



MARCH 2013

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Marin County 4-H Newsletter
 Marin County 4-H Youth Development Program
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 Marin County Cooperative Extension website:
<http://cemar.ucdavis.edu>
 State 4-H website:
<http://ca4H.org>

Mark your Calendars!

March	
Mar 21	Farm Day 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Marin Civic Center
Mar 30	Sectional Presentation Day U.C. Davis
May	
May 9	County Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Marin Co. 4-H Office
May 25	State Field Day
April	
Apr 1	Office Closed
May	
May 9	Council Meeting
May 25	State Field Day
June	
June 1	West Marin 4-H Fair Pt. Reyes
June 2	Western Weekend Parade Pt. Reyes
June 13-23	Sonoma-Marin Fair

The newsletter is sent to all 4-H families with completed and approved registration. A digital version of the newsletter is available on our website. To discontinue receiving a paper copy, call the office at 415-473-4207.

Club News

Birding Project: Citizen Science by Zoe McCormick Tamalpais 4-H Club, Birding Project Teen Leader

I have been interested in birds since I was 4 years old when I first saw a hummingbird come to our hummingbird feeder. When I was nine, I joined **4-H** because I realized that if I did the poultry project, I could talk my parents into getting me a pet bird--a chicken. When I was twelve, my grandparents taught me how to use a bird field guide to identify and learn about birds. I often carry a field guide and binoculars with me so I can continue to work on bird identification. I go birding as often as I can, and I enter my data in Ebird. Ebird is a giant online data base of bird sightings from all over the world. Anybody can enter their sightings on Ebird.

Bird identification is an important scientific tool. Bird identification helps ornithologists (scientists who study birds) learn about the health of bird populations as a whole. Bird populations tell us about the health of our planet. Birds are the canary in the coalmine when it comes to climate change. Scientists who study birds are finding dramatic changes in bird populations. Birds are showing up where they are not supposed to be for a lot of reasons. Sometimes, because of climate change, the food they depend on is scarce, and birds have to leave their normal territory to look for food. All birds depend on water for their survival. When we destroy wetlands and dam rivers, we are destroying the water supply and habitat that birds need for survival. The thing is that it's not just about the birds. We people need a healthy planet to survive, too.

I wish there were more kids to go birding with, and I like to share my knowledge about birds with others. That is why I have started a 4-H birding project. So far, we have learned about finches and made finch feeders. We have gone on birding field trips, participated in a Bird Count for Kids, and seen some really cool birds. The Birding Project is open to cross-clubbers. Anybody who is interested in birding can join 4-H just to be in the project, so tell your friends. If you are interested in the birding project, you can email the adult leader, Alexandra Matthews at Alexand875@sbcglobal.net



Club News

Stuffing Easter Eggs for Halleck Creek Ranch

By Ruby Wolfers, Tamalpais 4h

In one of our meetings, my club watched a presentation from a nice lady named Molly from Halleck Creek Ranch. Halleck Creek Ranch is a place where kids with disabilities can learn to have fun riding horses. They have an Easter Egg hunt on horseback every year.

Last month at our club meeting we filled plastic Easter eggs with candy, bouncy balls, stickers, and little stuffed chicks that we donated for community service.

Then we tied on ribbons and closed them with a sticker to give to Halleck Creek Ranch. They will hang them in trees and the riders will collect them on horseback. It's a nice way for them to have fun riding horses and do something for Easter.



The Point Reyes/Olema 4-H Club Goes to San Francisco

**By Max Muncy
Pt. Reyes/Olema 4-H Club**

On February 16, 2013, 18 members and 6 parents from the Pt. Reyes/Olema 4-H Club went to the Penguins and Pajamas Sleepover at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. After arriving in the city we ate a picnic dinner together in Golden Gate Park. At 6pm The Academy opened to the people going to The Sleepover. After getting inside, we stored our bags and took a group photo then we were allowed to cruise around in little groups. We saw The Swamp, a planetarium show, penguins, The Aquarium, The Rainforest exhibit with butterflies, and an earthquake exhibit. We even got to see Mars and the moon through telescopes on the roof. Some members went to the Radio Disney Party and one person won tickets to see a movie.

At 9:30pm we set up our sleeping area. Our group slept in a round room in front of the Philippine Coral Reef aquarium tank, it was cool! In the morning we all woke up really early and ate a yummy pancake breakfast in the café. Going to The Academy of Sciences Sleepover was a lot of fun. I hope that we get to go again!

Indian Valley 4-H's visit to the Novato Human Needs Center on February 12th.: We dropped off a donation of money we raised for NHN at a bake sale, and we took a tour of the NHN facility.



From the State 4-H Office

California Focus June 14-18, 2013

California Focus is a unique citizenship educational experience that combines hands-on participation in workshops, debates and simulations with speakers, tours, fun activities and new friends from across California. <http://ucanr.org/sites/UC4-H/Projects/Citizenship/Focus/CF/>. **Online Registration will be available February 1, 2013**

4-H Record Book Manual and Forms Updated!

When youth intentionally keep up-to-date on their 4-H Record Book, they're learning an important skill that develops competence and confidence. As youth are working on their 4-H Record Books for the 2012-2013 program year, be sure they are using the most current forms. Did you know the Record Book Manual and forms were updated in 2011? And in 2012 an addendum to the manual was written to help give more information regarding the 4-H Online Record Book (ORB).

Tip: Use 4-H ORB to complete your record book and you will always be guaranteed that you're using the correct forms.

For the most recent forms, go to <http://www.ca4h.org/Resources/Members/RecordBook/>

Update Your PDR

What did you do this month? Take some time to log it in your PDR!

Date	Activity	Category	Level
3/10	Attended Presentation Day	3	C
3/10	Presented at Presentation Day	6	C
3/10	Area Chair at Presentation Day	4	C
3/10	Gold Winner at Presentation Day	7	C
3/10	Participated in Fashion Revue	2, 3	C
3/10	County Winner for Fashion Revue	7	C



From the Staff

County Volunteer Opportunities

There are two needs to be filled at the county level for our program. Please review the following descriptions, then contact Allison at the 4-H office for more information or to volunteer.

alkeaney@ucanr.edu

415-473-4207

Teen Advisor, All Stars and Emerald Stars:

This individual will oversee the All Star application and selection process, and work with the All Stars and Emerald Stars to select a project and an mentor. The All Star selection process begins this spring.

Planning Committee, West Marin Fair:

The West Marin 4-H Fair is the first Saturday in May and part of Western Weekend in Point Reyes. The planning committee needs to set the agenda, decide on exhibits, secure the location and find judges. This committee should be made up of both adult volunteers and youth members. The committee will meet approximately every three weeks, with the final meeting the week of June 3rd.

Marin County 4-H Summer Camp July 14-20, 2013

**Las Posadas State Forest
Angwin, California**

Camper applications will be available beginning April 1st.

They will be posted on the Marin County 4-H Website.

Spots for camp will be assigned on a first come, first served basis! Don't delay in getting your applications in!!

For questions, please contact me via email:

Eileen Castelli, Marin County 4-H Camp Clerk
Marin4Hcamp@aol.com

FAIR NEWS !!!!!

The Sonoma Marin Fair and the Marin County Fair are not that far off! Members should begin planning their exhibits and entries. Please consult the fair websites about entry deadlines and information. Deadlines tend to be early!

[Www.MarinFair.org](http://www.MarinFair.org)

<http://www.sonoma-marinFair.org/>

This Newsletter is Presented by :

Jane Chin Young
4-H Advisor

Allison Keaney
4-H Program Representative

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