

FROM MRS. CASH'S DESK . . . AN UPDATE 1/22/09

February 1st is our Bowl-a-thon at AMF Lanes in Orange City from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.! Do you have any sponsors yet? The sponsorship forms are available on this website. Sponsoring by pin means that someone will donate a certain amount of money for every pin you knock down – maybe a nickel or a dime. Some people may prefer to give you a donation up front. On February 16th, all monies are due and we will have an awards ceremony at the Ag. Ctr. – see the Rules on the website. Just because you don't live in West Volusia doesn't mean you can't participate! Go bowl at an alley near you and bring your sponsor sheets, donations and score sheet on February 16th to the 4-H Office – you are eligible for the prizes too! This “fun”draiser depends on all of us!

LAST CALL! Intermediate State (formerly Intermediate Leadership Adventure Weekend) is a weekend event for 11-13 year old 4-H'ers from around the state. They attend leadership workshops and “fun-shops” taught by Senior 4-H'ers. This year's theme is “Career Development” and the event will be held at Camp Ocala. You can find more information at <http://florida4h.org/events/LAW.shtml>. Registration is due to the state by January 23rd. Please have your forms to me ASAP so I can get them in on time! The FAX number is 386-822-5767.

Community Service Opportunity – There will be an exotic plant removal at DeBary Hall on Wednesday, January 28th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. There is also an invasive plant removal at Green Springs in Deltona on Saturday, February 7th at 9:00 a.m. For more information, contact Michelle Webster, Volusia County Environmental Management, at 386-736-5927, ext. 2330.

The BATS are coming to Deltona City Hall (2345 Providence Blvd.) on January 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If your club would like to participate or attend Bat House Day, contact Al Manassa at 860-7521. The event is sponsored by the City of Deltona Beautification Advisory Board.

4-H Days at the Daytona 500 Experience are here! Through January 31st you can enjoy the attraction for \$18 per person – that's \$6 off. There are a lot of rebate cards in the 4-H Office – take as many as you'd like!

If you'd like to order a Florida 4-H Centennial license plate, license plate frame or book, please contact us for the order form.

A REMINDER TO CLUBS ON THE EAST SIDE – ON MARCH 18TH, THE AREA HOSPITALS ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER “VICTIMS” FOR A PRACTICE EXERCISE. THIS IS A GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT. CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

Volusia County 4-H is selling Discount Cards to local DeLand businesses. Each card is \$10 (we receive \$6 of that). The cards can be used OVER and OVER and are good through the end of February 2010! Great club fundraiser – just come and pick them up.

The Seminole County Horse Show will be held February 21-22 at Clarcona Park. Dressage registration is due 2/16 and Hunter/Western registration is due 2/18. See the flyer on the website.

We are beginning work on the newsletter: (1) Parents and youth should have all information regarding the Volusia County Fair to the 4-H Office by January 31; (2) Club Reporters should have their club updates e-mailed to Mrs. Cash or Mrs. Stinson. The newsletter will come out twice a year. It will be a "Brag Sheet" and an educational tool. The updates are serving to keep everyone "in the loop" as to events. Please let us know what you think are good topics for articles.

The Hernando County Open Beef Production Show is April 4 in Brooksville. For more info, contact the 4-H Office or contact Nancy Moores at nancym@hernandocounty.us.

The Horse Judging Contest is March 7: <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/Youth/horse/horseJudgingState.shtml>.

State 4-H Horse Events is Friday, June 19: demonstrations, public speaking, quiz bowl, Horseman of the Year interviews. Go to <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/Youth/horse/HorseEvents.shtml>.

State Camp Counselor Training will be held at Camp Ocala from March 6-8, 2009. The cost is \$85. First aid and CPR will be taught – but not the certification. Youth attending this training can be a camp counselor at any state 4-H camp. It is preferred that youth have this training in addition to the training we give for our summer camp, but it is not required. Attendance at our training IS required. On March 24th, the camp counselors from 2008 Summer Camp are invited to an organizational meeting for 2009 Summer Camp at 6:00 p.m. in Seminole County. More details to come. Summer Camp 2009 will be July 6-10.

The Bradford-Union County Fair 4-H Horse Show will be March 14, 2009. Entries are due by February 27th. There is a registration fee of \$35. Contact the 4-H Office or Debbie Nistler at nistlerd@ufl.edu for more information.

The South Florida Fair will host a Livestock Judging Contest on Saturday, January 24th as well as Dairy Judging, Horse Judging, Horticulture Judging and Vegetable Judging Contests on January 30th. All 4-H'ers and FFA youth are invited. Go to <http://www.southfloridafair.com> for more information or contact Debbie Clements at dsc1954@ufl.edu.

There is an Open Archery Tournament on February 14th in Orange County sponsored by the Silent Shooters 4-H Club. The contest begins at 8:30 a.m. and teams are composed of one Junior, one Intermediate and one Senior. Each youth is \$5. Please contact the 4-H Office if you are interested: 386-822-5778.

Join the Backyard Bird Count from February 13-16 – it's easy. A few minutes a day for a few days – then go online to enter your data. Go to <http://www.birdsource.org/qbbc>.

The Florida State Fair still needs workers for the Centennial Exhibit. Two more groups are needed to decorate the putt-putt golf holes: Science & Technology and Communication & Expressive Arts/Citizenship. Contact Julie Wilson at jwilson@ufl.edu.

Plan ahead – Florida Agriculture Literacy Day is March 24th. There will be a special children's book created for the day. This is a great community service activity – reading the book to elementary school children. Please let the 4-H Office know if you are interested and I will order a book for you!

Outdoor Adventures practice on January 25th from 1-5 p.m. The cost is \$5.

The Volunteer Forum will be held April 24-26 at Camp Ocala. Go to http://florida4h.org/events/state_volunteer_forum.shtml for more information.

This Saturday, January 24th, is the DeLand Area Pigeon Club seminar and banquet. Volusia County 4-H'ers are invited to the seminar, which starts at 9:00 a.m., and will be held in the Auditorium. Come learn all about Homing Pigeons!

The deadline for the 4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest is February 16, 2009. The topic is "The Dance Language of Bees." Go to <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/4H.shtml> for details! Mail your entry to 4-H Honey Bee Essay Committee, c/o UF Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab, Bldg. 970 Natural Area Drive, P.O. Box 110620, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The next Consumer Choices class will be January 26, from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. We will be studying Light Bulbs and finishing up with Energy bars. Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors are welcome to attend. The classes are being held to prepare 4-H'ers for the Consumer Choices competition held at the Central Florida Fair.

Good luck to all the 4-H'ers participating in the Florida State Fair! let the 4-H Office know all the details!

Don't forget to wear green on the 4th of each month in honor of the Florida 4-H Centennial!

The next County Council meeting will be February 3 at 6:00 p.m. A chili dinner will be provided by the Homegrown Crusaders 4-H Club for \$3 at 5:30 p.m.

Horticulture Club is starting up for the year on February 4th from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. The Horticulture Club is a team of Seniors that are preparing for the State Horticulture Judging and I.D. Competition held at Congress in July. All Senior 4-H'ers (14-18) are invited to participate.

Put the following two dates on your calendars:

Fashion Revue: "Bloom Into Fashion" on February 21st (Details to come)

Volusia County 4-H Horse Schooling Show on February 28th at the Silver Sands Equestrian Center. Watch the website for registration materials!