



# VANTAGE

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## 4-H Science Blasts connect youth statewide

In 2010, only 56 percent of Michigan high school graduates were considered proficient in science at graduation. In 2009, Michigan ranked sixth in the nation in total scientific and engineering jobs and the Michigan unemployment rate for people with a high school diploma was 17.9 percent compared with 6 percent for those with a bachelor's degree.\*

Michigan 4-H seeks to improve those statistics by implementing a science focus at all 4-H workshops, hosting Science Blast events and developing a science learning handbook.

The next two years of 4-H volunteer workshops will prepare volunteers to help effectively deliver science literacy programming in local communities. The 4-H workshops will also prepare volunteers to help young people set a career path that can include college, employment and entrepreneurship as viable options for turning talents and skills gained through 4-H into marketable careers.

"Our goal is to recruit and prepare at minimum 500 volunteers to deliver intensive community-based programming that will engage 5,000 new Michigan youth

in science learning experiences that also serve to help them chart appropriate and relevant career paths," said Julie Chapin, Michigan state 4-H leader and director of MSU Extension's Children and Youth Institute.

To accomplish this, the **Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation** has provided a grant to support the Michigan 4-H volunteer training workshop series for the next two years with a focus on science literacy at each workshop.

"Our goal is to provide adult and older teen volunteers with training that strategically supports these volunteers to lead workforce development learning that encourages the growth of young people to become work- and college-ready," Chapin said.

To bring awareness to 4-H science learning opportunities, Michigan 4-H hosted Science Blast

events in 23 counties across the state this past summer. A premier event, held May 20 at the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, was a joint effort of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. Many more community based science blast events are scheduled this fall.

"The Science Blast events visually demonstrate science learning opportunities and resources provided by MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development," said Jake DeDecker, Michigan 4-H program leader for science, engineering and technology.

The events were open to communities and youth participants were evaluated in both science knowledge and changes in attitude about science. The evaluation showed that 91 percent of participating youth learned something new; 93 percent thought the science activities were fun and interesting and made them want to learn more; and 80 percent wanted to get involved in a 4-H science project or club.

*"The 4-H model of learning is to do an activity, reflect on what you've done and then apply what you've learned to your life. These science lessons and resources will offer that kind of learning at events throughout the state,"*

— Julie Chapin,  
Michigan State 4-H Leader  
and Director of MSU  
Extension's Children and  
Youth Institute

The Science Blasts featured two common experiments: *Fashion a Fish* and *What Genes Do*. *Fashion a Fish* teaches youth about classifying fish, the fundamentals of adaptation and even ways to become a better angler. *What Genes Do* helps students understand genetics and dominant and recessive genes, and

**See 4-H Science, page 3**



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## What's Inside

Kent County 4-H: Growing 4-H Forever .....	2
Buhler & Nowak join board.....	3
Calendar .....	3
Memorial & Tribute gifts .....	4
4-H Emerald Clover Society seeking nominees.....	5
4-H Children's Gardens on national display .....	6
Kettunen Center celebrates golden anniversary.....	7

# Kent County 4-H: Growing 4-H Forever with endowment

Jerry and Merry Malfroid and Margaret and Richard Bethel have spearheaded a campaign, “Growing 4-H Forever,” to do just that: grow a fund to support Kent County 4-H’s future.

“We look at this as an investment to ensure our program can be here in the future,” said Margaret Bethel, 4-H alumna, Kent County resident and retired MSU Extension director.

4-H has played a variety of significant roles in the Bethels’ and Malfroids’ lives.

“I never grew up with 4-H, but when I married Maggie, I came to appreciate the value of 4-H. I have been a 4-H leader for 10 years and involved as a 4-H parent since 1990,” Richard Bethel said. “I am excited about this endowment campaign!”

In 2009, Merry and Jerry Malfroid launched the **Kent County 4-H Youth Development Endowment Fund** to build a fund to provide long-term support for Kent County 4-H and at the same time honor the service and achievements of

Margaret and Richard Bethel in advancing Kent County 4-H and statewide MSU Extension programs.

In the midst of planning for the campaign, Jerry Malfroid was lost to cancer. This fund now serves not only to honor his and Merry Malfroid’s commitment to Kent County 4-H, but to also serve as an ongoing tribute to the contributions of all youth and volunteers involved in Kent County 4-H.

“Noting that other counties had endowments and Kent didn’t, I knew I had to do something to get this started,” Merry Malfroid said.

The Kent County 4-H Youth Development Endowment Fund has surpassed the phase 1 goal of \$10,000. The phase 2 goal is to reach \$25,000.

To meet this goal, the campaign co-chairs held campaign events to encourage other Kent County 4-H families and volunteers to join them in growing the endowment fund. “We had an initial fundraising period where we met our initial goal more rapidly than we thought. We launched the second phase

of the campaign with two events this summer,” Margaret said. “We hosted an event at our home and also had a celebratory event at the Grand Ideas Garden at the Kent County MSU Extension office.”

“We’re hoping these events bring more awareness to the endowment campaign and encourage people to give,” Merry added.

The endowment will provide a perpetual source of funding that when combined with other support for Kent County 4-H programs, assures that 4-H learning opportunities can always be available for the community’s youth.

An endowment fund is a perpetual, permanent asset of the Michigan 4-H Foundation for long-term support of 4-H – in this case, Kent County 4-H. The investment earnings can be used to support 4-H within the county, but the corpus is never touched. The advantage is that the corpus will grow over time, providing earnings for years to come. A minimum of \$10,000 is required to establish an endowed fund.

The Kent County 4-H Youth Development Endowment Fund can be a source for local, state national and/or international opportunities that sharpen the knowledge and skill development of 4-H youth and volunteers; programs that advance learning opportunities that benefit special needs and underserved youth populations; development and/or acquisition of learning materials, programs and technologies for

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*“I think this is an example of what counties statewide can do to find new ways to help support 4-H.”*

— Margaret Bethel,  
4-H alumna, Kent County  
resident and retired MSU  
Extension director

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local use that support positive youth and volunteer development and training; programs that advance leadership and personal development of youth; and/or programs that advance learning opportunities for youth and volunteers working in the area of small animals.

“The future is uncertain, but this endowment can give flexibility for volunteers and staff members to use to complement and/or supplement resources that are no longer at their disposal,” Margaret said.

“I think this is an example of what counties statewide can do to find new ways to help support 4-H. For 4-H to be here, it has to grow. We have to make investments to make sure it’s alive and growing.”

The Michigan 4-H Foundation currently manages 19 county endowed funds and eight county investment funds. County endowment funds can grow through estate gift planning, through county 4-H fundraising campaigns or through transfer of current county investment holdings.

For more information on establishing a fund to support 4-H in your county, contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.



**Merry Malfroid (left) and Margaret (right) and Richard Bethel created the Kent County 4-H Youth Development Endowment Fund for Kent County 4-H’s future. They hosted two fundraising events this summer to encourage donations to the fund.**

# Buhler & Nowak join 4-H Foundation board

**Douglas Buhler**, of East Lansing (Ingham County), and **Jim Nowak**, of DeWitt (Clinton County), have joined the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees.

Trustees are volunteers who serve as community advocates for 4-H and lead and manage the operations of the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Buhler serves as a permanent trustee of the Michigan 4-H Foundation in his role as interim dean for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR). As dean, he leads the agriculture and natural resources research, teaching and outreach programs for Michigan State University. Previously, Buhler served as the CANR associate director of AgBioResearch (formerly the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station), acting as liaison with Michigan commodity groups and providing leadership for Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs). He also served as acting associate director and CANR acting associate dean for research and chairperson of the MSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. Buhler received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and his master's and doctoral degrees

(both in agronomy) from the University of Nebraska.

Nowak was elected to a three year term on the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in July.



**Douglas Buhler**



**Jim Nowak**

Nowak is regional vice president of sales and customer relations at GreenStone Farm Credit Services. He serves as the leader of the financial services officers, crop insurance agents and financial services staff members in mid-eastern Michigan. Before joining GreenStone in 2004, Nowak spent more than nine years in the credit union industry, working in various senior management roles. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University, with a bachelor's degree in journalism and business administration. He also completed the CUNA Management School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Nowak currently serves on the Council of Michigan Food and Farming Systems and was previously a Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan board member.

## 4-H Science

**continued from cover**

compare and contrast inherited traits.

Those experiments will be found in the *Science Blast in the Class* handbook, a science learning toolkit to be used in both in-school and out-of-school science program delivery.

"We have developed hands-on science lessons for formal and non-formal science educators and will distribute a printed copy of the lessons and sources," DeDecker said. "The intent is for the curriculum to be distributed by 4-H staff members to local teachers who agree to teach a lesson this fall."

The handbook features 13 science-based, hands-on lessons sampling plant science, environmental science, and animal and veterinary science. The handbooks are aligned with Michigan Science Education Standards by grade, and teachers will be offered training in how to incorporate the resources into their classrooms. A website has also been created that will house these resources and many others that help adults engage youth in fun hands-on science activities.

"The 4-H model of learning is to do an activity, reflect on what you've done and then apply what you've

learned to your life. These science lessons and resources will offer that kind of learning at events throughout the state," Chapin said. "Research has shown that this type of learning is effective in teaching new concepts. By holding these Science Blasts and developing resources to put at teachers' fingertips, we hope to make it easier to create a love of science at an early age."

Nationally, 4-H has had a focus on science, engineering and technology (SET) programs for several years. Each fall, in conjunction with National 4-H Week, National 4-H Council sponsors the 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) and National Science Experiment. On Oct. 5, youth across the nation became scientists for the day during the fourth annual 4-H NYSD – the premiere national rallying event of youth, volunteers and educators from the nation's 109 land-grant colleges and universities who simultaneously completed the National Science Experiment. In the 2011 National Science Experiment, *Wired for Wind*, youth discovered how to build and test their own versions of renewable energy technologies in the form of wind power.

*\*Sources: 2009-10 Michigan High School Report Card, Michigan Department of Education, The Detroit News, Feb. 22, 2011 and Michigan Economic and Workforce Indicators – Winter 2011.*

## Calendar

**Oct. 2-8 – National 4-H Week.**

**Oct. 7 – Michigan 4-H Foundation Annual Membership Meeting and Clover Citation Luncheon** at the Henry Center in Lansing.

**Oct. 31 – The outdoor Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens close for the season.** The outdoor gardens will open April 1, 2012. The indoor garden is open year round.

**Dec. 31 – Gift deadline for 2011 income tax credit.**

**January 31, 2012 – 4-H Emerald Clover Society Class of 2012 nomination deadline.** For the nomination packet, visit [www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs](http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs).

## Booth retires from MSU Extension

Many friends gathered June 30 to celebrate Cheri Booth's MSU Extension career. From 2001-2010 Booth served as Michigan's state 4-H leader and director of the MSU Extension Institute for Children and Youth.



**Cheri Booth**

### Gifts in her honor were received from:

Faye and Wayne Adam	Lynn and Mary Harvey	Sue Monroe
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Andrew Ferrin	Dee Miller	Terri and Geoffrey Weller
Sharon Fritz	Howard and Wilma Miller	Ms. Willis
Raymond and Patricia Hammerschmidt		
Janice and Doug Hartough		

## Former 4-H staff members reunite



Former MSU Extension and 4-H staff members gathered at Kettunen Center May 12-13 for the Former 4-H Workers Reunion. The group sponsored the trellis (pictured above) in Kettunen Center's arboretum. The reunion is held every three years.

## Nominate a Michigan 4-H alumnus for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society Class of 2012



The Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society honors former Michigan 4-H members whose professional leadership and community service reflect the ultimate outcome of 4-H membership – extraordinary use of an individual's head, heart, hands and health to make communities, the country and the world better places in which to live. This recognition is provided by Michigan 4-H Youth Development with support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Nominees must be living and have been Michigan 4-H youth members for three or more years. Selection is based on evidence of professional and business achievement, leadership in community service and philanthropy, contributions to or impact on American society, and significant leadership and achievement as a 4-H member.

Honorees receive a recognition award, an exclusive Emerald Clover Society membership pin and individual biographical recognition on the society's Web site. Their names are also engraved on the 4-H Emerald Clover Society wall at Kettunen Center.

Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society members are inducted every two years. The inaugural class of 62 members was inducted in 2002 in honor of the national 4-H centennial. Subsequent classes were inducted in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 for a total of 127 members to date.

### Nominations for the 4-H Emerald Clover Society class of 2012 are due Jan. 31, 2012.

For more information on the 4-H Emerald Clover Society, a nomination packet and the society's 127 members, visit [www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs](http://www.mi4hfdtn.org/ecs) or call the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692.

### MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

Memorial and tribute gifts are charitable contributions that support Michigan 4-H. Memorial gifts are made in memory and tribute gifts in honor of special people. If you or your group would like to make a memorial or tribute gift, please complete this form and send it with your gift to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Gifts can also be made by calling the Michigan 4-H Foundation at (517) 353-6692 or online at [www.mi4hfdtn.org](http://www.mi4hfdtn.org).

Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_  In tribute to \_\_\_\_\_

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4-H affiliation:  4-H alumnus,  4-H volunteer,  4-H member,  4-H friend,  4-H parent,  4-H staff member.

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**Mail to: Michigan 4-H Foundation, 240 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824-6005**

**MICS 2751**

# 4-H Children's Gardens host national symposium

The Michigan 4-H Children's Garden opened in 1993 as the first garden in the United States developed on a university campus specifically for the education of children. The garden was designed by MSU Parks and Planning designers Jeff Kacos and Deb Kinney in consultation with Jane Taylor, founding curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden.

"The plants are the ones that shine here at the 4-H Children's Garden," Taylor said. "Some gardens put the emphasis more on play structures. The emphasis here is on education, teaching and the environment of the garden."

Taylor has been at the forefront of the children's garden movement. She served as the closing keynote speaker at the National Children and Youth Garden Symposium co-hosted by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens and the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park July 21-23.

*"Some gardens emphasize more on play structures. The emphasis here is on education, teaching and the environment of the garden."*

— Jane Taylor,  
Michigan 4-H Children's  
Garden founding curator

The annual symposium educates and inspires people from across the country to look at garden design from a new point of view. More than 60 concurrent sessions on a variety of topics helped educators teach children about this year's theme, "Digging into the Art and Science of Gardening."

"There was a huge selection of sessions to choose from," Taylor said. "There's usually something for everyone. This is the only symposium with this broad outreach."

Taylor has been involved with the symposium since it began. She explained that the symposium



**The Michigan Herb Associates hosted a reception featuring Michigan products during the Children and Youth Symposium at the 4-H Children's Garden. Jane Taylor (far right), 4-H Children's Garden founding curator, was the closing keynote speaker.**

rotates locations and makes it more affordable for people to attend by reducing travel expenses.

"The symposium was started in 1993 by the American Horticultural Society. It was a continuation of the organization's commitment to help bring together people who are interested in children and youth gardening from all over the United States and Canada, including landscape designers, public garden people, educators, university staff members and more," she said.

"As the closing keynote, I was asked to give some history on where we came from and where we are now," she said. "MSU has the oldest horticultural department in America, the oldest botanical garden and the first children's garden. It all started with Liberty Hyde Bailey."

Bailey is credited with being instrumental in starting agricultural extension services, the 4-H movement, the nature study movement, parcel post and rural electrification. Born in South Haven, Mich., he was educated and taught at the Michigan

Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) before moving to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he was director of the College of Agriculture.

Taylor retired from Michigan State University in 1997, but continues her involvement as a consultant for children's gardens across the country. She is also a director at-large for the **Michigan Herb Associates**, a dedicated group of herb enthusiasts and supporters of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens.

"The Michigan Herb Associates are absolutely fabulous!" Taylor said. "They hosted the reception during the symposium which was spectacular!"

The reception featured Michigan products including blueberries, cherries and Michigan cheeses dispersed on decorative tables through the 4-H Children's Garden.

"The people working in 4-H and horticulture, despite adversity and cutbacks, are doing imaginative, creative things," she said.

## 4-H Evening in the Garden



**Michigan 4-H hosted the first 4-H Evening in the Garden event Aug. 16 in the 4-H Children's Garden. The event served as a 4-H recruitment opportunity and a chance for current 4-H'ers to showcase their projects, and provided activities for hands-on participation.**

# Kettunen Center celebrates golden anniversary

On Aug. 13, friends of Kettunen Center and 4-H gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of Kettunen Center at its golden anniversary event.

To kick off the celebration of its first 50 years, Kettunen Center hosted its first 5K Trail Walk/Run. All proceeds from the 5K support Kettunen Center educational programs. Guests at the anniversary event also took part in recreational activities: canoeing, kayaking, pontoon boat rides, a GPS scavenger hunt, archery and an animal petting tent.

The keynote speaker was **Russell Mawby**, retired Michigan 4-H state leader and W.K. Kellogg Foundation chairman emeritus. Mawby served as state 4-H leader when “Camp Kett” opened in 1961.

“Here we are half a century later thinking about the future. I suggest all of us here today think about the challenges in society,” Mawby said. “4-H volunteer leaders are the multiplier—they translate 4-H experiences into life experiences for 4-H members.

“We need to broaden the concept of Kettunen Center and recognize that the principles of 4-H can be influential at even younger ages.

*“Kettunen Center has been an exemplar of leader training for 4-H youth development. Our challenge is to ‘make the best better!’”*

— Russell G. Mawby,  
Former Michigan State 4-H Leader &  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation chairman emeritus

“Kettunen Center has been an exemplar of leader training for 4-H youth development,” Mawby said. “Our challenge is to ‘make the best better!’”

**State Rep. Phil Potvin** (102nd District) and **Sen. Darwin Booher** (35th District) also spoke and presented John Grix, Kettunen Center director, with a special tribute from the Michigan Legislature commemorating Kettunen Center’s 50th anniversary.

Sen. Booher recited the tribute, which reads: “Let it be known, that we are proud to join with the members and friends of the Kettunen Center as they gather to mark the 50th anniversary of this outstanding facility. This milestone is a reflection of great commitment to the four guiding principles of 4-H: head, heart, hands and

health. While members of the 4-H Foundation celebrate 50 years of service at ‘Camp Kett,’ we offer our thanks for their contributions throughout the entire state of Michigan. . . .”

As we look forward to the next 50 years, we first look back at the past 50 years.

Kettunen Center was the dream of A.G. Kettunen — state 4-H leader from 1928 to 1958. The property was purchased by the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees in 1956. The center has seen two major renovations — the Kettunen Improvement Project and Vision 2021. In addition to major facility enhancements, key achievements include the construction of the earth-sheltered residence for the Kettunen Center director, comprehensive trail development to enhance the 160 acres of forest and wetlands, and achievement of environmental steward recognition by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Kettunen Center has grown to serve up to 200 residential occupants at any given time and annually hosts approximately 10,000 guests. Each year Kettunen Center hosts 17 to 20 4-H program events each year that attract 1,200 4-H volunteers and youth.



**Top left:** To kick off the 50th anniversary celebration, Kettunen Center hosted a 5K Trail Walk/Run. Proceeds from the 5K support Kettunen Center programs. **Bottom left:** Sen. Darwin Booher and Rep. Phil Potvin presented Kettunen Center director John Grix with a special tribute from the Michigan Legislature commemorating Kettunen Center’s 50th anniversary. **Right:** Wayne County’s Mt. Zion 4-H Club brought the largest delegation – 40 people – to the event.

# 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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## *N*In the News

### Book give-aways target childhood literacy

Retired Extension associate director and former state 4-H leader **Cheri Booth** coordinated two book give-aways from the **Molina Foundation** and **First Book**. The early childhood literacy program kicked off in March with 50,000 books donated by the Molina Foundation in southeast Michigan. This summer, FirstBook donated 100,000 books to Michigan 4-H for Michigan organizations that serve youth in need, and another 340,000 books were shipped to youth organizations all over the country.

### MSU Extension 4-H videos air on WKAR

Several MSU Extension 4-H videos have aired on WKAR in a new mini series called "Did You Know?" featuring 90-second videos on MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs, many of which have an MSU Extension focus. Features include the 4-H Partnership with Ingham County Family Center, the 4-H Science Blast, the Book Give-aways and The Great Dairy Adventure. Videos can be viewed on the MSU ANR YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/msuanrvideo15](http://www.youtube.com/msuanrvideo15).

### Michigan tax credit ending

Please note that the State of Michigan tax credit for charitable giving will cease to exist Jan. 1, 2012. This legislation only affects State of Michigan tax returns, not federal tax returns.

## CORPORATE Clover Club

### Thanks to our Corporate Clover Club members!

The Corporate Clover Club is an annual giving program recognizing corporate and business gifts over \$1,000. Between Mar. 1 and Aug. 31, 2011, corporate gifts were received from:

- Accident Fund Holdings, Inc.
- Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, Inc.
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- GreenStone Farm Credit Services
- Meijer
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- Michigan Pork Producers Association
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