In This Issue…

**Page 1:**
Events for Members

**Page 2-5:**
Announcements and Opportunities
For Volunteers
Polk 4-H Highlights

**Page 5-7:**
Club Reports

**Enclosures:**
- Four-month calendar
- Service hours form
- Record book score sheet
- Record book cover sheet
- Green and White award application

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**EVENTS FOR MEMBERS**

**Shooting Sports Camp**
This year’s 4-H Shooting Sports, Sport Fishing and Natural Resources Camp will be July 16-20 at 4-H Camp Ocala.

Activities include hunting basics, angling skills, marksmanship, outdoor ethics, canoeing, swimming, outdoor cooking and much more!

This camp is open to all youth, ages 10-18 (including graduated seniors). The cost for 4-H members is $200, if paid by July 2\textsuperscript{nd} and $215 for non-4-H members, if paid by July 2\textsuperscript{nd}.

For more information, contact William Hill or Rita West at the 4-H office.
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

New Youth Fair Contest
The Polk County Cattlewomen’s Association, Inc. will sponsor a Record Book Contest for all steer exhibitors at the 2008 Polk County Youth Fair. It is not mandatory for steer exhibitors to participate; however, cash prizes and awards will be given to each age category (Juniors; ages 10-13, and Seniors; ages 14 and up), with three placings for each age division.

If you would like to participate and want to get a copy of the record book, please contact Laura Lee Taylor, L2Brangus@aol.com, or call 863-858-1771. The books will also be available at the steer weigh-in in September.

Participants are strongly encouraged to start filling out record books at the beginning of ownership of a calf. Start keeping those records now, and good luck!

Submitted by Laura Lee Taylor, Polk County Cattlewomen’s Association

FOR VOLUNTEERS

4-H Volunteer Forum
The Florida 4-H Volunteer Association welcomes you to join us at Camp Ocala June 15-17 for the State Volunteer Forum. This great sharing experience is partially sponsored by Monsanto, the National 4-H Council, and the Florida 4-H Foundation.

There will be plenty of workshops to peak your interests, good food and loads of fun. Workshop topics range from horticulture and horses to canoes and crafts. A special workshop experience will teach you how to plan and conduct a flag retirement ceremony!

During the weekend we will have a Florida 4-H Volunteer Association meeting, where we will be holding elections for new officers and swearing in those officers. We will also be taking applications for new members. This will be a great time to find out exactly what the Florida 4-H Volunteer Association is about, and become a part of it.

We will have a silent auction to raise funds to support the Association. We are requesting donated items to be sold in the silent auction. We would also like each county to bring a door prize basket to be given away during the weekend.

A list of the scheduled workshops is on the florida4h.org website. The registrations and payment are due to the Florida 4-H office by May 30th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,

Karen Kirkendall, President-Elect
Florida 4-H Volunteer Association

Environment Education Institute
4-H Volunteers are invited to participate in either of two Environmental Education Institutes in the late summer. The first will be at 4-H Camp Cloverleaf (Highlands County), August 3rd-5th. The second will be at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake (Madison County) September 14th-16th.

This training will provide a basic orientation to a number of different Environmental Education curricula and project areas that are available in
Florida. Use of these resources can assist volunteers in developing skills in youth; including analyzing issues, decision-making, good citizenship, reading and writing skills, and service learning.

Lodging and meals are included in the training, the only cost to volunteers is traveling to and from the site. The training is underwritten by the Florida 4-H Foundation.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Nicole Walker at the 4-H office by July 9th.

Rock Eagle Volunteer Forum
Don’t wait until the end of the summer to reserve your spot at the best gathering of 4-H volunteers in the South! The Southern Region Leader Forum, better known as “Rock Eagle,” will be held October 4th -7th at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA.

Registrations are available at the www.florida4h.org website; click on “Volunteers,” and then the link for the Southern Region Leader Forum.

The Polk County 4-H Foundation is offering scholarships for volunteers who would like to attend. The cost is $230, and registrations are due to the Polk County 4-H Office by August 1st.

For more information, contact Bill Hill or Nicole Walker at the 4-H office.

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POLK 4-H HIGHLIGHTS

District Horse Show Results
A whopping 50 Polk County 4-H horse project members participated at the Area C District Horse Show on Saturday, April 28 at the Sumter Equestrian Center in Bushnell. There were 23 juniors (ages 8-12) and 27 seniors (ages 13 and up). They are listed below—the italicized names qualified for the state horse show:

Danilyn Andrews
Emily Arrington
Sierra Bowling
Alicia Burton
Megan Carey
Kelsey Friend
Jordan Futch
Lauren Hammond
Leigha Heverly
Jessica Hosegood
Brittany Lajoie
Michaela Lindley
Taylor McDougile
Haley Osborne
Hunter Osborne
Justin Pettus
Cassie Pinion
Savannah Rau
Taylor Sawyer
Erin Smith
Mackenzie Tackett
Michal Voisard
Ashley Walters
Brie Bird
Cassandra Clanton
Stephanie Curby
Morgan DeAngelis
Ashley Edwards
Rudie Fox
Kayla Frank
Andrea Hamilton
Kristina Higgins
Shea Keene
Christy Kelly
Shelbie Knoebel
Jessica Lajoie
Kristen Lamb
Taylor LoCascio
Lexi Lynn
Courtney Massam
Chandler Melton
Samantha Parrish
Brooke Pickard
Kimberly Pridgen
Heather Scelp
Susie Schiebel
Megan Signor
Kasey Skoll
Kiersten Weaver
Amanda Zabic

Congratulations to each and every one, and best wishes to our state competitors!

Kudos for Dog Project!

At the State 4-H Dog Show (at the Florida State Fair) Polk County 4-H members brought home 18 first-place ribbons, 13 second-place ribbons, 11 third-place ribbons and 10 fourth-place ribbons. This was enough to win the Hiliker trophy again! Polk County has won this trophy for the past six years.

Also, the Intermediate Highpoint award winner was Caitlyn Bailey; the Senior Champion of Champions was Robbie Hartley; and the winning Dog Bowl team was comprised of Robbie Hartley, Caitlin Bailey, Patricia Davis and K.T. Spencer.

The Youth Fair dog show was held March 14 and 15. A highlight at the show was a visit from PGTV (Polk County Government Television) and County Commissioner Jean Reed. Ms. Reed spoke with the students, took on a volunteer assignment for a short while, and posed for a group photo. The top winners at the Youth Fair included: Kristen Coleman, Senior High Point; K.T. Spencer, Intermediate High Point; Hannah Elrod, Junior and Basic High Points. Agility Clean Run ribbons went to Adam Bracewell, Maria Iakovidis and Allie Iakovidis. The Rally Clean Run ribbons went to Kristen Coleman in Excellent Rally. Johnna Knox was awarded Top Showmanship Handler.

On March 21, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners honored our 4-H dog project members. Several members and their dogs attended the commissioners’ board meeting, and were even asked to demonstrate an obedience exercise for them.

Congratulations to all our members, and our 4-H Dog Advisory Committee, for a very successful year.

Submitted by June Lyness, 4-H Dog Advisory Committee

Polk at Forest Ecology Contest

Members of the Polk County 4-H program participated in the 4-H Forest Ecology Contest on April 14 at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest in Gainesville.
Bryah Hagen, Leah Hagen, Emily Nowell and Julia Nowell received the prize for “highest scoring new participating county team.”

Participants in the contest rotated through six stations that tested their knowledge of tree and plant identification, forest insects and diseases, map and compass, forest wildlife, and forest ecology.

Next year’s contest will be Saturday, April 12, 2008. For more information, contact the 4-H office.

4-H District Events
Polk County 4-H Members made the trek to Lecanto High School for the 4-H District VII Events Day on May 5. Following are the participants and their categories:

- **Olivia Gray**, Share-the-Fun
- **Victoria Gray**, Share the Fun (1st Place)
- **Allison Baker**, Share-the-Fun (qualified for state competition)
- **Stephanie Noderer** and **Brianna Hayne**, Food Preparation Team (qualified for state competition)
- **Andrew Wann**, Leisure Arts and Recreation
- **Amber Harvey** and **Rachel Ward**, Horse Demonstration Team (qualified for state competition)
- **Kaylie Wilks**, Horse Demonstration
- **Stacy Carrizo**, Aquatic and Marine Environments (1st Place)
- **Cody Varney**, Aquatic and Marine Environments (qualified for state competition)
- **Kenan Landry**, Earth Connections (1st Place)
- **Todd Noderer** and **Andrew Hayne**, Human Development (1st Place)

**Julie Noderer**, Forests and Other Terrestrial Environments (1st Place)
**Langley Bryant** and **Jeremy Hiles**, Forests and Other Terrestrial Environments Team (1st Place)
**Megan Landry**, Companion Animals
**Dakota Soria**, Mechanical and Electronic Science (1st Place)

Congratulations to each one, and best wishes to those advancing to state competition at Florida 4-H Congress in July.

Bartow Thunderhooves
As you all know, April 28th was the Area C Horse Show. Congratulations to all of those that went and participated. It seems as if everyone had a good time. Further congratulations to all of those going on to State. Good luck with that! It is already May and getting close to the end of the 2007 4-H year. This year went smoothly and we all had a blast! Now we have the summer to get prepared for our next 4-H year. For all of our seniors who are leaving us this year, we will miss you a lot. Good luck in everything you do. You will not be forgotten. I have enjoyed contributing to the 4-H Forecaster this year. Have a wonderful summer and we will see you next year! Stay Safe!

**Megan Signor**, Club Reporter

Families in FOCUS
When competition time came around, Families in FOCUS had many club members representing us at the Events Day and Youth Fair! This month I would
like to take the opportunity to congratulate all those who entered projects and recognize FOCUS members who won. Junior member Hannah Corlew won 1st place for her pound cake and 3rd place for her bran muffins, Junior Elisha Corlew won 1st place for his bread and his chocolate cake, as well as 1st place in the Junior Storytelling Competition. Michael Baker got a blue ribbon for his muffins, and also received a red ribbon for his chocolate cookies. Kelly Freed was one of two Intermediate entrants, and she won 3rd place in the Share the Fun competition for her dance. Intermediate competitor Mercy Joy Corlew was Families in FOCUS' biggest winner with two blue ribbons for cake and her "Sweet Sunday Sunrise" Cheese Danish. She won 2nd place for her cookies and blueberry muffins, and 3rd place for three photos entered. She was also on a Food Preparation Team with Allison Baker for the Youth Fair. Senior Allison also won 2nd place for her coffee cake and 3rd for her chocolate chip cookies, in addition to qualifying for District in the Share the Fun Competition. Another district qualifier was Casey Freed, who actually won Share the Fun for the Sr. Division, as well as winning 1st place in the Career Exploration category. As our 4-H year comes to a close, we are thankful for another great year of exploration, learning, and lots of fun!

Allison Baker, Club Reporter

Green Swamp
Green Swamp 4-H is an active archery and dog training club. We also have other activities, like canoe trips and horses.

For archery, we have between 12 to 20 people each weekend. Our club has been practicing for the State match on April 14th. We had 9 members go to the State match. Henry Whitehouse in the Jr. Division won 1st place with his compound bow. Intermediate, Ian Carmichael won 6th place with his compound bow, and James Blight won 4th place with his compound bow. In Seniors, Kayla Felts won 6th place and Jenny Gougeon won 4th place in the Compound Division, Walter Whitehouse won 5th place with his long bow, and Walter is also the first alternate to go to South Dakota. We had a safe and fun day.

For dog training, at the Youth Fair, Kendall Yerton and her dog Poco, took first place in showmanship, 1st place in rally, 3rd place in obedience and 3rd place in costume. James Blight and his dog Lucky, took 2nd place in agility, and 4th place in costume.

Our yard sale on March 31st was successful. We had so many volunteers and donated items. The next yard sale is going to be May 5th. Our club is doing other fundraisers too. We’re having an aluminum can drive, which is also keeping our streets clean. We all do a little bit every day. We also had a dog wash not to long ago. We washed about 24 dogs. Our club also had a candy sale. Why is our club doing so many fundraisers? It’s for our members to go to camp. We all want to go to Camp Ocala this year.

Our members are also volunteering to serve others. Several have helped set up the booths at the Youth Fair, helped at the Media Day, and served on the Youth Council. They do a great job!
Lakeland Crackerjacks
Another year comes to an end. That means vacations and time spent with family and friends! Even though the Lakeland Crackerjacks love 4-H, we are happy that we can have a break from work.

The past several weeks have been very busy for the club. The Madden family submitted multiple (delicious) baking entries for the Youth Fair. Brianna Hayne participated in the Table setting contest and “prepared” a romantic Italian meal that was only missing a lady and a tramp eating spaghetti together while listening to a beautiful song . . . Everyone from the club completed an illustrated book, and some submitted their work for the Youth Fair.

The Hayne and Noderer families also participated in the 4-H County Events Day. Julie Noderer presented a talk about butterflies, and Brianna Hayne and Stephanie Noderer talked about how to make Cookie Pop Flower Pots. Todd Noderer and I spoke about violent video games and their effect on children. Everyone from our club who did County Events also did District Events. Additionally, the Noderer family submitted photos for the 4-H County Events Day photo exhibit contest.

That about wraps up another year. From all of the Lakeland Crackerjacks, we hope you have a great summer break!