



Pathways

T O T H E F U T U R E

Construction Progressing on 4-H Environmental Science Center



Work on the 17,500-square-foot Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center is on schedule, with construction workers busily working inside and outside the facility. In the photo at left, members of the Alabama 4-H Foundation Board of Directors and representatives of B.L. Harbert International look at the stone and glass exterior of the building. The picture above shows a side view of the building. Construction on the observation pier and deck will begin soon.

Center Design, Interior Will Tell Story of Energy Efficiency, Sustainability

When 4-H'ers and visitors walk into the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center, they won't necessarily see green, but the building and its furnishings will feature the highest environmental rating possible.

The 17,500-square-foot building, designed and constructed as the first gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building in Alabama, will honor 4-H's rich agricultural heritage and embrace the organization's commitment to teaching sustainability.

Neil Davis, president of Davis Architects, Birmingham's oldest architectural firm, said telling the story of a sustainable building is important and one challenge he and members of his firm embraced.

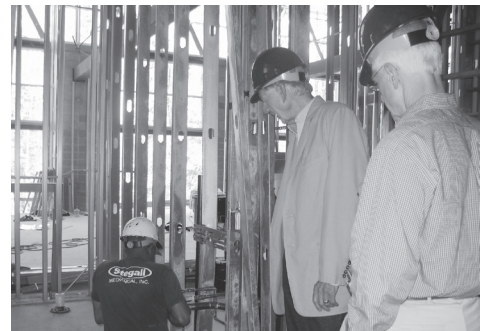
"Designing this building has been an exciting challenge because it needed to tell the story of why it was a green building and why that is important," Davis said. "There will be many obvious things when you look at the building where you will immediately see that it is energy efficient, but other things

in the building are not easily recognizable as being energy efficient.

"For us, how to properly tell the story of this building was an interesting challenge," he said. "We've always appreciated the natural, historical aspects of architecture, but in a building like this, we've come full circle and rediscovered it."

The heritage of Alabama 4-H has also been captured in the building's commitment to sustainability. Alabama 4-H was founded nearly 100 years ago as a way to teach

continued on page 2





Interior Furnishings

Davis Architect staff, from left, Whitney Tingle, Tracye Tidwell and Don Cosper show Greg Fisher, right, furnishing selections for the ground floor of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center.

parents modern methods of farming. While parents were resistant to change, county agents learned that the farmers' children were more eager to learn newfound technology so they taught the children, who, in turn, took the new information to their parents.

Construction on the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center began last fall, and when it is operational in early 2008, it will be a model nationwide for environmental sensitivity and energy efficiency as the first gold-rated LEED building in Alabama. LEED is a building that, by its design, construction and operation, makes a minimal draw on non-

renewable resources and gives high priority to respect for the environment. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

For the building's interior designer, Whitney Tingle, keeping focused on the sustainability of each item proved to be fun as well as challenging.

An example of Tingle's design will be found in the William R. Ireland main lobby area, where multiple sustainable materials are being used.

"In the main lobby of the building, you will see stone and wood, and you will automatically think of earth. You will also see acoustical panels made of recycled materials, but you won't immediately know they are recycled products," she said.

"The tile is eco-friendly, and really all the finishes we chose have some degree of being sustainable."

The acoustical panels, which will be located outside the restroom areas and corridor areas, will also be sound barriers to the opening and closing of doors. OSB wood and steel bars will be used in a grid pattern to offer an interesting focal point.

"In as many materials as possible, telling the story of this unique facility was the goal," said Tingle. "We chose finishes that had a meaning in how they were made. They are beautiful even if they started out as something else."

While the main floor of the center, where the auditorium and meeting rooms will be located, will have an upscale, modern look and feel, the ground floor, which houses the laboratory classrooms and office space, will be user friendly.

Concrete and recycled vinyl tile and carpet will be the materials used for flooring. "The carpet for the offices is almost a 'Jacob's Coat of Many Colors' in look and durability because it is 100 percent made of recycled carpet," Tingle said.

In the hallway, large squares of laminate tile will be placed in a random pattern so children will find it playful. The laboratory classrooms and shared preparatory area will have concrete floors so they can be easily cleaned for the hands-on work that will take place in them.



Alabama Farmers Federation Continues Bond of Support With Contributions to Alabama 4-H

The Alabama Farmers Federation continues to show a strong bond with Alabama 4-H. Eleven additional county federations have recently made contributions to the youth development organization.

The Coffee County Farmers Federation and Marengo County Farmers Federation each made pledges of \$25,000, and Calhoun, Colbert, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Perry, Cherokee, Cullman, and Talladega counties also made gifts to Alabama 4-H.

In total, 17 county federations have pledged more than \$140,000 in support of 4-H at the state level. When combined with the \$250,000 gift by Alfa Insurance, this gift makes the Alabama Farmers Federation, the state's largest, most active and most diversified farm organization, among the largest donors to the Campaign for Alabama 4-H.



continued on page 5





4-H Summer Camp Offers Fun, Adventure for Alabama Youngsters

More than 1,100 Alabama youngsters are expected to attend 4-H Summer Camp at the Alabama 4-H Center. A variety of activities promise fun and adventure.

"4-H Camp gives youth the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs based on the teaching concept of hands-on/minds-on learning, which is the foundation of 4-H programming," said Greg Fisher, program coordinator at the Alabama 4-H Center. "They meet and make new friends from around the state, and they have fun."

During the three-day camp, youngsters are involved in a variety of activities that focus on adventure, recreation, arts and crafts, and aquatics. 4-H'ers from 50 of Alabama's 67 counties are participating in the six sessions, which begin June 3 and end June 22.

At summer camp, kids can try the climbing wall, learn about orienteering, try archery, take a nature hike and get up close to reptiles. They also can canoe and swim, play a variety of sports such as fishing, volleyball, basketball and mini-golf or make different arts and crafts.

Time-honored camp traditions, such as the tug-of-war competition, the 4-H talent show and the 4-H field games teach team unity and group spirit, says Fisher.

At another favorite camp event, campfire, 4-H'ers participate in songs and skits led by camp staff.

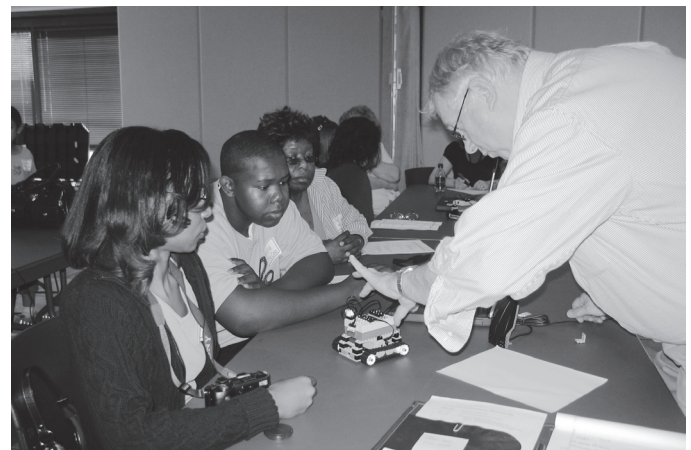
Fees for 4-H camp are \$65 per child, a cost that is subsidized by the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation's gifts from donors who believe in giving kids a chance to be kids.

"We appreciate the many 4-H donors who support 4-H activities and events all year long," said Jack Odle, chair of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation. "Those donors, along with the Alabama 4-H Center, ensure that we can keep camp costs at the minimum, ensuring that those who want to come are able to."



Spaceship Design

Azeem Ahmed and his dad, Anwar Ahmed, design a spaceship during the S.E.T. workshop.



Computerized Vehicles

Marllin Simon, right, an associate professor of physics at Auburn University, works with Willie McCaa, center, a Perry County 4-H'er, to program his robotic vehicle. Watching are Katrina Easley, left, Perry County Extension Coordinator, and Jean McCaa, right.

Youth Explore Science, Engineering, Technology at 4-H Workshop

Youngsters from 24 Alabama counties participated in a workshop to learn about science, engineering and technology opportunities in 4-H.

The youth, along with adult volunteers and 4-H agents, took part in robotics, design solutions and rocketry challenges during the two-day S.E.T. (Science, Engineering and Technology) for Life Workshop at the Alabama 4-H Center.

The goal of the workshop was to showcase the varied programs available in Alabama 4-H in the high-tech field.

continued on page 4

Alabama Lawyers Provide Support for Citizenship Washington Focus

Thanks to lawyers across the state, Alabama 4-H has received \$5,000 from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation specifically to help support Citizenship Washington Focus.

“Attorneys seek justice for their clients each day,” said Nick Wooten, a Chambers County trial lawyer. “Our philanthropic efforts through the ACJF provide us with a wonderful opportunity to expand this responsibility beyond our daily work.

“There are 1,650 attorneys in Alabama who participate with the ACJF, and we are so pleased to be able to partner with organizations such as Alabama 4-H,” said Wooten, a member of the ACJF board.

“The board also wanted to thank ACJF member Wesley Laird for being a champion of the cause of Citizenship Washington Focus. Wes brought this wonderful group to our attention, and we were glad to be able to contribute to CWF,” remarked Wooten.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a six-day intensive summer citizenship program for 4-H youth ages 14 to 19 from around the United States. CWF delegates learn about the democratic process and their role as citizens while they experience our nation’s capital.

“Alabama 4-H is thankful for the commitment made by the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation to support 4-H youth learning about citizenship and leadership,” said

Lamar Nichols, assistant director, Alabama 4-H and Youth Development. “Their gift makes it possible to offer youth a more affordable trip to CWF where they learn about government and civic responsibility that will last their lifetime.”

This year, 40 Alabama youth have been selected to attend CWF due in part to the financial support by ACJF and other organizations.

During CWF, 4-H’ers learn about the roles and responsibilities of a citizen; discuss and develop a plan of action for addressing community issues when they return from CWF; get a behind-the-scenes look at the nation’s capital and the chance to meet members of Congress from their state; and listen to motivational speakers.

The Alabama Civil Justice Foundation was created in 1993 by members of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association. Since then the foundation has awarded almost \$6 million in grants, Wooten said.

Total grants awarded by the ACJF during the past year totaled more than \$550,000, which included \$360,000 distributed through the annual competitive grant process. Other grants were awarded to nonprofit organizations from Donor advised funds and special projects.

Lawyers participate with the ACJF by making contributions, establishing donor advised funds and designating their trust account interest to the ACJF, Wooten said.

East Alabama Truss Company Donates Materials for Center

The reasons to give to Alabama 4-H are as varied as the programs the youth development organization offers. And for former 4-H’er Brad Young, supporting 4-H was a way to thank his 4-H agent and a current 4-H Club Foundation board member.

Young’s family, which includes his father, Jerry, and brother, Craig, own East Alabama Truss Company in Centre. They donated the needed trusses for the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center at the 4-H Center on Lay Lake near Columbiana.

“I’m all for helping 4-H,” says Young. “I know what kids go through today, and it’s amazing to see what kids can accomplish given the support they need.”

Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, says the Young family’s generosity speaks to the long-lasting relationship Alabamians have with 4-H. “4-H makes a positive impact in our lives and most Alabamians can tell you a great story about 4-H.

continued on page 5

Youth Explore Technology (continued from page 3)

Students participated in three main events. Using a computer, youth programmed a robotic vehicle to move, play music and turn on lights; they solved a design problem using a model kit to create a spaceship that could also be used in space as a living facility; and they constructed and launched rockets.

Fifteen-year-old Azeem Ahmed designed and constructed a spaceship that could become a lunar living facility after it landed on a planet. “I learned about the programs 4-H offers in technology and wanted to take part,” Ahmed said. “It’s been fun.”

Treavor Abrams of Coosa County said he wanted to attend the workshop “because I’m interested in engineering and I thought it would extend my knowledge of robotics and engineering.”

Micheala Stewart of Mobile County said she has career aspirations of being a doctor, and participating in programs such as S.E.T. will further her knowledge of science. “I was excited to be able to come and participate. I’m having a great time, and it’s a beautiful place.”

Have a Story Idea?

Do you have a story idea for Pathways? Do you know a 4-H’er who has achieved an honor and want others across Alabama to know about it? The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit fund-raising arm of Alabama 4-H. The Foundation seeks to recognize youth for their achievements. Send your story ideas to Janet McCoy, Extension development and communications coordinator, at mccoyjl@aces.edu, or call (334) 844-2298.

Elmore County 4-H Club Raises Money for Injured Bull Rider

Some Elmore County 4-H'ers got in the spirit of community involvement when they recently participated in a charity event to help an Oklahoma bull rider injured in Montgomery last March.

The Elmore County 4-H Horse Club, known as the Galloping Gang, and other volunteers collected nearly \$5,000 during a benefit rodeo for bull rider Lee Akin, who was injured March 8 while competing at the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and Rodeo in Montgomery.

4-H'ers and their parents volunteered to work at the fund-raiser as a community service project. They also offered to donate some of their extra award ribbons in a fund-raising event.

"I'm very proud of these 4-H'ers and their families who volunteered to support this cause," said Joy Hill of Wetumpka, who along with her husband, David, coordinated the event. "They've had this family on their hearts, and they really stepped up to make it a wonderful day."

Joy Hill, adult volunteer leader of the Galloping Gang, had befriended the Akin family after learning of the accident. "We are a close-knit community, and our hearts go out to someone in this situation. We really wanted to do something to help."

The event, held at the Lazy W Arena in Montgomery, had more than 100 entries and several hundred spectators. Hill said when 4-H'ers learned about the fund-raiser, they wanted to be involved as well. 4-H'ers helped work the events as well as the concession booth to raise money to pay for hospital bills for the injured rodeo star.

In May, Akin was well enough to return to Oklahoma City on an Airvac flight. He suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was bucked off and then stepped on by a bull. Donations payable to Pro Bull Riding Outreach can be sent to American Bucking Bull Inc., Attn. Lee Akin Benefit, 713 NE Highway 66, Sayre, OK 73662.

Akin, of Weatherford, Okla., qualified for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2001, finishing third in the world standings with earnings of \$135,166.



is published quarterly by the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc., and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Publisher: **Beth Atkins Lawrence**, Assistant to the Director, Development

Editor: **Janet L. McCoy**, Extension Development and Communications Coordinator III

Contributing Writers: **Jim Langcuster**, Extension Specialist, Communications; **Maggie Lawrence**, Extension Specialist, Communications; **Donna Reynolds**, Editor, Communications

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

Alabama Farmers (continued from page 2)

"The Alabama Farmers Federation and Alabama 4-H have a long history of hand-in-hand support, and we are grateful to the county federations who have chosen to support Alabama 4-H at the state level," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

"It is vitally important to have strong partnerships with organizations which have the same commitment to agriculture, youth and education," Odle said. "We appreciate Alfa and the commitment by the Federations to 4-H youth."

The organization's gifts are part of the Campaign for Alabama 4-H, an \$8 million campaign to construct the first gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building in Alabama and to fund 4-H programming statewide.

The Alabama Farmers Federation/Alfa Insurance lead gift of \$250,000 has been designated to support one of two laboratory classrooms in the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center.

"It is vitally important to have strong partnerships with organizations which have the same commitment to agriculture, youth and education."

— Jack Odle, Chairman, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

The core of the building will include two large laboratory classrooms for teaching in the Environmental Field School at the Alabama 4-H Center, located on Lay Lake near Columbiana.

The Coffee County Farmers Federation gift was made in honor of Dan Presley, retired Alabama Cooperative Extension agent in Coffee County. The Coffee County group has designated that the stage area in the building's auditorium be named to honor Presley.

A veteran 4-H agent from Enterprise, Presley retired in 1994 after 30 years of service with Extension. A former 4-H'er, Presley has been a member of the 4-H Foundation Club Board for 10 years.

.....

East Alabama Truss (continued from page 4)

"We thank the Young family for their gift to help us construct a facility that will impact generations of Alabamians," Odle said.

A 4-H'er growing up in Centre, Young remembers the agent who delivered 4-H programs to him—Charles Moody. "He was inspirational. He took up a lot of time with us."

And in a small town, life-long friendships are made, including one the Young family has with W.A. "Dub" Ellis Jr., a Centre businessman who serves on the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Board of Directors.

"Our families have been connected for many years, and anytime Mr. Ellis is supportive of something, you know it's a good cause," Young said. "He told us about the building 4-H is constructing, and we were glad to be able to help."

Young said the materials his company produces—roof and floor truss components—have always been sustainable, so supporting 4-H's effort was a match with his company. "We know a good bit about sustainability because trusses pretty much have always been that."



Thank you for your support of the Alabama 4-H Annual Fund!

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lawrence, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.
226 Duncan Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5612 Phone: (334) 844-2247 Fax: (334) 844-7201



To help meet Alabama 4-H's needs for this year, enclosed is my gift of:

I prefer to charge my gift to my Visa/MasterCard:

\$ _____ \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Make check payable to the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Card Number

Expiration Date

Cardholder's Signature

Enclosed is a Matching Gift form. Employer is:

- Designate my gift as follows:
- Alabama 4-H Club Foundation Other: _____
 - Alabama 4-H Center
 - 4-H Program Enrichment
 - 4-H Endowment Fund

Total Pledge/Gift: _____

Payable:

- Annually Amount _____ Year(s) _____ Ongoing _____
- Semiannually Amount _____ Year(s) _____ Ongoing _____
- Quarterly Amount _____ Year(s) _____ Ongoing _____
- Other _____ Amount _____ Year(s) _____ Ongoing _____

Date: _____, 20

Signature: _____

Beth A. Lawrence, Assistant to the Director

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT #9
 Auburn University, AL
 36849

Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.
 226 Duncan Hall
 Auburn University, AL 36849-5612

