

YOUTH ON TARGET



From the Coordinator

Time stops for no man (or woman) and so it is with the seasons. It seems only yesterday we were looking into 2010, but now we are staring down the barrel (pardon the pun) of 2011. I hope that you enjoyed the holiday seasons and that the beginning of this year has been a good one. I look forward to the coming year, as winter gives rise to spring so will our shooting sports season begin! Looking over the many events that are planned this year, there are more than ample opportunities for young and old alike to get to the range for some one on one time with the target of their choice. From District and National Competitions to the State Invitational all the way to the Adult Volunteer Training in late summer, there is something for everyone in the Mississippi 4-H Shooting Sports so get out there and I will see you on the range!

John L. Long, Ph.D
4-H Youth Development Specialist/
Shooting Sports Coordinator

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Volunteer of the Year

The Mississippi 4-H Shooting Sports Program would like to congratulate Mr. Stuart Wright of Lowndes Co. on receiving the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award at the recent Mississippi Volunteer Leaders Conference held on the campus of Mississippi State University. Mr. Wright has excelled on all levels of the program from leadership roles in the county, district, and state, as well as serving as a coach for our national team delegation.

? Shooting Sports Trivia ?

Do you know why a 12 gauge is called a 12 gauge?

National Wildlife Turkey Federation

Nashville, Tennessee

This year was the second in a collaborative effort with TN, KY and MS 4-H Shooting Sports Programs to bring an educational experience to all ages that attended the National Wild Turkey Convention in Nashville, TN. During the three day period, over 600 young people from 19 different states and 2 countries visited our educational booth. This booth consisted of an area to draw and color hand turkey's as well as an opportunity to be part of a hunting scenario involving archery and several 3-D targets. Special thanks is in order for the NWTF for their support of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. This years' convention theme was "Our Youth Our Legacy" how appropriate it is as we strive to make the best better in this coming year!



District Reports

Northeast District

Youth, Certified Volunteers & Agents in the Northeast District have been hard at work practicing for weeks in all 4-H shooting disciplines and have been preparing for the 2011 Northeast District 4-H Shooting Competition. This year's District Competition is anticipated to have a large number of young people competing and will be a fun filled day of shooting. The Northeast District Shooting Sports Competition will be held April 30th in Blue Springs, Ms at the Whitetail Ridge Shotgun Club beginning at 7:00a.m.with firearm and archery check-in and competition beginning at 9:00 a.m.





Clay Clay County



4-H Mississippi Volunteer Leader's Association Shooting Sports Workshop

Adding a little bang to your holiday and Introduction to Sticks and Strings

A great time was had at this years' Mississippi Volunteer Leaders Association Conference. The Collegiate 4-H Club assisted Dr. Long in presenting a fun shop entitled "Adding a little bang to your holiday". In this fun shop volunteers were shown how to construct holiday ornaments from spent shotgun shells. Also, Dr. Long hosted a workshop the following day entitled "Introduction to Sticks and Strings, where participants learned about archery equipment and proper range procedure.



ATV SAFETY CORNER

Additional Extension Agents Certified as 4-H RiderCourse Instructors

Mississippi 4-H ATV Safety Program has 6 new Mississippi State University Extension Agents trained as ASI-Licensed instructors to deliver the ATV RiderCourse to counties and communities in each of the four Extension regions. This brings the total of licensed instructors to 14. The goal of the ATV Safety Program is to provide the hands-on ATV Safety training to both youth and adult participants. Parents you can help youth and others by encouraging the participation in a ASI RiderCourse Training! Taking an ATV *RiderCourse* results in the following benefits for participants: Improves riding skills; Builds confidence; Gets youth off to the right start; provides a great way to meet other riders; & teaches riders how to “tread lightly”



Pictured are (L to R): Tracy Robertson, Carroll County; Lionell Hinds, Washington County; Evelyn DeAngelo, Jackson County; Ron Hartzman, ASI Chief Instructor; Wayne Boshart, Leake County; Katrina Owens, Yazoo; and Marcus Davis, Warren County.

By:
Larry Alexander
Extension 4-H Specialist/
State 4-H ATV Safety Coordinator

ATV Message to Parents



As the school year draws to a close, the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute and would like to remind you to keep safety in mind during the summer riding season. ATV safety is important even if your family doesn't own an ATV because your child may have friends who do. The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute would like to impress the importance of ATV safety; here is what all parents need to know when it comes to your child and ATVs:

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Never ride on public roads – another vehicle could hit you.
- Ride an ATV that is right for your age.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an ATV *RiderCourse*; call Toll-Free (800) 887-2887, or visit www.atvsafety.org.

As parents, you literally hold the key to your children's safety. Every ATV has an ignition key, and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. Parental supervision is vital to a child's safety; children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised at all times when riding an ATV. Allow continued use only if you determine that your child has the ability and judgment to operate the ATV safely.

ATVs are not "one-size-fits-all." Approximately 90 percent of youth ATV-related injuries occur when a child under the age of 16 is operating an adult-sized ATV.

Even though a child is of the recommended age to ride a particular size ATV, not all children have the strength, skill or judgment needed to operate an ATV. The Institute publishes a booklet, *Parents, Youngsters, and All-Terrain Vehicles*, designed to help parents determine if their child is ready to ride an ATV, available electronically at: www.atvsafety.org, or call (800) 852-5344 to obtain a free copy.

By:
ATV Safety Institute

FINAL SHOTS

Stuart Ryan Wright Lowndes County

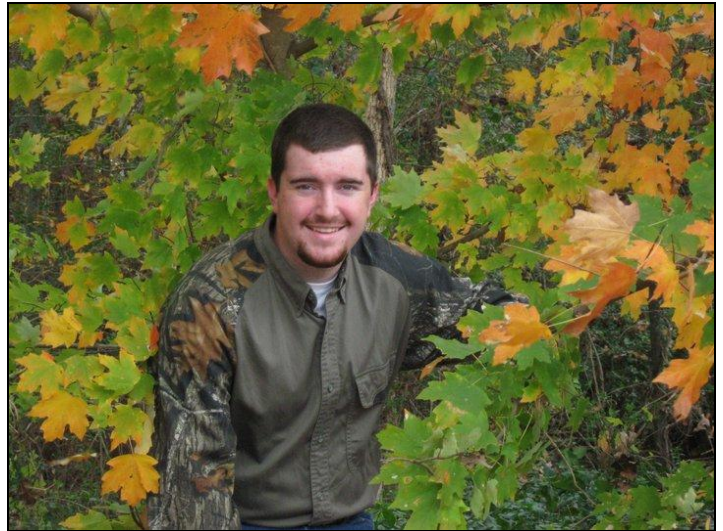
We congratulate Mr. Stuart Ryan Wright for his final participation on three National Teams!

Stuart got his start in Shooting Sports after his Boy Scout Troop closed. Growing up with his family being active in shooting sports, he found himself as a member of the Lowndes County 4-H. There he found a way to enjoy his love of horses through the Horse Program

and his love of shooting sports through the Shooting Sports Program. With both he has competed competitively.

Stuart has been in the Shooting Sports program since 2002. He has successfully shot .22 Pistol, Recurve Archery, and Air Pistol as a Mississippi National Team member in Grand Island, Nebraska in 2008 and 2009; and Kerrville, Texas in 2010. His .22 Pistol Team ranked 2nd overall in 2008 Nationals. Stuart is proud to have been coached by his dad Stuart Wright during his shooting sports years.

Today, Stuart is attending Mississippi State University as a sophomore in Wildlife Biology with the future hopes of opening his own deer farm. Stuart would like to pass on to future Shooting Sports youth to "Find a Discipline you love and stick with it"!



Kids Corner



Headed to the Range

**4-H Shooting Sports
Newsletter**
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Mississippi State University,
MS 39762

Phone:
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E-Mail:
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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

http://msucares.com/4h_Youth/shooting_sports/index.html



To Make the Best Better

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the upcoming newsletters, Please e-mail Courtney Headley at the E-mail listed above.

Event Information Such As:

DIRECTIONS, MAPS, AGENDAS,
AND LODGING can be found on
the **MSUCARES.COM** website.

Simply click:

*4-H/Youth, Projects, Shooting
Sports, Events*

Answer to Trivia Question:

The gauge of a shotgun barrel was originally determined by the number of identically-sized lead balls that have the same diameter as the bore, and weigh one pound. Example: Let's say the bore of a 20 gauge is .6 of an inch. It would take 20, six tenths of an inch lead balls, to weigh 1 pound. Using the same numbers, if one were to build a gun with a bore of .675 it would take 16 lead balls that size to weigh 1 pound--- thus a 16 gauge. Oops !! - what about a 410? Truth is a 410 is not actually a gauge. It is a caliber... .410 inches bore. Applying the math to this would make a 410 shotgun actually a 67 gauge.... so next time you go to buy your 410 shells ask for some 67 gauge shells and see what happens.

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