The summer of 2011 has been one hot and steamy summer, but that hasn’t stopped our 4-H’ers from keeping active. In June Ali (from the Hoofers) and Julia (from the Aggies) participated in state public presentations at Rutgers University. Congratulations Ali and Julia. Some members of the Teens Crusaders spent a day in June at Paterson’s Green Fair teaching youth how to re-use items they can find in their trash. In July eleven teens from Paterson, Passaic, Haledon and Woodland Park attended the 4-H Rutgers Summer Science Program. A week long program where teens learn about the various fields of science including environmental science, food science, biochemistry and microbiology, ocean science, anthropology, genomics and environmental engineering to name just a few. Teens participate in hands-on activities and work directly with scientists in labs and in the field. An amazing opportunity and a lot of fun for all who attended. Teens who attended the Summer Science Program will continue their work with 4-H by educating younger kids about science.

Ali (from the Hoofers) was the Passaic County 4-H youth delegate who along with several other 4-H’ers represented New Jersey this July at CWF (Citizen Washington Focus). Held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center just outside of Washington DC, youth from all over the country participate in a conference focused on community and civic engagement skills. I am looking forward to seeing how Ali can use the skills she learned during CWF here in Passaic County.

With summer almost over I know everyone is gearing up for a very eventful Fall! Don’t forget the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival is quickly approaching; all clubs should be working on club displays, exhibits and demonstrations. We would like to collect canned goods in support of Rutgers Against Hunger at the 4-H tent this year to donate to a local food pantry. Don’t forget to bring a donation and spread the word to others.

It’s that time again for the State 4-H 50/50 raffle. If you have not received your raffle tickets please contact your club leader or the 4-H office. Tickets are $1 each and only adults can sell tickets. Tickets will also be available at ALF.

Hope everyone enjoys the last couple of weeks of summer and I am looking forward to another wonderful Fall here in Passaic County.

Marycarmen Kunichi

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill
Rutgers Summer Science Program — July 11-15, 2011

Exposure was the greatest gift our new 4-H SET Ambassadors received during their stay at the New Brunswick Rutgers University Campus. What exposure was presented you might ask? Well, 11 students from Passaic County were invited to participate in Rutgers University’s Summer Science Program. During their time at Rutgers University', stu-
dents were given the chance to explore the many scientific professions that are available in a subject that plays a huge role in our generation’s advancement. The Passaic County students mingled with students from Camden, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, and Union counties and made friendships to last a lifetime. During their stay at Rutgers, they were able to experience and learn from science professors who were deeply passionate about their careers. One of the students, Sergio Huerta commented on the experience to be “an enlightenment that exposed so much to the naked eye and to the curious mind”. During their time at Rutgers they were also able to interact with college students and other faculty. This enabled the students a chance to ask any questions that correlated with financial aid, campus life, and even personal advice for success in college. Personal interactions with the college students left participant Jose Cuello with the enthusiasm to say “Man I can’t wait until I get to college! The food is great and the opportunity to grasp success starts off here!” Overall, the scientific odyssey to learn and experience the scientific field left many students with a confidence that enabled them to look forward to the future. When you give someone the bread of knowledge and the drink of experience, you have truly given the recipient something worth living for.

What’s next for the 4-H SET Ambassadors? The SET Ambassadors have already collaborated with the Passaic County 4-H Teen Crusaders - leading three Science Fun Days for children at the 4-H office in Paterson. In the beginning of August, they have begun volunteering at Preakness Healthcare Center in Wayne, assisting the medical staff with patient interaction and transportation for recreational activities. In the coming school year, they will be teaching assistants in afterschool programming at Paterson schools and community service organizations. They will not only be science ambassadors but also role models and mentors to the urban youth. The SET Ambassadors are well on their way to bringing a change to the communities of Passaic County.
Club Update - The Hoofers

The Hoofers are having a blast and coming on strong! At the last meeting we had 3 potential members and their moms attend a trial meeting! We hold trial meetings so that people who are considering joining can have exposure first. They can sign up when they attend our next meeting. The girls and moms have had absolutely no exposure to caring for horses. Our members will shift into teaching mode and start over with the basics. They’ll give clinics and teach the new members all about horses at their comfort level. We do that every time we have new members. We’re always anxious to share knowledge with others and use public speaking skills. What they’ve learned about horses is so natural to them that the public speaking and mentoring is second nature which makes it seamless to them.

Kudos to President Ali Mahasky! Ali was chosen to attend CWF “Citizens Washington Focus” in Chevy Chase MD. Ali attended the annual National 4-H sponsored conference. When she came back she had nothing but raved reviews of her experiences. The purpose of the trip is to expose the 4-Her to our government. They also provided a tour of Washington D.C. There were different groups of 4-Hers from all 50 states in attendance at several different conferences. Ali found the trip very enlightening and she had so much fun that she’s still in touch with her new 4-H friends. The entire experience was more than she ever imagined! To the Passaic County Leaders Association we send our sincere thank you for selecting and sponsoring Ali. She was very proud to represent Passaic County and The Hoofers for this honor and great privilege. We are striving to send more Hoofers to CWF next year and the years to come.

Kudos to Amy Pfeiffer for her first horse show season! Amy is now leasing a horse from our sponsoring stable the North Jersey Equestrian Center. Amy’s riding a horse named “Story” at American Quarter Horse Shows. You can consider Quarter Horses falling under a different breed of horse as you’d refer to thoroughbreds. Amy is an excellent competitor at the shows. Her first time out she won the title of Youth Circuit Champion! This means that she earned more points overall than any competitor at the show. At the 4 day AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) held at the Sussex Fairgrounds last weekend she again won the Youth Circuit Championship! She never brags about her winnings so I have to pry them out of her. Amy started learning about horses at the age of 5. She worked her way up from a groom to now winning Championships. We’re so proud of Amy words can’t describe it! Like Katie, Amy has her sites set on attending The University of Findlay after high school. The Hoofers wish Amy continued success in her endeavors. Amy you deserve this opportunity you are the perfect example of a self starter with the grit to achieve your goals.

Katie Barnes our fabulous reining horse girl is headed of to The University of Findlay in Ohio for the fall. She left last week to make one more reining horse show and is starting Findlay the following week. The University is my Alma matter and the best school in the country for learning any angle of the horse business. We are expecting Katie to come back to us during breaks and next summer vacation to share her experiences. Katie has an exceptionally well bread palomino reining horse named “Wishin’ I was Fishin”. She’s shown him extensively this past year and even qualified for the National Reining Horse Association World Championship Shown in Oklahoma City. We wish all the best to Katie and send her off with our love and support. We’ll miss your sparkling personality Katie. We can’t wait until you return!!

To ride a horse is to ride the sky. — Author Unknown
Passaic Power Paws had a great year!! Two of our club members participated in a dog show. We were saddened to learn that we could no longer use our current meeting place - Kamp Kanine, in Little Falls. They were so wonderful to let us use their facility for our meetings. We are happy to announce that we now have a new location for our meetings. We will be meeting at the Rea House in Hawthorne. We are looking forward to starting up again in September and the Autumn Lights Festival in October!

West Milford VelaTEEN 4-H Rabbit Club

Learn about the care of rabbits as animals, pets, therapy animals, show animals, rodents, and as part of the natural food chain. Meetings are held weekday evenings in West Milford. To learn how you can become a member of this club or for more information about the club please contact the 4-H office.

Rocking Horse Rockers

Exploring the trails of West Milford the Rocking Horse Rockers youth learn all about the art and science of riding a horse and how to groom them. The club follows the 4-H horse curriculum with a main focus on learning horsemanship and has an open membership. To learn how you can become a member of this club or for more information about the club please contact the 4-H office.

Preakness Aggies

The Preakness Aggies will begin meeting again in September. Club members will work together to select the topics they would like to focus on for the upcoming year. Past topics have included art, science, communications, community service among other things. The Aggies are currently recruiting new club members. Club members have enjoyed their summer break and are very excited to be meeting again very soon. To learn how you can become a member of this club or for more information about the club please contact the 4-H office.
2011 has definitely been filled with the “Dog Days of Summer” for the “I See For You Puppy Club” puppies. This summer we welcomed four new members who are waiting to begin raising puppies for The Seeing Eye. Welcome Zachary & Sage S and Dana & Tara C to our Puppy Club.

The month of May was filled with six showings of “The Jungle Book”. The West Milford Players invited our club to attend this production and puppies Currie, Damen, Dawn, Quix, Emerald, Kristen and Puffin all enjoyed watching the play. This was an excellent event to attend because it helped the pups learn how to sit quietly for an extended period of time, not react to loud noises, and not be frightened by people dressed in costumes. Through donations from the West Milford Players, our club raised over $500!!!! Special thanks to Erika and Gabriella Crocco for everything! We cannot thank the Players enough for their kindness! May was also a good month for donations to The Seeing Eye. Through their annual online auction, The Seeing Eye raised over $66,000!!! Thank you to everyone who participated in the auction and hopefully you won some fun items.

In June, all Seeing Eye Puppies in training were invited to the Newark Bears baseball game! Specs and his raiser Laura W. represented our club at this event. Later in June, our club exposed the puppies to shopping centers filled with distractions, including popcorn spilled outside the movie theatre, while walking around Preakness Shopping Center. While at this event, five puppies (Damen, Dawn, Fulton, Kristen, and Nasha) were all old enough to take the test and received their training vests. Congrats to all the puppies and their raisers. Wear those training vests proud.

In other news, we wish puppies Emerald, Currie and Puffin well as they have returned to The Seeing Eye to begin their formal guide dog training. You girls will be missed, make us proud and good luck in training. Speaking of making us proud, Gaston has officially passed guide dog training and is a working Seeing Eye dog for a woman in Wisconsin. Congrats to his raiser Christine R and enjoy life as a working dog, Gaston.

If you would like to learn what it is like to be a Puppy Raiser for The Seeing Eye you can do so by following Seeing Eye Puppy “Vinson” on his adventures at www.SeeingEyePuppy.com

The language of friendship is not words but meanings. - Henry David Thoreau
**Club Update - Teen Crusaders**

Crusaders for our Community! That’s what the Passaic County 4-H Teen Crusaders Club is starting to put into practice through fun events and serious community work. As they both enrich their lives and the lives of others, these Crusaders are understanding more and more what it takes to be a force in their community, and that is hard work, dedication, and teamwork.

We would first like to welcome all the new members of Teen Crusaders: Najwa, Ugur, Aliya, Payal, Ashley, and Nileema.

In June, the Teen Crusaders took part in Paterson’s Green Fair. Teaching kids how to reuse “useless” household items for arts and crafts projects. Making envelopes from calendars, magazine bowls and magazine/book holders out of empty cereal boxes. Showing kids ways to reuse what is considered trash, they will be more informed when it comes to protecting our environment. At our club meeting in July, an admissions counselor, Carlos Cano, from William Paterson University spoke about college applications, scholarships, and some ins’ and outs’ on college life. Bryan Castro, the President of Teen Crusaders, said, “If there is anything that the teens learned in this presentation is that one of the most important steps to making your college choices is definitely taking a tour of the college and researching the college.”

The Crusaders also ran a three day mini-camp from July 27-29. This mini-camp truly tested the teen’s ability to interact with children and get into the habit of leading others and guiding them. During this camp, teens taught children how to make Oobleck, a slimy substance familiar to kids reading the Dr. Seuss book, sparking creativity while building with legos, and learning the science behind building rollercoaster’s. In the end, the kids had a blast learning some new things and being guided by teens who cared and nurtured for them!

For the next couple of months, the Teen Crusaders will be volunteering at the Preakness HealthCare Center in Wayne, and presenting to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of becoming.—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Save The Date — Saturday October 8, 2011

Autumn Lights Festival

Come visit the Passaic County 4-H tent at the 17th Annual West Milford Autumn Lights Festival located at Union Valley Road from Shoprite to Bearfort Plaza! Enjoy great food, live entertainment, games, contests and so much more!

Festival begins at 10am, closes at 5pm.

Enjoy!

- Fun games & activities for children.
- Displays and exhibits from all of our clubs, come check out what our young leaders of tomorrow are working on right now!
- Demonstrations by from our 4-H clubs including but not limited to: Passaic Power Paws, I See For You Puppy Club.
- Exhibits from RCE partner: Master Gardener Association of Passaic County. Have a question about a pesky bug or growing your first garden? Get your advice and questions answered by experts in the field.

Support!

- Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) 4-H Food drive: bring any canned foods to the 4-H tent and be part of the solution.

Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) is a university wide initiative working to address the issues of hunger across the state of New Jersey. By bringing together the resources of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, RAH works to increase awareness of hunger, encourage activism and service to tackle hunger, stimulate research to assist those in need, and provide immediate relief through food drives and other events to raise money and collect food.

For more info:

- Website: http://www.autumnlightsfestival.com/

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. -Henry Ford
Happenings In The Community

Rifle Camp Park — Nature Center

Located adjacent to Garret Mountain Reservation, Rifle Camp Park is a major recreational component of the Passaic County park system.

Public nights at the Astronomical Observatory

★ Moon, Andromeda Galaxy, Alberio — September 2nd 8:00pm
★ Jupiter, Alberio, Andromeda Galaxy — September 16th 8:00pm
★ Moon, Jupiter, Alberio, Andromeda Galaxy, Ring Nebula — September 30th 8:00pm
★ Jupiter, Alberio, Andromeda Galaxy, Ring Nebula — October 14th 8:00pm
★ Moon, Jupiter, Alberio, Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades — October 28th 8:00pm
★ Moon, Jupiter, Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades — November 4th 8:00pm

For information & directions Call 973-523-0024

Children’s Workshops

★ Kites — August 20th
★ Birds — September 10th
★ Astronomy — October 15th
★ Magnetism — November 12th
★ Also come check out the brand new butterfly garden!

Children’s Workshops are designed for children ages 8-12 (grades 3-6). Work- shop are held at the nature center. For more information call 973-523-0024.

21st Annual Great Tomato Tasting

Presented by The Snyder Research and Extension Farm and
The Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden

August 31, 2011, 3:00pm — Dusk
$7 admission, children under 10 free!
Canned food donations for “Rutgers Against Hunger” will be accepted
Details and registration online at http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/tomatoes.html
RSVP by calling 908-713-8980

4-H 50/50 Raffle

From now until October Passaic County 4-H will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets to support New Jersey State 4-H. One ticket one dollar and the winning ticket gets 50% of all ticket sales! The purpose of this sale is to raise funds to financially support youth and adults that participate in state and national 4-H events. The county with the winning ticket will receive 5% of the NJ 4-H association share, the more tickets sold the bigger the share for the winning county! Participating counties will also have a chance to win a half scholarship for one teen to attend CWF. Drawings take place October 19, 2011, please remember only adults may sell tickets.

For more information call 973-684-4786 e-mail passaic4h@rce.rutgers.edu

***TICKETS WILL BE COLLECTED FROM ALL LEADER’S ON OCTOBER 7, 2011***
Upcoming Events

September 2011

- Farmer’s Night at Somerset Patriots Baseball Stadium — Bridgewater, NJ — September 1st
- Labor Day — Office Closed — September 5th
- State 4-H Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal, Herpetology and Poultry Show — Horse park of New Jersey Allentown, NJ — September 10th
- Silver Starlite Orchestra — Garret Mountain Reservation Boathouse — September 15th
- State Teen Action Council Meeting — Trenton, NJ — September 20th

October 2011

- 4-H National Youth Science Day — October 5th
- 50/50 Raffle Tickets Due — 4-H Office Paterson, NJ — October 7th
- West Milford Autumn Lights Festival — West Milford, NJ — October 8th
- NAE4-HA Conference — Omaha, NE — October 24th-28th (Marycarmen will be attending)

November 2011

- Election Day — Office Closed — November 8th
- Veterans Day — Office Closed — November 11th
- Thanksgiving Break — Office Closed — November 24th
- National 4-H Congress — Atlanta, GA — November 25th-29th

Answer the President’s challenge!

The Presidents Challenge is for one million Americans to complete the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA). 4-H is answering this call by setting a goal with Michelle Obama to have 100,000 4-H members and their families complete their PALA by September 30, 2011. The Presidential Active Lifestyle Award recognizes those individuals who log their recommended physical activity for six consecutive weeks, five days a week. To Sign up go to https://www.presidentschallenge.org/account/register.php. Fill out the registration form, when you arrive at your personal dashboard page, click on the groups tab and join the following 4-H groups: National 4-H Program (group ID: 96548) New Jersey 4-H (ID 99868) Passaic County, NJ 4-H (ID 100113). And finally begin logging your activities! Good Luck!

Look for the Fall issue of 4-H Happenings in November
READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

It's never too late to help. We are now seeking motivated individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of youth. To learn how you can help please contact: Marycarmen Kunicki—passaic4h@rce.rutgers.edu or call 973-684-4786

Other Ways to Connect With 4-H

National 4-H Website: http://4-h.org
New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/4-h
On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/4H

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H Program Associate

Marcus Thompson
Youth Educator

Dawn Wilkes & Tyriek Lane
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Madalyn Lee
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