



4-H Alumni News

August 2008

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

4-H on Capitol Hill Building a stronger future



Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announces ways that 4-H plans to encourage study of the sciences.

On June 18, 2008, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ed Schafer delivered 4-H's response to America's need for future scientific leaders on behalf of National 4-H Headquarters; Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension; and the USDA.

4-H, the nation's largest youth development program serving 6 million youth, has three mission mandate areas, including Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). In response to the challenges posted in the National Academy of Sciences' report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," 4-H is launching an initiative to engage one million more young people in SET. Components of the plan include "National Youth Science Day" on October 8, which will feature a "National Science Experiment," a designated science activity that will engage youth across the country in a quality, hands-on activity designed to make science fun and accessible.

By encouraging more youth to study science, 4-H will help corporate America fulfill its need for a more qualified and diverse workforce. ■



4-H Association Honors 2008 Outstanding Alumni These former 4-H'ers continue to make a difference



Two former 4-H'ers were recently honored as 2008 Outstanding Alumni by the Somerset County 4-H Association.

Annette Schmidt Smutko joined 4-H in 1976 as a member of the Gingersnaps 4-H Club where she was involved with food and nutrition projects, clothing construction and participated in the Fashion Revue.

As happens with most 4-H'ers, Annette broadened her horizons and also joined the 4-H Bowling Club, the 4-H Square Dancing Club and the Senior Council. In addition, she also served as a Prep Camp counselor and 4-H Camp counselor and programmer.



Annette participated in state and national events, serving as a Somerset County delegate to the North Jersey Youth Conference and attending a 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. She was chosen to attend 4-H National Congress in 1983 in the Dairy Foods Project and was awarded the National Scholarship in dairy foods. Annette is credited with creating the Dairy Foods Project Unit for Somerset County.



In 1985, Annette continued her association with 4-H, this time starting the Snickerdoodles Club and serving as leader. She also started the Needles & Things home economics club and served as leader for four years.

In 2007, she started the Crazy Frog Hoppers, a Double Dutch club for her daughter Melissa and friends; the club now participates in the Foods & Nutrition project as well.

Annette is a 23-year member of the 4-H Association and was the first chairperson of

the Home Ec pie and cake booth at the 4-H Fair, serving for five years, and is a former chair of the 4-H Association Fall Craft Show. She is a long-time member of the Yearbook and Catalog Committee as well as the Food Tent Committee. In 2007, she became a member of the Tricky Tray Committee.

Annette's husband, George, also is an active 4-H volunteer, serving as a DJ at 4-H special events throughout the year.

Gene Sellers joined a 4-H club in Licking County, Ohio, when he was 10 years old. He lived on a dairy farm and completed projects in dairy cattle as well as other aspects of farming such as tractor engines. He also played the trumpet in the 4-H band.

Gene was involved in leadership and state conferences during his time in 4-H and got to know several of the faculty members at Ohio State University. By the time he attended OSU, he felt that he already knew many of the staff.

After about five years, George returned to 4-H here in Somerset County, volunteering to serve as a leader in the Model Airplane Club. Although he never completed a 4-H project in model airplanes, he has been building and flying airplanes since he was about 8 years old.



Gene says that in 4-H, he learned to stop being a shy kid and learned how to speak up. He also found that all the best girls were in 4-H.

Both Annette and Gene were recently honored by the 4-H Association members.

Congratulations to these outstanding alumni, who each benefited from their 4-H experience and chose to give back by volunteering. ■

Celebrate National 4-H Week: October 5-11

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.

2008-2009 Officers Elected

The following volunteers who were elected in 2007 have agreed to serve as Association officers for another term: **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 4-H Association members. The 2008 membership list includes: Michael Amorosa, Amy Anderson, Joe Bakes, Kathy Bakes, Katherine Balliet, Robin Brygier, Sandy Clare, Judy Coates, 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, Peter Hirsch, Robert Horton, Dawn Hribik, Rivi Israel, Sarah Israel, Debra Johnson, 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, Cheryl McLaughlin, Kelly McLaughlin, Deb Metting, Jason Metting, Kim Miholics, Kyle Miholics, Elaine Mulrooney, Debbie Norz, Richard Norz, Brittney O'Brien, Caitlin O'Neill, Rose Oldenburg, Mike Pappas, Ann Parsons, Tina Pirro, Susan Posbergh, Britt Powell, Nadine Powylan, Jim Puskas, Janice Reitman, Dave Rieur, Catherine Schlosser, Ruth Slovik, Annette Smutko, Betty Sommerville, Elaine Stanis, Janet Szakacs, Erin Szakacs, Scott Szakacs, Randy Thiel, David Van Skiver, Jeffrey Weinstein, James Wood.

Life members: Dorothy Arena, Esther Craft, Judy Hennessy, Robert Horton, Abner Mathews, Ruth Schmidt, Grace Staats.

Youth Members: Nathalie Schlosser, Rob Slovik, Amanda Weinstein. ■

Editor's Note

Want to read more news about 4-H alumni? So do we! But to make that happen, we need your input. Alumni are asked to drop us a line to let us know what they are doing now or to share a favorite 4-H memory.

Send your information to 4-H Alumni News, c/o Barb Navatto, Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807 or email navatto@co.somerset.nj.us.

Thank you!

Holly Dunbar

Warren Trailblazers horse club alumna



2008 Outstanding 4-H'ers

Congratulations to the dedicated members who were recognized as this year's Outstanding 4-H'ers: **Christopher Puskas**, Branchburg Beef & Dairy, New Centre Dairy, 4-H Exchange; **Elise Schwer**, 4-H Woof and Wattles & Snood; **Alyson Weiss**, Criation; **Rob Slovik**, Senior Council. 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*

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Volunteers Make It Happen

Volunteers are essential to the 4-H program. Volunteer 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, food tent volunteer, teaching a program at Science-sational Day, helping at the Prep Rally, judging county public presentations, 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. ■



Public presentation judges and alumnae Debbie Norz (r.) and Dawn VanHecke.



The Cotton Candy Crew at the 2007 4-H Fair.

Ted Blum Memorial Dedicated at Vespers Island

Volunteers have completed the renovation of Vespers Island at the L.G. Cook 4-H Camp in honor of the Ted Blum, who passed away in 2003. Ted served as Somerset County 4-H agent from 1956 to 1984. He was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002.



On the island, volunteers removed old benches and concrete pillars as well as a brick patio and wall. The ground was leveled and graded and a new patio and stone wall were built. New framing and bench tops were constructed to serve as seating.



A plaque honoring Ted was placed on Vespers Island during a rededication ceremony attended by family and friends, a fitting tribute to this very special individual. ■

Origins of the Clover and the 4-H Pledge

Adapted from the National 4-H Headquarters Web site.

The 4-H Emblem

The original symbol of the Boys and Girls Clubs was a three leaf clover with the words Head, Heart and Hands. Nebraska clubs used the words as part of their statement of purpose: "to educate the youth of the county, town and city to a knowledge of their dependence upon nature's resources, and to the value of the fullest development of hand, head and heart...."

Two examples of the pins designed by O.H. Benson, superintendent of schools, Wright County, Iowa, appear here. He used the design on placards, posters and badges in 1907 or 1908. On September 16, 1909, he placed the first order on record with the Union Emblem Company for the pins. Benson and others are said to have had a four-leaf H design around 1908, but no record of it has been found.

Early in 1911, a meeting of club leaders in Washington adopted a committee recommendation approving the present 4-H emblem design. O.B. Martin, who was directing club work in the South, is credited with suggesting that the 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. (Benson originally referred to a fourth H as Hustle.)

The 4-H emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the

United States. The official emblem is green with white H's - the 4-H colors. The white symbolizes purity. The green represents nature's most common color and is emblematic of youth, life, and growth.



The 4-H Pledge

*"I Pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
and my Health to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world."*



The pledge represents what 4-H is all about. 4-H has as its goal the four-fold development of youth: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The pledge was adopted by the delegates to the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C. State club leaders then voted for and adopted the pledge for universal use. The phrase "and my world" was added in 1973. The saying of the pledge has a prominent place in 4-H activities.

Motto: "To Make The Best Better"

The motto was adopted at about the same time as the 4-H Club Pledge. Its intent is to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences. ■



Survey Asks: How do you contribute to 4-H?

The 4-H program needs your help to establish how the enthusiasm of the Somerset County 4-H volunteers and donors translates into contributions of time and money. All 4-H club leaders, parents, teen members, and anyone who contributes to the Somerset County 4-H program, should fill out this survey.

To obtain a copy of the survey, contact the 4-H Office or you may download a copy from www.4HisTops.org.

The surveys must be returned no later than August 25, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact one of the 4-H staff. ■

Astronaut Visits 4-H Center



Astronaut Mike Fincke with Somerset County 4-H Agent Lisa Rothenburger.

Astronaut Mike Fincke visited the Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County on February 21 where he narrated a video showing highlights of his six-month stay aboard the International Space Station in 2004. More than 400 people attended this special event. ■

Somerset County 4-H Contact Information



Mail:

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Web Site:

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somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us





Calendar of Events

• State 4-H Dairy Show

Tuesday, August 26, 9 a.m.,
Sussex County Fairgrounds,
Augusta

• State 4-H Goat Show

Thursday, August 21, 9 a.m., Hunterdon
County 4-H and Agricultural Fairgrounds,
Ringoes

• State 4-H Championship Horse Show

August 22 to 24, Horse Park of New Jersey,
Allentown

• N.J. 4-H Volunteer Leadership Summit

Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m.
to 4 p.m. on the Douglass Campus of
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. This
event is open to all adults and teen
volunteers.

• Join 4-H Open House

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

• National 4-H Week: October 5-11

• Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum

October 23-26, Radisson Hotel in
Manchester, N.H. A wide variety of
workshops will be offered, participants also
are invited to attend a fashion show, go
hiking or kayaking, and visit local sites of
interest. The cost is \$360. More information
is available at the 4-H Office.

• Ag Field Day

April 25, 2009, Cook Campus, Rutgers
University, New Brunswick

New Clubs Formed

Somerset County 4-H welcomed a
variety of new clubs during the past year.
They include the 4-H Beekeeping Club
which provides members with the
opportunity to work with live bees and
learn about the care and maintenance of
hives; the 4 Seasons Outdoor Club, which
focuses on outdoor education and
environmental sciences; 4-H Photography
Club; Free Spirit Riders Horse Club; ATV
Club; a new dog club and a new small
animals club, and three new 4-H Prep clubs
for children in grades 1 to 3. ■



4-H Camp Alumni Search

The Great 4-H Alumni Search is on!

From High Point to Cape May
and Salem to Hackensack, 4-H
alumni who grew up in New
Jersey or who currently live
in New Jersey, especially
former campers and
counselors, are asked to register at
www.nj4H.rutgers.edu/alumnisearch/. ■



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
Tuesday, October 7, 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) 526-6644 or visit
www.4HisTops.org. ■



4-H Facts and Figures

More than 6.5 million youth participate
in 4-H programs nationwide. In 2007, more
than 50,390 young people participated in
4-H activities in New Jersey.

- 12,895 were members of 893
organized 4-H clubs;
- 15,566 were members of special
short-term programs;
- 3,023 participating in camping
programs;
- 29,283 were involved in 3,692
4-H school enrichment programs.

This was made possible, in part, by
2,319 adult volunteers. Last year, it is
estimated that the value of time donated to
the 4-H program by volunteers exceeded
\$11 million.

Of the more than 50,000 youth who
participate in 4-H in New Jersey, 54 percent
live in towns and cities, 17 percent live in
suburbs, 14 percent live in rural areas, 14
percent live in city centers, and 1 percent
live on farms. ■



Help the Somerset County 4-H Association raise funds for
repairs and renovations to the 4-H Center by attending these
upcoming events:

4-H Rummage Sale: Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13, 9 a.m. to 3
p.m., with a half-price sale on Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. at the 4-H Center, 310
Milltown Road, Bridgewater.

4-H Tricky Tray: Sunday, March 1, 2009, 1 to 5 p.m. at the 4-H Center, lots
of food, fun and prizes!

State Dairy Princess Hails from Somerset County

Erin Posbergh of Branchburg was crowned the 44th New Jersey
State Dairy Princess on November 10, 2007. Contestants were judged on
their public speaking skills, knowledge of the dairy industry, poise and
personality. Each contestant prepared a speech and performed a skit
promoting milk and dairy products.

A 4-H'er for 13 years, Erin has been a member of The Four-Leaf Clovers, 4-H
Exchange and The Woolly Ones clubs. Erin just completed her sophomore year at
Rowan University, where she is studying physics and education. She has spent the
past year promoting milk and dairy products at events throughout New Jersey.

Congratulations to one of our newest alumnae. ■



4-H Online

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