



# The 4-H Blackboard

Teacher Edition, 4-H Newsletter

## WCES Dawg Walk is Open!

After a year of planning and hard work, the WCES Dawg Walk is open for learning. The idea for an outdoor classroom was discussed almost 2 years ago in Wheeler County Schools, but the ball didn't get rolling until August of 2009. It was then that Wheeler County 4-H members began the construction of what is now an Outdoor Learning Area. This project is the result of many student volunteers and community support. The Outdoor Learning Area features an outdoor classroom with bench seating, a small stream with bridges and a loop trail for nature walks. The Dawg Walk is open for use by all teachers, students and school groups in the Wheeler County School System. It is our hope that teachers will be able to use this 'classroom without walls' to spark interest in the minds of young students and open them up to a new world of learning.



If you have not had the chance to visit the Dawg Walk, I encourage you to head out and talk a stroll. Teachers that would like to use the area for class need to sign up with Mrs. Butler in the WCES Library. The library also houses our Dawg Walk handbook. The handbook is full of wonderful information: rules to go over with students before your trip, information on future projects if you would like to help, native plant species information, teaching ideas and much, much more. The Garden Earth Naturalist Curriculum is also available to teachers in the library. It encompasses science and language arts lessons for K-6th grades. The lesson plans have two large boxes of materials for teacher/student use as well. If you have questions about the handbook or the GEN materials, please contact me, your County 4-H Agent.

### Wheeler County Extension

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### Dates to Remember:

- ☺ Sept. 8th—5th Grade in-class Club Meetings
- ☺ Sept. 9th—GNF Project Work 3:30pm
- ☺ Sept. 13th—Shooting Sports Parent Meeting 6:00pm
- ☺ Sept. 15th—Horse Club Sign-Up 3:30pm
- ☺ Sept. 22nd—Junior 4-H Meeting & National 4-H Week Planning (Officers) 3:30pm
- ☺ Sept. 23rd—GREEN Club 3:15pm
- ☺ Oct. 5th—5th Grade in-class Club Meetings
- ☺ Oct. 6th—6th Grade in-class Club Meetings, & Senior 4-H Meeting 3:30pm
- ☺ Oct. 7th—River Clean-up 3:30pm
- ☺ Oct. 14th—Dawg Walk Clean-up Day 2:00pm
- ☺ Oct. 20th—Junior 4-H in-school Club Meeting
- ☺ Oct. 28th—GREEN Club 3:15pm
- ☺ Oct. 29th—Pop Tabs due by 5:00pm

## National 4-H Week 2010 October 3rd—9th

I am Georgia 4-H. Over 155,000 youth are involved in Georgia 4-H each year. They come from the mountains of north Georgia to the Golden Isles of the coast, from the big city, the suburbs, and the farms across this great state. These youth are learning life skills through all types of activities...public speaking, livestock showing, civic engagement, mentoring and leadership building...all helping to make our youth



the leaders of tomorrow. Georgia 4-H has something for everyone. In Wheeler County more than 250 4-H members and volunteers are involved in 4-H. 4-H programs are offered through school-based, after-school, in-camp settings and within community clubs. You can join the 4-H community today. To learn more contact: Wheeler County Extension at 912/568-7138, or visit our website [www.ugaextension.com/wheeler](http://www.ugaextension.com/wheeler)

## Wheeler County Extension

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### 4-H Motto:

To make the Best Better!

4-H is a part of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, serving Georgians through local County Extension Offices in 157 counties in Georgia. Each office is a partnership between the College of Agriculture and local County Government. Their goal is to provide citizens with lifelong learning, and unbiased research based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.



## Wheeler County 4-H

### Give Something Back

During most months of the year 4-H Clubs in Wheeler County are participating in community service projects. They range from litter pick-ups to food drives and special needs projects. It's important for youth organizations to teach community responsibility and encourage service learning. Leadership and civic engagement is important for youth in today's society to grow into contributing citizens as adults.

During September and October Wheeler County 4-H'ers will be busy collecting pop-tabs from aluminum drink cans. The pop-tabs are

Ronald  
McDonald  
House



weighed and entered in the County Pop-Tab Contest set for October 29th. After the county contest, tabs are taken to 4-H Junior Conference at Rock Eagle in November where they will go to benefit a Ronald McDonald House. The *Ronald McDonald House* provides a home away from home for families with critically ill children in nearby hospitals. If you would like to help keep a box or jar in your classroom for pop-tab collection, send me a note and I will drop by to pick them up before the 29th.



During September Wheeler County 4-H'ers will be getting geared up for the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia. It is a Wheeler County tradition and a favorite of many 4-H'ers .

Our 4-H'ers compete in: Mini-Booth, Recycling, Decorated Agriculture Products, Inventions, Terrariums, Dish Gardens, Graphic Design and various Food Contests. Each event encourages youth to become involved and showcase something they have learned; often the whole family gets involved. If you are interested in learning more about the Georgia National Fair and what it has to offer, visit their website at: [www.georgianationalfair.com](http://www.georgianationalfair.com) and look for the 4-H events page.

Wheeler County Fair Due Dates:

Sept. 14—Mini-Booths & GNF Entry Forms

Sept. 24—GNF Static Exhibits Due

Sept. 29—Terrariums & Dish Gardens Due

Look for the next edition of *The 4-H Blackboard* in November!