

# Ohio 4-H News and Notes

## February 10, 2013

Hi,

When Dean McPheron made remarks after lunch at the recently completed State 4-H Professionals' Update, he referenced the need to consider "benchmark" organizations or programming. The word "benchmark" has always confused me a bit in the context of organizational standards. As I reflect, I think that is because I actually took an Ag. Engineering [surveying course](#) while an [undergraduate](#). We laid out ponds, diversion channels, terraces and other civil engineering type projects, but first we needed to know how to use a surveyor's level and Philadelphia rod (if you do not know what this is, look it up at: [http://brae.calpoly.edu/Brae\\_class/surveying/II/II\\_1\\_philadelphia\\_how1.html](http://brae.calpoly.edu/Brae_class/surveying/II/II_1_philadelphia_how1.html) ).

Our first assignment was to identify a "benchmark" somewhere on the outside of the Ives Hall (the old Ag. Engineering building), and then [survey](#) encircling the building. Through the tracking of the increases and decreases in elevation in each measurement, we were supposed to come back to the "benchmark" so that it was at the same elevation as when we started. Since we know the "benchmark" did not move, our results indicated the accuracy of our surveying. A "benchmark" in this context is a solid reference point.

A "benchmark" in our profession I think can be considered in two ways. First, we have to know where we are today, so that we can know this same time next year if we have made any changes. Hopefully, these changes are positive, but that is not always the case. We cannot just rub our chins and look at the ceiling to identify our current "benchmark", we have to document its dimensions. Then, through and after our programming, we must document our programming to identify its relation to the original "benchmark". Even though most do not like it, these processes are really evaluation and reporting.

The second use of the term "benchmark" includes Dean McPheron's reference. We need to identify those quality 4-H programming efforts that are exemplary, and use them as models. They become the standards, or reference points, from which we can build our own programs. Think about identifying those programming efforts that would be great to emulate. Where are the counties or professionals who are doing high quality youth development work? What are they doing that make them that way? We need to do the same thing viewing our statewide 4-H efforts. That is, what are the "benchmark" 4-H programming states across the country?

If we work things right, then Ohio 4-H becomes the "benchmark" for others – the solid reference point for quality 4-H Programming. If your programming is not the "benchmark" now, where is it? Even if you are a "benchmark" in some arenas, I am sure there are a few other "benchmarks", that if investigated and observed, can provide ideas and innovations for your future work.

After all, that is what we are all about – the future.

Thanks,

Tom

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## **Ohio 4-H Sea Camp Dates Revised**

Note that the revised Ohio 4-H Sea Camp dates are: Sunday, July 14 through Thursday, July 18, 2013.

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## **Patricia Kunz Brundige Youth Development Fund for Positive Youth Development Research - Request for Proposals**

Fund Description: The Patricia Kunz Brundige Youth Development Fund was established in 2012 by the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University. The annual distribution from this fund shall be used to support seed grants for research in positive youth development through OSU Extension. Research areas may include, but are not limited to, volunteer recruitment and retention for youth development programs, impact of youth development programs on workforce development, and evaluation of efficacy of existing 4-H youth development programs. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to OSU Extension faculty and staff. Awards shall be made in accordance with guidelines and procedures established the assistant director of OSU Extension – 4-H Youth Development. For 2013 up to \$6,000 is available. See attached RFP, which is due to Tom Archer by March 18. [CLICK HERE FOR PROPOSAL TEMPLATE.](#)

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## **Recognition of Ohio 4-H Professionals' Update Planning Committee 2012-2013**

Those who served on the Planning Committee of the Ohio 4-H Professionals' Update need to be recognized. From September through January, they participated in several meetings to plan the November 1, 2012 and February 4 events. They also helped setting up, conducting, and cleaning up after each event. Thanks to their dedication and extra work, they provided their colleagues great professional development opportunities. Members of the committee for the past two events were: Janet Wasko Myers, Stephen Brady, Pam Montgomery, Brenda Young, Barbara Phares, Gwen Soule, Kim Catchpole, Sara Kleon, Ann Golden, Mary Lynn Thalheimer, and Lisa Jinks.

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## **Sponsorships For OVC & OTC: Check Our Records (accurate as of 2/7/12)**

Thank you for supporting the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference and the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference. These contributions are very much a part of the success of the conferences and provide direct support to your advisor councils and teen councils. [CLICK HERE FOR RECORDS TO](#)

**DATE** of county contributions for either the OVC or the OTC. For more information contact Allen Auck, [Auck.1@osu.edu](mailto:Auck.1@osu.edu).

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## **2013 Sewing Smorgasbord**

Sheridan Middle School  
8660 Sheridan Road, Thornville, Ohio (Perry County)

[CLICK HERE FOR Sewing Smorgasbord Flyer](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR “Go Pink” for the Fight against Breast Cancer - Purse Contest Rules](#)

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## **Statewide Health & Safety Speaking Dates**

Registration information will be posted later this Spring. For more information contact Judy Villard Overocker, [villard.1@osu.edu](mailto:villard.1@osu.edu).

Area I – June 27, OSU – Lima campus (Lima, OH)

Area II – July 8, OARDC campus (Wooster, OH)

Area III – date TBA, OSU – Newark (Newark, OH)

Area IV – July 1, Ohio 4-H Center (Columbus, OH)

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## **National Urban Extension Conference**

Join nearly 300 extension professionals at the National Urban Extension Conference in Overland Park, Kansas on May 6-9, 2013.

Conference highlights:

- Collaborating to Improve the Quality of Life in Urban Communities
- Partnership and Coalition Building
- The Vital Role of Extension in Under-served Communities
- You Can Be a Part of Policy Solutions!
- More than 50 concurrent sessions, including two “Workshops on the Move”
- More than 30 posters related to conference goals
- Evening reception at Sporting Park, home of the Kansas City Wizards soccer team

Conference website: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/urban-extension/>

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## **2013 National 4-H Science e-Academy Registration Now Open!**

Please join in an interactive, online training opportunity to learn how to train volunteers and community partners in 4-H Science programs.

Participants will come away with the knowledge they need to train volunteers and community partners in 4-H Science programs. Subject matter experts, from across the country, will lead you through more than 22 hours of interactive learning sessions. Educators from within 4-H Science will make themselves available to answer questions and share their valuable experience and expertise.

We can promise that this virtual learning conference is unlike any other online learning opportunity that you have participated in previously. Please watch a short video [Orientation](#) of the E-Academy to learn more about this professional development opportunity.

Visit the [E-Academy web page on 4-H.org](#) for more information and to register for this training! Once you register also be a on the lookout for weekly emails leading up to the conference announcing the 4-H Science Multi-Media Challenge, the opportunity to share your best practices and programs in a Virtual Poster Session, and an opportunity to win prizes!

For questions please contact Ed Bender at [ebender@fourhcouncil.edu](mailto:ebender@fourhcouncil.edu).

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## **Hasbro Community Action Hero Award**

Nominations are now being accepted for the [Hasbro Community Action Hero Award](#). This award recognizes five young people between the ages of 5 and 18 for their extraordinary community service and volunteer activities at a special recognition event in New York City, and awards each winner a \$1,000 educational scholarship. Nominations will be accepted through Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 5:00pm EST.