Middle

Address

City, ST Zip

Maiden Name County at time of Inducted

Life Member, Year Camp Inducted, Year

Phone # Date of Birth (ID purpose s only)

Email Address

4hmilliontrees.com

4-Hers Combat Global Climate Change



By: Jeff Yokum

Last year, Laura Webber, a California 4-H'er, created the "4-H Million Trees" project to help combat global climate change. In an effort to help reduce atmospheric CO₂, she set a goal of planting one million trees across the continent. So far, with the help of 4-H'ers in clubs worldwide, over 72,000 trees have been planted. Because of her leadership, Webber was chosen to run a leg in the Olympic Torch Relay in January 2010.

The main goal of 4-HMT is to have 4-H youth across the country team together to plant one mil-

lion trees. Our plan is to build a network of clubs by working through the 4-H organization in each state.

4-H'ers across the nation are encouraged to join in her effort to make a difference. Through a partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, for \$12 4-H affiliates can register for a special membership, and get 12 trees specific to their area delivered to them. National 4-H Headquarters and 4HMT has partnered with The Arbor Day Foundation, one of the world's largest tree advocates and information sources, to allow 4-H clubs and units to become ADF members at a special annual rate, and obtain 12 trees to plant for this project. Please visit www.arborday.org/4h to become an Arbor Day Foundation member now, and quickly and simply receive a dozen trees by mail. Additional trees can be obtained from Arbor Day for a reasonable rate.

Currently, there are two WV 4-H Clubs that are a part of this effort. The Belington 4-H Club (Belington, WV) and the Lubeck Lucky Clovers (Parkersburg, WV) both have committed to planting trees as a part of this project.

To find out how your club can get involved in the "4-H Million Trees" project, visit www.4hmilliontrees.org

Extension Service 4-H Youth Summary

The 2008 4-H Youth Development Unit's Federal ES237 youth contact report was submitted in January, with all 55 counties reporting. A total of 80,860 youth were enrolled in West Virginia youth programs. Of the 80,813 youth, 10,915 were enrolled in overnight and day camping, 38,339 participating in special interest/short-term programs, 21,333 were members of organized 4-H clubs, while 30,127 youth participated in 4-H school enrichment programs. A total of 6,384 adult volunteers and 2,990 youth volunteers were reported from West Virginia. Another 4,692 adult and youth volunteers were trained in leadership and parenting during the reporting year.

(Note: totals below include duplicates)

4-H Organized Club Members = 21,286
 4-H Organized In-School Clubs = 3,064
 4-H Organized After-School Clubs = 1,640

Special Interest-Short Term Programs = 38,339
 4-H Overnight & Day Camping Programs = 10,915
 4-H School Enrichment Programs = 30,174
 4-H Individual/Mentoring/Family Learning Programs = 258
 School-Aged Child Care Education Programs = 90

4-H Curriculum Classification Totals by Category:
 Citizenship and Civic Education - 20,188 (1862)
 Communications and Expressive Arts-21,016 (1862)
 Consumer and Family Sciences - 4,590 (1862)
 Environmental Education and Earth Sciences
 25,402 (1862)
 Healthy Lifestyle Education - 52,002 (1862)
 Personal Development and Leadership -
 50,900 (1862)
 Plants and Animals - 47,969 (1862)
 Science and Technology - 20,910 (1862)



WEST VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STARS

27 Orchard Lane
Wheeling, WV 26003



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(unless noted, all events take place at Jackson's Mill)

- ★ December 4-5, 2009 Winter Lights
- ★ December 12, 2009 – Breakfast with Santa (9-11 am). Contact 1-800-287-8206 for details.
- ★ January 29-31, 2010 – Young Adult Conference
- ★ February 19-21, 2010 – 4-H University
- ★ February 23, 2010 – WVU's Day of Service at the Legislature – Charleston, WV
- ★ March 5-7, 2010 – 4-H Dance Weekend
- ★ March 16-20, 2010 – National Camping Institute
- ★ March 19-21, 2010 – Teen Leader Weekend
- ★ April 15, 2010 – All Star Nominations are due
- ★ June 1-6, 2010 – E.C.I. Training
- ★ June 17-20, 2010 – 7th Annual “Out Spoken for 4-H” (Wayne County – Jackson's Mill)
- ★ June 20-26, 2010 – Older Members 4-H Conference
 - *All Star Consecration will be at 6pm on Tuesday, June 22, 2010
- ★ July 11-16, 2010 – Alpha I
- ★ July 18-23, 2010 – Alpha II
 - *All Star Consecration will be at 7pm on Tuesday during each Alpha Camp
- ★ August 2-5, 2010 – All Star Interstate Conference - Mississippi
- ★ August 3-7, 2010 – National IFYE Conference
- ★ August 13-21, 2010 – WV State Fair
- ★ September 24-26, 2010 – Annual WV 4-H All Star Conference

THE TORCH

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