A Note From Our Program Associate

As I get ready to celebrate the end of my second year with the Passaic County 4-H family, I am amazed at how much we have grown and changed in the last two years. We are so lucky to have such great club members, volunteers and staff. Club membership has grown and collaborations with other schools and community groups have increased as well. Our club members have been actively participating in club and county events, with an amazing turn-out at Public Presentation Night and several members qualifying for State Public Presentations. I am so sorry to have missed you all present. I was lucky enough to chaperone along with Macy Compton (State 4-H Program Coordinator) the NJ 4-H teen delegation to National 4-H Conference in DC. My first national 4-H trip and I loved almost every minute. I am looking forward to another national trip in my future. I will miss Macy as she retires and takes on a new job as a Nanny to her grandbaby. I traveled a lot the last couple of months, chaperoning North Jersey Teen Conference and another trip to DC where some of the Teen Crusaders attended and taught at the USA Science and Engineering Festival.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge all of the recent/soon-to-be High School graduates. We are proud of you and all of your success. We look forward to hearing about all the amazing things you will accomplish in your future. We hope that you will continue to stay involved in 4-H in whatever ways you can.

As we say good-bye to Spring and welcome another Summer I am looking forward to see what’s to come. This Summer Passaic County 4-H will be holding its first week long day camp experience with a focus on arts and nature during the last week of June in Hawthorne at the Rea House. We are all very excited for this new opportunity. It’s time again to welcome our summer AmeriCorps Volunteers to the Passaic County 4-H office, Azaria Cunningham, a recent William Paterson graduate, Jhoangel Polanco and Vanessa Vargas, current Teen Crusader club members. They will be working the 4-H Day Camp and other programs and projects in the urban areas of Passaic County. I am also looking forward to visiting with all of our clubs that meet during the summer. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

A great big thank you to our judges for volunteering their time to hone our 4-Hers presentation skills. Our judges make a big difference in the lives of these youth and we like to express our gratitude to Passaic County Master Gardeners;

Nancy Rosania
Nancy Shimmel
Anne Kahwaty
Mary Porter
Elaine Wetzl
Patricia Adelle

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” - Leo Tolstoy

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.
Public Presentations April 27th, 2012

Thank you to everyone who made Public Presentation Night a success. We had many different presentations this year ranging from gray wolves, horse hoof care to dogs and how to care for chicks. Each one was educational and entertaining and we all had a blast watching our young 4-Hers present. Our judges definitely enjoyed their time and we would like to extend our gratitude to them as well for giving fair and thoughtful critique to our presenters. Congratulations to Bobbi DeBoer, Alexandra Mahasky, Rebecca Byrne and Chelsea & Julia Semeraro for qualifying for states. Good luck girls! We know you will do great!

Rutgers Students Work with 4-H in Paterson

On April 20th, 8 members of the Rutgers University Expressive Arts Outreach club with faculty advisor, Ellen Williams, Expressive Arts 4-H Agent, visited PS4 School in Paterson to present an environmental art program to kindergarteners and first graders. The project was first conceived by Danielle Austin, club member, as a response to the impact of Hurricane Irene on the Paterson community. The goal of the program was to help the children see that they could help transform their devastated communities through art and gardening. The club members were empathetic to the sadness the children felt as a result of seeing their homes and schools destroyed by the hurricane. In the project, each child planted seeds in a pot which he or she painted and then determined the final location of the potted plant. Many chose to give their plants as Mother’s Day gifts.

The environmental art project also included nature appreciation information presented by the club in the form of advice from The Lorax. To quote The Lorax “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it’s not.” Marycarmen Kunicki, 4-H Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County, provided additional educational reinforcement to the nature appreciation theme.

The Expressive Arts Outreach club, affiliated with the Expressive Arts 4-H program of the 4-H Youth Development Department, is committed to the mission of 4-H. Its constitution includes “Through participation in Expressive Arts activities, youth will develop valuable life skills including communication, socialization, self-esteem, decision-making, leadership, goal setting and responsible citizenship”.

For information on Expressive Arts 4-H activities available through the Expressive Arts 4-H program or Expressive Arts Outreach club, contact Ellen Williams, Expressive Arts 4-H Agent, (848)932-9214, williams@njaes.rutgers.edu
The Velveteens have been busy. Travis and Bobbi represented the Club at West Milford Volunteer Night at town hall. They showed off their painted bike wheels and Lois and I explained what 4-H is all about. On 3/22 we wrote a thank-you letter to Hazelman Farms for Rocky's help, expertise, and gifts to start our bunny garden. Rocky offered to give the club a starter orchard to include peach tree whips, apple and cherry trees in addition to the lettuce plugs which were growing well. The children learned first-hand about the danger of frost which decimated our bean plants at his farm. We reviewed the club by-laws, discussed how we could recruit new members and went over presentation requirements. Brendan gave his talk on his Pekingese dog, which was critiqued by his peer club members using the judge evaluation score sheet. We then worked on our tire garden.

On 4/16 the kids voted to have the club purchase a tattoo kit for the rabbits so we could enter shows down the road. Also the club voted to expand our farm animals to include chickens and goats. Rebecca took ill and our VP Ariana took over the meeting. Travis gave his presentation on the history of the tractor to the group. The baby bunnies were distributed and everyone enjoyed handling a kit during the meeting. Travis gave his health tip on the 5 basic food groups and our snacks were made up of each group.

In April, a big birth announcement appeared on the lawn in the shape of a giant rabbit! We had a bunny baby shower to celebrate mamma bunny’s 9 kits born! Presents of nesting material and treat hay were given to mamma and babies. We enjoyed carrot cake, carrot juice, egg-salad sandwiches in the shape of rabbits. At the end of the meeting, the wood delivery arrived for the future chicken coop and the kids learned how to unload and carry lumber, bringing it to the back.

Presentation Night was a huge success with all members taking a blue ribbon for their efforts. Both Bobbi and Rebecca were invited to attend the State Public Presentation at Rutgers, New Brunswick. Way to go girls! We are so proud of all of you...great job on your first presentations!

May 7th we returned to Hazelman Farms and planted our lettuce outdoors. Rocky demonstrated how to build a hothouse with iron rebar stakes, 3/4" plastic pipe bent into hoops over the rebar pieces, and heavy plastic to cover the hoops. After all the lettuce plugs were planted, we weeded an older existing garden bed before covering them up. Rocky gave us all the lettuce plugs remaining to plant at our own farm. The children made a work detail and carried the orchard trees from his farm to the road, and Lois and I returned later and brought the trees to our own Windy Point Farm. Back at our ranch, we took a tour of the property to see the tree-clearing progress to make way for our future animal compound, several noxious plants and one poisonous one were identified and all were dug up and thrown out. The growth rate of the baby bunnies is tremendous. The children were surprised to learn rabbits love maple leaves because of the high sugar content. Finally, we filled our garden tires with composted rabbit manure and dirt from the compost pile and planted our lettuce plugs in the tires before the rain set in full force.
Club Update — Teen Crusaders

Spring is always a time to be active and full of energy and the Teen Crusaders have been nothing but. We have attended many events in which we gave back to our community and showing them teenagers do care! The Teen Crusaders journeyed to Morris County for Science-Sational Day! There they taught little kids about different types of substances; solids, liquids, and gases, through the demonstration of Oobleck. It was a day filled with education, laughter, and Oobleck just about everywhere!

Officially into spring, the Teen Crusaders were active and blooming. Four members were lucky enough to travel to Washington D.C. where they attended the USA Science and Engineering Festival for the weekend. There they visited hundreds of booths all about science! They were all educating in their own way but mostly they were fun. At the end of the weekend, they were so surprised at how much they learned while having fun! “The festival opened my eyes to a whole new world of science and a future in science. It was a wonderful opportunity and I would be blessed to attend again next year!” said one member of the club. When most people ask “when will we ever use science in our lives?” they think never, but the Teen Crusaders learned that science is all around us. For the next few months, the Teen Crusaders will be as active as ever even with summer coming up. They have plans for a summer camp and many more events!

Club Update — Preakness Aggies

The Aggies have been busy! We went to the Museum of Natural History and had a great day amongst the Dinosaurs, Planets, Gems and other historic relic's of our planet. We also had a 4-H meeting where we prepared Custom Picture Frames which we will be entering into the 4-H Fair. We prepared, practiced and gave public presentations. Four of our members gave presentations, Annaliese and Anisa Fagan and Chelsea and Julia Semeraro. Everyone did great with both Fagan's receiving 4-H Prep Ribbons, and both Semeraro's receiving Excellent Ribbons! Upcoming events include marching in the Wayne Memorial Day Parade, making bird houses to help a member with her Girl Scout Gold Award Project and our year end Barbecue!
Club Update — The Hoofers

The Hoofers want to send our heartfelt wishes for speedy recovery to Amy. Amy, our Teen Leader, Treasurer and Safety Officer has been giving all of our clinics for the past several months. She taught the new members how to brush a horse and clean hooves as well as the parts of the hoof, how to saddle a horse among other things. She showed the new members around the stable and went over several items of tack. Amy told us what horse was related to another so we'd see the similarities in conformation. She gave us the names of horse colors as well as other clinics. We're very lucky to have her in our club. Get well soon Amy we miss you!

The Hoofers are very excited to welcome three new families to the club! Welcome to Breann & her mom Cathy, Katie & her mom Julia and Brittany & her mom Katie. Their first club meeting was a riding lesson. How could the girls say no to join the club? Who could say no to a riding lesson? They came back to the next meeting and all joined the club. They're bringing a new sense of enthusiasm to the club. Our members who've been with us for a while and haven't given any clinics will be helping and sharing what they've learned over the past few years.

The Hoofers have also given many interesting presentations. Some of the topics were: different horse breeds, diseases, styles of riding, saddles, feeds, colors and markings, the equine digestive system, imprint training, how to draw a horse, a day in the life of an equine veterinarian, and T touch holistic horse treatment. Non-horse related presentations have also been done on subjects such as fencing, Madagascar and Coco Channel.

Good luck to our President and Teen Leader, Ali Mahasky. Ali will be attending the 4-H New Jersey State Presentations. This will be her second year attending this event. All our best to you Ali!

Now that presentations are over it's time for us to work on our new craft projects for the County Fair. Huge thanks to Lisa Mahasky, our Assistant Leader, for all her hard work. Lisa is in charge of our club projects. She selects the project, buys the materials and helps us from start to finish. Even down to the the 3rd layer of paint! Thanks for your ideas Lisa & help above the line of duty. We couldn't do it without you!

At our June meeting we're going to put together a new poster board representing our club. We'll have pictures of our members and information about the club we've updated. I'm always amazed at the different and creative ideas the kids come up with. Remember June is month of the horse in New Jersey!

Club Update — Power Paws

It has been very busy here at Passaic Power Paws! Our dogs have been doing a great job with their "downs". We have also participated in three dog shows, "Woofminster", "Wags n Whiskers", and the "NJ State Dog Show". Both the dogs and the handlers have learned so much! On April 27th, we did our County Presentations. We presented topics that we loved and we really enjoyed it! We are especially excited because we have two new members. It is great that our club is growing because it is so much fun!

See you in a little while!

“Civilizations should be measured by the degree of diversity attained and the degree of unity retained.” - W.H. Auden
Happy Spring everyone! Congrats are in order for SPECS, who was placed in the February 2012 class with a retired university professor from Georgia and is now an official Seeing Eye® Dog! Have fun being a southern boy, Specs. We also have to send a big congratulation to QUIX! In February, Quix had her town walk graduation and in March she moved to the Breeding Station where she will become an official breeder dog for The Seeing Eye®. Congrats to her raisers, can’t wait to start seeing Quix puppies around! We have also welcomed two new German Shepherd boys, Tanucci and George! Don’t grow up too quick, boys!

In February, our puppies: Kristen, Alice, Fiona, Nasha, Foxy & Damen, enjoyed a fun day at Liberty Science Center learning lots of science related things and making new friends. In March Alice, Kristen, Fiona, Foxy, Nasha, Damen & Harley all celebrated St. Patrick’s Day by marching with The Seeing Eye® in the Morristown parade. All the puppies wore their most festive green outfit and some were even pictured in newspapers. March 11th was “Seeing Eye® Night” at the Prudential Center where Fiona, Foxy, Alice, Kristen, Damen, Harley & Ensign enjoyed the NJ Devils game along with over 100 Seeing Eye® Puppies. Sports events like these expose the puppies to many things including the loud goal buzzer, large crowds, heights, sitting nicely under seats, and distractions such as food spilled on the floor. Another great exposure trip happened in April when all Seeing Eye® Puppies were invited to tour Newark International Airport. Foxy, Fiona, Ensign and Harley were only a few of the hundreds of puppies that were exposed to getting on an airplane, walking through baggage claim, and going through airport security. This is the only time our puppies will be on an airplane before they graduated from The Seeing Eye and return home with their forever person.

Shortly after all these trips, a big group of our puppies left us to return to The Seeing Eye®. We are sad to say goodbye to Dawn, Damen, Kristen and Nasha but wish them well as they get altered and start training to become an official Seeing Eye Dog®. Speaking of dogs in training, Sayrs and Fulton have been in training for 2 months now and have passed their midterm blindfold test and are working towards graduating! The two will hopefully have their town walk graduations soon, fingers crossed. Our final big event of the spring was our participation in Ag Field Day at Rutgers University. Fiona, Foxy and Alice all participated in The Seeing Eye® Puppy show where they showed Seeing Eye trainers how well they know their commands. Fiona won in her show ring, with a perfect score of 103! Congrats to Miss Fiona. Can’t wait to see what Summer 2012 has in store for our puppies!

My name is Azaria Cunningham and I am a new Americorps member working with the Passaic County 4-H. (I recently provided direct service to Paterson School #13). Having the opportunity to instruct young students on “How to Wire a House” has been a phenomenal experience. Being able to use the 4-H Science Curriculum on “How to Wire a House” as a resource was of great help. The first day of the program was the hardest because in order to grab the students’ attention I had to make it fun and interesting. During the program I would give students scenarios such as imagine yourself on an island, explain to me how your house receives electricity, or brainteasers along those lines. Overall, the experience was both educational for me as a future educator and the students.
Upcoming Events

June 2012

☆ State Public Presentations June 9th 2012
☆ Passaic County Summer Day Camp — June 25th — June 29th 2012
☆ S.E.T. Camp Begins, L.G. Cook 4-H Camp Branchville, NJ — June 26th 2012

July 2012

☆ Cumberland County, Fair Millville, NJ — July 2nd—7th 2012
☆ Citizen Washington Focus, Chevy Chase, MD — July 8th - 14th 2012
☆ Ocean County Fair, Berkley Twp., NJ — July 10th - 15th 2012
☆ 8th Annual Passaic County Fair, Garret Mtn. Reservation Woodland Park, NJ— July 18th - July 22nd
   ☆ Burlington County Farm Fair, Springfield Twp., NJ — July 18th - 21st 2012
   ☆ Cape May County 4-H Fair, Cape May Court House, NJ — July 19th - 21st 2012
   ☆ Morris County 4-H Fair, Chubb Park Chester, NJ — July 19th - 22nd 2012
☆ Gloucester County 4-H Fair and NJ Peach Festival, Mullica, NJ — July 26th - July 29th 2012
☆ Monmouth County Fair, Freehold, NJ — July 26th - July 29th 2012
☆ 94th Mercer County 4-H Fair, Howell, NJ— July 28th and 29th
☆ Warren County Farmers’ Fair, Harmony Twp., NJ — July 28th - August 4th

August 2012

☆ Camden County Fair — August 3rd - 5th 2012
☆ Sussex County Farm and Horse Show/NJ State Fair, Augusta, NJ — August 3rd - August 12th 2012
☆ Bergen County 4-H & Master Gardeners Fair, Van Saun Park Paramus, NJ — August 4th 2012
   ☆ Middlesex County Fair, East Brunswick, NJ— August 6th - 12th 2012
   ☆ Salem County Fair, Woodstown, NJ — August 7th - August 10th 2012
☆ Atlantic County 4-H Fair, Egg Harbor City, NJ — August 9th - August 11th
   ☆ State Dairy Show, Ringoes, NJ — August 14th 2012
Chelsea Semeraro will be graduating Sunday June 3rd, from Villa Walsh Academy of Morristown, NJ. She will be attending Elon University in North Carolina, majoring in Elementary School Education. Chelsea has been a member of the Preakness Aggies 4-H club since kindergarten. She has attended Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington, DC, and has been on the planning committees of the past two North Jersey Teen Conference's. Chelsea has held all the officer positions of the Preakness Aggies 4-H Club and is currently a Junior Leader of the club.

Sergio Huerta will be graduating from the Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology on Friday June 22nd. He will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. Sergio has been a member of the Passaic County Teen Crusaders with 4-H for 3 years.

Tristan Boggle will be graduating from the Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology on Friday June 22nd. He will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. Tristan has been a member of the Passaic County Teen Crusaders with 4-H for 3 years and held the position of treasurer.

Jose Cuello will be graduating from the Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology on Friday June 22nd. He will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. Jose has been a member of the Passaic County Teen Crusaders with 4-H for 3 years and held the position of Health Officer.

Amy Pfeiffer will be a home school graduate. She will be attending the County College of Morris as a business major. Amy has been a member of the 4-H Passaic County Hoofers Club for 4 years.

Natalia Dashnaw will be graduating from Wayne Valley High School. She’ll be attending Sacred Heart University Fairfield, CT. Natalia has been a member of the 4-H Passaic County Hoofers Club for 7 years and held the position of Vice President.

Passaic County Parks Summer Concerts

**JUNE**
SATURDAY JUNE 30TH  6PM (5PM children program)
GOFFLE BROOK PARK HAWTHORNE
New Jersey Symphony (classical)

**JULY**
WEDNESDAY JULY 30TH  2PM
Preakness Healthcare Center WAYNE
Silver Starlite Orchestra (swing)

**AUGUST**
THURSDAY AUGUST 2ND  6PM
Garret Mountain Paterson
La Banda Mixx y Orquesta La Caribeña (Latin)

Bring a blanket, chair, snacks and enjoy music outside!
Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is located in the heart of Stokes State Forest in Sussex County, NJ. You will enjoy 100 acres of beautiful forest in the Kittatinny Mt. Range. Affordable Sessions are one week in length and open to those completing 3rd—10th grade. Enrollment is open to all youth, even if they are not a 4-H member!

For more information contact; Call: 973-948-3550 Email: 4hcamp@njaes.rutgers.edu

S.E.T. Camp: June 26 - June 29 - Campers in 5th – 8th grade will be spending four days focused hands-on science, engineering and technology fun.

Session One: July 2 - 7: Patriot Week - It is going to be a party in the USA as we celebrate our country from sea to shining sea.

Session Two: July 9 - 14 Down on the Farm - Experience life on the farm with our barnyard games. And don't forget fun on the farm with line dancing at the hoe down and a county fair.

Session Three: July 16 - 21 Decade Week - Come to decade week for a chance to experience ALL the fads and trends of the last few decades. Sock hops, afro's, Woodstock, break dancing and more!

Session Four: July 23 - 28 Everyday is a Holiday! - A different holiday each day! Come help us deck the halls and trick or treat during the dog days of summer.

Session Five: July 20 - August 4 Chaos Week - A week where everything comes with a twist, it might be dinner for breakfast one day or making your counselor into a human sundae the next.

Session Six: August 6 - 11 Book Week - If you like to get LOST in the fantasy worlds of reading, you will FIND fun at camp during Book Week.

Teen Week: Aug. 22 - 27 - Come to camp and do all the normal camp stuff with just teens! Campers must be 14 by 1/1/12 and no older than 17 by 8/13/12

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. For information & directions Call 973-523-0024

Public nights at the Astronomical Observatory

- Moon, Mercury?, Mars, Saturn — June 22nd 8:30pm
- Mercury?, Mars, Saturn, Globular M-13 — July 6th 8:30pm
- Moon, Mars, Saturn — July 20th 8:30pm
- Moon, Mars, Saturn, Alberio — August 3rd 8:30pm

Children's Workshop

- Rock Collecting — Saturday June 23, 2012
- CSI Your Computer — Saturday July 14, 2012 1:00pm — 3:00pm
- Kites — Saturday August 18, 2012 1:00pm — 3:00pm

Look for the Summer issue of 4-H Happenings in August
JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

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
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Azaria Cunningham
AmeriCorps

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY
The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional information, contact 973-684-4786 or nj4h.rutgers.edu. Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3583.

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