



VANTAGE

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Pacesetters setting the pace for 4-H clubs

Clubs are the foundation of the 4-H program. They are the primary delivery method of 4-H and they provide volunteers and members with unlimited opportunities for learning, relationship building and fun.

Saginaw County's Frankenmuth Pacesetters 4-H Club, co-led by volunteers Joan Kuhne and Frank Ezop, has offered youth learning experiences for almost four decades.

"The club was started in the fall of 1968 by Jean and Ray Friend," Kuhne said. "That year they had a first aid course, and since I was a nurse, I volunteered. She [Jean] then needed a conservation leader, and I volunteered because that is one of my primary interests.

"My love of children is very great. I just love working with the kids," Kuhne said.

"We've had to adapt and change as kids have become more involved in other activities," she said. "We don't have business meetings every month. We have board meetings with our officers instead."

Kuhne explained that the officers do a majority of the planning and give direction to the club.

Eighth-grader Rebekah Landin is the club president.

"I didn't quite want to be president, but nobody else wanted to. I thought it would be a good learning experience," Landin said.

"I've been in the club for three years now. What I enjoy most about the club is meeting new people and going different places.

I've been able to see a lot of things I never would've been able to. It's just a lot of fun!" she said.

Members meet every Monday at the high school to work on their crafts, knitting, sewing and wood-working 4-H projects. Members meet at other times for shooting sports, scrapbooking, community service and other projects.

"We give the youth the opportunity to choose what they want to be involved in. Not everyone wants to do crafts, and not everyone wants to do woodworking. We then have better participation when it comes time for a meeting," Kuhne said.

The club also has short business meetings with an activity such as a pizza party or a day at the water park four or five times a year. They have also completed a variety of community service projects.

"We mapped out a nature trail with the Frankenmuth Historical Museum in 1986, and we have maintained it every year since then," Kuhne said.

Other club service projects were Adopt-a-Highway, heritage gardening, surveying barns in Frankenmuth, helping with the farmers'

The Frankenmuth Pacesetters 4-H Club, founded in 1968, participates in a variety of 4-H projects. Club members and volunteers are pictured at the Cass River canoe launch beautification project last May.

"What I enjoy most about the club is meeting new people and going different places. . . It's just a lot of fun!"

Rebekah Landin, president
Frankenmuth Pacesetters
4-H Club, Saginaw County

market and several outdoor beautification projects.

Last spring, the club received a KATCH (Kids are True Conservation Heroes) grant to improve a section of eroding bank along the Cass River. The KATCH grants were funded by a gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"I don't think I have a favorite project," Landin said. "I did enjoy the Cass River project. We got to pick out our plants, water them and watch them grow. It was one of the greatest experiences I've had."

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Explore, Experience, Achieve:

The Campaign for



Planned gifts give boost to Campaign for 4-H

To date, the Michigan 4-H Foundation has received \$1.53 million in planned gifts toward the Campaign for 4-H goal.

Planned gifts offer donors ways to contribute to 4-H through deferred and estate gifts.

Deferred gifts include charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, life estate contracts, gifts of life insurance policies and charitable lead trusts.

Estate gifts include bequests through a will and testamentary charitable remainder trusts.

A bequest can be:

- A specific amount or a specific property.
- A percentage of an estate.
- The remainder of an estate after other bequests have been made.

An estate plan is a personal statement about what is important to you. Usually a bequest to family members and loved ones is the priority. You may also want to perpetuate your lifetime interest in youth by a bequest to the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Donors are encouraged to notify the Michigan 4-H Foundation of anticipated special gifts to be sure your intent can be met.

For more information about planned gifts to 4-H, call the foundation at (517) 353-6692.

WNF&GA, Michigan Division, launches \$30,000 campaign for 4-H

Woman's National Farm & Garden Association branches create new 4-H endowment

For more than 50 years, the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association (WNF&GA) has provided annual support for 4-H youth development.

The Michigan Division's commitment to private support for Michigan 4-H began 10 years before the Michigan 4-H Foundation was founded. This long-term commitment to support the International Four-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) led to the WNF&GA being one of the founding donors for the Michigan 4-H Foundation and is the reason why, even today, the WNF&GA maintains a position on the Michigan 4-H Foundation's board of trustees.

Each year the WNF&GA hosts its only benefit, the International Tea, to support 4-H international programs. In addition to the tea, donations come from individual branches of the association and their foundation to support other 4-H programs annually.

The Michigan Division of WNF&GA is continuing its support in a campaign to raise \$30,000 by 2009 to create the Woman's National Farm and Garden Asso-



The WNF&GA, Michigan Division, has launched a campaign to raise \$30,000 to create a new endowment to support a variety of 4-H programs, including 4-H international programs. Above are exchange students from the Japanese LABO and the Ukraine and Russian Future Leader Exchange (FLEX) programs at Kettunen Center for the 4-H Citizenship, Leadership and Service workshop in January.

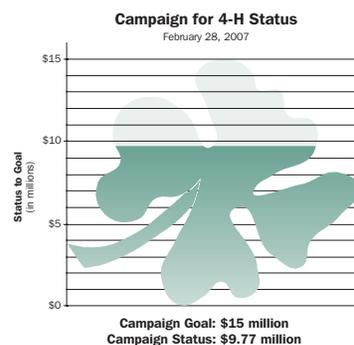
ciation, Michigan Division, Endowment for perpetual support of 4-H programming.

"We've already given so much support to 4-H. This way will guarantee money will be available in the future," said Molly Hammerle, WNF&GA, Michigan Division president.

This endowment will provide ongoing annual support of all of the programs the WNF&GA has his-

torically supported through gifts to the Michigan 4-H Foundation: 4-H international programs; the 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp; the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens; and 4-H volunteer training and development (including support for Kettunen Center).

The endowment will be funded by branch donations, fundraisers and contributions from individual members of the WNF&GA.



Calendar

March 1–April 27 — Butterflies in the Garden on display in the Indoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden.

April 1 — The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Garden opens for the season. The garden is open from dawn to dusk through Oct. 31.

April 15 — Deadline for ordering an inscribed brick for June placement in the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden and/or Kettunen Center. A gift of \$250 to the Michigan 4-H Foundation entitles you to make this permanent memorial or tribute. For an inscribed brick form, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/brick.html or call (517) 353-6692.

October 5 — Michigan 4-H Foundation annual meeting.

Sisters leave portion of estates to Kettunen Center

Sisters Helen E. Stophlet and Mary F. Kelsey, of East Lansing, made the ultimate gift by leaving a portion of their estates to benefit Kettunen Center.

When Mary Kelsey died in 2000, Stophlet became the beneficiary of her sister's estate. When Stophlet died on April 27, 2006, her trust was distributed to its beneficiaries, with one-sixth of the estate left to the Michigan 4-H Foundation in support of Kettunen Center operations.

"We lived next door to Helen and Mary for 29 years, and they were both like family to us," said

Gretchen Rosenbrook, who held Stophlet's power of attorney.

"Helen would have been 90 years old on July 15. She lived a long, productive life. She always remained loyal to Michigan State University, where she worked for many years as a secretary in MSU Extension. She was also a wonderful caregiver to her sisters, Mary and Dorothy.

"We looked after them because they didn't have any family. None of the sisters had any children. As a result, a lot of their money went to charity," Rosenbrook said.

A majority of the estate gift to the foundation was endowed as the **Mary F. Kelsey and Helen E. Stophlet Memorial Fund**. The fund will generate approximately \$2,000 annually to support Kettunen Center operations.

"It's simply not every day that an estate gift distribution arrives in our mail. What a wonderful surprise and show of support for Kettunen Center and our ability to serve the people who visit the center each year," said Cheryl Howell, Michigan 4-H Foundation executive director.

A portion of the gift was also used to fully endow the Kettunen Center Endowment Fund, a priority for the *Campaign for 4-H*. The fund, created with proceeds from the Vision 2021 Campaign, supports Kettunen Center facilities and operations.

The estate gift also supported expansion of Kettunen Center's fishing pier, development of the northern arboretum and Kettunen Center programs (4-H TRACKERS, TREE and 4-H Learning Science through the Arts Camp).

Foundation elects new trustees and officers

Elaine M. Bristol and **Claudia J. Scioly** were elected to three-year terms on the Michigan 4-H Foundation board at the annual membership meeting in October.

Bristol is a senior at Ogemaw Heights High School and an Ogemaw County 4-H member for 9 years. She fills the last of

three positions reserved for trustees aged 16 to 22. Bristol plans to attend Michigan State University next fall majoring in agriculture and natural resources communications.

Scioly joins the board as the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, Michigan Division, representative. Before her retirement, Scioly served as the executive director of client development for Johnson and Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc. Previously she was senior vice president of operations for D.J. Sullivan and Associates, Inc.

Several trustees were also reelected to three-year terms: **Pamala R. Babbitt**, of Muskegon; **Thomas H. Cobb**, Bloomfield Hills; **Jamey T.**



Elaine M. Bristol



Claudia J. Scioly

Fitzpatrick, Lansing; **George E. House**, Ada; **Robert J. Patterson**, Big Rapids; and **David L. Porteous**, Reed City.

2006-07 officers elected

Philip A. Seitz, of Hale, was elected president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation at the fall board meeting in October. Seitz, a foundation trustee since



Philip A. Seitz

1988, retired from MSU Extension in 1996 after serving Iron, Marquette, St. Clair and Iosco counties as a 4-H youth educator, agricultural agent and county Extension director. Since 1992 he has served in a variety of international assignments in Poland, Russia and the Ukraine. He was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 2003 and is now rector of two churches.

Also elected: as vice president, **Jamey T. Fitzpatrick**, Lansing, Michigan Virtual University president; treasurer, **Michael D. McIntyre**, Okemos, attorney/certified public accountant, Michael D. McIntyre, P.L.C.; and secretary, **Cheryl N. Booth**, Ithaca, state leader for Michigan 4-H Youth Development. The immediate past president is **Thomas H. Cobb**, Bloomfield Hills.

Are you age 70½ or older?

For the 2007 tax year, qualifying donors can reduce the amount of taxes paid on an annual IRA distribution by making a special gift to Michigan 4-H to establish or increase an endowed fund, sponsor a volunteer training workshop or simply make a generous annual gift.

For donors aged 70½ or older who have traditional IRA accounts, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you—in tax years 2006 and 2007 only—to make a gift to a charity by transferring an amount directly from that IRA to that charity and thereby reducing your taxable income for the current tax year.

How, why and key notes:

- Instruct your IRA custodian to distribute a gift amount directly to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The entire gift amount qualifies as a charitable distribution.
- The gift amount is not included in a donor's personal income for federal taxes.
- The gift amount can count toward required minimum IRA distribution for the tax year.
- Distribution cannot be considered an income tax charitable deduction. The gift is considered a tax-free gift because the donor doesn't pay taxes on the distribution if it's made directly to a charity.
- Generally, TIAA-CREF accounts do not apply unless they are in the form of a traditional IRA.

For more detailed information on how to make an IRA charitable roll-over gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation, call (517) 353-6692.

And remember, this opportunity ends December 31, 2007!

Kettunen Center: a place to create memories for all ages

For the past 17 years, Kettunen Center has hosted three Elderhostel programs annually.

Elderhostel provides learning adventures for adults aged 55 and over in a variety of locations in all 50 states and 90 countries abroad. Kettunen Center is just one of these many locations, but some guests, such as Edith Kovac, have found something special at Kettunen Center and keep coming back.

"This is my 29th year in Elderhostel and 15th year here, so you can see how important Kettunen Center is," Edith Kovac said. "This is my secret place!

"I haven't met anyone here who doesn't love it. People come from all over the country. There are two ladies here from Alabama.

"I've made such great friends here," Kovac said. "I keep seeing the same people, like a distant family."

Kovac has enjoyed many activities at Kettunen Center, including watercolor painting, kayaking, cross-country skiing, basket weaving, a historical barn study and more mushroom hunting.

"I come for watercolor the most," she said.

In fact, some of Kovac's paintings of Kettunen Center are displayed in the office of John Grix, the Kettunen Center director.

"Over the years I've taken pictures on the grounds. I went back to the same places and got photos of the four seasons. Every season has something beautiful and inspiring," she said.

Each Elderhostel program at Kettunen Center has a different theme. Kovac attended the October 2006 program entitled "Capture the Fall Beauty of Northern Michigan through Watercolors; Explore Forest Ecology with Outdoor Hiking and Photography, and Tai Chi Chuan – An Ancient Art of Wellness." In January, Kettunen Center's Elderhostel program focused on Michigan winter outdoor classics: skiing, snowshoeing and dogsledding. The most popular Elderhostel is the intergenerational program held each June, in which grandparents and grandchildren explore hands-on activities together.

"I haven't had grandchildren, but some of my friends have really enjoyed the intergenerational Elderhostel," Kovac said.

Although Kovac was not familiar with 4-H before her experiences at Kettunen Center, she has found the importance in giving back to Kettunen Center and 4-H. She became a donor in 1991 and gave a brick a few years later inscribed, "Thanks for the memories."



Edith Kovac has attended Kettunen Center's Elderhostel programs for the past 15 years. Her favorite activity is watercolor painting.

"I think I've learned a lot about 4-H just from being around the kids. I never knew anything about 4-H before.

"For me it's the spirit of John and Andrea Grix that has created this place. It's amazing to see how this place has turned out," she said. "Every time I come I see something new. They are constantly improving. It's beautiful. A great, great place!"

To learn more about Kettunen Center's Elderhostel programs, visit <http://www.kettunencenter.org> or call (231) 829-3421.

Breakfast with Santa celebrates 25 years!



Kettunen Center hosted the 25th annual Breakfast with Santa event Dec. 13. Nearly 1,000 people were in attendance, making it the largest crowd ever.

Teens from 4-H clubs and National Honor Society chapters in Wexford, Missaukee, Lake and Osceola counties helped staff the event. Activities included a magic show, balloon art, storytelling, crafts, face painting, Christmas caroling with the band Lake Effect and folk music by Mulligan Stew.

The event is made possible by gifts from local businesses and community organizations.

Butterflies in the Garden

March 1 • April 27, 2007



Monarch, Julia and zebra butterflies will flutter about the indoor garden, delighting all ages as they sip nectar, flit about and even land on visitors during the annual Butterflies in the Garden exhibit.

The butterflies are on display from March 1 to April 27 in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University.

"Butterflies in the Garden is a wonderful way to start the gardening season," said Jessica Albright, Michigan 4-H Children's Garden education coordinator. "Students from all over the area come to discover and explore the miracles of butterflies.

"Students will learn about butterfly anatomy, the butterfly life cycle, the importance of plants in that cycle and much more. Each student who comes to see Butterflies in the Garden gets to experience butterflies firsthand in our butterfly flight house and also plant a plant to take home," Albright said.

The butterfly exhibit is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (including weekends), except during scheduled tours (most tours take place on weekday mornings). Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. There is a \$3 parking fee on weekdays. Visit <http://www.4bgarden.msu.edu/butterflies> for more information.

If you are interested in scheduling a Butterflies in the Garden tour and lesson for your youth group or class, call (517) 256-9915.

The butterfly exhibit kicks off the 2007 season for the 4-H Children's Gardens. Once again the garden will host Garden Discovery Days, one-day specialty programs around various themes; as well as popular summer series programs such as **Stories in the Garden**, **Kid Curator**, **Garden Chefs** and **Camp Monet**.

Continuing for its second year is **Stories for Sprouts and Seedlings**, a program for children aged 2 to 4 held every third Tuesday of the month beginning March 20 with a garden story and an accompanying gardening activity.

"A program that is making its first appearance in our summer series is the **Garden Writers Workshop**, a three-day camp for children 7 and up. Children are invited to come to the garden and learn to incorporate the garden into their writing. We will be writing poetry, doing creative writing, journaling, creating garden stories and so much more," Albright said.

All garden lovers are encouraged to learn and help in the gardens during the **Garden Work Parties**. Learn about the many types of plants growing in the garden while transplanting, dividing, weeding, edging, planting and meeting new friends. This could be a great group community service project or fun for anyone who loves to play in the dirt on a Saturday morning!

For the second year, **Music Mondays in the Garden**, a casual concert series, will feature local musicians "fiddling around" in the amphitheater during the noon hour. Bring a brown-bag lunch and listen to a few tunes. Everyone is welcome to dance!

"**Put Your Garden to Bed Day** is another new program for 2007. We are asking visitors to wear their pajamas for this Saturday event and come help us put the 4-H Children's Garden to bed for the winter. Activities will include bulb planting, a harvest party, garden games and much more," she said.

For the complete gardens schedule with event descriptions and details, visit <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org> or call the gardens at (517) 355-5191, ext. 1-327.

4-H Children's Gardens Schedule, Spring & Summer 2007

Garden Discovery Days

- Butterfly Day**—March 17 from 2–4 p.m.
- Mother's Day in the Indoor 4-H Children's Garden**—May 13 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Start Your Garden Day**—May 19 from 1–3 p.m.
- Garden Geocache**—June 11 from 6–8 p.m.
- Fairy and Elves Tea Party**—June 14 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Father's Day**—June 17 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Dinosaur Day**—June 26 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Compost Day**—July 12 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Bug Day**—July 26 from 10 a.m.–noon
- An Evening in the Garden**—Aug. 3 from 8:30–10 p.m.
- Plant Detectives**—Aug. 7 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Put Your Garden to Bed Day**—Sept. 22 from 10 a.m.–noon

Just for Garden Lovers!

- Garden Work Party**—Apr. 14, May 26, June 9 and Oct. 20 from 9 a.m.–noon
- Music Mondays in the Garden**—June 25, July 16 and Aug. 6 from noon–1 p.m.
- Plant Sale**—June 2 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Splendid Summer Series

- Stories in the Garden**—June 20 from 7–8:30 p.m., July 31 from 10–11:30 a.m. and Aug. 8 from 7–8:30 p.m.
- Garden Writers Workshop**—June 27–29 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Kid Curator**—July 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 10 a.m.–noon
- Garden Chefs**—July 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 12:30–2:30 p.m.
- Camp Monet**—August 14–16 from 9:30–noon
- Stories for Sprouts & Seedlings**—Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16 and Nov. 13 from 10–11 a.m.

Visit <http://www.mi4hfdtn.org> for the complete schedule with event descriptions and details.



Monarch, Julia and zebra butterflies will be on display in the Indoor 4-H Children's Gardens during the annual Butterflies in the Garden exhibit March 1 to April 27.

VANTAGE

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Vantage is published three times per year for members of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. The foundation uses funds solicited from individuals and organizations to support 4-H youth development programs and train volunteer 4-H leaders throughout Michigan. The foundation also owns and operates Kettunen Center, the state 4-H leadership training facility in Tustin.

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is licensed to solicit charitable gifts by the state of Michigan (MICS 2751). A report containing percentages of charitable contributions expended on program administration and fundraising is available by request.

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In the News

Kirch inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame

Ralph E. Kirch, Jr., was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame Oct. 6. Kirch, former Michigan 4-H Foundation executive director, began his career in 1950 as a 4-H agent in Branch and Kent counties before joining the National 4-H Foundation staff in 1961. He then served seven years as executive director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. He served as administrator of the Michigan Department of Agriculture before his retirement.

Chapin receives Distinguished Academic Staff Award

Julie A. Chapin, 4-H program leader and 4-H Emerald Clover Society member, was honored with the MSU Distinguished Academic Staff Award Feb. 8 at the annual Michigan State University Awards Convocation.

4-H Children's Gardens names new education coordinator

Jessica Albright is the education coordinator for the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens as of Jan. 1. Previously, Albright was the Mawby-Edison 4-H Children's Garden student intern for the summers of 2005 and 2006.

Foundation welcomes Riccio as development manager

Jonathan J. Riccio joined the Michigan 4-H Foundation staff as development manager Sept. 25. Riccio is responsible for planning and implementing the foundation's fund-raising programs. He has four years of experience in fund development and alumni relations work with the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio, Girl Scouts Glowing Embers Council of Kalamazoo and, most recently, Kalamazoo College. Riccio has a bachelor's degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

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Thanks to our Corporate Clover Club members!

The Corporate Clover Club is an annual giving program recognizing corporate and business gifts of \$1,000 and above.

Between July 1, 2006 and Mar. 5, 2007, corporate gifts were received from:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Chemical Financial Corporation
- Consumers Energy
- Lapeer Bank & Trust Company
- McCartney & Company, P.C.
- Michigan Center for Civic Education
- Michigan Herb Associates
- Michigan Horse Council
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