



4-H Connection



Virginia Cooperative Extension, Powhatan County Office

3910 Old Buckingham Road, Powhatan, VA 23139 (804) 598-5640



Build it and they will come...

Submitted by Powhatan 4-H Outdoors Club

The 4-H Outdoors Club has taken enormous steps to preserve endangered amphibians native to Virginia. According to the Virginia Wildlife Action Plan developed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries of the approximate 74 species found in Virginia, 32 are at risk of endangerment. The primary reasons for this decline are loss of habitat, loss of native plants and poor water quality.

About a year and a half ago the 4-H Outdoors Club was visited by Dr. Lou Verner of the DGIF. He spoke about how each homeowner can help make a positive difference by action and by education. He shared that he had previously created a successful frog pond which inspired the 4-H club to create their own frog pond. After surveying many possible sites, the club decided to create a frog pond on the grounds of Historic Belmead (St. Francis/St. Emma) because of the area's rich biodiversity and their generous support of the local 4-H clubs. They hoped to establish not only a safe and nurturing habitat for frogs but also a tranquil retreat for our community.

On a hot day last July, club members set up a table in front of Powhatan's Tractor Supply. They provided educational information about the vital role



frogs play in our community. They also sold food and drinks to many generous supportive individuals to raise money for the pond. The club then drafted letters to area businesses for additional supplies and donations. Tractor Supply Co., Home Depot and Lowes all provided donations to this project. A local company donated the use a small back hoe and on a beautiful fall day the digging began. Once the hole was created, they placed

a layer of sand in the bottom and then covered it with a pond liner. Club members searched nearby woods and riverbanks to find rocks to place in and around the pond for natural protection and support for pond life. Finally the water and was added. The club received many donations of plants and grasses to help landscape in and around the pond. Currently the Outdoors Club Members are waiting for the arrival of the frogs.

WELCOME HOME!



Good things come to those who wait

Submitted by Foal'n Around 4-H Club

Powhatan's Foal'n Around 4-H Club has been following the pregnancy of this year's crop of foals at Meteor Hill Farm, owned by Charlie and Catherine Akins. The members have seen ultrasounds of the fetus, felt the foals move in the belly, watched the sides swell and the bags fill with milk. They have learned about the nutritional needs of a pregnant mare, protective shots and worming schedules and the problem of feeding fescue hay.

After following the pregnancy of Diamond's Rule, "Bling", for the past year, the Foal'n Around 4-H Club was rewarded with the birth of a filly on May 6, almost exactly one year to the day of conception, which was done by A.I.

Many 4-Hers had spent several Friday

and Saturday nights in the Akins' barn, in anticipation of the birth and in hopes of catching the event, but Bling was a month over due, and slipped her baby in on a Monday morning. Visitors were soon arriving, Lexie Akins and her brother Camden Painter (right), were the first to see the new baby, which has been named Meteor Hill's Preacher's Daughter, aka Shimmer. "Well, maybe it's Shimmer," states Catherine Akins, "My husband wants to call her Peaches. We'll see which name fits her personality."

The Akins also had a Welsh foal on May 1, Meteor Hill Mystery Package, aka Mystery, which the 4-Hers have been handling as much as possible. "Both foals are super friendly and easy to handle. Look for them in the Powhatan Christmas Parade," Mrs. Akins said.



Kids on the Move Day Camp August 6-8, 2013

Youth in grades 5-8 will discover the importance of developing active positive lifestyles! Hiking, Zumba dance, tennis, healthy snacks & more! Contact Powhatan Extension Office.

Young Entrepreneurs spotted at Kids' Market



Last year, Powhatan Farmers Market created an opportunity for youth to earn money as a market vendor. The Kids Market was established for youth to sell items they produced or grew on the 1st Thursday monthly. Cathy Howland, 4-H agent, in collaboration with Powhatan's Parks and Recreation Department, developed a two-day "young entrepreneurs" workshop. This program along with the Kids Market were so successful last year that both were offered again this year with 10 youth participating in the workshops and 18 young people planning to sell items at the market. Members of Powhatan Riders 4-H club, left, display horse shoe dream catchers. They made and sold the items at the last two markets. Check out the kids on the 1st Thurs of each month from 4-7pm.



Local youth attend 4-H Congress

4-H Extension Agent Cathy Howland joined six teens from Powhatan to attend 4-H Congress at Virginia Tech for four days in June. This is the statewide leadership conference designed for 4-H teens. Pictured (left) are Ben McCreight, Alex Oliver, Conner Bowman, Nathan Doran, Howland, Janessa McCreight and Kelly Shelton. "Congress had a lot of opportunities to learn and explore ways to give back to the community," Alex commented about Congress. Conner said, "4-H Congress is an amazing program and I wish more people from Powhatan would attend." Other comments by the local teens included: "It was very fun with cool activities," "Just an awesome place to be!" and "the food at Congress was great!"

Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club earns top honors in May

The Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club took top honors during the 2013 Virginia Hunter Education Challenge in May. Teams from Powhatan County's club won first and third place Overall Senior Team honors, as well as second place Overall Junior Team.

Fifteen counties throughout Virginia were represented at the annual event which was held at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. Powhatan was represented by 25 youth members and numerous adult volunteers and parents at the weekend event. Along with the archery and shooting events, youth take a test which involves 50 wildlife identification questions and 50 on basic first aid and gun safety.

Overall individual honors went to Alex Oliver as third place junior, while John Mootz and Tripp Smith tied for first place overall senior individuals. Local club members also took individual honors in the following categories: Emma Hodge – first place senior, outdoor skills; Trip Smith – first place senior, archery; Rachel Wooten – first place senior, hunter responsibility test; Alex Oliver – first place junior, hunter responsibility test; Anthony Schaapman – first place senior in shotgun; and Alex Oliver – tied for first place junior, rifle. The next big event for this team is the Virginia 4-H Shoot in September. The success of the Powhatan 4-H Shooting Club has been made possible through donations from National Rifle Association, Dominion Virginia Power, and Altria Group.

Interested in competing through 4-H in 2013-14?

Wildlife Habitat, Horse Judging, Livestock Judging—if so contact Cathy Howland at chowland@vt.edu

4-H Calendar

July 2013

~4-H Jr Camp: July 15-19

August 2013

~Kids on the Move day camp: August 6-8, in Powhatan—register through Extension Office
 ~Hunter Safety Course: August 17, 8am-3pm, register
 ~VA 4-H/NRA Shooting Camp: August 11-15, at Holiday Lake 4-H Center

September 2013

~Powhatan Labor Day Parade
 ~State 4-H Horse Show: Sept 12-15, at VA Horse Center in Lexington VA
 ~State 4-H Shoot: Sept 13-15, at Holiday Lake 4-H Center

October 2013

~State 4-H WHEP Contest: Oct 19, New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge, VA



Blue ribbon for Lucy!

Submitted by Jackie Dorset, member of Crazy 4 Critters and Foal'n Around 4-H Clubs

I showed my 7-year-old Beagle, Lucy, in our first 4-H dog show in Hanover County in May. I entered a class called Showmanship. According to Jackie, "We won first place. I learned how to train my dog in showmanship by watching the Westminster dog shows."

**Jackie has also participated in a 4-H dog clinic in the past year and hopes to be ready for the State 4-H Dog Show in the fall.



4-H Scholarship Sponsors:

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Powhatan Christmas Mother
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THANK YOU for your continued support in 2013!



4-H Club Reports



Foal'n Around Club took advantage of the beautiful weather in May to complete their semi-annual road trash cleanup off Route 711.



Powhatan 4-H Outdoors Club recently collected 30 bags of groceries and \$176.81 to donate to Backpacks of Love Inc. Club members stood outside Powhatan's Walmart for two days collecting money and handed out lists of items needed by the organization to achieve their goal.



Majestic Hooves 4-H Club members attended a 4-H officer training held at Virginia State University in Petersburg this winter.



Powhatan 4-H Cloverbuds visited Joann Woodson, PE teacher at Powhatan Elementary, this spring to learn tips on staying fit and active. This club is taking a break through the summer and will start back up in the fall. Membership is open to all boys and girls ages 5-8.



Hot Shots 4-H Shooting Club (top)
Heart of Virginia Livestock 4-H Club
 Both clubs worked a shift at the Powhatan ELC/Extension Office's Lamb BBQ booth during the Fiber Festival in April. They were given this fundraising opportunity since both clubs are new to the county. Everyone did a great job!



Heart of Virginia Livestock 4-H Club recently installed the following officers: President—Sarah Jane French; Vice President—Raleigh Willis; and Secretary—Elizabeth Newman. Several club members participated in livestock judging and competed in the Blackstone Livestock Show and Sale this spring. The club also welcomed Cumberland residents to the fold this spring. Thanks to FFA advisor Henry Paris for partnering with 4-H for local livestock judging activities!

The Powhatan Extension Office has MOVED!

We're in the same building (Powhatan Village Building) but now can be found in the basement. If you have time this summer, please stop by the new office and say "Hi."

Cathy Howland

Cathy Howland

Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
 Powhatan County Extension Office
 3910 Old Buckingham Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139
 (804) 598-5640; fax (804) 598-5607
 chowland@vt.edu



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