



4-H Alumni News

Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program

August 2006

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

Stay Connected to 4-H

Were you a 4-H'er? Do you remember your first trip to 4-H camp? Your first county fair? Your first public presentation?

What was your most memorable 4-H experience? A trip to 4-H Congress? Participating on a state judging team? Winning your first blue ribbon?

4-H is the largest organized out-of-school educational program in the nation. It is estimated that one out of every seven Americans was once a member of 4-H. Your support of today's 4-H program can help make the experiences that you enjoyed as a member available to a new generation of 4-H'ers.

This newsletter is designed to:

- Help 4-H alumni maintain contact with others who value 4-H youth development and its positive impact on youth, families and communities;
- Provide updates on 4-H programs and events;
- Inform you of ways to give back time, energy or financial resources to support an educational program that made a positive difference in your life.

You can stay connected to 4-H – register as an alumni with the 4-H Office today!



4-H Fair Reflects the Interests of Today's Youth

One of the great strengths of the 4-H Youth Development Program is building on the interests of young people to teach them new life skills.

A mix of both traditional and new categories, this year's 4-H Fair contest divisions reflect the varied interests of today's young people: Alpaca; Archery; Beef Cattle; Cats; Chinese Culture; Clothing and Textiles; Clowning; Dairy Cattle; Dog; Fashion Review; Fishing; Food and Nutrition; Goat; Go-kart; Herpetology; Horse and Pony; Horticulture; Model Airplane; Model Train; Outdoor Education/ Recreation; Pet Therapy; Photography; Poultry; 4-H Prep; Puppetry; Rabbits, Cavies and Small Animals; Radio Control Car; Rocketry; Round Robin Showmanship; Seeing Eye Puppy; Sheep; Market Lamb Show and Sale; Space and Astronomy; Twirling; Ultimate Frisbee. Open divisions include: Bread Baking, Cake Decoration, Crafts, Creative Arts, Creative Writing, Dairy Foods, Fiber, Horse Science and Model Horse, Needlecraft, Performing Arts, Photography and Woodworking/Science.

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. ■



Stokes' Vesper Island to be Site of Ted Blum Memorial

Volunteers are needed to help refurbish Vesper Island at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor Education at Stokes State Forest in Branchville, N.J., the site of the Ted Blum memorial. Ted served as the Somerset County 4-H Agent from 1956-1984 and passed away in 2003. The Somerset County 4-H Association renamed the 4-H Center in his honor, and now the memorial at Vesper Island will also honor Ted's years of service and dedication to the 4-H program.

The island is home to a small outdoor amphitheater. Volunteers are needed to help renovate the area, demolishing a small brick wall, replacing current flooring with patio blocks, replacing benches and making the area handicapped accessible. In keeping with Ted's love of horticulture, plants on the island will be labeled with interpretive signs. At the completion of the project, a memorial plaque will be placed on the island.

Alumni are welcome – and needed – to help with this project. A volunteer work day will be held in October to get things started – please call the 4-H Office for the date and time. Scheduled work days in 2007 include: March 31; April 8, in



The late Ted Blum, former Somerset County 4-H Agent, and his wife, Helene.

conjunction with Somerset County Club Camp weekend; and April 21. The anticipated date for the dedication of the memorial will be on June 3, 2007, to coincide with Somerset County Family Camp. All are welcome to attend.

Monetary donations are also needed and should be addressed to the Blum Memorial Fund and made payable to the Somerset County 4-H Association, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807. For more information, or to donate goods or services, contact the Somerset County 4-H Office at (908) 526-6644. ■



News From the Somerset County 4-H Association

The Somerset County 4-H Association is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support for the county's 4-H Youth Development Program. The Association meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Ted Blum 4-H Center. Members include 4-H alumni, parents, club leaders and people from the community who wish to volunteer in support of 4-H.

If you would like more information about joining the 4-H Association, please contact the 4-H Office.

Association Officers for 2006-2007 Announced

Somerset County 4-H Association officers for the coming year will be:

- President: **Rich Norz**
- Vice President: **Joe Bakes**
- Treasurer: **Jim Wood**
- Assistant Treasurer: **Jeanne Fasullo**
- Corresponding Secretary: **Janet Kolb**
- Recording Secretary: **Caitlin O'Neil**

Outstanding Members Honored

Lifetime Membership is the highest form of recognition awarded by the 4-H Association.

In honor of their continuous service and dedication to 4-H, the following individuals have been awarded lifetime membership: **Dot Arena, Ted Blum, Ester Craft, Judy Hennessey, Bob Horton, Abner Mathews, Walt Raymond, Ruth Schmidt, Grace Staats.**



4-H'ers Awarded Scholarships

4-H Association Scholarships:

Six current 4-H'ers were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Somerset County 4-H Association. This year's recipients were: **Bryn Keck** of Hillsborough, member of Senior Council, dogs; **April Anderson** of Whitehouse Station, herpetology; **Erin Posbergh** of Somerville, Senior Council, Exchange Club, sheep, poultry; **Meredith Kollmer** of Somerset, Seeing Eye Puppy; **Jason Metting** of Hillsborough, Senior Council, Exchange Club, 5th H Club, and **Shannon Zimmitti** of Branchburg, Senior Council, Exchange Club, 5th H Club, dogs, horticulture.

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 4-H Rudowski Scholarship recipient is **Jason Metting** of Hillsborough.

Klimas Scholarship: Scott Goodell, a member of the Wattles and Snood poultry club in the late 1960s, has established a scholarship for a student planning to study education to honor his mother, Florence, and her husband, Joseph Klimas. Florence is a former leader of the Hillsborough Tailormaid and still judges breads and foods. This year's recipient of the 4-H Klimas Scholarship is **Caitlin O'Neil** of Bridgewater, a member of Senior Council. ■



Alumni Help Needed to Plan 60th Fair Anniversary Celebration

The 4-H family will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Somerset County 4-H Fair in August 2007. Planning will begin this fall, and alumni are invited to share their ideas for the celebration that will feature a focus on alumni. Contact the 4-H Office to receive notification of upcoming meetings. ■

2006 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 **Gwen Brown** and **Brittney O'Brien** of Bridgewater, **Andrea Ortu** and **Jacob Quick** of Hillsborough and **Caitlyn Merrill** of Raritan. 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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What Volunteers Have to Say About 4-H

Here's what two volunteers had to say about their 4-H experience:

What is your most memorable experience as a volunteer?

"Going home after a fair with the car loaded down with goats, dogs and assorted paraphernalia, and my daughter saying, 'I wish every day was the 4-H Fair.'"

– **Peggy Major**, Hillsborough, leader of Woof Dog Club

What is your favorite aspect of volunteering?

"Helping kids get the most out of 4-H. These are memories they will have for the rest of their lives."

– **Robin Brygier**, Bridgewater, Active 4-H parent with Exchange Club, Stablemates, Wags 'N Whiskers, New Centre Dairy

Prep Camp is Now Family Camp and Everyone's Invited

Many alumni remember the wonderful times they had as preppers or counselors at Prep Camp. The program has evolved over the years and now serves a larger audience and has a new name – Family Camp. In 2007, Family Camp will be held at Stokes State Forest in Branchville, N.J., April 6 to 8. If you would like to attend as an individual, couple, family, club or group of 4-H alumni, please contact the Somerset County 4-H Office for registration information. ■

Somerset County 4-H Contact Information

To receive future issues of this newsletter and to learn of upcoming 4-H events or volunteer opportunities, register your name, mailing address and/or e-mail address with the 4-H Office:

Mail:

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



Phone:

(908) 526-6644



E-mail:

somersetcounty4h@co.somerset.nj.us

Website:

www.4HisTops.org

All's Well at the Fair



*It's Fair to say that alumni volunteers make it happen! Pictured at the 2005 4-H Fair are **Rich Norz** (l.), 4-H Association president and New Centre Dairy alumnus with **Tony DeVergillo**, fair manager and former member of the Branchburg Blossom Boys 4-H Club.*

A Blast From the Past



Are you in this photograph? Do you recognize these former 4-H'ers or the Officer of the Law posing with them? Tell us if you can help identify the individuals in this photo. Write to: navatto@co.somerset.nj.us.

Somerset County 4-H Names Outstanding Alumni of 2006

Christine Cimpko and **Debbie Graham** have been named as this year's Outstanding Alumni by the Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program.

Debbie is an alumna of the Morris County 4-H dog and horse programs. She is a past assistant treasurer of the Somerset County 4-H Association, and has served as the Scholarship Committee chair and as a presentation judge. She volunteered as a prep club leader for six years and is an active parent in the Wags 'N Whiskers dog club.

"Being involved with 4-H children has been an incredible opportunity for me," said Debbie. "It inspires me, gives me the strength to re-examine my priorities and gives me perspective on what matters in life. No lifetime accomplishment could be more important than thinking that hopefully, at some time, I was a positive influence on a child's life."

Christine Cimpko is an alumna of the Somerset County 4-H dog program who went on to become a dog trainer in 1990.

"My experiences in 4-H gave me the confidence to start teaching dog obedience classes," explained Christine. "I am always impressed with the thinking skills, presentation skills and maturity of 4-H members."

Both women were honored at the July meeting of the Somerset County 4-H

Association and will receive their awards at the Somerset County 4-H Fair.

The Outstanding Alumni program recognizes the contributions of former 4-H members to the Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program. Past honorees include:

- 1983** Anna-marie Hockenbury
- 1984** Nancy Weinberg,
- 1985** John and Beverly Wetzel
- 1986** Peter Staats
- 1987** Richard and Judy Coates
- 1988** Bryon Brandt
- 1989** Dorothy Pacifico
- 1990** Karyn Malinowski
- 1991** Barbara Navatto
- 1992** Susan Dobrinsky
- 1993** Carol Hunter
- 1994** Fred J. Howlett, Daryl Minch, Edward Wengryn, James Wood
- 1997** Pat Berglund, Paul Pisano
- 1998** Mark Kirby, Nancy Kirby
- 1999** Holly Jean Dunbar, Joanne Powell
- 2000** Anthony DeVergillo, Catherine Nee
- 2001** Tina Pirro, Sue Posbergh
- 2002** Dawn Hribik, Gary Rosania
- 2003** Amy Frank, Ginny Powell
- 2004** Richard and Debbie Norz
- 2005** Craig Hockenbury, Britt Powell

"The involvement of alumni has a huge impact on the 4-H program in Somerset County," said Barbara Navatto, 4-H program coordinator. "We greatly appreciate their donations of time and talent." ■

National 4-H Week 

October 1-7, 2006

HEAD, HEART, HANDS, HEALTH



Calendar of Events

BIG Rummage Sale

Drop-off: September 12-14, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sale: September 15-16, 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 the BIG (Build, Invest, Grow) Rummage Sale in September.

You can help by donating gently-used clothing, books, videos, CDs, housewares, toys, linens, jewelry and furniture that is easily moved. (Please note: Outdated computer equipment, carpeting, encyclopedias and magazines are among items that will not be accepted.) Questions? Call the 4-H Office.

Also needed are volunteers who can help sort and price items during drop-off periods, or serve as cashiers or help with refreshments during the sale. If you can volunteer for a two-hour shift, please contact Kim Miholics at miholicksk@patmedia.net or (908) 359-4934.

And, of course, you can come to sale, Friday and Saturday, September 15 and 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Learn What's New at the "Join 4-H Open House"

The annual Open House is the place to learn about 4-H opportunities for both prospective members and for adult volunteers. This year's event will take place on Thursday, October 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ted Blum 4-H Center. 4-H staff, volunteers and representatives from many clubs will be on-hand to answer your questions.



New Jersey to Host Volunteer Forum

The 2006 Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held October 12-15 in Long Branch, N.J. This event is guaranteed to boost your 4-H spirit with plenty of

hands-on learning opportunities. Scholarships are available through the 4-H Association.

Call the 4-H Office for more information or to register, or visit www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/nervf/.

October is 4-H Wreath Sale Month

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 or decorated with pine cones and a red bow. For pricing information and an order form, contact the 4-H Office. The deadline to order is October 31. ■



Wish List

Monetary donations, or donations of goods or services, are needed for the following projects:

- 4-H Center renovations and repairs
- 4-H Scholarships
- Camperships (donations to cover camp costs for children in need), including donations in memory of 4-H Camp Director Tom Murphy
- Outstanding Alumni plaque for the 4-H Center
- Ted Blum Memorial Fund
- Construction of an observatory on the 4-H Center grounds ■

Volunteer Opportunities

- 4-H club leaders
- 4-H Fair committee members
- Judges for presentations, fair divisions, food 'n fun luncheon and more
- Membership in the Somerset County 4-H Association
- State Camp Advisory Board, L.G. Cook 4-H Camp, Stokes State Forest
- Teachers, school enrichment (40-minute program, topic of your choice)
- Workshop facilitators, for in-school programs or events such as Science-sational Day ■

Ways You Can Support the 4-H Fair

• **Annual 4-H Yearbook and Catalog:** 4-H members help raise money for the annual fair by selling ads in the yearbook and catalog. Advertise your business or send a greeting to fellow alumni! Ad Sale forms will be available in early 2007.



• **Sponsor a Tent:** Local businesses and corporations are encouraged to sponsor a tent at the fair. Tent rentals account for a good portion of the 4-H Fair budget, and help from the community to cover these costs is greatly needed. Information will be available in early 2007, but you can add your name, or that of your organization, to the 4-H mailing list by contacting the 4-H Office.

• **Host a Commercial Exhibit:** Are you a business owner or do you belong to a service organization that would like to promote their services at the 4-H Fair? With more than 60,000 visitors each year, the 4-H Fair is a great way to get the word out about your products or services to the residents of Somerset County. Call the 4-H Office and let them know you are interested in receiving more information.

• **Market Lamb Sale:** Somerset County 4-H members have worked on their market lamb projects all year, learning about proper care of their sheep and the importance of keeping farming alive in New Jersey. The lambs they have raised will be auctioned off at the Somerset County 4-H Fair on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. Bidders should come early to register. Profits will be used to improve members' flocks, help with education, scholarships and a portion will go to charity. You can support the 4-H program by participating in the auction. First-time bidders are always welcome and your purchase may be tax-deductible. The 4-H staff is available to review the program with you prior to the show or you can call the 4-H Office at (908) 526-6644 for more information. ■

4-H Online

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