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Alabama A & M and Auburn Universities

Summer 2007

Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

Construction Nearing Completion on First Gold-planned LEED Building

Construction is more than 80 percent complete on the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center at the 4-H Center on Lay Lake. By the end of the year, the facility will be available for 4-H'ers, school children, teachers and organizations that will be able to learn about environmental education in a way unlike anything currently offered in Alabama.

The 17,500-square-foot facility is the first planned gold certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) commissioned environmental education building in the Southeast and will be an example of sustainable awareness nationally.

"Construction is going great with the outside nearing completion," said architect Don Cosper with Davis Architects, who designed the building.

Much of the outside work, excluding the deck and observation pier, has been completed, and work inside the building is ongoing, said Marty Martin, project manager for B.L. Harbert International, contractor for the building.

One unique feature of the building's exterior is the observation pier, and work on the pier's foundation began in July. The pier will be about two stories tall and will give a bird's view of the surrounding woodlands and lake. Harbert crews will be completing the pier using galvanized metal and wood.

Another distinctive sustainable characteristic of the building is the installation of a rain water retention tank, which will store 11,000 gallons of rainwater to be used to flush toilets, provide water for the fire sprinkler system and other sustainable uses. Other exterior activities to be completed include painting, installation of siding and landscaping.



Nearing Completion

The Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center, shown in this front-facing view, is nearing completion and classes are expected to be taught in the educational facility by the end of the year.



Laboratory Use

Before long, this laboratory will be full of students and equipment, but it currently is used by contractors to cut and stain molding going up the building. The reclaimed wood is one of many sustainable materials being used in the center.



Building the Observation Pier

Workers with B.L. Harbert International continue to pour the observation pier's foundation and will soon begin work on the steel and wood structure.

"Construction is going great with the outside nearing completion" -Don Cosper

4-H'ers Learn Citizenship at National Program

Forty-one Alabama 4-H'ers spent 6 days in the nation's capital this summer, participating in Citizenship Washington Focus, a 4-H civic education and leadership program for high school youth.

CWF teaches youth the roles and responsibilities of being a citizen; identifies specific issues that pertain to their local communities; and develop plans for addressing community issues. Youth also meet with their state's Congressional delegation and tour Washington, D.C.

This year's group was larger than those in past year thanks to donors to defray the costs for 4-H'ers to attend CWF. The Alabama Farmers Federation/Alfa, the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation and the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation helped underwrite the cost of Alabama 4-H'ers attending CWF.

Sue McInnish, executive director of the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation, attended part of CWF with the Alabama delegation and said it was a rewarding experience.

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Construction nearing completion (continued from page 1)

On the interior, crews are working on cabinetry, installing ceilings and painting throughout the building as well as other finishing details.

"This is a very exciting time for Alabama 4-H," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors. "As we move closer to the reality of this incredible facility, we move closer to offering Alabama's youth a great opportunity to learn about environmental science.

"4-H is making a commitment to the children of Alabama to teach environmental issues based on sound science in a building that protects the environment," Odle said.

The new facility will contain a large auditorium, three classroom/meeting

areas, two laboratories, display areas and office space.

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 building's performance. 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.

With this new facility, Alabama 4-H's Natural Resources and Environmental

Education program will be better equipped to teach Alabama youth and educators about protecting and enhancing the environment in a facility unlike anything currently in Alabama.

Additional lodge space is also being constructed at the Alabama 4-H Center to provide 20 more hotel rooms for overnight accommodations.

The Environmental Science Education Center 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 \$6.2 million. The \$8 million campaign also supports 4-H programs statewide.

Alabama 4-H'ers learn citizenship (continued from page 1)

"We were so pleased to have been able to assist those 4-H members who would not otherwise have been able to make this trip to Washington, D.C.," said McInnish. "We know from some of our own members that this trip can be a life-changing experience.

"As I sat with five Alabama 4-H'ers in Representative Artur Davis' office and heard him describe to them how reading had profoundly effected him and his decision to enter public service, I knew that this trip would have benefits we could not have imagined."

Kaitlin Crenshaw, a 17-year-old from Pell City, was one of the 41 Alabama 4-H'ers selected to attend CWF. It was her first trip to the nation's capital, and she said she'll have a lifetime of memories from the experience. "One special thing we did was to be able to go down on the floor of the House of Representatives and listen to Congressman (Robert) Aderholt explain how it works," Crenshaw said.

She said meeting with her district's congressman, Rep. Spencer Bacchus, was also rewarding. "There were four students and one adult in our meeting with Mr. Bacchus, so we were able to talk to him, have him ask us questions about 4-H and spend time with him. That was great."

Evelyn Rachell and Jay Conway, 4-H regional Extension agents, chaperoned the group with three volunteer leaders. Rachell said this year's trip to CWF was by bus so more 4-H'ers could participate, and it also gave the group time to plan in advance.

"We met at the 4-H Center the night before we left and we had a pre-trip workshop to discuss issues, learn about democracy and decide which issue the Alabama delegation felt was important," she said. "It made a difference in the trip because we were able to take more youth, and they were better prepared for what they were going to do when they got to CWF."

Rachell said after discussing several problems facing the United States today, and after much debate, the Alabama delegation selected religious freedom and



Alabama 4-H'ers at the White House
CWF delegates enjoy the sites of Washington D.C., including the White House. From left are Mariah Logan, Choctaw County; Jase Sayre, Fayette County; Jesse Pettit, Cullman County; Marissa Edmonds, Marshall County; Cody O'Linger, Jackson County; Ciara Crotzer, Lawrence County; and Aaron Graves, Jefferson County.



Members of the Alabama 4-H delegation pose for a picture during Citizenship Washington Focus.

prayer in public as the topic they wanted to champion. The Alabama delegation took their issue to CWF and debated it along with other state delegation's causes of immigration, gas prices and childhood obesity.

"They had a great learning experience as they discussed platforms and wrote bills," she added.

Rachell said one important moment in the trip was during a visit to the Capitol at the opening session of the Senate. "We were in the balcony of the Senate chamber when the Senate chaplain opened the session with a prayer and then everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. That really hit home with our 4-H'ers since they had chosen prayer as their cause," she added.

Alabama 4-H'ers Recognized for Leadership, Achievement at State Congress



Making Friendships at Congress

State 4-H winners in more than 30 categories were recognized and presented ribbons, scholarships, plaques, trips and other awards this summer at State 4-H Congress held at Alabama A&M University in Normal. More than 300 youth, agents, Alabama Cooperative Extension System staff and volunteers attended.

4-H programs are available in all 67 counties in the state and are conducted by regional and county agents of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The purpose of 4-H is to assist youth in realizing their potential and to help them develop a positive image of themselves. Through "learning by doing," 4-H builds confidence and a feeling of accomplishment.

Contests are a celebration of what the young person has learned and the skills they have developed. Contests, along with every other aspect of Alabama 4-H, are designed to support four essential elements of youth development — belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

"Alabama 4-H recognizes the total achievement of youth: project work, leadership and community service. All three components are equally valuable," said Molly Gregg, a 4-H and youth development specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

State achievement awards were presented to seven Senior Level I 4-H'ers and six Senior Level II 4-H'ers. Senior Level I is for youth ages 14 and 15 and Senior Level II is for youth ages 16 to 19.

Senior Level I achievement awards were presented to the following:

Performing and Creative Arts, Cody O'Linger, Jackson County Communications, Azeem Ahmed, Lee County
 Beef Production, Amelia Spradley, Pike County
 Plant, Soil and Environmental Stewardship, Sawyer Spratlin, Randolph County
 Natural Resources, Adam Bell, Shelby County
 Leadership and Citizenship, Dalta Garrett, Shelby County

Senior Level II achievement awards were presented to the following:

Leadership and Citizenship, Mariah Logan, Choctaw County
 Meat Science, Kara Clark, Houston County
 Small Ruminant, Kara Whatley, Houston County
 Electric Energy, Della Stabler, Lee County
 Plant, Soil and Environmental Stewardship, Amanda Ellenburg, Marshall County
 At Large Achievement, Bailee Dykes, Pike County

Alabama 4-H winners were announced in 19 competitive events:

Alabama Quilters - Senior Level I Best in Show - Leigha Summerford, Morgan County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Sonia Anders, Madison County

Blocks Rock! - Senior Level I Best in Show - Micah Logan, Choctaw County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Zadie Caudle, Chilton County

eXtreme Birdhouse - Senior Level I Best in Show - Kellie Helton, Blount County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Amber Powell, Pike County

Present It With Power - Senior Level I Best in Show - Paul Strickland, Washington County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Kimberly Brewer, Pike County



Chicken-Que remains a popular 4-H competition



4-H'ers and agents from the northeast region have fun at state Congress.

The World I Imagine - Senior Level I Best in Show - Lydia Williams, Etowah County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Suzanne Money, Crenshaw County

The World I See - Senior Level I Best in Show - Ashley Phillips, Etowah County and Senior Level II Best in Show - Rebekah Turner, Talladega County

Bicycle Safety - Senior Level I - Jerry Smith, Lamar County, first place; Caitlin Sexton, Pike County, second place; and William Threatt,

Washington County, third place. Senior Level II first place winner was Ashley Washington, Lamar County.

Chef 4-H - Senior Level I - Genevieve Teel, Pike County, first place; Anna Leigh Peek, Limestone County, second place; and Sarah Abercrombie, Baldwin County, third place.

First place winner in Senior Level II was Markita Stewart, Clarke County.

Chicken-Que -- Lauren Cooper from Macon County was the top winner in Senior Level I. Winners in Senior Level II were Kraig Taylor, Lee County, first place; Matthew Gates, Pike County, second place; and Jacob Smith, Lamar County, third place.

Electrical Celebration - Senior Level I top winner was Dalta Garrett, Shelby County and Senior Level II top winner was Bronsen Edmonds, Marshall County.

Freestyle Demonstration - Senior I Level winners were Shelby Smith, Franklin County, first place; Samantha Hyde, Shelby County, second place; and Richard Borden, Marion County, third place. Senior Level II winners were Kaitlin Crenshaw, St. Clair County, first place; Basia Smith, Covington County, second place; and Hue Davis, Pike County, third place.

Freestyle Showcase - Senior Level I winners were Kayla Aaron, Cullman County, first place; Amelia Spradley, Pike County, second place; and Anna DeRamus, Tuscaloosa County, third place. Senior level II winners were Andrew Brymer, Jefferson County, first place; Amanda Ellenburg, Marshall County, second place; and Bailee Dykes, Pike County, third place.

Have I Got A Story - Senior Level I winners were Candice Harvey, Pike County, first place; Samuel Pierce, Jackson County, second place; and Bethany McDougal, Choctaw County, third place. The top winner in Senior Level II was Abel Nicholas from Lauderdale County.

Healthy Living for Life Exhibit - Senior Level I top winner was Megan Couch, Jackson County; and Senior Level II top winner was Kateln Jarrell, Limestone County.

Lawn Tractor Operation - Senior Level I winners were Brady Peek, Limestone County, first place; Cody O'Linger, Jackson County, second place; and Nicholas McLendon, Pike County, third place. Senior Level II top winner was Will Gotcher, Colbert County.

Project Green Thumb Exhibit - Senior Level I winners were Bridget Freeman, Houston County, first place; Christian Crosby, Pike County, second place; and Tommy Murray, Franklin County, third place. Jesse Pettit from Marshall County was the top winner in Marshall County.

Speak Up Alabama Informative - Senior Level I winners were Azeem Ahmed, Lee County, first place; Amy McDaniel, Shelby County, second place; and Timothy Bussey, Walker County, third place. Senior Level II winners were Alex Masterson, Lawrence County, first place; Lindsey McKeever, Jefferson County, second place; and Kelsey Rogers, Pike County, third place.

Speak Up Alabama Persuasive - Senior Level I winners were Hillary Anderson, Houston County, first place; Daniel Bussey, Walker County, second place; and Mallory Search, Baldwin County, third place. Senior Level II winners were Ethan Parker, St. Clair County, first place; Ophelia McDonald, Lowndes County, second place; and Marc Goff, Lee County, third place.

What Wood U Build? - Senior Level I winners were David Morrow, Marion County, first place; Jake Hammond Lauderdale County, second place; and Peter Last, Lawrence County, third place. Senior Level II winners were Alan Last, Lawrence County, first place; and Jessica Jeffcoat, Pike County, second place.

Alabama Forests Forever Foundation Supports 4-H

The Alabama Forests Forever Foundation has awarded Alabama 4-H \$10,000 for educational equipment for use at the Alabama 4-H Center's Environmental Field School.

The equipment, a GPS system and materials to construct a floating dock on Lay Lake, will help 4-H staff in a variety of programs within the Environmental Field School's curriculum, said Kristy Abrams, environmental education program coordinator.

"Through this gift, the Alabama Forests Forever Foundation is helping us purchase needed equipment for the Environmental Field School, and it will enable Alabama 4-H to better teach children about the environment," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation. "We are grateful to the Alabama Forests Forever Foundation for their generosity and partnership."

"The purchase of the GPS units will allow Environmental Field School staff to develop a new curriculum in orienteering so that students can identify the watershed boundaries with coordinates," Abrams said. "Currently, students are introduced to some basic orienteering skills using a compass and pacing, and the new equipment will enable us to expand teaching."

The floating dock will be used as a laboratory and will allow students to take water samples and measure oxygen levels at a variety of depths, Abrams said. "The dock will be a valuable tool in teaching children because we will be able to leave the shore and allow them to explore the lake and its habitat."

Abrams said in addition to teaching environmental issues, using the floating dock will enable the Environmental Field School to incorporate team-building skills. "Students will have to work effectively and efficiently with others, and will require teamwork to move out into the lake," she said. "Students will learn the value of setting goals and working together to achieve success."

The Alabama Forests Forever Foundation is a cooperative program of the Alabama Forestry Association and the Alabama Forestry Commission.



Sponsors Help Make Classic Successful

Alabama 4-H salutes the sponsors of the Alabama 4-H Golf Classic who gave financial and in-kind support to ensure the success of the tournament.

Many businesses, organizations and individuals donate sponsorships and gift prizes to 4-H for the classic. 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 a Founding Sponsor.

Designed by Hurdzan-Fry, this 18-hole championship golf course stretches 7,444 yards and offers some of the most immaculate golf course conditions in Alabama. Golfers enjoy a diverse layout with striking views of the mountains and lakes on Pursell Farms, along with dramatic elevation changes, wide fairways and pure pristine greens.

Touted as the world's first research and demonstration golf course, the course was originally developed as a living laboratory to test future golf products and educate golf superintendents. During a round of golf, golfers experience the future varieties of cool- and warm-season grasses.

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 partner to support programs to benefit the children of Alabama. Alabama Power, a donor/supporter to 4-H for nearly 60 years, also financially contributes to several programs in the 4-H science, engineer and technology curriculum.

Willard Bowers, vice president of Environmental Affairs for Alabama Power, said Alabama Power recognizes 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.

Bowers, who is a member of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, sees the achievements of Alabama youth in the 4-H program, and also sees the need for continuing the strong connection between Alabama Power and 4-H.

"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 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.

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.



A golfer tees off from one of FarmLinks more impressive holes.



A team enjoys the beauty and great golf offered at FarmLinks.



4-H Foundation board chairman Jack Odle, left, and Lamar Nichols, assistant director for 4-H and Youth Development, right, welcome Troy University coach and former 4-H'er Larry Blakeney.



State 4-H Council President Andrew Brymer thanks Joe Kines for his participation.

Third Annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic at FarmLinks a Success

More than 120 golfers from around the state reconnected with one of the largest youth development organizations and played one of Alabama's unique courses during the third annual Alabama 4-H Golf Classic at FarmLinks Golf Course in Sylacauga.

The golfers also got to visit with coaching greats Pat Dye, Joe Kines and Larry Blakeney and hear how 4-H guided them to help develop successful careers.

The 2007 Classic made more than \$24,000 for Alabama 4-H, with profits supporting programming statewide and to the Campaign for Alabama 4-H to construct the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center. In the 3 years of the classic, nearly \$65,000 has been raised to support Alabama 4-H.

"The 4-H Foundation is grateful for the support of FarmLinks Golf Course and all of the golfers who play in the classic," said Jack Odle, chairman of the board of directors of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Alabama Power Company was this year's "Head" Clover corporate sponsor of the classic, and a number of other corporations, organizations and individuals supported the golf tournament. FarmLinks also supported the classic.

This year's classic was won by the Alabama Power team of John Chitwood, Mike Oakley, Tommy Ryals and Rick Wilson, which had Kines added to their team as a celebrity guest.

A Georgia 4-H'er, Dye said 4-H'ers "are getting a tremendous education and something that will carry them throughout their life, and we thank you for supporting 4-H."

"I'm thankful that we still have organizations and people that support the 4-H program and what it's meant in the state of Alabama," said Dye, who coached the Tigers from 1981-92.

Blakeney, Troy University head coach, grew up in Gordo, Ala., and reminisced about his grandfather's farm and his days as a 4-H'er. "He had a little dairy farm and I showed dairy cows. Her name was Daisy and she won the blue ribbons, not me.

"I learned about work and respect for people through 4-H," said Blakeney.

Kines, a former defensive coordinator for the Tide who currently serves UA as special assistant to the athletic director, thanked golfers who were supporting 4-H program.

He gave Alabama 4-H'ers some advice and encouragement. "Don't lower the bar, keep up what you are doing," he said.

4-H is the largest youth development organization in the state, providing a variety of educational, leadership and citizenship programs to young people ages 9 to 19.

FarmLinks was created by Pursell Technologies, Inc. as the world's first research and demonstration golf course. It was designed to showcase turf and golf industry innovation and product performance through the course's ability to serve as a living laboratory for industry leaders.

The 18-hole, par-72 championship golf course combines recreation with natural elements, such as lakes, ponds, streams, trees, rolling hills, mountains, wetlands and wildlife on the 3,500 acres of Pursell Farms in Sylacauga.



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

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