

# Pathways

## To The Future

Summer 2008

### Monsanto Fund Supports 4-H Youth

Alabama 4-H has received a \$50,000 grant from the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, to help teach state youth environmental education.

Monsanto's donation will help construct an interactive educational display for the Coosa River Science School taught in the newly opened Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center at the Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake in Shelby County.

"We are very grateful that Monsanto, long known for their support of youth, the environment and education, has joined with us to support Alabama 4-H," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation board of directors. "Their gift will support the ongoing mission of Alabama 4-H and ensure that Alabama youth are taught sound science environmental education. We appreciate their generosity."



MONSANTO FUND

"We are pleased to help Alabama 4-H teach youth about protecting and enhancing our nation's greatest natural resource," said Deborah J. Patterson, president of Monsanto Fund. "The Monsanto Fund is dedicated to environmental education and conservation of natural resources, and we are glad to help an organization as worthy as Alabama 4-H."

The display will be of the Coosa River watershed system. It will allow staff to teach youth and adults about watersheds, ecosystems and indigenous animals' natural habitats. A central part of the display will focus on Lay Lake, including a 600-gallon freshwater aquarium to house native species from the lake. The display will also include aquariums and terrariums for live animals.

"This display will be an integral part of the teaching program of the Coosa River Science School and the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center and will help youth develop a stronger knowledge of the environment," said Kristy Abrams, environmental education coordinator of the Coosa River Science School.

For more information, go online to [www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp](http://www.monsantofund.org/asp/welcome.asp).



Delegates at Citizenship Alabama Focus '08  
(see page 3 for story)

### Alabama 4-H Environmental Center Recognized by Industry

The architect and contractor for the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center have received awards for the design and construction of the environmentally focused educational facility.

The Birmingham-based firms of Davis Architects and B.L. Harbert International were recognized for the 17,000-square-foot building, which is in line to receive gold status Leadership in Energy and Environmental Education (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The new facility, which opened November 2007 at the Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake in Shelby County, sets a new standard for sustainable design that is environmentally responsible and energy efficient. This facility provides an opportunity for youth to learn about the environment in a way not previously offered in Alabama – why and how the building was designed and constructed.

"Davis Architects and B.L. Harbert International were partners in the truest sense as we went through the many steps to design and construct this remarkable building," said

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## Alabama 4-H Honors 24 as First Wall of Fame Inductees

Two companies and 22 individuals were honored as inductees into the Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame earlier this year. The 24 represent the first class of honorees to be recognized for their longtime support and commitment to Alabama 4-H.

More than 200 guests attended the Feb. 28 event held at Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Art.

"The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame is a special honor for individuals and organizations," said Betty Gottler, coordinator of the celebration. "All of those honored made a significant contribution to the development of Alabama 4-H programs and 4-H'ers and we are proud to honor them."



Alabama 4-H Foundation board member Dan Presley greets Bertha Jones, one of several honorees who have been inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Those honored were the Alabama Farmers Federation; the Alabama Power Company Foundation; the late Helen Bauer, Baldwin County 4-H volunteer; the late Malta F. (Scooter) Conners, Houston County 4-H volunteer; the late Thelma and John Gottler, Baldwin County 4-H volunteers; Alice Heard, Calhoun County 4-H volunteer; the late Rosalie and Earl Kenamer, retired state Extension staff.

Also honored were Vicki Linley, Morgan County 4-H volunteer; John E. Jones, retired Shelby County Extension staff; John D. McCrorie, Jefferson County 4-H volunteer; the late

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Clarence, Linda and Jim Bauer, from left, look at a photograph of the late Helen Bauer, who was honored for her dedicated service as a longtime Baldwin County 4-H volunteer.



Auburn President Jay Gogue, right, is shown the building's observation deck by principal architect Don Cosper.

### 4-H Environmental Building continued from page 1

Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., the fundraising arm of Alabama 4-H. "We all worked together to create a building that through its design, construction and operation, will teach youth to be protectors of the environment.

"We could not have succeeded without our colleagues at Davis and Harbert, and we congratulate them on being recognized for their hard work."

The Alabama Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented Davis an Honor Award during the 2008 Annual AIA Birmingham Chapter Design Awards. The award to Davis Architects is the highest the judges could bestow in a category.

Davis Architects' design of the 4-H project also took AIA Birmingham's top prize in the institutional category. The Alabama 4-H Environmental Education Center was one of only 13 submissions out of a total of 157 honored for excellence recently by the American Institute of Architects' Gulf States Region during a ceremony in Boston. In written remarks, jurors for the regional award praised the 4-H project for its "skillful implementation of Green Building Technology into the design" and also called its "overall composition and its relationship to the natural environment...commendable."

B.L. Harbert International LLC received top construction industry honors for its work on the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center, winning an Eagle Award as part of the Associated Builders and Contractors National Excellence in Construction Awards, in the institutional \$5 million to \$10 million category. They received the award in Boston.



Alabama 4-H Regional Extension Agent Denise Legvold, left, greets honoree Ryan Sprinkle, second from the left, and his family, during Wall of Fame ceremonies. Sprinkle, a student at the University of Alabama, was recognized for his achievements as a 4-H'er.

## Alabama 4-H Honors continued from page 2

James A. McLean, retired Pike County Extension staff; Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation; Deborah Stabler, Lee County 4-H volunteer; Ryan Sprinkle, Fayette County 4-H alumnus; Ann Thompson, retired director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System; and Bob Whittenburg, retired Extension staff.

Also recognized were several Alabamians who were previously selected for induction into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. They include Ann Barr, the late Thomas M. Campbell Sr., the late George Washington Carver, Bertha M. Jones, the late Cecil Mayfield, and the late Lem Morrison. The late Tom Burnside and W.D. (Demp) Jones were recognized as being nominated for the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

## Citizenship Alabama Focus '08 Teaches Civic Responsibility

Fifty Alabama youth attended an inaugural program where they learned about Alabama government, civic responsibility and leadership, all part of Citizenship Alabama Focus '08.

The three-day citizenship study tour gave participants from 20 Alabama counties hands-on opportunities to learn and practice skills that promote "Better Citizens Today: Better Leaders Tomorrow," said Betty Gottler, Alabama 4-H Regional Extension Agent and CAF coordinator. The 50 youth included Alabama 4-H'ers, urban youth and those whose parents are in the military.

The program began in the Capitol Auditorium with a welcome by local and state political leaders. State Rep. Mike Hubbard welcomed the group to Montgomery. Hubbard and Rep. Richard Lindsey helped sponsor CAF.

Hubbard, a Georgia 4-H public speaking winner, told the teens to take what they were about to learn in CAF back to their hometowns and apply the lessons. "No matter what you do in life, be a leader," he told the group. "My 4-H career has taken me in a number of different directions, to a career in broadcasting as well as a being a legislator."

Opp attorney Wesley Laird, a former Alabama 4-H state public speaking winner, gave the keynote address. A former member of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation board of directors, Laird told the youth to take advantage of all the opportunities offered by 4-H. "Everything I need to know in life I learned in 4-H, especially about civic responsibility," he said.

Laird said he learned his leadership skills through 4-H, and as a successful lawyer and businessman in his community, he's seen his community come alive with small businesses because of the commitment he and others have demonstrated.

"People perish with a lack of vision and a lack of leadership," Laird told the group. "4-H gave me both."

Workshops featured such dignitaries as Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb and Alabama



Clay Redden, right, of the Alabama House of Representatives, instructs CAF delegates how to vote in the House chamber.

## Pathways To The Future

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## Citizenship Alabama continued from page 3

Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Greg Shaw; Paul Pinyan and Brian Hardin of Alfa, who spoke on the “Lobbyists Role in the Legislature;” and Phil Rawls of the Associated Press and Eileen Jones of WSFA-TV, speaking on the “Role of Alabama’s Media in Covering State Government.”

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*“Youth should be concerned about government and we should voice our opinions. We can help get others active and concerned.”*

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Workshops also focused on “Alabama Agriculture Meeting Tomorrows Needs;” “Parliamentary Procedures;” “Youth Issues” with Derryn Moten, a faculty member at Alabama State University, and Alabama’s Department of Public Safety with Trooper John Reese.

Youth also visited the historic sites of Montgomery and a play attended at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Students toured the Statehouse and met Clay Redden, public information officer for the Alabama House of Representatives, who allowed students to vote on issues using the same machines as House of Representatives members.

Aaron Graves of Jefferson County said he learned “about the time and dedication that lawmakers put into their work, the complexity of making a law and about the different branches of government.” Graves said he wants to encourage other youth to attend programs like CAF and wants to know more about government in his own community.



Judge Greg Shaw of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals lectures students.

Fifteen-year-old Aleem Ahmed of Lee County said he learned “that citizens can participate in government without holding office, through lobbying, petitioning and communication.”

Daniel Jackson of Montgomery County said that learning to listen to others and learning more about leadership will help him. “Sometimes, it is possible to change things for the better.”

Erin O’Mary of Marion County said, “Youth should be concerned about government and we should voice our opinions. We can help get others active and concerned.”

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## Alabama 4-H'ers Attend 78th National Conference in Washington

Alabama’s delegation to the 78th National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. gathered with more than 350 youth and adults to share ideas and form recommendations to guide the future of 4-H youth development programs nationally and in their communities.

Alabama’s delegates who attended the conference were Azeem Ahmed, Lee County; Jase Sayre, Fayette County; Amelia Spradley, Pike County; and Della Stabler, Lee County. The chaperones were 4-H Regional Extension Agents Marian Beck, Limestone County, and Wendy Padgett, Clarke County.

This year’s theme, “Green Aid: Acquire, Inform, Deliver,” reflected today’s environmentally conscious society. Delegates focused on the question, “As society becomes more environmentally conscious, how can the 4-H Youth Development Program aid in enhancing socially significant and relevant programming to increase the environmental awareness of our clubs, our communities, our country and our world?”

Through conference focus groups, citizenship excursions, workshops, roundtable discussions and a town hall meeting, students crafted recommendations for the future of 4-H programs. National 4-H Director Cathann Kress presented the recommendations on behalf of the delegates to Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer and other 4-H and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials during the USDA Assembly.

Delegates also met with their legislators on Capitol Hill Day to represent youth from their states and discuss state 4-H programs with congressional members and their staffs. Alabama 4-H'ers met with Sen. Richard Shelby and Congressmen Robert Aderholt and Mike Rogers.



**Alabama 4-H'ers in Washington D.C.**

Alabama 4-H'ers attending the National 4-H Conference spent time with U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, a longtime supporter of Alabama 4-H. Also meeting with the group were Alabama 4-H Club Foundation board of members. From left are board members Dorman Grace, Jasper; and Jack Odle, Birmingham; Jase Sayre, Fayette County; Amelia Spradley, Pike County; Sen. Richard Shelby; Della Stabler, Lee County; 4-H Regional Extension Agent Wendy Padgett, Clarke County; Azeem Ahmed, Lee County; board member W.A. "Dub" Ellis Jr., Centre; and 4-H Regional Extension Agent Marian Beck, Limestone County.

**Volunteer Leaders Forum Helps Adults Make a Difference**



4-H'er Anna Montgomery, third from left, of Albertville gives a Chicken-Que demonstration. Pictured with Anna are her parents, Ron and Nancy Montgomery, and 4-H state staff member Betty Gottler, right.



**Auburn Basketball, 4-H Team Up**

Auburn University Athletics partnered with Alabama 4-H to offer free tickets to Auburn Basketball, and more than 250 4-H'ers, volunteer leaders and 4-H staff from around Alabama came to the Auburn campus for a day of fun. As a service project, 4-H'ers brought one canned food item and 19 cents to support World Hunger. In total, 4-H'ers donated 325 pounds of food to the Food Bank of East Alabama and collected \$53.97 in donations. In the picture above, 4-H'ers pose and show their Auburn spirit. In the picture below, 4-H'ers load a truck with canned goods

The 2008 Alabama 4-H Parent and Volunteer Forum brought together more than 150 participants for three dozen workshops on topics ranging from Healthy Living to Science and Technology and Natural Resources.

"There were lots of good nuts and bolts insights on building and maintaining healthy 4-H programs for our youth," said Nancy Alexander, state specialist for volunteerism.

"This year's forum was coordinated and led by the volunteer association," said Alexander. "They presented half of the workshops, and the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Association board took leadership in developing and coordinating this event.

"Volunteers are such an important part of what we do in 4-H because they deliver many programs to our youth," she said. "They are dedicated to the mission of 4-H and many of them are 4-H alumni. They want to serve the youth of our state by giving their talents and time, and 4-H would not be the strong youth development program it is without them."

With members from across the state, the association provides opportunities for leaders to receive educational training, exchange ideas and broaden communication to better serve youth.

For information about the Volunteer Leaders Association, go online to <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/volunteers/docs/08%20Membership.pdf>.



Don Claborn, left, president of the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Association, presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Bill Garrett.



4-H youth from Cullman and Winston counties take turns practicing at the new range in Winston County.



Tim Robinson, left, and Jay Conway, proudly display a sign for the new Trap and Skeet Range on Robinson's family farm.

## Family Builds Range to Support 4-H Youth, Shooting Sports Program

Much like the adage, “If you build it they will come,” Tim Robinson and his family felt a similar calling, but to shooting sports.

Robinson and other members of his family felt strongly that teens should have support and guidance when they are interested in participating in a particular sport, so much so that they recently opened a trap and skeet range on their family farm. Their range allows youth in Cullman and Winston counties and surrounding areas to have a safe place to learn from trained volunteers, practice and compete. On one recent Sunday afternoon, more than 20 11- to 18-year-olds came to the facility for a practice competition, bringing about 50 family members to watch.

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*“Several families and local residents came together and helped raise money.”*

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In the small community of Addison, farming is big business, and many families have acreage. The Robinson family set aside land on their fourth-generation farm, and built two shooting houses and facilities to teach youth about shooting sports.

“Several families and local residents came together and helped raise money,” Robinson said. “We also received some state help and a gift from the National Rifle Association to buy machines.”

Alabama 4-H Regional Extension Agent Jay Conway said families like the Robinsons are one reason 4-H is such a strong youth development organization. “Tim and his family are a

great 4-H family, and they are an example of what a volunteer can do to help youth. We appreciate what they are helping youth to achieve through 4-H.”

The family got involved with 4-H shooting sports through Robinson's son, Lance. The 18-year-old got involved in a Cullman 4-H club several years ago and began practicing with a group of youngsters. In 2006, the team won the state championship and attended the national shotgun championship in Sioux City, S. D.

“Shooting sports is something good for kids to devote their time to and it teaches them discipline and safety as well as individual and team leadership,” Robinson says. “It’s a great sport and it gives kids a choice who otherwise wouldn’t participate in school sports.”

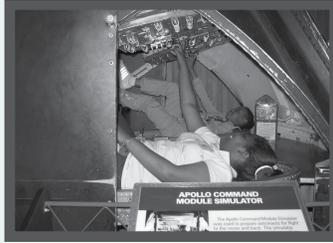
Even though Lance couldn’t compete anymore because his team won the state competition, Robinson saw the effect the sport had on his son and wanted to offer that same encouragement for other youth. “We really want this facility to be used, and we feel like it’s needed in our community,” Robinson added.

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### 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 fundraising arm of Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension Program Coordinator III, at [mccoyjl@aces.edu](mailto:mccoyjl@aces.edu), or call (334) 844-7690.



### 4-H Space Day in Huntsville

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville held 4-H Day to salute the many science, engineering and technology educational programs 4-H offers, and several hundred 4-H'ers from three states took advantage of the day. In the picture above right, two 4-H'ers have fun trying out the Apollo Command Module Simulator. Above left, 4-H Regional Extension Agent Kenneth Gamble provides information to an interested parent in the 4-H kiosk near the mighty Saturn V, a restored Apollo-era rocket.



Pictured with Aleem Ahmed, left, and Azeem Ahmed, right, is Lamar Nichols, state program leader for Alabama 4-H.



Clarke County 4-H'ers had a party to celebrate the new Blue Bell Centennial Cupcake ice cream that honors 4-H.

### 4-H Inspires New Blue Bell Flavor

Blue Bell Creameries is honoring 4-H's 100 years of successful youth development with the introduction of Centennial Cupcake ice cream. To sweeten the deal, the creamery is donating a portion of the sales to promote 4-H educational programs.

Alabama is one of 17 states nationally where the ice cream is being sold and a portion of sales in Alabama will go toward state programs. Alabama 4-H, which will this fall begin its centennial celebration with local, regional and statewide activities, has served the ice cream at several events, including a special party in Clarke County coordinated by 4-H Regional Extension Agent Wendy Padgett.

Centennial Cupcake ice cream is a cake batter ice cream with pieces of yellow cake, a chocolate icing swirl and four-leaf clover sprinkles.

"4-H benefits so many young people with its youth development programs," said Paul Kruse, Blue Bell CEO and president. "This is just a small token of our appreciation. 4-H has been around for more than 100 years. Blue Bell just finished celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007, so we understand how special it is to reach the century mark."

Several stores stock the Blue Bell Centennial Cupcake ice cream. Enjoy a cool treat and support Alabama 4-H!

### Lee County Teens Win Prudential Community Service Award

Lee County brothers Azeem and Aleem Ahmed were recently honored with the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for outstanding community service.

Alabama 4-H nominated Azeem Ahmed for his work with Lee County Rocketry and Robotics. He currently serves on the Alabama State 4-H Council and volunteers with the March of Dimes, the East Alabama Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Auburn Day Care Centers and the American Red Cross.

Lee County Red Cross nominated Aleem Ahmed for his work with Kids-4-Kids, a program based on a simple math problem. Aleem has also worked with Club Red, Project SHARE and Community Emergency Education Campaign.

Both are members of the Learning Clovers 4-H Club in Lee County.

### CD Features Songs From 4-H Artists

"Clover Country: Songs From Famous 4-H Alumni," has already sold more than 32,000 copies. That makes the 4-H CD one of the most successful specialty music projects ever.

National 4-H Council partnered with EMI Music to create "Clover Country," the first-of-its-kind country music compilation CD featuring famous 4-H alumni. Proceeds from each CD sold support 4-H programs and millions of youth across America.

"Clover Country" features Grammy-winning songwriter Hillary Lindsey's "The Clown," which Lindsey exclusively recorded for the album. The CD also includes hit songs from country music megastars and 4-H alumni Sugarland, Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, Faith Hill, Vince Gill, Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, Luke Bryan and Alabama.

To purchase a CD, go to <http://www.clovercountrycd.com>. A portion of the proceeds of CDs bought in Alabama will support Alabama 4-H.



**Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!**  
**If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Alexander, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.**  
**226 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5612 Phone: (334) 844-2219 Fax: (334) 844-7201**



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