



4-H Alumni News

August 2007

A newsletter for 4-H Alumni published by the Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program

Fairgrounds Renamed



Often referred to as simply the "county fairgrounds," this year the Somerset County Park Commission has renamed the site the "Somerset County 4-H Fairgrounds at North Branch Park." The first Somerset County 4-H fairs were held at the fairgrounds in Far Hills; that remained the home of the 4-H Fair until 1962, when the event was moved to North Branch Park in Bridgewater.

A Tradition Revived

An old 4-H Fair tradition will be revived this year—the parade on opening day. At 5 p.m. on August 15, 4-H'ers will celebrate the 60th fair with a parade around the fairgrounds led by the Somerset County Sheriff's Color Guard, the Bridgewater Police Honor Guard, the Somerset County Police Pipe & Drums and the Civilian Air Patrol Color Guard. Festivities will also include a flyover by three vintage World War II aircraft.

4-H Welcomes New Club

The Somerset County 4-H Program's newest club, the Crazy Frog Hoppers, encourages healthy lifestyles by teaching Double Dutch jump roping and proper nutrition. Annette Smutko, a 4-H alumna who has served as a home economics club leader and as a member of the 4-H Association, was inspired to create the Crazy Frog Hoppers when her daughter and other neighborhood kids wanted to learn Double Dutch jump roping. Starting next year, club members hope to compete in Double Dutch competitions. New members are welcome. Contact the 4-H Office for more information.

Outstanding 4-H Alumni Honored

Two generations recognized for outstanding service to 4-H

Three individuals, representing two generations of one 4-H family, were honored as this year's Outstanding Alumni at the July meeting of the Somerset County 4-H Association. Keeping it all in the family were Janet Szakacs and her daughters Erin and Carey, this year's Somerset County 4-H Outstanding Alumni.

Janet Szakacs joined 4-H in 1959 as Janet Fierst, a member of the Somerset Rabbit Club and first a member, then a junior leader, of the Hillsborough Stitch and Stew. She served on the original Wreath Committee to raise funds for the 4-H program. In 1966, she became the leader of the Future Homemakers, a club that had been started by her mother, Eve. 4-H remained in the family as Janet became leader of the Raritan New Preppers in 1982, with her son, Scott, as a member. In 1985, she became leader of the Ghostbuster's Prep Club.

Janet has been a member of the 4-H Association since 1994 and has served as recording secretary,

corresponding secretary and on numerous committees. This will be Janet's 11th year as the chair of the Home Economics pie and cake booth at the fair.

Erin Szakacs belonged to 4-H clubs in three project areas: twirling, dog and home economics. She was named an Outstanding 4-H'er in 1996 and has served as leader of the Gingersnaps home economics club since 1999. Erin is an active member of the 4-H Association and has served as recording secretary. She has volunteered on numerous committees and has assisted in the Home Economics pie and cake booth at the 4-H Fair since 1994.

Carey Szakacs also had varied interests while in 4-H and belonged to rabbit, dog and home economics clubs. She was honored as an Outstanding 4-H'er in 1999 and is in her third year as leader of the Gingersnaps home economics club. Carey has served as a 4-H Fair volunteer since 1990. ■



Ted Blum Memorial to be Dedicated on Vespers Island

On Sunday, September 30, the 4-H will host a rededication of

Vespers Island at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, N.J., to honor the memory of Ted Blum who passed away in 2003. Ted served as Somerset County 4-H agent from 1956 to 1984.

In his memory, volunteers have completed the refurbishing of a small amphitheater on the island, replacing flooring and benches and making the area handicapped accessible.

The day's events will begin with a tour of the camp at 1 p.m., followed by the placing of a memorial plaque at 2 p.m. and refreshments.

For more information, contact 4-H Program Coordinator Barbara Navatto at (908) 526-6644. ■



The late Ted Blum, former Somerset County 4-H Agent, and his wife, Helene, on the occasion of his induction into The National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002.

News From the Somerset County 4-H Association

The Somerset County 4-H Association supports the 4-H Youth Development Program of Somerset County, hosts the annual 4-H Fair and owns and maintains the Ted Blum 4-H Center. In addition, the association provides monetary support for 4-H programs and events.

2007-2008 Officers Elected

The following volunteers have been elected to serve as Association officers for the coming year: **Rich Norz**, president; **Joe Bakes**, vice president; **Jim Wood**, treasurer; **Jeane Fasullo**, assistant treasurer; **Janet Kolb**, corresponding secretary; **Caitlin O'Neil**, recording secretary.

Many 4-H alumni provide continuing support for the 4-H program by serving as members of the Association. The 2007 membership list includes: Michael Amorosa, Amy Anderson, Dorothy Arena, Joe Bakes, Kathy Bakes, Katherine Balliet, Robin Brygier, Sandy Clare, Judy Coates, Esther Craft, Anthony DeVergillo, Holly Jean Dunbar, Stuart Farber, Jeane Fasullo, Richard Fontana, Chris Giraldi, Debra Graham, Laura Graham, Rebecca Gunther, Ernie Hall, Ann Harris, Chris Heckman, Judy Hennessy, Peter Hirsch, Robert Horton, Dawn Hribik, Rivi Israel, Sarah Israel, Beth Kavanaugh, Bob Kinch, Lynne Kinch, Mark Kirby, Pauline Kodack, Janet Kolb, Andrea Kosaka, Chan K. Leung, Joanna Lieuallen, Sarah MacCombie, Sue MacCombie, Carol Maciborski, Abner Mathews, Cheryl McLaughlin, Kelly McLaughlin, Deb Metting, Jason Metting, Kim Miholics, Kyle Miholics, Elaine Mulrooney, Debbie Norz,

Richard Norz, Caitlin O'Neill, Brittney O'Brien, Rose Oldenburg, Mike Pappas, Ann Parsons, Ann Perry, Tina Pirro, Susan Posbergh, Britt Powell, Nadine Powylan, Karen Price, Dave Rieur, Jim Puskas,



Volunteers Make It Happen

Volunteers are essential to the 4-H program. Volunteers opportunities are varied, but include serving as 4-H club leaders; project judges; camp counselors; advisory council members; 4-H Association members; assisting with fund-raising programs; teaching a program at Science-sational Day; helping at the Prep Rally; serving as an adult herdsman at the fair; and more. Call the 4-H Office at (908) 526-6644 or visit www.4HisTops.org for more information. ■

Catherine Schlosser, Nathalie Schlosser, Ruth Schmidt, Rob Slovik, Ruth Slovik, Annette Smutko, Betty Sommerville, Grace Staats, Elaine Stanis, Janet Szakacs, Erin Szakacs, Scott Szakacs, Randy Thiel, Jeffrey Weinstein, James Wood.

4-H'ers Awarded Scholarships

4-H Association Scholarships: Six 4-H'ers were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Somerset County 4-H Association. This year's recipients are: **David Allison, Gwendolyn Brown, Brittney O'Brien, Jacob Quick, Kelly Steimle.**

Rudowski Scholarship: The family of the late Jim Rudowski sponsors an annual science scholarship to honor the former leader of the Four Seasons 4-H Club. This year's recipient is **Meghan Hartmann.**

Klimas Scholarship: Scott Goodell, a member of the Wattles and Snood poultry club in the late 1960s, established a scholarship for a student planning to study education to honor his mother, Florence, a former leader of the Hillsborough Tailormaid, and her husband, Joseph Klimas. This year's scholarship recipient is **Irene Ning.**

Retirements

This past year, the 4-H Family offered congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement to staff members **Val Kreutler** and **Lillian DeLazarri.**

In Memoriam

Fondly remembered by the 4-H Family are: **Genevieve Erhardt, Sophia Goszka, Diane Pernini, Irene Sanders (Krom), Theresa Thiel, Gene "the Nighthawk" Toth** and **John Wengryn.** They will be missed. ■



2007 Outstanding 4-H'ers

All 4-H'ers are special, but each year several members are honored for outstanding achievements. This year's Outstanding 4-H'ers are **David Allison, Gabrielle Chaya, Sarah MacCombie, Nathalie Schlosser** and **Brianna Mulrooney.** These talented individuals were selected for their demonstration of leadership qualities; personal growth; participation in club, county, state and national events; achievement; attitude; providing an example for others and their contribution to the 4-H program. Congratulations! ■



*Today's 4-H Youth,
Tomorrow's Leaders*

4-H Alumni News

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Editors

Holly Jean Dunbar 4-H Volunteer, Alumna
Barbara Navatto 4-H Program Coordinator, Alumna

Assistant Editor

Kelly Allison Intern, 4-H Alumna

Send news, articles or photos to:

Barbara Navatto
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807
navatto@co.somerset.nj.us



4-H Prep Camp at Stokes, c. 1980.



Current 4-H Project Areas

Somerset County currently offers more than 50 standard 4-H clubs for children grades 4 through one year out of high school in a wide variety of project areas. A sampling of projects includes: Alpaca, Badminton, Beef and Dairy, Cat, Chinese Culture, Clown, Dog, Double Dutch jump rope, Environmental Science, Fishing, Goat, Go-kart, Herpetology,



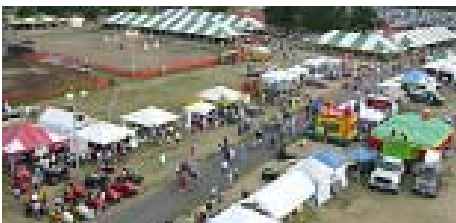
Home Economics, Horse, Knitting, Model Airplane, Model Train, Pet Therapy, Photography, Poultry, Puppetry, Seeing Eye, Sewing, Sheep, Square Dance and Twirling.



4-H Prep clubs do not have a specific project area, and are open to children in grades 1 to 3. There are currently 25 prep clubs or standard clubs with a prep division.

In addition, 4-H offers a host of special programs on the county, state and national level throughout the year.

Volunteers, such as club leaders and workshop facilitators, make it possible for 4-H to offer educational opportunities in such a diverse range of interests. If you have a special skill or talent to share, in one of these established areas or in something totally new that would interest today's young people, please contact the 4-H Office and register to volunteer. ■



Remembering Our Alumni in Service

The 4-H Family is aware of two Somerset County 4-H Alumni currently serving our nation overseas:

- **Peter Salfetty**, former member of the Somerville 4-H Trailblazers, now serving as a captain the U.S. Army in Iraq
- **Rich Cruz**, a former member of Senior Council, now serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

If you know of other 4-H Alumni currently in service to our Nation, please forward their information to 4-H Program Coordinator Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office or email navatto@co.somerset.nj.us.

Come to the 4-H Rummage Sale

September 14-15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

After more than 30 years, the Ted Blum 4-H Center, once the largest county 4-H facility in the nation, is in need of some renovations and repairs. To help raise much-needed funds, the Somerset County 4-H Association is hosting their second BIG (Build, Invest, Grow) Rummage Sale.

The sale will take place at the 4-H Center on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a half-price sale on Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Items on sale will include books, videos, DVDs, CDs, toys, jewelry, antiques, housewares, gently-used clothing and bedding, small items of furniture, gift items and more. Enjoy browsing for bargains while supporting 4-H. ■

Early Fairs Showcased the Roots of the 4-H Program

Early 4-H clubs were focused on homemaking and agriculture. This is reflected in the Somerset County 4-H Fair divisions from the early days: Beef, Clothing, Crafts, Child Care, Dairy, Flowers, Food Conservation, Food Preparation, Frozen Foods, Home Improvement, Milk Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Seeing Eye, Sheep, Swine, Vegetables.

Among the earliest 4-H clubs in Somerset County were the following groups from the late 1940s: Basking Ridge Willing Workers, Belle Mead Poultry Club, Bound Brook 4-H Church Mice, Franklin Park Dairy Club, Franklin Township Merry Maidens, Kingston Somerset Busy Boys, Liberty Corner Snappy Scissors, Somerset Hills Poultry Club, Warren Township Busy Buttercups, Somerset County Guiding Eyes.

One club that appeared on the rolls in 1949 is still active today: New Centre Dairy. ■

Did You Know?

It is estimated that one out of every seven Americans was once a member of 4-H.



Autumn at 4-H Camp Established in 1951, the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor Education is located on 108 acres in Stokes State Forest, Branchville, N.J. A reunion is planned for campers over Labor Day weekend. Visit www.nj4Hcamp.rutgers.edu for more information.

Somerset County 4-H Contact Information



Mail:

Ted Blum 4-H Center of
Somerset County
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, N.J. 08807

Phone:

(908) 526-6644

Web Site:

www.4HisTops.org

E-mail:

somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us



Calendar of Events

- **State 4-H Dairy Show**
August 20, 2007, 9 a.m.,
Salem County Fairgrounds,
Woodstown, N.J.
- **State 4-H Goat Show**
August 23, 2007, 9 a.m.,
Hunterdon County 4-H Fairgrounds,
Ringoes, N.J.

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Ringoes, N.J.

- **State 4-H Championship Horse Show**

August 24-26, 2007, Horse Park of New Jersey, Allentown, N.J. Check nj4h.rutgers.edu for the schedule.

- **4-H Camp Alumni Reunion**

September 1-2, 2007, Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp, Branchville, N.J. Contact Brian Dougan at (973) 948-3550, ext. 21.

- **Science, Engineering and Technology Training**

September 12 and 20, 2007, Training program for 4-H staff and volunteers. RCE of Burlington County, Westhampton, N.J. Contact Lisa Rothenburger at (908) 526-6644.

- **4-H Rummage Sale**

September 14-15, 2007, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; half-price sale Sept. 15, 1 to 3 p.m., Ted Blum 4-H Center, Bridgewater, N.J.

- **State 4-H Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal and Herpetology Show**
September 15, 9 a.m., Cumberland County Fairgrounds, Millville, N.J.
- **Ted Blum Memorial at Vespers Island**

September 30, 2007, Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp, Branchville, N.J. Tour 1 p.m.; placing of memorial plaque at 2 p.m. Contact Barbara Navatto at (908) 526-6644.

- **Join 4-H Open House**

October 4, 2007, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Ted Blum 4-H Center, Bridgewater, N.J.

- **2007 N.J. 4-H Leadership Summit**

October 6, 2007, 4-H adult and teen volunteers from across the state will gather to share ideas. University Inn, New Brunswick, N.J.

- **National 4-H Week**

October 7-13, 2007



- **National 4-H Congress**

November 23-27, 2007, Atlanta, Ga.

- **4-H Tricky Tray**

March 2, 2008, Ted Blum 4-H Center, Bridgewater, N.J.

- **Ag Field Day**

April 26, 2008, Cook Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.



Join 4-H Open House

Learn what today's 4-H Program has to offer

This year's "Join 4-H Open House" will be held at the Ted Blum 4-H Center on Thursday, October 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Information will be available on 4-H club activities (for grades 4 to one year out of high school), 4-H Prep (grades 1 to 3) and volunteer opportunities for adults.

For more information, call the 4-H Office at (908) 526-664 or visit www.4HisTops.org. ■



4-H Facts and Figures

In 2006, more than 55,800 young people participated in 4-H activities in New Jersey.

- 14,453 were members of 1,020 organized 4-H clubs;
- 21,109 were members of special short-term programs;
- 1,937 participating in camping programs;
- 28,692 were involved in 1,931 4-H school enrichment programs.

This was made possible, in part, by 2,342 adult volunteers. Last year, it is estimated that the value of time donated to the 4-H program by volunteers exceeded \$11 million.

4-H programs are conducted in 3,150 counties and territories of the United States. There are 4-H-type programs in 82 countries around the world, involving approximately 4.5 million youth. 4-H Alumni now total more than 50 million. ■



4-H Prep Camp at Stokes, c. 1980.

Local "Jersey Fresh" 4-H Farms

Dutch Hollow Farm Stand, 895 Meadow Rd., Bridgewater, www.geocities.com/dutchhollowfarm;
Hillsboro Farm, 219 Hillsborough Rd., Hillsborough, www.hillsborofarm.com; **Norz-Hill Farm & Market**, 116 South Branch Rd., Hillsborough, www.norzhillfarm.com.



Upcoming Opportunities to Support 4-H

Order a Holiday Wreath: You can help support the 4-H program by purchasing holiday wreaths through the 4-H Association. Spread the word! Wreaths are quality ready-to-hang double-faced balsam that can be ordered plain for \$10 or decorated with pine cones and a red bow for \$13. **The deadline to order is October 31.** Call the 4-H Office at (908) 526-6644.

Try Your Luck at the Tricky Tray: The 4-H will hold a tricky tray on Sunday, **March 2, 2008**, at the Ted Blum 4-H Center. A large variety of prizes will be raffled off, tricky-tray style. Come to event, or you can help by donating goods, services or gift cards to be used as prizes. Contact the 4-H Office at (908) 526-6644. Proceeds will be used for 4-H Center repairs.

4-H Online

Keep in touch with upcoming events at www.4HisTops.org.