Cornerstone Crew

Cornerstone Crew started their new 4-H year with elections of new officers. Our new officers are Courtney Lambert as President, Zackary Wilks as Vice President, Brianna Cost as Treasures, and Emily Tirocchi and Tracy Cook as Secretaries. Also appointed were Mary Kathryn Kent for publicity and Victoria Chalko for reporter. The club would like to welcome all our new officers and member’s as well as thank all our previous years’ officers for a job well done.

Our first event of the new 4-H year was our Annual Benefit Trail Ride. The event was Sunday, October 13th where we started at Cornerstone farm and went for a 10 mile trail ride around the beautiful Barden Reservoir in Foster and Scituate, RI. We would like thanks to all who supported our BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE, by riding, baking and donating raffle prizes! A special Thank You to Russ and Ellen Flock, who donated all of the Kentucky Fried Chicken we enjoyed for lunch!!

On October 25th the Club is planning our first field trip to Scary Acres on Scituate Ave. Our community service for the month included pony rides and pet a bunny at the Northwest Special Education Fair at the Northern Scituate Elementary school on September 28th and volunteering at Cornerstone Farm for the afterschool horseback riding program.

Upcoming events will include the Cornerstone farm horse show on October 20th, Equine Affair on November 7-10, Wreath Making Workshop December 3rd and 4th, Christmas Caroling on Dec 8th at Zambarano Hospital in Pascoag and our annual Christmas party with a date TBD.

The URI 4-H Program is an educational program that combines hands on education and life skills. Youth can join community clubs, do 4-H in after-school settings and join as individual members. To join 4-H contact Kristy Horan at kstone@uri.edu.
The RI 4-H Club Foundation sponsored the annual alumni event on Saturday, October 19th at the Metcalf Elementary School. The event was held to coincide with the “Celebrate 4-H” event, where the 4-H staff provided various activities for 4-H youth. A delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner, prepared by Tim and Penny Tefft was enjoyed by all! Nathan Tefft, Natalie Koussa and Megan Gray were instrumental in leading the team of 4-H waiters/waitresses who served the dinner efficiently and with a smile. The evening ended with Steve DelPozzo and the Old Time Fiddlers providing the musical entertainment. Accomplished square dancers as well as novices danced to the music and had a great time.

Thanks to Steve DelPozzo, the Chair of the Alumni Committee, the fabulous cooks Tim and Penny Tefft, and our many volunteer board members and 4-Hers, the event raised over $1,000 which will be used to support 4-H programming and activities.

Tractor Raffle Winners Announced

On October 19th at the Alumni Spaghetti Supper, the winners of the annual raffle were announced. The first prize, a John Deere lawn tractor, went to Jean DelMonico of Scituate, RI. The second prize, a Timberwolf wood splitter was won by Laurel McKenna of Exeter, RI, and the Honda portable generator was won by Laurel’s husband Mathew McKenna.
Our mission for Celebrate 4-H was to inspire new learning and, of course, have a fun time with 4-H friends. Mission accomplished! 50 members showed up for the afternoon event along with approximately 40 parents and volunteers. Each youth received a goody bag full of 4-H doo-dads, treats and project information. The line-up of activities was both fun and educational: pumpkin painting, face painting, survival bracelets, button-making, solar sprint car demo, rocketry and field games. A special thanks goes out to our newly formed URI Collegiate 4-H Club and 4-H teens who ran several of the activities and then served dinner for the Alumni evening.
New ERI 4-H Horse Show Perpetual Trophy

At the beginning of this year, the Eastern Rhode Island (ERI) 4-H Horse Show manager, Megan Gracia, invited the Aquidneck Riders 4-H club to sponsor a perpetual trophy at the ERI 4-H horse show.

After much brainstorming, the club voted unanimously to base the award on good sportsmanship and name it the "Barbara Schenck Perpetual Sportsmanship Award," in honor of our long-time club volunteer. We couldn't think of a better way to honor Barbara, who has been a wonderful mentor to the members of Aquidneck Riders and lives the ideals of good sportsmanship in all aspects of her life.

Club members came up with an original design for the trophy using horse shoes that 4-H dad Andrew Kent shaped into a beautiful horse’s head. The club decided that this annual award would be peer-nominated, and open to any 4-H member participating in the ERI horse show, whether as a rider or a volunteer.

I am extremely proud to announce that the inaugural honoree of the Barbara Schenck Perpetual Sportsmanship Award is our very own Aquidneck Rider Megan Elwell. Congratulations Megan and thank you Barbara!

Portsmouth Parade

The Aquidneck Riders 4-H club recently marched in a parade celebrating the 375th anniversary of the founding of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. The club was approached by the parade committee to participate because of its long history in the town, dating back as far as the 1960’s! Allysha Little and Megan Elwell rode their 4-H project horses while other club members walked goats and proudly carried the 4-H flag and club banner.

For More Information: www.uri.edu/4h
Volunteer Opportunity: Cottontail Rabbits

WRITTEN BY: AMY GOTTFRIED

Amy Gottfried is a research associate in the Regional Conservation Genetics Laboratory in the Natural Resources Science Department at URI. Their lab focuses on the conservation and ecology of the New England cottontail, a candidate species for the federal endangered species list.

Over the past 3 winters they have conducted surveys throughout the state to identify areas where cottontails exist. We are looking to expand our surveys this winter to fill in parts of the state that have not been looked at yet. Amy coordinates the volunteer effort for this project and she is reaching out to the 4-H organization for interested volunteers. This is a very important project for the conservation of a declining species, and would be a great opportunity for 4-H members to learn more about wildlife conservation projects in the state.

Volunteers do not need any prior experience, and the survey protocol is fairly simple. In short, they assign a survey area (on publicly accessible land) to a small group of volunteers which they are responsible for surveying 3 times throughout the winter. When surveying, volunteers are looking for signs of rabbit activity including tracks, browsed twigs, and fecal pellets. Fecal pellets are collected following a protocol and returned to the lab at URI for DNA analysis where they can then determine what cottontail species left the fecal pellet. Surveys take place after snowfall so that rabbit tracks and fecal pellets are easy to see, and to ensure that pellet samples are fresh. Each survey takes 1-2 hours depending on the area. The lab will provide all training and materials necessary to participate in this project.

If any 4-H clubs which may have members interested in participating in this project, please contact Amy for more information.

Amy Gottfried
email: agottfried@my.uri.edu
phone: (401) 874-5812
webpage: http://web.uri.edu/forestry/new-england-cottontail/

Virginia Gobeli Inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame

On Friday, October 11th, one of Rhode Island’s own, Virginia Gobeli was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame recognizes and celebrates those people who have made an extraordinary impact on 4-H and the lives of millions of members. Virginia was recognized for her work with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and 4-H National Headquarters.

As part of the induction, Virginia quoted the proverb “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain”. Further, she wrote “I firmly believe that because of 4-H and its influence on my life, I was able to do all that I have, learning to dance in the rain. I also believe that through my experiences in 4-H, I developed the life skills that helped me become a better person, wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend as well as employee. The 4-H Pledge says it all – Head, Heart, Hands and Health for a better family, community, country and world.”

The induction ceremony took place at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland and was attended by hundreds of people including many members of Virginia’s family, her friends, and former co-workers. Both Associate Dean, Rick Rhodes and the 4-H Club Foundation’s Executive Director Deb Imondi attended the ceremony.
4-H Night at Biomes
WRITTEN BY: HEIDI WRIGHT

On October 9th, four local 4-H clubs attended the Biomes Marine Biology Center in North Kingstown to celebrate National 4-H Week and promote 4-H to the community. Biomes opens its doors on Wednesday evenings for special Family Night events. Even the animals at Biomes were curious about 4-H! Darwin the tortoise got to come out of his pen to race with the Blueberry Patchers’ rabbits. He even tried out the rabbit hopping course! Besides being able to pet the sharks and touch the crabs, the visitors to Biomes got to see 4-H clubs in action. They had their faces painted by the Trailblazers, who had lots of previous face painting experience due to their club pod at The Big E. The 4-Ever Amigos’ hands-on demonstration showed how oil spills harm sea creatures and how humans help rescue them. Anyone who rescued a rubber ducky got a free bracelet! And the Raising and Grazing club, who spent much of their summer gardening, helped kids make a sprouting seed necklace to watch and wear. Besides giving 4-H clubs a hefty discount for participating in their event, Biomes has designed several educational programs for clubs or individual members interested in learning more about caring for marine animals and careers in marine biology.
Save the Date:
Thursday November 7th, 4-8 pm
The URI Collegiate 4-H Club is having a fundraising night at Orange Leaf on Thursday, November 7th from 4-8 pm. 10% of all profits benefit Collegiate 4-H directly! Come treat yourself and help out our new club! Orange Leaf is located in the Emporium at the Kingston Campus, URI, 99 Fortin Rd, Kingston, RI 02881

The Greens Workshop at the Exeter Grange will be help on December 3rd and 4th. This year, each night will be split into two sessions, from 4-6 and from 6-8. Come join us for wreath making, centerpiece making, crafts, and pizza! There is a limited number of spaces at each session. To reserve your spot, email Natalie Koussa at kouss345@yahoo.com. Please include the date and time you wish to attend. $5 per participant

If your club has announcements you would like to see here, please email them to Natalie Koussa at kouss345@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month. Thanks!