

# 4-H2O Day Camp

By Kris Peavy, 4-H Agent

What do 130 youth, a 120 lb. striped bass, and a center pivot irrigation system have in common? Three days of amazing 4-H2O Day Camp!!! 4-H2O is a project designed by 4-H to help youth learn about water quality, water conservation and watershed issues.

The 4-H2O summer program is a water quality outdoor classroom experience with hands on activities. Much more educational and challenging than an ordinary day camp, these programs teach students about the value of water resources to wildlife, ecosystems, and people. 4-H2O summer program

is a collaboration of the C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park, the Flint RiverQuarium, and Mitchell Co. 4-H. This is the 4th and most widely attended year of 4-H2O Day Camp. It was a three day summer educational event to help educate our young peoples about agriculture and the environment, in particular the importance of irrigation and water conservation to southwest Georgia. 4-H staff in Mitchell Co. and their colleagues in surrounding counties brought 4-H groups to participate in this program.

On Monday June 27, the students and chaperones spent the day at the Flint RiverQuarium taking tours while learning about the Flint River; its chemical and biological diversity and the critters that call it home. The youth learned how important the Flint River is to our way of life. We had a special behind the scenes tour where we were able to hold an alligator, view the RiverQuarium and watch a fun movie about prehistoric sea creatures!

The next day, the county vans were loaded and we headed to C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park near Camilla where we learned how agriculture and water resources are intricately related in this part of the state. Students learned about aquifers and how they work to produce and filter clean water for humans, play in the sprinklers, take the 40 Gallon Water Challenge, and make a rain stick, along with various workshops and games!



The final day began with a long trip to the George Andrews Dam in Columbia, Alabama where we met Rome Ethredge, Seminole County Extension Director, who spoke on the importance of a dam in relation to electricity, energy, and water quality. Afterwards, campers ended the fun filled three days with a trip to Dothan, Alabama's Water World, playing fun water games and riding awesome water rides. Mitchell County's 4-H Agent and County Director, Jennifer Grogan says, "I am very impressed with this year's turn out and only expect a greater number within the years to come!"

For more information on 4-H projects and educational events, please contact Kris Peavy, 4-H agent, at the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in Randolph County at 229-732- or visit the Randolph County 4-H website at [www.ugaextension.com/randolph](http://www.ugaextension.com/randolph)



back row: Cole Crawford, Haley Hammock, Kaylie Smith, Brandy Coleman, Jessica Hersberger Morgan Carter, Jacquelyn Slaughter

front row: T.J. Smith, Matt Thompson, Cullen McDonald, Nyeshia Johnson, Kamiyah Coleman, Emerald Starling, Aaliyah Gilbert, Terry Kemp.