



Learning for Life

Summer 2009

Connie Abert
4-H Youth Development
Greg Blonde
Agriculture
Marilyn Herman
Family Living
Mike Koles
Community Development
Alyson Luchini
WNEP Coordinator
Penny Tank
4-H Youth Development



Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

2009 Gateway Academy

In response to the need to prepare young people for Wisconsin and Waupaca County manufacturing employment, a new summer class was sponsored by UW-Extension, SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers) and the Kern Foundation at Manawa Schools on July 6-10. Seventeen students took the class and learned about robotics, PLC (programming), CAD, rocketry and flight. They also learned some valuable team building skills necessary for today's workforce through daily youth development activities. This engineering class was open to all Waupaca County students.

Instructors for the course were Manawa Technology and Engineering Instructor Kelly Koller, two student teachers from Manawa, Maria Smiles and Kyle Kabe. Connie Abert, Youth Development Educator from UW-Extension coordinated the creation of the class for Waupaca County and worked with instructors on class curriculum. A grant from the Kern Foundation supported this summer workshop and has supported new engineering/technology and supplies in the Manawa District.

The class offered a great opportunity for students to learn more about technology and engineering in Waupaca County manufacturing with hands on activities and experiences. Students completed a variety of problem solving activities in groups such as

designing and programming robots that will navigate through a maze and complete programmed task.

With the continued support of the Kern Foundation and UW-Extension this course will be offered again next summer.

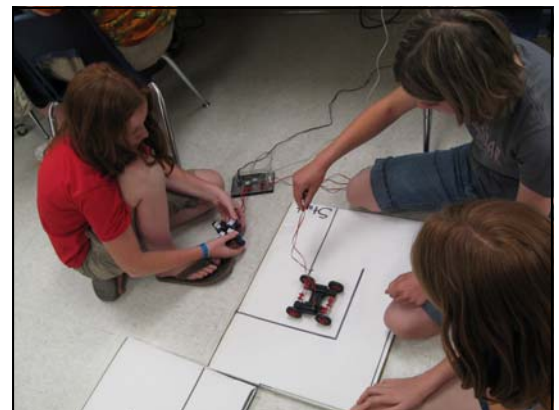
~ *Connie Abert*

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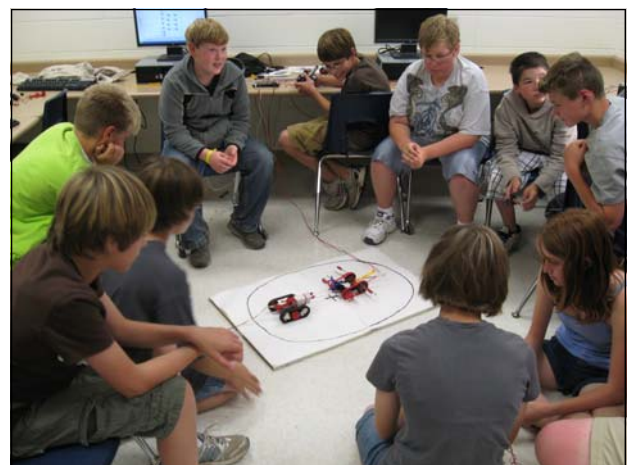
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Upcoming Events

- July 20 — Forage Council Pasture Walk, Iola
- August 7— 9-11 or 1-3 "In a Pickle" Courthouse, Waupaca
- August 14 — 9-11 or 1-3 "Drying Foods Workshop" Courthouse, Waupaca
- August 26-30 — Waupaca County Fair, Weyauwega
- September 1 — Ag Lenders Conference, Appleton
- September 24 — 6:30-8 PM Community Partners Advisory Committee
- September 30 — Waupaca, Host German/Belgium Farmers Group



Olivia Newlun, Ashlee Strebe and Abigail Hansen work together to program their robot to navigate through a maze.



Students battle their robots in the "Sumo Bot" activity.

Leadership Waupaca County holds Graduation Ceremonies

Leadership Waupaca County graduated 22 community leaders during ceremonies held May 14th at the Best Western Grand Seasons in Waupaca. Preceding ceremonies, project teams presented on how they felt certain contemporary community issues should be addressed. Team 1 proposed a county-wide school district to decrease tax dollars while at the same time expanding educational programming. Team 2 developed a Facebook social networking site that could be used to market Waupaca County for tourism, labor force development, and business attraction. Team 3 proposed expansion of youth in governance programs and actually held a seminar that led to its expansion in the City of Weyauwega. Team 4 developed a county-wide park and recreation facility asset directory to develop the tourism economy. Over 75 graduates, sponsors, and donors were treated to a vibrant featured speaker, Doug Wilson, CEO of Cooperative Resources International in Shawano, Wisconsin.

The program concluded with remarks from Mike Koles, UW-Extension Community Development Educator, who recognized that without sponsors and donors the program would not be possible. This year's sponsors and donors included: Alliance Industries; Chris and Vic Anthony; Greg and Kathi Blum; Central Wisconsin Electric Coop; City of

Clintonville; City of Manawa, City of New London, City of Weyauwega; First State Bank (New London); Greenstone Farm Credit Services; Premier Community Bank (Marion and Scandinavia); Sunset Oil Company; Walker Forge; Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce; Waupaca County Master Gardeners; Waupaca Foundry-Thyssen Krupp; Tom and Gingie Wilson; USDA Farm Service Agency; 4-H Leaders Association; and Larry and Beth Somers.

~ *Mike Koles*



Waupaca County Farm and Forestland Conservation Easement Program Becomes Reality

Ninety-eight landowners attended an informational meeting on the proposed voluntary Conservation Easement Donation program recently established in Waupaca County. Greg Blonde helped organize and present the program on April 2nd at three locations; the Courthouse; Bear Creek and Helvetia Town Halls.

Blonde teamed up with Koles to give an overview of the program goals, eligibility requirements and restrictions. Blonde also used local grant funds to bring in a qualified conservation easement appraiser to explain how the value of donated conservation easement is established. Phil Harris, Extension Farm Tax Law Specialist from UW-Madison, presented information and shared examples of how donors can recapture some of the appraised value of their donated easement through reduced income and estate taxes.

As a result of the informational meetings, eighteen Waupaca County landowners expressed interest in participating in a local UWEX grant program to explore donating a conservation easement for their property. The grant provides 80% cost-sharing up to a maximum of \$4,250 each for related expenses (title review, land survey, appraisal, accounting, legal fees).

In May, the Waupaca County Board of Supervisors adopted the voluntary Conservation Easement Donation ordinance, and in June established a Conservation Easement Commission to administer the program. Blonde continues to work with county staff and the Commission to develop a preliminary checklist tool, as well as title search instructions, subordination and model easement language for interested land owners.

~ *Greg Blonde*

Animal Science Focus of Educational Event



Over 300 4-H or FFA youth, grades 3-13, from nineteen counties filled the barns at the fairgrounds on June 26th for *Waupaca County Area Animal Science Day*. Educational workshops and judging contests were conducted for dairy, beef, sheep, swine, horses, rabbit, poultry, and goats. For some species, youth have the opportunity to advance to the state and potentially national judging contests. AASD is a statewide event hosted by four

different counties each year. Previously Waupaca County hosted AASD in 1995.

The objectives of AASD are to increase:

- Availability of educational opportunities in the 4-H animal science projects
- Decision making skills through judging and grading experiences
- Knowledge of animals through breeding and market evaluation and management information

Tank served as the main coordinator and contact for the state 4-H office. Blonde and Abert also worked with the Waupaca County volunteer group of close to eighty youth and adults. Volunteers brought animals for the judging events, served as group leaders, judged posters and photography entries, provided lunch for the participants, guided people in the right direction during registration, led animals for the contests, taught youth how to judge the animals, and much more. Some of the volunteers have been planning since February and many others were needed the day of the event. In addition to the volunteer involvement, over fifty Waupaca County youth took part in the contests and workshops and improved their knowledge in a variety of animal areas. Overall, Waupaca County Area Animal Science Day was a very successful educational and volunteer development event.

~ Penny Tank



Kristi Sawall, Krossing Creeks 4-H Club demonstrates rabbit showmanship for participants.



In a Pickle or A Jam: Preservers Update Methods

Many county residents have planted a new or larger garden this year as a way to stretch the family food dollar. Others are purchasing more food at local farmers markets and produce stands or plan an extra trip to some pick-your own farms in the area. Several are trying a membership at a local community supported agriculture (CSA) enterprise for the first time. This extra bounty will need to be preserved for the winter months. Doing it safely and in ways that preserve nutrition and flavor is the goal for Marilyn Herman, Family Living Educator. Some people only need to review their methods over the phone, or need an appointment to have the pressure canner checked for accuracy at the Waupaca County UW-Extension Office.

More than 50 people who haven't canned in years and are afraid they have gotten rusty, or want to try new ways to preserve food have been taking one or more of the classes in the 8 week summer series of hands-on workshops offered by Marilyn Herman. "Participation has been excellent and I see more interest in preserving the harvest for family and friends because of special diet needs, to preserve items for future gift-giving, or to insure that we are serving our family the highest quality food possible" says Marilyn. With more than 30% of the workshop participants being male and an age range of 25 to 83, classes are lively and learning is great fun.

~ Marilyn Herman



Waupaca County UW-Extension

Waupaca County Courthouse
811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981

Phone: (715) 258-6230

Fax: (715) 258-6232

We're on the web:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/waupaca/>



Learning for Life

Our Mission: To extend the knowledge and resources of the University System to the people of Waupaca County and Wisconsin.

Our Vision: To serve Wisconsin's educational network, engaging the people of Waupaca County and our communities in positive change.

UW-Extension offers equal opportunity programs and employment.

Series of Nutrition Lessons with CAP Women's Support Group a Success

Over the past few months, Waupaca County WNEP coordinator Alyson Luchini, has been working with a wonderful group of women at the CAP Women's Support Group to talk about a variety of topics relating to nutrition education. Proper nutrition and physical activity are vital but can often take a back-seat to other life-related occurrences. Children learn their healthy behaviors from their parents, so it's important to educate parents not only about the importance of healthy nutrition and physical activity choices but how to make those healthy behavior changes.

Based on a survey of specific needs and interests of Women's Support Group participants, Luchini planned a series of four programs focusing on the importance of family meals, healthy eating and balancing food and physical activity. Specifically, the programs taught the learners healthy behaviors including eating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat milk products, the importance of being physically active every day as part of a healthy lifestyle, and how to balance calorie intake with calories expended. Each program encouraged the group to work together and share experiences in an effort to not only learn from the instructor but to also learn from one-another. After each program the group cooked a nutritious meal that was shared with each other and with their children.

~ *Alyson Luchini*

Waupaca County Board Studies New London

New London was the featured community for the June 16th Waupaca County Board Annual Study Tour. With assistance from WCI bus transportation, County Board members traveled to observe and ask questions about:

- Improvements at the Sturgeon Trail with Roger Holman, Parks Department
- Environmental Youth Connections with Connie Abert, UWEX
- Wolf River Lumber site relocation and expansion assisted by Dave Thiel, Economic Development
- Children's Garden at Pfeiffer Park led by UWEX Master Gardeners and the City Recreation Department
- 4-H Service Projects by community clubs Lebanon Cedars, Sandy Knoll, Wolf River Rascals and New Dublin Clovers.
- Riverfront development tour with City Administrator Kent Hager, Dave Thiel and Hometown Program facilitator Mike Koles, UWEX.
- Lunch with participants of the New London Senior Nutrition Site hosted by Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services and the Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Featured lunch speakers, Sara Lee celebrating 75 years of operation in New London and Alyson Luchini, Wisconsin Nutrition Program Coordinator

The first County Board Tour was in 1965 and this year's event marked the 40th Study Tour. The tours are a coordinated effort by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee, County Clerk, County Departments and Waupaca County UW-Extension. A special thank you to Wolht Cheese for supplying morning snack break and Lebanon Cedars 4-H members for serving the cheese and crackers in honor of June Dairy Month.

~ *Marilyn Herman*



(L to R) Don Peterson, Mary Robbins, Dave Thiel, Dave Johnson and Mike Koles take safety precautions before touring Wolf River Lumber.