



Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

Alabama 4-H Breaks Ground on Sustainable Environmental Science Education Center

Rainy weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the nearly 200 supporters who came to break ground on the \$7 million Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center at the 4-H Center on Lay Lake.

Despite having to move indoors, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held to signal the beginning of construction on the first sustainable building in the Southeast specifically designed to teach environmental issues.

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, who has helped secure \$1 million in funding for the building, said, "Alabama is on its own economically and educationally, and I'm committed to revamping our engineering, math and science centers at our universities, and this new center fits right into that."

"So many young people are going to come to this facility to learn," said Shelby. "I believe in 4-H and what it stands for and what you are doing. This is going to be a great facility for Alabama and the Southeast."

The 17, 500-square-foot facility will be the first environmental education building in the Southeast commissioned gold



Gaines Smith, interim director of Extension, holds up the shovel used in the groundbreaking ceremony of the 4-H Center 26 years ago.

by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and will be an example of sustainable awareness nationally.

The LEED Green Building rating system is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performances. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

To attain gold LEED certification, buildings are required to achieve a total of 39 points — the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center will qualify for 45 points. The building has been designed by Davis Architects of Birmingham and will be constructed by B.L. Harbert International. It is expected to open in November 2007.

"We proudly commit to you today a facility that brings the best to Alabama 4-H and to the state — a facility through its design, construction and future operation that will be a credit to the environment and to the state," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors.



Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony. U.S. Senator Richard Shelby is at left, Board member Wes Laird, right.



U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby congratulates 4-H and its donors for constructing a sustainable environmental center.

"What we've come here today to celebrate is really what we embrace about 4-H. We strive to instill our state's youth with character and leadership to prepare them to deal with life."

For the event's master of ceremonies, 4-H Foundation board member Wesley Laird, it was an especially proud moment because he spoke before a similar group 26 years before as president of the Alabama 4-H State Council to dedicate the opening of the main lodge at the 4-H Center.

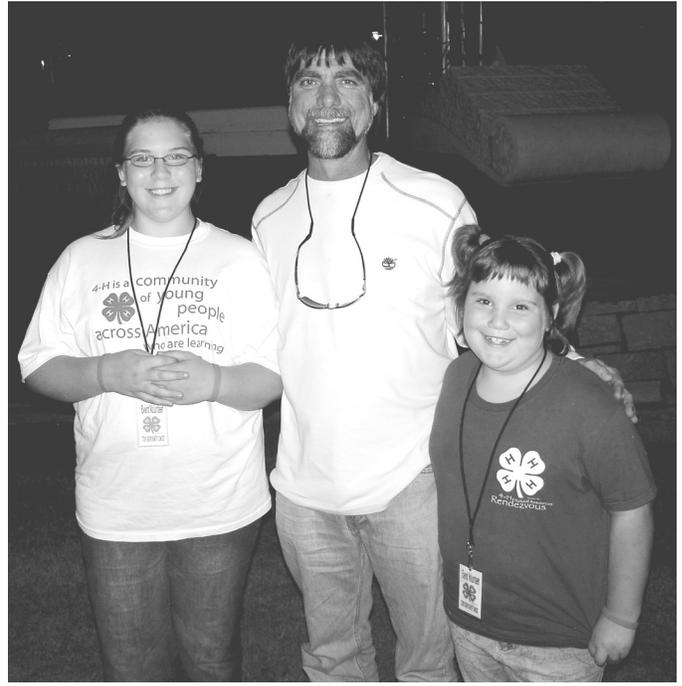
"This place has a special, special meaning for me, and this is a special moment for me," he said. "I was honored

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On Stage

Songwriters perform on the stage of Riverfront Amphitheatre at the Teddy Gentry and Friends Songwriter's Concert to benefit Alabama 4-H.



Gentry and Friends

Elmore County 4-H'ers and sisters Rachel Henson, left, and Josie, right, are all smiles to have their picture made with Teddy Gentry.

Alabama's Teddy Gentry, Songwriters Support 4-H with Concert

Alabama 4-H collected more than \$8,000 at the first Teddy Gentry and Friends Songwriter's Concert, where concert goers heard great music, learned the history behind some popular tunes and heard about how 4-H affected the life of a Country Music Hall of Fame member.

Teddy Gentry, the legendary bass musician/songwriter of the group Alabama, brought four songwriter friends for the inaugural concert at Montgomery's Riverfront Amphitheatre. For Gentry, it was an act of generosity for a youth program he holds dear to his heart.

"4-H is a great program," Gentry said. "Growing up in North Alabama, 4-H and my agent [were] influential in my life, and I'm happy to be able to give back just a portion to a program that has done so much for me."

Gentry said the first award he won — a 4-H ribbon — remains among his most treasured. This comes from a man who has 42 number-one hits, 23 American Music Awards, multiple Grammy awards, a Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year Award and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Performing with Gentry were Alabama songwriters/performers Michael Anthony Curtis, Ronnie Rogers, Doug Stokes and Trinecia Butler.

Sponsors for the event were Stanley Properties, LLC., Progressive Farmer magazine and Ron Sparks, commissioner for the Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries. The City of Montgomery Riverfront Facilities also supported the concert, as well as the many donors who bought tickets to attend the concert.



Greeting Friends

Teddy Gentry, center, greets Ron Sparks, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, right, and Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors.



Pickin' and Grinnin'

Artists, from left, Ronnie Rogers, Doug Stokes, Trinecia Butler, Teddy Gentry and Michael Anthony Curtis perform.



Lefkovits Creates Shelby County 4-H Citizenship Award

Marsha Lefkovits, a former Shelby County 4-H'er, recently established an annual Shelby County 4-H Citizenship Award in memory of her father, Norman, and in honor of her mother, Sonya. Pictured with Marsha (right) are her mother, Sonya (left), and Extension Coordinator for Shelby County, Rick Colquitt.

Columbiana Native Establishes 4-H Citizenship Award Honoring Her Parents

Marsha Lefkovits, a former Shelby County 4-H'er from Columbiana, wanted to do something different for her 50th birthday, so she established a 4-H award honoring her parents.

The Norman and Sonya Lefkovits Shelby County 4-H Citizenship Award is an annual monetary award established in memory of her father, Norman Lefkovits, and in honor of her mother, Sonya Lefkovits. A reception recently was held to celebrate and dedicate the creation of the award.

"Norman and I loved being 4-H parents," Sonya Lefkovits said. "I treasure all the wonderful memories of Marsha working with her 4-H projects. I was so honored when Marsha told me that she was establishing the award for her 50th birthday."



Marcia Lefkovits as a 4-H'er.

"My father loved Columbiana," said Marsha Lefkovits, who lives in the Washington, D.C. area. "Mother continues their desire to keep Columbiana and Shelby County a good place to live. I wanted to recognize my parents' many years of public service by establishing an award that would promote citizenship and encourage participation in the 4-H program," Marsha explained.

"4-H was an important part of my life for 10 years, and the skills and values I learned have provided a foundation to handle life's experiences," she added.

Marsha was a Shelby County 4-H'er from 1965 to 1975, with major projects in dairy cows, horsemanship and livestock judging. She attended the 1971 National 4-H Congress in Chicago as a member of the Alabama delegation. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Marsha worked in Washington, D.C. as a member of Sen. Richard Shelby's staff for eight years. She and her husband, Richard Quick, currently run a foundation that promotes educational exchanges with countries in Asia.

Norman Lefkovits lived in Columbiana from 1909 to 1986. He was Columbiana's first fire chief when the volunteer department was organized in 1929, was a charter member of the Columbiana Kiwanis Club and worked to support many projects of the local high school. He also was a board member of the First National Bank of Shelby County. The family's store, The Columbiana Leader, was located on Main Street from 1896 to 1980.

Sonya Lefkovits came to Columbiana in 1947 and served on many city and county committees and boards throughout the years. She is a charter member of the Vignette Club and was chairman of the Columbiana Library Board during construction of the library building. Sonya also was instrumental in organizing the Columbiana Merchants and Professionals Association and worked on the Columbiana Downtown Renovation Committee. She now serves as an ambassador of the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Shelby County Historical Society.

The first recipient of the award will be announced in the spring of 2007 and will be administered by leaders of the Shelby County 4-H program. For more information, contact Rick Colquitt, Extension coordinator for Shelby County, at (205) 669-6763 or rcolquit@aces.edu.



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Andrew Brymer, president of the 4-H State Council, speaks on behalf of the thousands of Alabama 4-H'ers.

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to be among those who spoke at the grand opening of this facility.”

“We’ve grown in the numbers of Alabama 4-H’ers, in the scope of the Alabama 4-H educational programs offered to our youth and in the physical buildings we have at the center,” Laird said. “Today, we take a giant step forward.”

Andrew Brymer, current president of the Alabama 4-H State Council, congratulated the donors who have supported the construction of the center and said the new center will provide great learning experiences for youth.

“I believe the phrase ‘if you build it, they will come’ applies to the prospect facing future 4-H’ers,” he said. “They will have extraordinary opportunities to learn about the environment in a state-of-the-art building that personifies the methods of education that 4-H’ers know best and kids love best — hands-on learning.

“We can glimpse into the future to see that 4-H’ers will explore technology, solve problems and make discoveries far beyond the imagination of those who planned this building,” the 17-year-old Jefferson County 4-H’er said.

With this new facility, Alabama 4-H’s Natural Resources and Environmental Education program will be better



U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, second from left, congratulates Gaines Smith, left, Auburn University President Ed Richardson, second from right, and Wesley Laird, right.



Dignitaries gather for the ceremonial groundbreaking.



Alabama 4-H’ers join dignitaries for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

equipped to teach Alabama youth and educators about protecting and enhancing the environment in a facility unlike anything currently in Alabama.

The facility is being constructed with funds raised by the Campaign for Alabama 4-H through the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. More than 500 corporations,

foundations, organizations and individuals have supported the Campaign for Alabama 4-H to date, giving \$5.8 million. The campaign also supports 4-H programs statewide.



U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby autographs a copy of the groundbreaking ceremony program for 4-H’er Andrew Brymer.

Have a Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for Pathways? Do you know a 4-H’er who has achieved an honor and want others across Alabama to know about it? The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit fund-raising arm of Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension development and communications coordinator, at mccoyjl@aces.edu, or call (334) 844-2298.



National Champs

Left to right are Wayne Ford, Tuscaloosa County Extension coordinator and team coach; team members Tamara Beams, Andrew Faulkner, Rebecca Esser-Stuart and Forrest Ford; and Lisa Ford, Tuscaloosa County 4-H volunteer leader.

Alabama 4-H'ers Win National Wildlife Invitational

Alabama's 4-H Wildlife Team was as hot as the weather at the 2006 National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Invitational in Wisconsin, defeating 20 competing states and winning the national title.

The Tuscaloosa County team of Tamara Beams, Andrew Faulkner, Forrest Ford and Rebecca Esser-Stuart outpaced the second place team by 23 points and also brought home top individual honors. All four team members placed in the top 10 in overall individual scores with Faulkner, Ford, Beams and Esser-Stuart placing first, second, third and seventh respectively.

"We are thrilled that our young people captured the national title," said Emily Kling, a 4-H youth development specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Since this became a national event in 1989, Alabama 4-H teams have won seven national championships — the most in the nation.

"This program is more than about winning," Kling said. "It offers young people the chance to develop skills they will use as adults." She added that many former winners have gone on to hold jobs in natural resources to manage woodland property.

Tuscaloosa County teams have a tradition of representing Alabama well at nationals. In total, they have won five national championships and two reserve championships.

Sponsors for the Alabama team included the Alabama Cooperative Extension System; Alabama Forest Owners Association; Alabama Power; Alabama Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences; Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club; Tuscaloosa County Farmers Federation; McGiffert & Associates; Racon, Inc.; Cadence Bank; Jarrod West; Tuscaloosa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation; and Buzzy and Lindsey Waters.

2007 Golf Classic Set for June 14

The third annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic will be held Thursday, June 14, 2007, once again at FarmLinks Golf Club near Sylacauga.

The 2006 Classic raised more than \$20,900 to support Alabama 4-H programs statewide, and committee chair Nancy Alexander, a regional 4-H agent in East Alabama, believes the third year for the tournament will be the best year yet.

The classic is coordinated by a committee of 4-H regional Extension agents and the 4-H Foundation Development office. Committee members are Alexander, James Shropshire, Marian Beck, Lindsay Kimbro, Kim Good, Joann Wissinger, Denise Legvold and Beth Lawrence of Extension Development.

For more information, contact Lawrence at (334) 844-2247 or batkins@aces.edu.



Alabama 4-H Recognized for ATV Safety Efforts

Alabama 4-H recently was recognized for its efforts to enhance all-terrain vehicle safety in the state. Gov. Bob Riley signed a proclamation commending 4-H for its ATV safety initiative. Alabama 4-H and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs are launching the Alabama Motorized Outdoor Adventures program to help youth recognize the importance of being properly trained, wearing safety gear, riding at appropriate speeds and avoiding risks.

Emily Kling, center, a 4-H specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, received the proclamation from Doni Ingram, left, acting director of ADECA, and Jon Strickland, ADECA's recreation programs manager.

To learn more about 4-H's ATV program, go to <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/NaturalResourcesPrograms/NatResPrograms.php> and <http://www.atv-youth.org/>.



Coosa County 4-H House

Coosa County 4-H'ers, 4-H and Extension employees and 4-H supporters cut the ribbon on the Coosa County 4-H Club House.

Coosa County 4-H Club House Dedicated

Coosa County 4-H recently dedicated a Coosa County 4-H Club House, the culmination of a cooperative agreement with the Coosa County School System, financial support and many hours of volunteer service.

Roger Vines, Extension coordinator for Coosa County, said the small frame house was on the property purchased for the new Central Elementary and Middle School. During the school's construction, the house was used as a contractor's headquarters. After completion of the school, the house was used for textbook storage.

Vines thought that the house would make a great location for 4-H club meetings, even though it was in need of renovations. Coosa County Extension office employees set a goal of raising \$5,000 in the community to make repairs, and the goal soon was reached.

"The proposal for the 4-H club house was met with great support," said Vines.

- Sponsors of the Coosa County 4-H Club House include
- Wachovia Bank, Alabama Power, Central Alabama Electric
- Cooperative, Madix Corporation, Avondale Mills, Goodwater
- Rotary, Coosa Action Network, Coosa Farmers Federation,
- Charles Welden and family and the Coosa County School System.

- Activities planned for the Coosa County 4-H program
- include a meats judging team, a livestock club, a cooking club,
- and a 4-H GRAD club, which stands for "Getting Ready for
- Adult Decisions." The GRAD club will 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 and college scholarships.

- Vines tells kids and parents about the benefits of being
- a 4-H member. "I encourage all kids to get involved with 4-H.
- The program offers numerous learning experiences through
- fun and exciting activities," said Vines.



Windstream Communications Supports St. Clair County 4-H

Windstream Communications recently presented a gift to St. Clair County 4-H to expand the summer 4-H Clover Classroom to include a kid's cooking camp, a sport fishing workshop and other activities. The donation is a part of Windstream's commitment to give \$100,000 to 4-H clubs in the communities they serve.

Pictured with the company's green vintage pickup truck used in Windstream commercials are, front row from left,

- Windstream Area Manager Terry Green; St. Clair County
- Extension Coordinator Lee Ann Clark; St. Clair 4-H Agent
- Assistant Tony Tomlin; and Windstream Manager Phillip
- Myers. Pictured, back row from left, are 4-H members Halley
- Cotton, Caitlin Cotton, Kelsey Cross, Lacy Smith, Rebecca
- Parker and Ethan Parker.



Purchase Charlotte's Web Tickets Online; Support Alabama 4-H

Alabama movie goers can help support 4-H youth in the state and enjoy a classic tale of loyalty, trust and sacrifice by purchasing tickets online to see the new live action version of "Charlotte's Web" in theaters nationwide beginning Dec. 15.

For every ticket purchased to see "Charlotte's Web" at www.fourhcouncil.edu, Hollywood Movie Money will donate a \$1 to 4-H. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Dec. 8.

For Alabama 4-H to receive the benefit, patrons must purchase their tickets at www.fourhcouncil.edu. Click on the "Buy Movie Tickets" link, where you'll be transported to a

- purchase page at Hollywood Movie Money. By entering a local
- zip code, movie goers will be able to purchase tickets at their
- local theater via a credit card. The local theater will determine
- the ticket price. Movie goers will receive a certificate for each
- ticket purchased and a receipt for the total purchase price
- along with a \$1 donation per ticket to support 4-H.

- Ticket buyers also have the option to make an additional
- donation. State 4-H programs will receive 100 percent of dona-
- tions as determined by zip codes entered at purchase.



Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lawrence, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.
226 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5612 Phone: (334) 844-2247 Fax: (334) 844-7201



To help meet Alabama 4-H's needs for this year, enclosed is my gift of:

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Beth A. Lawrence, Assistant to the Director

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