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Information on the following events & issues may be found in the April 4, 2014 newsletter:

Community Service Project at Spring Achievement
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Therapeutic Riding Program Equipment Coordinator Needed
Woodworking volunteers and members Needed
4-H Junior Master Gardener Program-Registration Open!
Invitation to Sing at 4-H Science Day – April 26
4-H Backpack to Adventure – May 10
RELAX: Alternatives to Anger Seminar For Youth and Adults – May 10
4-H Companion Animal Teen & Adult Volunteer Training Workshop – May 17
Grand Equestrians Orientation – May 29
4-H Renewable Energy Camp – June 23-27
Cat Workshops - May 21, June 18, July 16
IN THIS ISSUE:

JUDGES NEEDED – many project areas do not have judges lined up!

The deadline for having confirmed fair judges and clerks for the 4-H section is May 1, 2014. *If the Fair office does not have the names and addresses (for non-paid judges) or the completed/signed contracts (for paid judges) by May 1, the superintendent will be responsible for paying for the judge’s lunch or gate admittance.*

Our superintendents who have really been on the ball and have their judges lined up have project areas on the nice list. Anyone not on the nice list is officially on the naughty list. Please get your judge information to Jenny ASAP. Fair is not far off!

**Nice List:**
- Rabbit
- Goat
- Poultry – Market
- Pocket Pets
- Cat
- Alpaca/Llama
- Folkpatterns/Folk Art
- Animal Science
- Woodworking
- Leisure Ed/ Teen Leadership/
- Tractors/Engines/Welding
- Rockets/ Computers
- Conserv/Shooting Sports
- Crops/Flowers/Veg./Entomology

**May 1st forms are due next week!**

Where oh where are the May 1st forms? The deadline to turn in May 1st forms is NEXT THURSDAY, May 1 at 5:00pm. We have an alarmingly LOW number of forms turned in at this point. For example, we only have ONE HORSE May 1st form! As a reminder, you need a May 1st form in order to enter animals in the following project areas at fair: Horse and Pony, Dog, Cat, Goat, Llamas/Alpacas and Young Horse and Pony.

**Wood Duck Box Project**

The first session of the Tracking and Wildlife Workshop was on 4/5/14. With help from Paul Kunde and 4-H leader Bob Redinger, participants made 7 beautiful Wood Duck boxes. These projects can not only be entered as projects for fair, but they will make wonderful habitat for the ducks. At their next session members will learn about identifying plants in the wild and some basics of photography.
2014 Capitol Experience

Seventy three high school-aged students from 25 counties across the state descended upon Michigan’s Capitol, March 16-19, 2014, in order to learn about state government and the importance of their voice in state policy while participating in the Michigan State Univesity Extension event, 4-H Capitol Experience. Youth spent four days learning with their peers and participating in topic specific issue groups which included agriculture, crime, drugs and personal safety, education, equality and personal rights, health, environment, and jobs and the economy. Youth, through a participatory learning process, worked in groups to develop mock bills related to their issue area that they followed through all stages of state government using a legislative simulation. Check out Livingston County’s own Kendra Rocha and Roxanne Turner with Senator Joe Hune, Representative Cindy Denby and State Legislative Assistant, Sue Dolato.

NEW! UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Cohoctah Park Spring Clean-Up – April – May 2nd
Calling all horse folks! It’s spring clean-up time at Cohoctah Park. Please contact Don Carnevale to sign up to help. Many hands make light work! We need to pick rocks, paint fences, clean the office and spray for weeds and wasps etc.

Smart Vegetable Gardening 101 Webinar Series
April 22-May 27
Learn how to start vegetable gardening in your own backyard by attending the Smart Vegetable Gardening 101 online course.

Would you like to enjoy the healthy benefits of eating your own homegrown vegetables? Are you interested in starting a vegetable garden? Would you like to increase your knowledge about basic vegetable gardening using Smart Gardening practices? If so, plan to sign up for the Smart Vegetable Gardening 101 online course. Participants will be introduced to all aspects of vegetable gardening, including learning how to get started, planning and preparation, plant and seed selection, types of gardening, maintaining the garden, soil preparation, starting and maintaining healthy plants, and various gardening activities. The
importance of Smart Soils will be highlighted: don’t guess, soil test to see what nutrients are or are not available in your soil, as well as the practice of composting will be highlighted as a means to build organic matter within a soil.

By participating in this webinar, participants will be able to connect with two Michigan State University Extension consumer horticulture educators, Hal Hudson and Rebecca Krans. Attendees will also be able to ask questions via chat pods. It’s suggested that you plan to attend each session to get the most out of this online experience, but if you are not able to attend any one of the sessions, all registrants will receive recordings to view on their own time. Discussion, along with question and answer time, will be allotted as well.

Learn how you can contribute to the Smart Gardening principles of healthy soils, healthy plants and healthy lawns while you aim to grow good produce by using more earth-friendly techniques. These earth-friendly techniques will be highlighted during this series, such as sustainable practices of soil conversation with cover crops, use of mulches and organic practices.

You can access this webinar series from any computer. Be sure you have high speed Internet and have Adobe Connect downloaded on your computer. It is recommended that you test your connection. The class will run for six weeks starting on **Tuesday, April 22 and run consecutively each Tuesday through May 27. Each nightly session runs from 6-7 p.m. EST. The cost of the class is $30.**

Interested participants can [register online before April 22](http://events.anr.msu.edu/SmartVegetableGardening1012014/) at http://events.anr.msu.edu/SmartVegetableGardening1012014/ Upon registration, you will receive a link to the class via your email. All resource materials presented during the sessions will be available for downloading. You can also purchase an optional resource CD for $10 that will have additional educational materials relating to vegetable gardening.

For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit the Gardening in Michigan website at [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu) or contact MSU’s toll-free garden hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

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**Clean-Up Day for Therapeutic Riding Program – May 3-4**

**Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th – 9:00am – 3pm**

Wylie Farm

Before we can get started with our Therapeutic Riding classes, we need to do some spring cleaning around the barn and arena! Our clean-up days at Wylie Farm are scheduled for Sat 5/3 and Sun 5/4 from 9am-3pm. We have a rain date scheduled for 5/10 in case the weather is not on our side ;) Please contact Steve Sadler at 586-929-7415 to sign up. We appreciate your support of this wonderful program! Wylie Farm: 5450 Emmons Rd, Fowlerville, MI 48836
How to Communicate With Animal Activists
May 6
Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds 4H Building

Livingston County Large Animal Committee Teens present an educational event on how to communicate with animal activists by Pat Albright at 6:00pm. Open to all 4-H members.

4-H Companion Animal Teen & Adult Volunteer Training Workshop – May 17
May 17-18
Kettunen Center

Participants in this exciting, hands-on training opportunity will gain new ideas and information about companion animal projects, while having the ability to work with their own companion animal. This workshop is open to 4-H volunteers and youth aged 12 (as of January 1, 2014) and up, who are interested in sharing, learning, and exploring new information about companion animals. Participants will learn new information about activities, club and group development, companion animal management skills, health, nutrition, and many other topics. New for 2014! Participants are welcome and encouraged to bring their dogs to experience hands-on workshop sessions! Support for this workshop is provided by donors to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The registration deadline is May 7th. More information is available at http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/event/4_h_companion_animal_teen_adult_volunteer_training_workshop

Indoor Yard Sale – May 17, 2014
May 17
4-H Building, Fowlerville Fairgrounds

4-H Council is hosting an indoor yard sale at the Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds. From Your Home To A New Home! Items for sale could include gently used clothing, household items, tools, dishes and many more great items that are ready for a new home.

To reserve a table: Send an email to Events@fowlervillefamilyfair.com or call 517-223-8186. The fee for each table is $25.00 to be paid in cash the day of the sale before you set up (You must have reservations). Proceeds go to 4-H Council.

4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp 2014
July 27-August 2
Presque Isle

Space is still available for 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp 2014, being held July 27 to August 2 in Presque Isle. The camper application deadline is May 1. The fee is $345 for Michigan 4-H members; $355 for Michigan youth who are not 4-H members. COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. The application and an assortment of promotional items are available on the camp web site at http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/glnrc.

This MSU pre-college program teaches young people about Michigan’s diverse natural resources, environmental science, the Great Lakes ecosystems and management issues, and related career exploration. It is recognized as one of the top 4-H natural resources and environmental science programs in the nation! In 2008, the camp was recognized as a National 4-H Program of Distinction. In 2009, it received the National 4-H and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Award, and in 2012 it was one of eight programs featured as part of a national in-depth evaluation of 4-H science program best practices. You can use your county 4-H participation fee dollars to provide camp attendance scholarships to reach new youth who haven’t been reached by this program in the past. (The same goes for Exploration Days and other 4-H pre-college programs.)

Camper applications are due directly to the State CYI/4-H Office. No payment should be remitted at the time of application. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis based on:

- Returning campers (25-30 maximum)
- New campers (40-45 maximum)
- Gender balance (36 max for each gender)
- 4-H member/non 4-H youth ratio (non 4-H will be limited)

Geographical representation of campers from across state (Enrollment may be limited per county if necessary to allow youth from a greater number of counties to participate.)

All applicants will be notified of their selection (or not); counties will be sent periodic camper summary by email. Accepted campers will be sent additional forms to complete and return directly to the State CYI/4-H Office along with full payment by May 31.

If county 4-H scholarship support is being provided, the amount of the county scholarship needs to be referenced with the remaining forms and partial payment being sent by the camper. Those who don’t submit all forms and payment by May 31 risk forfeiting their camper spot to wait-listed applicants.

MSU Pavilion calendar
http://www.ans.msu.edu/facilities/pavilion/events_calendar

Kettunen calendar
http://www.kettunencenter.org

Livingston County 4-H calendar http://www.livgov.com/msue/4h/Pages/default.aspx