



4-H CLUBS:

4 Paws
Aquatic All-stars
Blazers
Canine Connections
Clogging Clovers
East County Steer & Swine
Eastside Rabbits
Florida Crackers
Foxmill Kids & Colts
Fruitville Exceptional Equine
Green Leaf Adventures
The Green Team
Home Grown Explorers
Horse N Around
Indian Creek 4-H Club
Jr. Cattlemen
Kelly Community Clovers
Little Rascals
Livestock Club
Miakka Allstock
Mini Hooves of Sarasota
Muddy Boots
Myakka Ranchers
New Gate
Open Gaits
Ridin' Rednecks
Sarasota AG
Sarasota County Ranchers
Sarasota Sharp Shooters
Sarasota Swine
Sarasota Swine's Minutemen
Science Lab
Southern Spurs
The Club



The Clover Times
February 2006



FROM THE AGENTS DESK- Keith Wilson

Recently 4-H staff partnered with the science coordinator, Kathleen Chester, at **Brentwood Elementary School** to provide the entire 5th grade class **4-H marine biology** activities, which included squid dissection, ichthyology, red tide studies and oceanography. A local television cable station (**Education Channel 20**) filmed the events and highlighted them in a show entitled Education Excellence. Local elementary schools from Englewood to North Sarasota are using 4-H school enrichment opportunities in increasing numbers. If you know of a school that may wish to participate in our 4-H school programs please let our staff know so that we can initiate contact with specific educators.

How are you at imitating animal sounds? Adults and youth will be invited to participate in a new **4-H "Animal Call" Competition** at the Sarasota County Fair. This is for the entertainment of the spectators and will not have any award money attached to the ribbons. There will be simple blue, red and white ribbons for top winners in the adult, senior youth and junior youth categories. Let's just have a good time listening to folks imitate their favorite animal on the **4-H stage on Saturday, March 18 from 6:30-7:00pm**. Sign up for this event using a form in this month's newsletter! You may imitate up to three different animals.

Our sincere **thanks** to the continued efforts of the devoted members serving on the **Sarasota County 4-H Foundation**. They consistently raise thousands of dollars each year to support our local 4-H programs. Please support their efforts when the opportunity presents itself.

Buckle up! It may save your life.

Keith Wilson
4-H Extension Agent



Wildlife Habitat Project, Our World...

Jacaranda Library has a telescope set up to overlook their pond. They want to initiate a wildlife directory to go alongside it. They want to compile a list of wildlife that would be associated with the existing habitat, plants providing cover and food. They have just added some bird photos on the wall to help with identifying birds that may frequent the pond. If you're interested in helping with this project, Patricia Porchey in Extension, has compiled a list of plants she observed on her walk around the pond.

*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.*



You Need To Know ...

Hop To It

The Rabbiteers 4-H Club invites you; to the Sunshine State Rabbit Breeders Youth and Open Rabbit Show on Saturday, March 4th at the Sarasota County Fair Grounds.

This is a great opportunity, (in our own back yard), to learn more about rabbit showing, health and breeding.

If you would like to participate in the show contact Mr. Ron Annis at 322-2858 for information and class list. The show will begin at 8:30AM.

Projects From The Heart:

I'm sure many of you have done community service projects through out the holidays... but don't stop now. You can send a short note to our wounded American military heroes, thanking them for their personal sacrifice. They are the protectors of our freedom. Your act of kindness will be greatly appreciated. Here's the address:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001



4-H Project Workshop—

Cake Decorating



Come join the fun and learn the basic steps to food decorating. From cakes to cookies, gingerbread houses and more... create special treats for all occasions.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 1st, Twin Lakes Park 4:45 PM, the cost is \$3.00 and please call us by February 27th to sign-up: 861-9812.

We would like more of you to participate in these fun and educational workshops. Let us know if there is a better day/ night, time/ place or if there are other projects you are interested in, we want to know! Marcia Morris 861-9814

Camp Cloverleaf 2006 County Contest

This is your chance to design the program graphic for the 2006 Camp Cloverleaf Program. The winning graphic will appear on all promotional flyers, registration forms and the official 2006 Camp Program.

Draw your design on 8X10 plain white paper and submit it to the 4-H Office by February 20th. The Winner will be announced in the March newsletter. Remember the dates for camp are July 10th—14th!

2006 Area E T-Shirt Design Contest

Design and promote the 4-H horse program. T-shirts (made using your design) will be sold as a fundraiser for the Area E Horse Program. The winner will also receive a free t-shirt and a \$100.00 savings bond! This contest is open to all 4-Hers 8-18 (September 1, 2005) and reside in the Area E Horse district. You do not have to be enrolled in a horse project to participate. **Guidelines;** 1.All designs must be original and specifically relate to the Area E 4-H Horse Show. 2.Designs must include a 4-H clover and the words "2006 Area E Horse Show" 3. No copyrighted materials can be used in the design. 4. Designs may be horizontal or vertical to be used on the front or back of the t-shirt. 5. Designs must be submitted on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of white paper.

Beef Ambassador

The Florida CattleWomen are looking for a **Beef Ambassador**. The contest is open to youth 17 to 20 years-old who want to present the nutritional and economic value, cooking principles, safe handling and versatile uses of beef to the public with the understanding of the importance of beef as an agricultural product.

Cash awards, scholarships, and traveling throughout the state and possibly the nation are just a few of the rewards.

For more information and detailed rules, please visit <http://www.nationalbeefambassador.org> or contact Amber Murphy, FCW State Coordinator, AmbMurphy@aol.com
Registration deadline is March 1, 2006.

Free Rabbits...

Animal Connection

One male mini-lop 8 month old and a male mini-rex 5 month old are available to a good home. Call Sandra at 923-6541.

Max needs a home, he is a Lion Head, (about 2 years old) for information call Ruby at 371-1456.



4-H Forest-Ecology Judging Event

Are you ready to expand your knowledge about the natural environment of Florida and realize the value and importance of Florida forests? Each year, 4-H youth from across the state convene at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest outside Gainesville, Florida to test their knowledge of Florida's forests. The 2006 Forest Ecology Contest will be held on Sat., April 1, if you are interested in learning more about this event contact the 4-H Office at 861-9818.

Fair Days Ahead...



ATTENTION EXHIBITORS!

It is time once again to sign-up for your work shift(s)! All exhibitors are required to work in ALL buildings / barns that they are exhibiting in. Parents will be responsible for providing adult supervision during these shifts. Please review your 2006 Sarasota County Fair Rule Book for complete guidelines. Failure to work during your assigned shift(s) will result in forfeiture of premiums. Listed below are appropriate contact for each building / barn.

Mini Building Sign-up

If you have a project in the Mini Building you must sign up for a two-hour shift. Four children and one adult are needed for each shift. Please contact the 4-H Office at 861-9812 / 861-9810 to schedule your shift. You will be assigned a shift during workday, March 11, if you do not call.

Plant Show and Sale Exhibitors

Be sure to sign-up for your plant show and sale work-schedule with Mrs. Drymon during Work Day on Saturday, March 11th 8:00AM - Noon.

Small Animal Barn Sign Up

If you will be showing a small animal (rabbit, poultry, cavy) you are required to sign up for a work shift(s) in the small animal barn. Please contact Mrs. Annis **after** March 1st at 322-0690 between 7:00PM - 9:00PM. Please, sign-up as individuals not as clubs, thank-you!

Large Animal Barn Sign-up

Work shifts for exhibitors showing beef breeding, dairy, goats, steer, and swine will be available by calling Jennifer Armstrong at 322-6424 beginning March 1st. Locker assignments will be scheduled by club and will be available to club leaders at workday on March 11th.

ATTENTION:

ALL 4-H LEADERS AND PARENTS OF EXHIBITORS

Volunteer are needed to help supervise the 4-H and FFA exhibitors in the large animal barns during the fair. Adult supervision shifts will be available after March 1st.

Whip Cracking Contest

Something new... This year there will be a Whip Cracking Contest at the Sarasota County Fair. The date is set for Tuesday, March 21, 2006, 7:30PM at the Houser Show Arena.

- Divisions:
- A. Whip Snappers: 8-11 years old
 - B. Juniors: 12-15 years old
 - C. Seniors: 16-18 years old
 - D. Open

To qualify for t-shirts; registration forms are due in the Fair Office, by February 17th. Entry forms may be turned in up until Thursday, March 16, or at the Houser Show Arena from 5:00—5:30pm the day of the event, however these entries would not be eligible for t-shirts. Call the 4-H Office for rules and entry forms: 861-9812.

Mandatory Work Day

There will be a mandatory Fair Work Day for **ALL 4-H EXHIBITORS** at the Sarasota County Fair Grounds on Saturday, March 11th 8:00AM. You must sign-in at all areas you are participating in (large animal barn, small animal barn, mini building, plant tent, etc...) Everyone is needed to help set up and decorate the Barns, Mini Building, Plant tent and 4-H Stage. Please bring brooms, shovels, rakes, and gloves, etc... label all items for identification.

Fair Passes will be distributed at the end of Work-day, on Saturday, March 11th. You must sign-up for all your work-shifts prior to receiving fair passes. All 4H members with projects entered in the Fair will be eligible to receive one exhibitor pass and two additional parent passes. Families with more than one 4H member exhibiting will only receive two parent passes. The 4-H Office receives a **limited** amount of passes (from the Fair Office) based on the number of Fair entries. We cannot accommodate requests for additional passes.

Mini Building Entry Tags

The 4-H office will be sending out Mini Building Entry Tags and instructions to all Mini Building participants. Please attach tags **securely** to each item you are entering. This will eliminate delays at check-in. If you have any questions please contact the 4-H Office 861-9812. Mini building check-in is Wednesday, March 15th between 3:PM - 7:PM. You must turn in your **completed recorded book** at that time. **Entries will not be accepted with out your record book!**

Are You UP-TO-DATE...

Your Record Book is a very important part of your 4H Project. It is important that you know where and when your record book is due. Check your fair rules, ask your leader, or call the 4-H Office 861-9812. Late books will be penalized.

Part of the criteria to determine the Superior Exhibitor Awards is **your record book score**. Superior Exhibitors will receive a trophy and \$50.00.

Superior Exhibitor Awards will be announced at the Awards Ceremony Saturday, March 25th, 4:00 PM on the 4-H Stage.





Attention Graduating Seniors...

2006 Florida Agri-Women Scholarship

In 2006 two \$500 scholarships will be awarded by Florida Agri-Women. One will go to a young lady graduating from high school and entering college studies and one will go to a current college student. Applicants must be female, from the state of Florida and must be majoring in an agriculturally related field of study.

All applicants must include the scholarship form, a copy of their resume and academic transcripts. Applications must be sent to Mrs. Melissa S. Montes De Oca at 2185 SW 22nd Cir. N, Okeechobee, FL 34974. All applications must be mailed by Saturday April 1, 2006. Winners will be announced by Saturday, April 15th. Contact the 4-H Office (861-9810) to receive a scholarship form.

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice—Scholarship Applications Now Available

Education is a fundamental component of success in our global economy, and it is a priority of Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. Last year, the Foundation and its donors invested more than \$341,000 in our communities' future by awarding 295 scholarships to promising students for their postsecondary education.

Scholarship applications for the 2006-07 school year are now available on the Foundation's Web site. Please visit the scholarship section of gulfcoastcf.org for requirements, guidelines, and downloadable applications.



Foundation News...



Attention Sarasota County 4H High School Graduating Seniors Deadline Approaching!!

Each year the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation awards college or trade school scholarships, in varied amounts, to Sarasota County 4-H High School Seniors. The 4-H Foundation Scholarship criteria is based on 4-H Accomplishments, Skills, Citizenship and Community Service, and Leadership Experience.

First, pick up and complete your application, be sure to answer all questions in narrative form, and include reference letters and transcripts. You will have the opportunity to submit your application on March 1st, 2006, it will be reviewed and returned to you with suggestions and / or request for additional information, then resubmit the *completed* application by April 3rd, 2006 **the final deadline**. NO adjustments, additions or corrections can be made after the April 3rd deadline. Recipients will receive notification of awards in May.

Applications are now available in the 4-H Office. Contact Jerry or Karen Sellers at 351-2483 or Elva Farrell at 355-1856 if you need additional information. *Submitted by: Jerry Sellers*

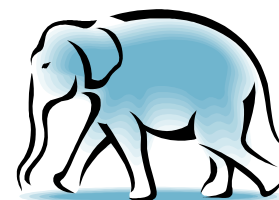
Swine Fundraiser...

The Sarasota County 4-H Foundation will once again host their annual swine fundraiser. The tickets are \$2.00 each with .25 of each ticket going to the 4-H club that sells it. Tickets are available in bundles of 25 / 50 / 100 at the 4-H Office or by calling Glenda Padgett at 925-3175. This is a great fundraiser for clubs as well as one of the major fundraisers for the 4-H Foundation. The profits from these tickets help to fund activities within the 4-H Program including camps, congress, activities, and awards as well as provide money for the foundation scholarships. Please consider selling tickets and / or purchasing some from a 4-H member. The hog will be one exhibited at the Sarasota County Fair and will be standard cut and wrapped.

Submitted by: Glenda Padgett

Elephant Ear Booth

Sign up now! Leaders schedule your club for a shift in the Elephant Ear Booth by calling Vicki Rogers at 915-4198, or signing up at a leaders meeting. The Elephant Ear Booth is a great fundraiser for our Sarasota County 4-H Foundation. All shifts will include 3 youth (12 or older) and 1 adult supervisor. Shifts are Monday through Friday: first shift 1:30—6:00 PM, second shift 5:45 to closing. Saturday and Sunday: first shift 11:30—3:00 PM, second shift 2:45—7:00, and third shift 6:45 to closing. Don't delay, call today!

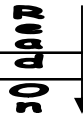


Health Matters...



Let's Get Serious!

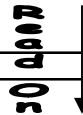
The Message is clear, in our culture the bigger the faster the better. The result - the number of people who are obese is rising. About 1.2 billion people in the world are overweight and at least 300 million of them are obese, even though obesity is one of the 10 most **preventable health risks**, according to the World Health Organization. In the United States, more than 97 million adults - **that's more than half** - are overweight and almost **one in five** adults is obese. Among teenagers and kids 6 years and older, more than 15% are overweight - that's more than three times the number of young people who were overweight in the 1970s. At least 300,000 deaths every year in the United States can be linked to obesity.



How Obesity Will Affect Your Health?

Obesity is bad news for both body and mind. Not only does it make a person feel tired and uncomfortable, it can wear down joints. When a person is carrying extra weight, it's harder to keep up with friends, play sports, or just walk between classes at school. It is also associated with breathing problems such as asthma and sleep apnea.

There can be more serious consequences as well. Obesity in young people can cause illnesses that once were thought to be problems for adults only, such as hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol levels, liver disease, and type 2 diabetes. As they get older, people who are obese are more likely to develop heart disease, congestive heart failure, and bladder problems. Obesity also can lead to stroke, greater risk for certain cancers, and even death.



Did You Know...

Overweight kids have a greater chance of getting type 2 diabetes.

Being overweight is directly related to type 2 diabetes. Most people are overweight when they first find out they have it. The extra weight can make it harder for their bodies to use sugar, or glucose, the way it should.

That's why people who have type 2 diabetes should get to a healthy weight by eating right and getting regular exercise. Exercise not only burns calories, but it can also help the body use insulin better. This makes it easier to keep blood sugar levels on track.

Parents, Lead The Way...

Between the Internet, video games, DVDs, and the old fashion telephone, kids are evolving into American's most common vegetable: **The Couch Potato**. If your kids' main form of exercise is playing video games, it's time to add to their repertoire. Make exercise a family priority. Plan at least one vigorous family activity every week. Go hiking, biking, or swimming. Or just go for a long walk in an interesting place. And try to make some type of active family outing a part of every weekend plan.

The American Academy of Pediatricians recommends that children watch no more than 7 to 10 hours of television per week. Children and youth should get 60 minutes of moderate activity a day. You can find out what guidelines (food and exercise) are appropriate for your child by logging on to MyPyramid.gov. Learn how to make MyPyramid work for you. Find a wealth of ideas that can help you get started toward a healthy diet. There are tips for each food group, physical activity, eating out, a sample menu, and more...

Why BMI Matters In Kids

Children with a high BMI (Body Mass Index) are more likely to become obese adults. In fact, the longer a child is overweight, the more likely he or she will have weight issues as an adult.

About 33% of preschoolers with excess weight become obese adults. And about 50% of school-aged children will also become obese adults.

Again... Children with a high BMI are twice as likely to develop adult obesity as children with a healthy BMI.

Take Action NOW ...

Smaller portions, accept the fact that food you typically get at a restaurant is crazy-big! (and at home too) Be aware of portion sizes.

Be done with it, it takes 15 minutes for your brain to register fullness. Eat slowly and give your body enough time to digest food.

Put that soda down!!!! A 12 ounce soft drink contains 9-10 teaspoons of refined sugar.



Get Moving and Get Off the Couch!

Get up, get out and have fun. Walk, run, ride your bike, play ball, work out with a friend—start NOW!

You snooze you loose, researchers have found that people who slept less had lower levels of the hormone leptin and higher levels of the hormone ghrelin. Leptin suppresses your appetite, ghrelin on the other hand makes cake irresistible! Besides when you are sleep deprived its harder to get motivated to exercise!

Make A Life-Long Change. "Diet" comes from the Greek word *diata* which means "a manner of living". Once you reach your healthy weight don't stop exercising and eating right. Be healthy for life!



Up Coming Attractions...

4-H County Events Day is Coming!

Demonstrations, and Public Speaking Event is Saturday, **February 25, 2006** and will be held at the:

Meadowland Worship Center

8893 Fruitville Road (3 miles east of I-75)



All those who turned in entry forms will receive a letter of confirmation and a scheduled time for your activity. Please check your confirmation carefully to make sure that all the information is correct. Winners in each category will advance to District Events on May 6th. Junior District winners will receive a scholarship to Camp Cloverleaf; July 10th–14th and Senior District winners will advance to State competition (4-H Congress) in Gainesville; July 24th –28th.

Your Stories... In The News



“2006 Woman Of The Year In Agriculture” by: Jesse McKinley

Jesse McKinley, president of New Gate 4-H Club, caught up with Marlene Strickland for a quick interview...

This year, Marlene Strickland, President of the American National CattleWomen's and leader of the Ridin' Rednecks 4-H club, was named the 21st Woman of the Year in Agriculture. She began as the vice president of the Florida CattleWomen's Association and went on to become the President Elect and then President, and was the region director for 4 years. She became President of the American National CattleWomen's this year.

Her job is to promote membership, education, and product. She travels all around the country to meet with officers from other states and to the home office of the ANCW in Denver, Colorado. She informs people about agriculture and how ranchers provide a product. We spoke about growth in Sarasota County and Mrs. Strickland said that it is a problem that a lot of ranchers have to sell out for home sites. Children need to know where their food comes from, she said, and how to eat the right things. There is a future in Florida in agriculture, including job opportunities for young people in agriculture because people need veterinarians, people to raise crops including citrus, people to raise cattle, and nutritionists who are friendly with the beef industry.

This year she is running a program called “Spread a Little Sunshine”, teaching members to be warm and friendly to non-members, help people, and reach out to people to teach them about the beef industry and health. In essence “Spreading the sunshine” we enjoy here in Florida.

For those of us under the age of 18, Mrs. Strickland encouraged us to continue learning about agriculture and to keep it up even when we graduate. She said to get involved in the Farm Bureau, the Young Farmers, and the Collegiate Cattlewomen's at the University of Florida, and to get the best education we can.

Mrs. Strickland leaves us with the thought that “as Floridians, it gives us a lot of pride to know that our state promotes a product that is healthy and nutritious and beneficial to all people. I wish that people would have a balanced diet and include beef in their diets.”

4H Member in the

American Kennel Club National Championships

Reporter; Madison N. Chapman

Congratulations to 14-year-old Kellie Dahlberg who was one of 176 kids from all over the world to qualify for the American Kennel Club National Championships recently held in Tampa, Florida. “In Junior Showmanship, the judges look for how the kid presents the dog. It's less about the dog and more about how you use your hands,” Kellie said. With her Parson's Russell Terrier, Tom, Kellie made it to the second round of the preliminary judging.

She is a member of Sarasota's Canine Connection 4-H club and has been showing for four years. It definitely keeps her busy, but for Kellie it is a passion. “It's a habit, an addiction,” she said.

Kellie also helped design the Parson's Russell Terrier booth for the Meet the Breeds exhibit at the Nationals event. The favorite at this booth was a plexi glass tunnel showing how the dogs dig their way through tunnels to get to burrowed animals. This booth won a blue ribbon for the best Meet the Breed display!

Great job Kellie and good luck in all of your future shows!

Do you have a story you would like to share, email Sheila at :

sholland@scgov.net

News From Out There...



Livestock Club: by Lauren Wyka

Hi! Hope everyone's New Year is off to a good start!

We had our meeting January 10. We had our reports and each member said what they are showing in the fair. There was one demonstration on Branding: Then and Now by Lauren Wyka and Kristan Potts with some assistance from Brittany Potts and Angel Stemens. Ms. Day talked about how we are doing the community pride project and are going to be decorating the lobby of Tatum Elementary School. If you signed up to be in the Sarasota Sharp Shooters Club, you will be contacted when the meeting will be and where. The garage sale is will be Jan. 28 and 29, be at Mr. Vann's Farm at 7:00am to set up. There will be a photography workshop on Jan.22 at Myakka State Park. Thank you Mrs. Dietz for the refreshments. Until next time!

Blazers: by Sierra Chadwick

Hi! In our meeting we talked about important dates and upcoming events. We are going to be having a photography field trip with a guest speaker on the grounds of the Ringling Mansion. We are also going to do a craft for the auction at Sarasota Christian School. We had one demonstration by Rachel Culbertson. She showed us how to make a very cool no sew blanket. We look forward to seeing more demonstrations next time. We are also looking forward to having a guest speaker at our February meeting that will teach us whip cracking. Bye for now!

The Four H Club: by Joseph Hurst

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FOUR H CLUB The Four H Club's president is Brittany Drymon, vice president - Michael Hurst, secretary -Mark Jackson, treasurer-Tara Crawford, reporter -Joseph Hurst, historian - April Jackson & co-leader Laura Blackburn.

We are all working hard on our 4-H projects for this year. We have chosen a community service project that will support the disabled. We are all looking forward to a great "New Year" in 4-H.

Thank you to our leaders Mrs. Crawford and Mr. & Mrs. Drymon and to the Drymon's for opening their home for our meetings. Our holiday meeting was a pot luck dinner with gift exchange and lighted extravaganza at the Hurst's house. Wishing Everyone a

HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!



Clogging Clovers; by Rebecca Griffin

Hi! This month we are collecting toys, food, blankets, and other supplies for pets at the Humane Society. We need your help also. This is our community service project. Last year we filled up a whole truck full of toys, leashes, pet beds, food, and blankets. We had a lot of fun. The clovers are learning more and more dances and getting ready for fair! It will be here before you know it. Just a Reminder- We are meeting every Wednesday at 6:00-8:00 until fair. Practice, Practice, Practice!

Green Team; by Laura Knipper

Hello 4-Hers, and Happy New Year! As part of our community service project, part of our group went to the Salvation Army on December 20th. We did a short presentation about how trees help the environment. As a follow up activity we helped the kids make pinecone Christmas trees. They all really enjoyed it, and we were happy that we could bring a smile to their faces!

Our January meeting was very interesting. Our special guest, Mr. Joe Padgett, taught us about prescribed fires and how important they are. Then, we watched a video about fire to help us learn more. He also showed us some of the equipment he uses. It was a very good talk, we all learned a lot.

Next, Jarrod Padgett did a demonstration called, *Landscaping with Fire in Mind*. We learned some very important tips about preventing wild fires from spreading to your house. Last, we worked on poster art. Everyone made different and informative posters that we will enter in the mini building.

Well, that is what we did at our January meeting. So, as always, until next time, keep on making the best, better!

Little Rascals by: Arianne Kopacz

Hi everyone! Our club picked up trash on December 10th but unfortunately some members weren't able to come so we are having a second date on February 11th, which will also be our February meeting. Lauren did a demonstration on dog showmanship and how to properly set up. I attended the rabbit clinic January 21st and it was a success! It was very informative and they were glad to answer any questions you might have had about showing, conditioning, etc. Next month we have a few club level demonstrations so if you are one of them please don't forget to mark it in your record book! Well that's all for now!

Myakka Ranchers; by Brent Wilson

Myakka Ranchers would like to thank Mr. Diermeyer for the woodworking workshop, we had a lot of fun. We received \$93.00 from a Sam's Club donation, and we took a vote and decided to donate it to the Myakka Church. We also talked and voted on a logo for our new shirts. Don't forget the next meeting is Feb.12th at 2:30 Brent Wilson's house, if you need directions just call.



News From Out There...



Homegrown Explorers;

by Krista Schrock

It's hard to believe how quickly the fair is approaching! Our focus this month has been preparing for the fair. In addition to completing entry forms and filling in record books, our members have been working hard on completing and caring for fair projects.

Our photography workshop was canceled and will be rescheduled for a later date in January.

Open Gaits: by Courtney Buckney

We did a great job of keeping busy for the last month of 2005. We had a Garage-Sale fundraiser at the K-Mart parking lot in Venice. We raised over \$450.00. You name it, we sold it! Also, we decorated our leader's classroom for her kids and got the kids stockings with gifts inside them. They were very happy to receive the gifts and see their classroom decorated.

Then we had our dog fun show and Christmas Party on December 17th. We exchanged gifts and had a great time. There was lots of food and hot cocoa. We are looking forward to seeing the guide dogs on January 14th in Palmetto.

Finally, our club is getting together on January 14th at 8:00 to watch the Eukanuba Dog Show on Animal Planet, it should be great fun!

Deep Sea Adventures: by Madison N. Chapman

This month our marine biology topic was the deep sea. Did you know that 90% of all sea creatures live in the upper level of the oceans (called the Epipelagic)? Why? There are many reasons, like lack of oxygen and light and extreme pressure at the deepest levels. There is plenty of water though. 90% of Earth's water is in the deep abyss. Many of the fish in the deep ocean have something called bioluminescence. That means that they can create their own light.

People always say that Mt. Everest is the biggest mountain in the world, but they're wrong. The biggest mountains are actually underwater. Wow! It gives you an idea how deep the ocean really is.

There are more natural springs in Florida than anywhere else in the world! And right off the West Coast of Florida, at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, there are spots known as "Blue Holes." Blue Holes are natural springs that feed into salt water. Mote scientists are currently studying these holes to learn more about their effects on the ecosystem.

Sarasota Swine; by Rebecca Griffin

Hi! Some of our members went to a fun pig show, the Georgia Winter Fest Classic on January 6 & 7th! The kids that went were.....Justin Burnett , who placed 1st in class, Colton Clark who placed 2nd in class, Houston Burnett who placed 3rd in class, John Karl Albritton who placed 5th in class, Kerry Desmarais who placed 6th in class, Gavin Albritton who placed 7th in class and Brittney Gleason, Wyatt Thomas, and David Clemons also attended. In showmanship everyone did good against a hard competition of 672 pigs and youth.

We will start making backpacks filled with toys and essentials for children placed with social services. The leaders checked on our pigs and they are doing well. That's all for now!

Ridin' Rednecks; by Robyn Rees

At our last meeting on January 5th, we discussed the times and date of the club screening. Also, Lane Taylor and Kyle King gave their demonstrations.

Congratulations to Mrs. Strickland for being named "Woman of the Year in Agriculture"!! A crew came to record our meeting for a tribute to Mrs. Strickland for her accomplishments.

Don't forget to check the newsletter for important dates and times of upcoming events! Our next meeting will be held at Lakeview Elementary on January 19th. See you there!

Miakka All-Stock; by Kaci Duggan

Hey Everyone, Our last meeting was kind of small. We did our normal pledges, Secretary's report, Treasures report, and all that other boring blah blah blah that ya have to go threw at every meeting. We talked about that everyone needs to check their rule books for the dates that their projects are do. And well that pretty much covers our last meeting.

IT IS TIME!!! IT IS FINALLY TIME TO GET READY FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL WHIP CRACKING EVENT!!!

For leaders, this is an excellent, inexpensive and fun way to teach about the culture and heritage of southwest Florida. Please call and we can come to your club meeting and do a learning workshop. We can give references to a whip builder as well.

The contest is Tuesday night of the fair. Those signing up early are guaranteed a neat t-shirt depicting the agricultural heritage of Sarasota County. We will have a workshop just before the contest as well. So, don't let not knowing how keep you from coming out and having fun. There is an open category for adults as well. Let's have fun.

Remember whips are to be popped only at the specified times and places at the fair. Call Mari-Jean or Jesse Sage (941) 586-5576

Y'ALL COME!!!

News From Out There...



4-H Club Reports

Southern Spurs:

by Kaila Hess

At our last Southern Spurs meeting we checked out Hog Fundraiser tickets. We also went over our presentations and discussed community service projects and fundraisers.



County Council Report: by Kristen Duffy

The last County Council meeting was held on December 19th. At the meeting, the Salvation Army Project was discussed in more detail. The Salvation Army Project was on December 20, and was apparently a success.

January 4 -- Project Workshop

January 7 -- 4-H Night with the Orlando Magic

January 8 -- Practice Horse Show at Paragon Farms

January 11 -- Horse Advisory

January 13-29 -- South FL. Fair West Palm Beach

January 16 -- Martin Luther King Jr. Day 4-H office closed and school closed!!! -- Hog & Ham Workshop

January 20 -- FAIR FORMS DUE!!!

January 23 -- County Council Meeting

January 26- February 5 -- F L. Citrus Festival Winter Haven

January 27 -- 4-H Horse Speed Show at Paragon Farms

January 29 -- 4-H Pleasure Show at Paragon Farms



The fair forms that are due to the 4-H office on January 20th are the Demonstrations, Public Speaking, Share the Fun, the Mini Building, and the Fashion Revue. If your forms aren't in by this date then you WILL NOT be allowed to enter you projects into the fair!!

We hope to see y'all at the next County Council Meeting!

Look What We Did

County Council Community Service Report; by Danielle Padgett

County Council and all of its members have been working hard on two community service projects. Our main project is Operation Military Kids. We are working with the families of Deployed Army Reservists and National Guard. Our last event was held on December 4, 2005 at a park in Arcadia. The support group for the families was having a Christmas party and County Council attended and provided activities and gifts for the children. We did four different holiday crafts with them including bead candy canes, pine cone Christmas trees, foam gingerbread men, and picture frames. The kids all had a great time with the projects while their parents talked. We also had gifts for all of the children which were provided by Mac Dill Air Force base's project which was called Fill a Tank with Toys. There were about 30 children in attendance and we had a great time working with them.

Our next project is a continuation from last year. "Spreading Literacy and Love from Our Hearts and Hands To Yours" is our community service project at the Salvation Army. We provide fun evenings for the children in the F.A.I.T.H. Program and the temporary shelter at the Salvation Army. We held our first event of this 4-H year on December 20, 2005. We had literacy gifts, books, book marks, 4-H walk-a-thon t-shirts, 4-H bears, fresh fruit, and candy for the children. The children rotated through stations which included holiday crafts, games, face painting, and hair braiding. The evening was a lot of fun and we made a very big impact on the children and families of the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make a difference in the lives of others in our community. A big thank-you goes out to the Green Team 4-H Club and the New Gate 4-H Club. The Green Team organized our pine cone Christmas tree craft and they also gave an educational presentation on trees and their uses to the group. The New Gate Club did face painting and hair braiding for the children. Thank you to both of these groups for being so involved and for having so many of your club members attend this event. We would also like to thank Albritton's Fruit Company for donating the fruit once again for our Salvation Army project. We greatly appreciate it. Last but not least, we would like to thank the Bee Ridge Women's Club for their \$100 donation to our community service project. Because of their donation we were able to have more activities and gifts for the kids. Thank you so much for supporting our community service project!!! Thanks again to everyone who helped at both events and we are looking forward to our upcoming activities with operation military kids and the salvation army!

Make Your Plans NOW!



February 2006

- 1 Project Workshop
- 2-5 Youth Horse Leadership Symposium
- 3 Fair Forms Due—Check Your Rules!
- 8 Horse Advisory
- 9-20 FL State Fair
- 11 4-H Day at the State Fair
- 13 4-H Foundation Meeting
- 14 Valentines Day
- 17 Fair Forms Due—Check Your Rules!
- 20 Presidents Day—4-H Office Closed
- 25 Demonstrations and Public Speaking
- 27 Leader & County Council Meetings

March 2006

- 1 Project Workshop
- 2 2-12 Strawberry Festival
- 8 Horse Advisory
- 11 Fair Work Day
- 17—26 Sarasota County Fair!
- 27-31 Spring Break
- 31 State 4-H Land Judging Contest



Happy Birthday

4-H February Birthdays...

Victoria Anthony, Patricia Armstrong, Kelly Ayers, Jeffery Barshinger, Morgan Baxter, Heather Behrens, Toby Beiler, Natalie Boone, Mackenzie Buechner, Crystal Dorman, Katelyn Drenchen, Kaci Duggan, Callie Forrest, Michael Freeley, Kelley Haarer, Korey Hawkins, Monroe Hulbert, Jamie Johnson, Amanda Kopp, Drayton Lutz, Sammi Manley, Kara Marchbank, Jared O'Brien, Caitlyn Parsley, Lindsey Pollack, Brandon Ramirez, James Raulerson, Carly Scarbrough, Cameron Smith, Megan Stoll, Lauren Strimer, Marissa Stutzman, Jessica Taylor, Tristan Thomas, Wyatt Thomas, Brittney Thompson, Autumn VanRiper, Casey Vernoy, Kyle Warren, Jacqueline Wells, Chelsea Williams, and Chancey Wrobleski!



Registration

1st Annual 4-H Animal Calling Contest

Join us Saturday, March 18th at 6:30 on the 4-H Stage

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please check division: _____ Junior _____ Senior _____ Adult

Animal Calls: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please return to the 4-H Office by: February 21st, 2006

Visit the 4-H Website (February Newsletter) and click on the icons below!

