

News Article  
Sept. 14, 2006  
Roger Vines  
County Extension Coordinator

### Coosa 4-H Dedicates New 4-H Club House

Over fifty parents, 4-H members, sponsors and volunteers turned out for the recent ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Coosa County 4-H Club House. The club house is the result of a cooperative agreement with the Coosa County School System and the contribution of many hours of volunteer service and support by various financial sponsors. The club house dedication was held in conjunction with the 2006 Coosa County 4-H Awards Program on September 11, 2006, which was held to recognize and reward some of our most active and hard working 4-H members for their accomplishments.

The program began with open house and refreshments, in which the visitors toured the facility and enjoyed looking at some new and old photographs of 4-H members in action. Then came the ribbon cutting ceremony in which County Extension Coordinator, Roger Vines, assisted by State 4-H Program Leader, Dr. Lamar Nichols, Extension District Director, Dr. Paul Waddy, and Probate Judge, Terry Mitchell, Regional 4-H Agent, Nancy Alexander, along with other sponsors and volunteers cut the green ribbon to officially establish the new club house.

Everyone then took their places in the club house for the Awards Program. Probate Judge Terry Mitchell opened the meeting with a warm welcome and then 4-H Club President, Katie Ogle and Vice President, Brandon Merced led everyone in the pledge to the American Flag and the 4-H Flag. This was followed by some heart felt words of appreciation to our sponsors and volunteers, but first a little history.

The 4-H Club House came into existence thanks to the support of School Superintendent, Todd Wingard and the Coosa County School System. The small frame house was part of the property purchased for the new Central Elementary and Middle School and was used as a contractor's headquarters during the school construction. After the school was completed and the contractors moved out, the house was used for textbook storage. The idea then came that this would make an excellent location for a 4-H Club House.

The house was in need of some repairs and renovations and so a goal was set to raise \$5000 to fund the project. The Extension Office contacted ten sponsors in hope of raising the needed funds. Our proposal was met with great support from all of the sponsors. Our ten sponsors include: Wachovia Bank, Alabama Power, Central Alabama Electric Coop., Madix Corp., Avondale Mills, Goodwater Rotary, Coosa Action Network, Coosa Farmers Federation, Charles Welden & Family, and the Coosa County School System. Thanks to these sponsors the funds were raised and the work began.

After these sponsors were recognized, the program continued with appreciation for other sponsors and supporters. Russell Corporation was thanked for providing funds to

sponsor Coosa 4-H members attending 4-H Summer Camp. Probate Judge Terry Mitchell was thanked for sponsoring the county 4-H public speaking program. Appreciation was also expressed to the Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee for sponsoring our Area 4-H Forestry Invitational. And finally a word of thanks to Walmart of Sylcauga (Tisha Moon Mgr.), for sponsoring several local county 4-H contests.

The attention was then focused on our volunteers who have given of their time and talents. First the volunteers who helped with the renovation of the club house were thanked. These included Doug Barronton and John Pierce who helped rewire the entire house and install new outlets and lighting. Tommy Ayers was a tremendous help with laying ceramic tile in the kitchen and bathroom. Christ Raines and Doug McConnell were instrumental in helping to hang wall paneling and replacement of the front porch. Laurie Vines spruced up the appearance of the windows with some 4-H clover curtains and David Thrash of Thrash Carpets installed carpet in the main meeting room. These folks made a huge difference.

Then there were the 4-H club leaders to thank. Nancy Alexander and Shelly Wood served as leaders for the General After School 4-H Club. Kristy Abrams and Shelly Wood provided the leadership for the 4-H Natural Resources Club. The 4-H forestry teams were coached by Doug McConnell, Blake Kelley, and Roger Vines and the 4-H wildlife team was coached by Roger and Laurie Vines. Laurie Vines also managed a Junior Master Gardener Club at Central Elementary.

Finally it was time to present our Coosa County Outstanding 4-H Club Member Awards. This began with the presentation of our 4-H Silver Awards to seventeen club members who had participated in four or more contests and activities and included a silver Susan B. Anthony Dollar to each recipient. Our Silver Winners included: Alex Barnett, Codie Compton, Dakota Darwin, Haley Darwin, Maya Everett, Hollie Ingram, Jessica Ingram, Allison Kelly, Brandon Merced, Katy Ogle, Payton Raines, Jonathan Smith, Hunter Stroud, Samantha Wood, Treavor Abrams, Helen Farnsworth, and Anna Vines.

Out of these seventeen club members, six were selected to receive Most Outstanding Awards. The Rookie Award is presented to a boy and girl in the 4th grade who are in their first year of participation. The award is sponsored by First Bank represented by Jarrod Presley and includes a certificate and \$50 cash award. Our 2006 winners were Samantha Wood and Brandon Merced. Next was the presentation of the J.M. Catchings Award, which is sponsored by Margie Wingard and JoAnn Malone in honor of their father, Mr. Morris Catchings who was the first Coosa County 4-H Corn Club member back in 1910. The award includes having the winners name engraved on a rotating plaque and \$50 cash award. This year's recipients were Hollie Ingram and Alex Barnett. The highest award for our senior level club members is called the 4-H Clover Award, which is sponsored by the Coosa County Chamber Of Commerce represented by John Webb. This award includes a wooden clover plaque and \$50 cash award. These two awards were presented to Helen Farnsworth and Treavor Abrams.

After viewing a slide show highlighting the various 4-H projects and activities conducted during the year a few new 4-H Clubs were introduced. Volunteer, Lee Brown was present to discuss plans for a 4-H Meats Judging Team. He was a member of a championship meats team in Coosa County, several years ago, that won the state contest and placed third nationally. So he is well qualified to coach a great meats team. Then Allen and Debra Lamberth were introduced, who have volunteered to lead the Coosa County 4-H Livestock Club. Their daughter Tiler had championship steers and heifers for many years before graduating high school and so they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to help any new-comers to this project. The next new club to be introduced is a 4-H Cooking Club which will be led by Tammy Stroud. Tammy enjoys working with kids and stated that even her boys know how to cook. The other new club planned for this year is called the 4-H GRAD Club which stands for "Getting Ready for Adult Decisions" and will be lead by Gary Mitchell and Roger Vines. The intent of this club will be to help senior level 4-H members prepare for life after high school by covering topics such as money management, insurance, car buying, investing, career exploration, college scholarships and more.

There are some great things going on in 4-H Club. Enrollment will be beginning shortly, so don't miss out on some great opportunities. And on behalf of all the 4-H Club members and parents, I want to say a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to our sponsors and volunteers and **CONGRATULATIONS** to our 4-H award winners. For more information contact Roger Vines at (256) 377 - 4713 or Nancy Alexander (334) 750-0839.