Prince George's County Fair
By Laura Manzi

Many successes were had by Prince George's County 4-H at the 2013 fair. 4-H'ers successfully filled their section of the exhibit hall with beautiful projects, clearly displaying their hard work. From woodworking projects to handcrafted clothing, all who browsed the booths were impressed with the talent our county's 4-H'ers possess. In addition to the annual Communications and Fashion Revue Contests, this year also featured a Rain Barrel Competition and 4-H Club Interactive Activities. 4-H Clubs constructed and decorated rain barrels which were displayed in the exhibit hall and later auctioned; proceeds benefiting the individual clubs. Youth from the clubs proudly presented their rain barrels in a competition to promote oral speaking skills and convey knowledge on the use and importance of rain barrels. Also new features in the 2013 fair were club activities held on Saturday morning. The Weaverbirds sewed bookmarks, while the Trailblazers decorated them with fair patrons. Robotics performed robot demonstrations and the Next Generation club quizzed fair patrons on 4-H knowledge offering prizes to contestants and constructing 4-H paper airplanes and pinwheels. It is safe to say, fun was had by all 4-H participants and volunteers. The 4-H staff would like to extend a thank you to all volunteers that came out to support our program and helped make this year a huge success!
First Look Fair
By Laura Manzi

On September 18th and 19th, 4-H Staffers, Laura Manzi and Nikki Guy-Dixon attended the First Look Fair at the University of Maryland College Park Campus. The goal of their visit was to showcase the Prince George's 4H program and recruit potential volunteers. Thankfully the weather was beautiful for both days allowing Laura and Nikki to connect with many students resulting in 61 volunteer inquiries. If you would like to volunteer with 4-H or have a child between the ages of 5 and 18 interested in 4-H, please contact the 4-H office at (301) 868-9636 or by clicking here.

Samsung National Geospatial Youth Summit
By Lisa Edwards

September 25-29, 13 Prince George's County 4-H'ers participated in this conference that was held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. Working alongside over 100 other youth, our 4-H'ers were able to gain knowledge and skills in geospatial technologies, visit geospatial organizations & exhibits in Washington, DC, plan a community based GIS mapping project, and prepare to facilitate in the Maps and Apps National Youth Science Day, GIS activities. Congrats to our new geospatial ambassadors from this county (David Barnes, Nia Barnes, Evelyn Burch, Daniel Burch, Ashleigh Delgado, Adam Edwards, Christian Edwards, Michelle Keyser, Shari Moody, Gabrielle Parker, Victor Parker, Vanessa Parker and Vincente' Parker.

Please be on the lookout for upcoming geospatial projects and other fun. If your club is interested in hosting an event, please contact Lisa Edwards at 301-868-9636 or Ledward1@umd.edu.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Mark your calendars!

National 4-H week is October 7-11, 2013! The County 4-H Office is challenging 4-H Clubs to spread the word of 4-H in their community. Plan an activity or event with your 4-H club to celebrate National 4-H Week in your community. Document your activities with photos and personal accounts and send to the county office by October 31, 2013 to be entered to win prizes!

National 4-H Science Day is October 9, 2013. This year’s experiment is 4-H Maps and Apps! Prince George's County youth can participate in one of two ways. Youth are encouraged to visit the National 4-H Headquarters in Chevy Chase to participate in National 4-H Science Day activities! For more information about National 4-H Science Day click here.

Participate in our own countywide National Youth Science Day on Saturday, November 16, 2013. This event will be held at our local Prince George's County Extension Office, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Interested in preserving our ecosystem? Prince George's County Forestry Board is working with Maryland Department of Natural Resources' State Tree Nursery to gather acorns for tomorrow's oak forests. The state tree nursery grows saplings from the acorns and the saplings are used in greenbelts, parks and forests throughout the state of Maryland. Next year, MD DNR's State Tree Nursery will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

According to a recent study by the University of Delaware, oaks support 532 species of caterpillars, all of them nutritious bird food. So the Prince George's County Forestry Board is asking 4H-ers to help the state create more oak forests by collecting acorns. Prince George's County Forestry Board and WSSC will be collecting acorns:

- Friday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the West Hyattsville Metro Station, 2700 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD
- Monday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to Noon at WSSC's Depot, 8444 Temple Hills, Temple Hills, MD

Both opportunities are approved for PGCPS service learning hours. If the 4-H clubs would like to collect the acorns on their own, please send them to WSSC, Attention: Kim Knox, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 by Friday, Dec. 6. For more information, call Kim Knox at 301-206-8233.

Interested in preserving our county's 4-H History? Interested in preserving our county's 4-H History? 4-H Voices of Our History Project, Extension is celebrating its Centennial Year in 2014, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the implementation of the Smith Lever Act. To honor this milestone, Prince George's County Extension has been working with the National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team proposes to help capture oral recollections of former 4-H members, staff and volunteers about their 4-H experiences. As we are busy gathering our history, we need your help to make these efforts a success. You can assist us with this project many ways.

HELP LOCATE FORMER 4-H'ERS - If you have been a part (or know someone that has been) of 4-H as a member, club leader or volunteer, we want to hear your story! Current 4-H members will interview former 4-H'ers, leaders and volunteers to help capture your 4-H memories. Some interviews will even be turned in to multi-media presentations and may become a part of a documentary that is being put together as a part of our 100 year celebration.

BECOME APART OF A NEW 4-H HISTORY CLUB THAT'S STARTING - participating in this club, youth will learn about the rich 4-H traditions of Prince George's County members. Youth will also have the opportunity to learn proper film and video skills as well as how to effectively edit films.

HELP COLLECT 4-H MEMORABILIA - We are looking for any old 4-H Memorabilia. If you have any old 4-H photographs, videos, flyers, folders, pencils, record books, buttons, or other old 4-H memorabilia, we would love to have these items.

Those interested in being a part of either of these projects are asked to please contact Lisa Edwards at 301-868-9636 or Ledward1@umd.edu by Wednesday, October, 23, 2013 If you would like to see a sample movie project or learn more about these endeavors, please visit the website.

October 19th is 4-H Day at Montpelier Farms! Free admission for 4-H'ers and Leaders! Free admission only honored with presentation of membership card at admission. Please register to assist with the 4-H tents! We are asking for one hour of service between 10am and 5pm; then you can enjoy the fun by going on a hayride, picking a pumpkin or navigating through a corn maze! Please RSVP by October 15th to Laura Manzi, Prince George's County 4-H Educator (lauram@umd.edu or (301) 868-9636).
Announcements and Reminders

Don’t forget!

- The Leader’s Association Meeting scheduled for October 21st has been postponed. This meeting’s business will be covered on Saturday November 2nd at the Volunteer Workshop.

- The Maryland 4-H Volunteer Forum; Strengthening Leadership in Adults and Teens, is November 22-24, 2013 at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City. Contact our office regarding scholarship opportunities.

- Volunteer Orientation/Re-enrollment Workshop is Saturday November 2nd from 9am to 12:30pm. A National 4-H Access Representative is joining us for a workshop on the re-enrollment procedures using the online system. The 4-H Office is requesting the attendance of all leaders to complete their re-enrollment at the workshop. Agenda to follow.

Fantastic 4-H'ers and Valuable Volunteers

Be on the look-out! We are going to be featuring a 4-H'er and a Volunteer in our seasonal newsletters that demonstrate true leadership and exemplify the heart of 4-H.