



Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

Alabama 4-H Receives Generous Gifts from Marshall & Walker Counties Farmers

The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. recently received gifts totaling \$50,000 from the Marshall County Farmers Federation and the Walker County Farmers Federation. The contributions will help fund the construction of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center for use by Alabama youngsters.

The new facility will allow Alabama 4-H to expand its natural resources and environmental education programs at the Alabama 4-H Youth Center. It is by Lay Lake near Columbiana and is the state's only year-round educational experience for youngsters to explore the environment. Construction will begin in October.

David Anderson, president of the Marshall County Farmers Federation, said the federation decided it was important to support environmental education. "Our federation membership understands the importance of protecting our land and believes it is vital that all children understand and learn about the environment," Anderson said. "We know that 4-H teaches our youth sound science and we wanted to help our state youth."

James Larry Jones, president of the Walker County Farmers Federation, agreed with Anderson. "Educating our youngsters about environmental issues is something we believe is essential," he said. "4-H is a first-rate organization and we are proud to join with them."

Jack Odle, chair of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., said the foundation is grateful to the Alabama Farmers Federations for their support. "Alfa and the Alabama Farmers Federation are some of 4-H's strongest supporters, and we appreciate their generosity to the youth of our state."

Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation previously made a \$250,000 pledge to support Alabama 4-H, and the Jefferson County Farmers Federation has pledged \$25,000. Other county federations who have made gifts to Alabama 4-H include Tuscaloosa County, Talladega County, Elmore County and Tallapoosa County.

The Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center will give Alabama children the best — the ability to explore the natural environment and multiple ecosystems of the 4-H Center combined with a modern facility nestled into the environment, protecting the environment and teaching science-based environmental stewardship.

The new center will be constructed as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified green building. It will be the first commissioned green 4-H building in the United States, and the first gold-certified green environmental science education center in the state of Alabama.

The center will include facilities not currently available at the 4-H Center and will expand other features in a state-of-the-art building. In direct support of the Environmental Field School, two large laboratory classrooms will be included, along with a shared laboratory preparatory area. Both laboratories will have direct access to the outdoors so children can explore outside and come inside to laboratories filled with technical and audiovisual support. Displays featuring lake and land habitats will be featured in the corridors and lobby adjacent to the laboratory areas.



Lawyers Support Alabama 4-H

Opp attorney Wesley Laird, center, presents a check from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation to 4-H Foundation Board members Boyd Christenberry, left, and Tommy Elliott, right.

Alabama Lawyers' Foundation Supports Alabama 4-H

The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. received a grant from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, the grant-making foundation supported by Alabama lawyers and the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association.

Wes Laird, a supporter of the ACJF and an Opp area attorney, presented a check to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

During the ceremony, Laird, who is also a member of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors, said that he and other supporters of the ACJF "understand the need for the kinds of services provided by Alabama 4-H to youth statewide. It is our privilege to assist organizations such as 4-H that are so valuable to our communities.

"As a former 4-H'er and as a member of the 4-H Foundation Board, I see firsthand the impact 4-H programs have on the lives of our youth," Laird said.

"The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, on behalf of Alabama's 4-H'ers, is grateful to the Alabama Civil Justice

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Three Coaches

University of Alabama coach Johnny Williams, left, talks with AU Football Coach Tommy Tuberville, center, and former AU coach Pat Dye.



Classic Winners

The classic winning team members were, from left, Randy Broderick, Chris Gary, Jerod Grace and Wes Cumbie.

Golf Classic Raises Funds to Support Alabama 4-H

More than 135 golfers and supporters of Alabama 4-H gathered June 8 for the 2nd Annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic to raise awareness and support of Alabama’s youth.

The classic and a silent auction raised \$20,860, which will support Alabama 4-H programs statewide and assist in the construction of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center.

Twenty-five teams of golfers participated in the classic, held a second year at FarmLinks Golf Club near Sylacauga.

Golfers had a chance to meet and talk with Alabama 4-H’ers, learn about today’s 4-H programs and hear Auburn University and University of Alabama athletic coaches emphasize the importance of programs such as 4-H.

Johnny Williams, senior associate athletic director for external relations at the University of Alabama, told the group Alabama athletics was proud to be a part of this year’s classic. “In athletics, we strive to train quality student athletes how to make choices and be responsible, and that’s much like 4-H does.

“There is a tremendous need for programs like 4-H and you offer tremendous service to our state — congratulations,” Williams said.

Auburn Football Head Coach Tommy Tuberville told golfers 4-H is a program that has remained dear to him because he enjoyed 4-H programs as a young man growing up in Arkansas. “If I’ve done anything successful in life, it was started on a farm, and the opportunity to learn leadership skills was very important in my life.”

Pat Dye, former Auburn football head coach, told the group growing up in 4-H in Georgia was a meaningful experience. “I remember the meetings I attended, raising animals and all that entailed.

“It’s very important to be under that type of an organization as a youth, and I commend you here today for recognizing and supporting 4-H,” Dye told the golfers.

Ryan Sprinkle, a Fayette County 4-H’er who is currently president of the Alabama 4-H State Council, said he appreciates

the support by the many donors. “4-H has taken me from small, rural Fayette County to all over Alabama and Washington D.C.

“When I see where I’m now, where I can go and who I can become, I’m deeply indebted to 4-H,” Sprinkle added.

Following a brunch, 100 golfers started the shotgun start scramble. The team comprised of Chris Gary, Jarod Grace, Randy Broderick and Wes Cumbie won first place. Greg Green, Eddie Jones, Skeet Hayes and Eddie Brown placed second. Coming in third was Jason McCamery, Frank Baker, Charles Heaton and Casey Jones.

The classic was coordinated by a committee of 4-H regional Extension agents and the 4-H Foundation Development office. Committee members were James Shropshire, chair; Nancy Alexander; Shannon Andress; Kim Good; Beth Lawrence and Denise Legvold. Prizes given to winners and items donated by companies, organizations and individuals were collected by 4-H regional Extension agents across Alabama.



Old Friends

Alabama 4-H Club Foundation members Doug Rigney, left, and W.A. “Dub” Ellis Jr., center, greet Jimmy Pursell, owner of FarmLinks Golf Club. The Pursell family generously supports 4-H as the founding sponsor of the classic.



Bringing Greetings

Ryan Sprinkle, State 4-H Council president, welcomes teams to the classic and thanks them for participating.

Sponsors Ensure Golf Classic's Success

Alabama 4-H salutes the sponsors of the Alabama 4-H Golf Classic, which gave tremendous financial and in-kind support to ensure the success of this new venture.

In total, the classic had 75 sponsors, including golf sponsorships, prize donors and others. Two organizations – FarmLinks Golf Club and Alabama Power Company – were lead sponsors of the classic.

FarmLinks Golf Club

FarmLinks Golf Club, owned by the Jimmy Pursell family, generously supported the classic as the founding sponsor.

FarmLinks Golf Club is an 18-hole, championship Hurdzan-Fry golf course. Built by Landscapes Unlimited Inc. of

Lincoln, Neb., the course was designed to flow with the various natural elements of the 3,500-acre Pursell Farms, where the terrain is dotted by lakes and ponds, streams, trees, rolling hills and mountains, wet lands and even wildlife. The course measures 7,444 yards from its back tees, and multiple tees are offered to accommodate golfers of any level.

Beyond golf, FarmLinks offers more to the public, golf industry and future of the game. It is the world's first research and demonstration golf course created to showcase turf and golf industry innovation and product performance. The course serves as a living laboratory and focus group for industry leaders.

Alabama Power Company

Alabama Power Company generously supported the classic as the "head" clover sponsor. The company's support of the classic is just one way Alabama Power and 4-H have partnered for more than 60 years to support programs to benefit the children of Alabama.

Willard Bowers, vice president of Environmental Affairs for Alabama Power, said Alabama Power has long seen the benefit of partnering with 4-H. "Agribusiness is the largest single sector of Alabama's economy, and Alabama Power has a long history of helping to improve the economy. 4-H for nearly a century, has been a way to educate and keep people interested in the agribusiness sector in Alabama," said Bowers.

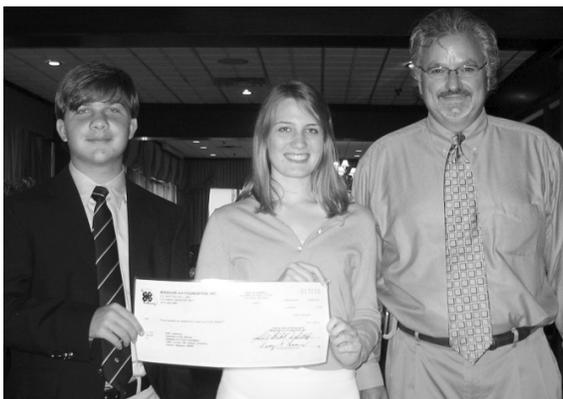


Golfers Enjoy FarmLinks

Golfers experienced a great day of play at FarmLinks Golf Club during the 2nd Annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic.

"4-H is an education-driven organization and the role of 4-H in our schools and communities is something that fits with Alabama Power. Alabama Power has, as its mission, a commitment to be a part of the community and work to help those in the community, and 4-H has that same objective."

Alabama Power provides reliable, affordable electricity to more than 1.3 million homes, businesses and industries in the southern two-thirds of Alabama. It is one of five U.S. utilities operated by Southern Company, one of the nation's largest producers of electricity.



Missouri 4-H Cares

The Missouri State 4-H Council recently sent a donation to Alabama 4-H'ers to help 4-H programs affected by Hurricane Katrina. Called 4-H Kids Helping Kids Hurricane Relief, the campaign focused on collecting cash donations to assist children and families in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. Accepting the check are, from left, Mobile County 4-H'ers Austin Cottrell and Kimberly McGraw, and Lamar Nichols, state director of Alabama 4-H.



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Visiting Washington

Some of the Alabama 4-H'ers who participated in Citizenship Washington Focus pose in front of the White House.

Alabama 4-H'ers Attend Citizenship Washington Focus

Twenty-eight Alabama 4-H'ers and five adult leaders attended the Citizenship Washington Focus this summer at the National 4-H Youth Development Center in Chevy Chase, Md.

Alabama 4-H'ers included Allysa Andrews, Elmore County; Tia Alexis Black and Joseph Gary, both from Monroe County; Brandon Boyd, Macon County; Trey Bush, Butler County; Kara Clark, Houston County; Whitney Donaldson, Coffee County; Lisa Darrough, Baldwin County; Janna Ford, Shelby County; Austin Jenkins, Andrew Louallen, Christie Louallen and Desnatie Reynolds, all from Lawrence County; Erin Johnson, Jackson County; Miranda Klobberdanz, Lauderdale County; Marc Manning, Autauga County; Malcom Marable, Randolph County; Suzanne Money, Crenshaw County; Amanda Neeley,

DeKalb County; Keegan Sullivan, Walker County; Chelsea Teel, Pike County; Nicholas Townsend and Ethan Walker, both from Winston County; Barry Weaver, Cherokee County; Miranda Willoughby, Fayette County; Kaleb Wimberly, Geneva County; Natalie Woods, Washington County; and Joel Wynn, Morgan County. The 4-H'ers were selected via an application process earlier this year.

"Because of this trip, I have a better understanding of how our government operates and a better understanding of what our representatives and senators do for the people they represent," said Brandon Boyd from Macon County. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I will never forget. I can't wait to share my experiences with my family and other 4-H'ers."

"As a chaperon for this year's trip, I was able to see firsthand our youths' life-changing experiences," said Regional Extension Agent Evelyn Rachell. "CWF gave our 4-H'ers a chance to explore government function and citizenship at its best. The leadership, friendships and maturity they gained on this trip are priceless."

Conducted by the National 4-H Council, Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H citizenship-leadership program for youth, ages 14 to 19. Every summer, thousands of 4-H'ers from across the nation participate in the week-long study tour and learn what they can do in their communities to become better citizens today and better leaders tomorrow.

While in Washington, the Alabama delegation looked behind the scenes of Congress and had a chance to meet with Alabama senators and representatives. They heard motivational speakers, attended workshops and assemblies that increased their individual commitment to citizen involvement and built lifetime skills for success. The schedule also included cultural, fitness and social activities throughout the week. In addition, the Alabama group toured historical sights.

The trip was sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation.

Alabama Lawyers' Foundation Supports Alabama 4-H (continued from page 1)

Foundation for the generosity of its membership," said Odle. "We appreciate the support of the foundation because, like Alabama 4-H, they understand the importance of educating our youth to be all they can be."

The 4-H grant was among 109 grants selected through a competitive process that provided more than \$244,000 in grants to charitable organizations assisting Alabama's disadvantaged, disabled and at-risk families and children.

In addition to the competitive process, the ACJF manages special fund drives for members of the legal community interested in supporting specialized projects. In 2005, trial lawyers raised \$101,000 for Katrina Relief, which was distributed by the ACJF in the state of Alabama. Close to \$60,000 was distributed through Advised Funds, and more than \$200,000 went to

projects in Anniston, Ala. through the Anniston Civil Justice Fund established by four plaintiff firms, according to Sue McInnish, executive director of the ACJF.

Through these and various other funds, the ACJF distributed more than \$650,000 in 2005, bringing the total awarded by the ACJF to more than \$5.3 million since 1993, when it was created through the support of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association.

Donations to Alabama 4-H support youth programs and activities and are not spent on administrative expenses or salaries. 4-H is a division of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System based at Auburn and Alabama A&M universities. Extension agents and more than 15,000 volunteers statewide provide programs to youth in Alabama.

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 mccoysl@aces.edu, or call (334) 844-2298.

Youth “Show Spirit” at 4-H State Congress and Leadership Conference

More than 100 of the best and brightest young Alabamians recently competed, learned and fellowshiped at the 2006 State 4-H Congress and Leadership Conference in Auburn. The theme for this year’s event was “Show Your Spirit.”

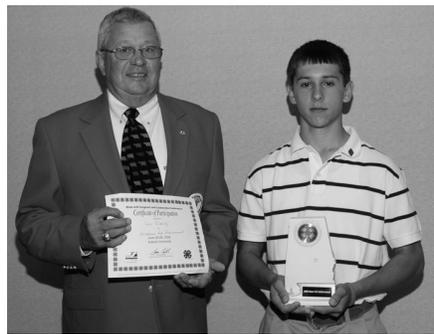
“State 4-H Congress is the highlight of the 4-H experience for outstanding young people in Alabama,” said Lamar Nichols, state 4-H program leader for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The annual event is a tight schedule of competitions, educational workshops, tours, social activities, an achievement ceremony and the induction of new state 4-H council members.

This was the second year State 4-H Congress was held in conjunction with a youth leadership track. 4-H’ers attended afternoon educational workshops, participated in state competitions, and attended a “Show Your Spirit” tailgate party, barbecue and dance at Ag Heritage Park in Auburn. Winners in 16 different competitive events were announced, leadership and participation certificates were distributed and various state awards and scholarships were presented.



Electric Energy

Jan Ellis with Alabama Power congratulates Dalta Garrett of Shelby County on winning the Alabama 4-H Achievement Award in Electric Energy at 4-H State Congress.



4-H Achiever

Al Golden, a regional vice president for the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, congratulates Levi Claridy of Madison County on winning the Alabama 4-H Achievement Award in Beef Production at 4-H State Congress.

Human Resources as quality assurance coordinator and resource development.

Her passion is youth development, and she co-founded Better Activities Make All-around Kids, Inc. BAMA Kids, Inc., is a community-based nonprofit youth development organization.

Stanley is vice president of finance and marketing for Stanley Construction Company, a family-owned business founded by her father. Their company was honored in 2001 as President George Bush named president Thornton Stanley as the National Small Business Person of the Year. Stanley earned an MBA from Harvard University’s School of Business and a chemical engineer degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Vanderbilt University. She is involved in many youth development organizations.

Other board members are Jack Odle of Birmingham; Dorman Grace of Jasper; Thomas R. Elliott of Auburn; Willard Bowers of Birmingham; Boyd Christenberry of Montgomery; Don Claborn of Albertville; Heather Coleman of Montgomery; Ed Dickinson of Alexander City; W.A. “Dub” Ellis Jr. of Centre; Mark Espy of Headland; Victor Gaston of Mobile; Horace Horn of Montgomery; Mike Kilgore of Montgomery; Wesley Laird of Opp; Jean Lowry of Birmingham; Tommy Paulk of Decatur; Dan Presley of Enterprise; Prince Preyer of Huntsville; Quentin Riggins of Montgomery; Doug Rigney of Montgomery; Dan Smalley of Guntersville; Ryan Sprinkle of Eldridge; Barbara Thorne of Jasper; Pete Turnham of Auburn; and Life Member Emeritus Harry Philpott of Auburn.

Ex-officio board members, all Alabama Cooperative Extension System employees, are Gaines Smith, Lamar Nichols, Beth Lawrence, John Pulliam and Sandra Spencer.



New Board Members

Foundation Board chair Jack Odle, center, welcomes Stinson Slawson, left, and Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, right, as new members to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors. Not pictured is Karen Stanley.

Foundation Board Members Serve 4-H

Three new members to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors bring service and experience to the nonprofit organization dedicated to Alabama 4-H.

The foundation board is composed of 30 business, industry and education executives from across the state who have a love of 4-H. Most were active 4-H’ers as youth, and all have first-hand knowledge of how youth benefit from 4-H programs and activities.

The new board members — Stinson Slawson of Montgomery, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews of Camden and Karen Stanley of Huntsville — bring unique perspectives and a commitment to youth development to the foundation board.

“We welcome Sheryl, Karen and Stinson to the foundation board,” said chair Jack Odle. “They all have a keen interest in 4-H and youth development, and we are pleased that they have agreed

to serve the youth of our state by being members of the 4-H Club Foundation.”

Odle said that all members of the foundation board have service at the heart of their work. “Our foundation board members are some of the most dedicated individuals I’ve ever been associated with. They know how 4-H affected their lives and the lives of youth. They spend their valuable time working to ensure today’s youth have the same opportunity they had.”

Slawson is currently vice president and director of operations for Southeast Wood Treating, LTD, a family-owned Montgomery business. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Slawson serves on the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Board and previously served on the Alabama Forestry Commission Board.

Threadgill-Matthews is a native of Camden in Wilcox County, and works for the Wilcox County Department of



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



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