

The CharCo Edge

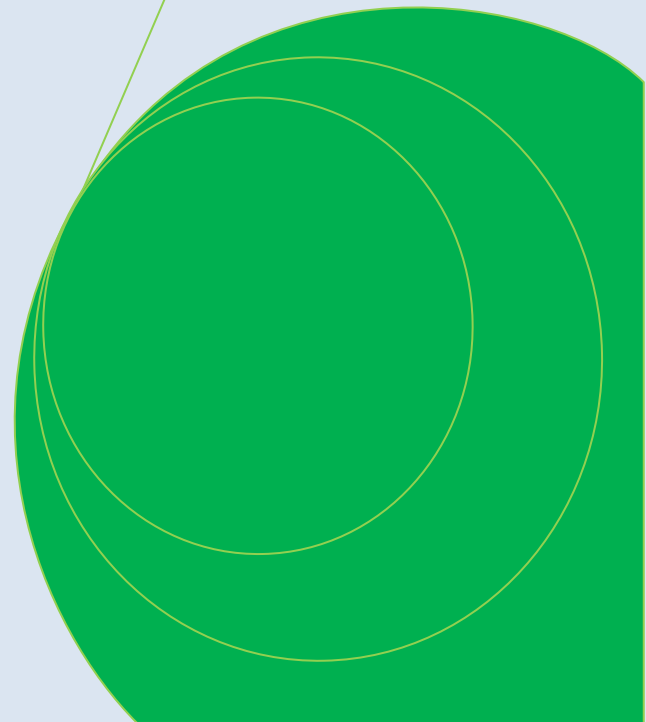
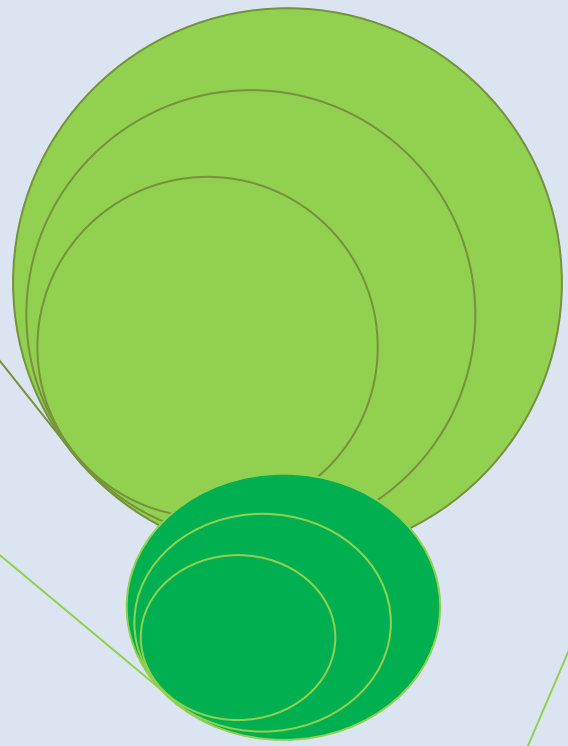
4-H Informational Update



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Upcoming events, current events, and more.

Steven Parker Pink, Editor
LUVSLEGOS@yahoo.com



Introduction

Welcome to the new monthly club update. We want this monthly newsletter to include reports of past events and activities your club has attended. We also want to keep you “in the know” regarding all upcoming events like shows or meetings or other activities. We need a reporter from your club so we can include your club.

Summer News Wrap-Up

Ledge (Miranda Hogue)

Congress (Miranda Hogue)

Camp Cloverleaf (Tyler Collins)

Dog Camp (Steven Pink)

Games and Tricks Dog Class (Steven Pink)

Upcoming Events

Coastal cleanup on September 19

4-H Fall Dance in October 16

Upcoming meetings

Sept. 1 Cows And Plows

Sept. 3 Fur ‘n’ Feathers

Sept. 5 Future Stars

Sept. 8 Cows And Plows

Sept. 12 Future Stars

Sept. 14 Marine Ecology

Sept. 15 County Youth Council

Sept. 16 Just Kidding Goat Club

Sept. 19 Future Stars

Sept. 26 Future Stars

Sept. 27 Manes ‘n Reins

Sept. 28 Creative Croppers



Ledge Report by Miranda Hogue

"Madam President, I rise to ask a non debatable technical question of the bill sponsor." What happens the last week of June at our state capitol? Well, that's easy. It is Florida 4-H Legislature. At this event 4-H teens (14-18) from across the state perform a mock legislative session. Everyone is assigned a role such as senator, representative, reporter, and lobbyist. There are fake bills, fake jobs, but real fun. To make things even better, you really get to be on the floor of the capitol where real legislation takes place. On top of all the fun had at the capitol there are also night time activities such as dances and a water park. It is a blast and teens can make lots of friends while learning about our government. Madam President, I yield my time.

Congress Report by M. Hogue

What includes fashion, dancing, football, and bounce houses? Florida 4-H congress of course! At this event teens (14-18) from across the state of Florida come to the University of Florida campus to compete in things such as public speaking, demonstrations, fashion revue, and share-the-fun (4-H's talent show). There is also a lot of stuff for teens not competing such as air band, and many fun and creative workshops. On top of all that stuff there are dances at night, engaging speakers, and this year there was even a carnival! Gator fans loved eating in the Ben Hill Griffin stadium one evening where we enjoy football, friends, and food! This event is always the last week of July, so if this sounds awesome to you, (which it is) then mark your calendars.

Dog Camp Report

By Steven Pink

The first annual Florida 4H Kids Dog Conference was held at Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid, Florida on August 7-9, 2009. It may be hard to imagine, but there were 48 kids and their dogs in attendance for the weekend camp. It may sound like chaos, but was very well organized. We were divided into groups according to skill level, and that worked out great. Each group could work on their level, and could move ahead when concepts were accomplished. We trained daily on agility, obedience, rally, and showmanship. It was educational as well as fun to learn from so many different trainers and 4H dog leaders. It wasn't all work and no play, as we also had a costume contest, dog tricks contest, evening campfire, and canine good citizenship certification.

We also had the Highlands County Sheriff's Department come and do a demonstration. They brought a Bloodhound and a German Shepherd. One of the counselors volunteered to go hide for the Bloodhound demo. She dropped a shoe outside the door and took a long walk around the building and eventually came back and sat with the campers near the building while the hound was out in the field

searching. He had a little trouble picking up her scent on the asphalt, but soon found the grassy area where she went around the building. He sniffed everyone, and then finally gave her a big kiss on the face to identify her. It was amazing with all the dog smells that he stayed on track and found her after only maybe ten minutes total. The German Shepherd then did a demonstration showing how he could stop a criminal. Wow! I hope I am never mistaken for a criminal by a police dog!

This event was very successful. We learned a lot that we can apply to our weekly training as we prepare for this year's shows. This is a thanks from one camper to all the trainers who donated all the time and energy to make it happen.

Dog Tricks and Games Class

By Steven Pink

The adults at the dog club thought last year's classes looked fun, so this summer Lucia Pink taught a class for the kids and adults. It was a class completely on games and tricks. It was so much fun we are hoping to have it again this spring.

Camp Cloverleaf Report

by Tyler Collins

Camp Cloverleaf can only be summed up by two words. Absolutely amazing! From the moment we stepped off of the bus, we knew we were going to have a blast, and that's exactly what we had. There were different classes taught, swimming in the lake, campfires, and many fun events, right down to the last tear jerking night. I heard from my campers that they enjoyed the marshmallow paint war more than anything. The last night was an emotional good bye. The campers enjoyed musical chairs, ships and sailors, and freeze dance. Of course everyone had a ball at the last dance of the week. No one had their backs on the wall. Everyone enjoyed themselves with their new found friends. The counselors were even in tears. After the campers went to bed the last night, the counselors were called to a last dance and a very emotional game. By the end of the night everyone was crying. Even I was. Camp Cloverleaf was a great experience, and I would recommend it to anyone looking for friends. I can't wait until next year.

County wide upcoming events

Record Book Workshop...Pam will be conducting a record book workshop on September 21, at the extension office, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All parents, leaders and members are invited. Record Books should be started at the start of the new program year, especially if members are preparing portfolios for state competition. Portfolios are just expanded record books that anyone who is a senior member may submit. Please call to let Pam know if you plan to attend.

4-H Club Leader Trainings...All leaders, new and not-so-new are invited to attend leader trainings throughout the year. The first two scheduled are September 29, 6:30 p.m., at the 4-H office and October 10, in Lee County. The Saturday Lee County training will give you the opportunity to meet and work with leaders from Lee and Collier Counties. Please register for both of these trainings.

Community Thanksgiving Meal All clubs are invited to join. The meal is prepared and served by members of the clubs. All of the clubs are supposed to bring a food item or a decoration or some item to bring a dinner to the families. It will be held on 11/22 at the grounds of Trinity Baptist, 11234 Royal road, South Punta Gorda. It runs from 4:00-6:00 4-H'ers should arrive at 3:45 and expect to stay 15-30 minutes extra for clean up. Call Nancy Lee or the 4-H office for more info.

Chamber of Commerce Holiday

Parade...I know the first weekend of December is 'far' in the future, but clubs need to decide if they want to participate in the parade that is held in downtown Punta Gorda the first Saturday of December. Please let me know if your club will participate.

4-H Tropical

Celebration Fundraiser ... Save the Date of March 20, 2009. This is the only fundraiser we have so we need everyone to participate! Just a sample of what the funds raised at this event are used for: Congress (\$220 each), Legislature (\$250 each) and Camp Cloverleaf (\$200 each). If the Foundation is to continue to help families with financial aid for these events, the families must help the Foundation.

Community Pride Proposals

... I know you are just getting started with club meetings – but if you want to submit a proposal for Community Pride, you need to have it in the 4-H office by September 30. The forms will be available on-line and at the office. If you have ideas and want to see if they are appropriate, please call me.

Club wide events

4 Paws & a Tail Dog Club...Our summer training session ended 8/12 and the Games and Tricks Class was a lot of fun. Everyone improved their basic skills while playing games and doing tricks with their dog. We may be able to do this class again in the spring. Our dog club is holding its first meeting on Thursday, August 20 at 7pm at the Extension Office. Here we will plan our upcoming activities, but the following is a list of pre-planned training events and activities for the dog club.... Please contact Lucia Pink if you are interested in joining the club at LBPink2@yahoo.com

09/19/09 – State Fair Seminar (for anyone wanting to show in Tampa in February)

09/30/09 – United Way – build the agility equipment work day 9am-noon

10/21/09 – weekly Wednesday eve dog training begins at the So. Co. Park Gym

10/??/09 – Bartow Fun Show

11/14/09 – Tampa Fun Show

11/21/09 – Party in the Park AWL event and agility workshop

12/16/09 Class #7 of 7 – done till Jan. 6

Manes and Reins

Open Fun Horse Show...Manes 'N Reins 4-H Club will be having an Open Fun Horse Show (our annual fundraiser) on Saturday, September 19th, 10am at Carmalita Park in Punta Gorda. \$3 a class or \$15 all you can show. Open to all ages. Call Sara Sariego or the 4-H office for more information.

Attention! All Club Leaders and Club Members

Do you want to see your club's activities listed in our Charlotte County monthly updates? We want to work hard this year to promote EVERYTHING that is going on in Charlotte County 4H, and support our local clubs, community service, and extra activities. We hope this monthly update will help keep you informed of how you can participate this year, and enjoy all 4H has to offer. Here is what I need from YOU!!

- Your leader or leaders names, phone numbers, and email addresses
- Your club member who will be responsible for the report (secretary or reporter or historian) contact info (phone and email, etc.)
- The county council member (secretary or reporter?) that will be responsible for getting county info to me each month

If you have anything you wish to add regarding past events or upcoming events, contact me at LUVSLEGOS@yahoo.com or via Facebook (Steve Pink).

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