

# YOUTH ON TARGET

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## From the Coordinator



For those of you who have ever lost a parent/friend, you know how emotionally trying it can be for a family. Your loved one has passed on; you can no longer touch them or have that "one more conversation" with them.

Since recently losing my father to a prolonged illness, I too have had to endure this grief. One of the things that I have noticed during this time has been the well spring of memories that have come flooding back to my mind. Times spent hunting and fishing, working on projects together or just a smile given to me in approval for a job well done. I am continually amazed by the wealth of these that have been stored away.

These times or memories are all that are left of the man I called "daddy" for 39 years, and were built over a lifetime. My question for you to ponder, both parent and

## Northeast District Report

The Northeast District 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs are busy preparing for January and early February. They are gearing up for practices to begin in order to prepare youth for the April 28<sup>th</sup> Northeast 4-H Shooting Sports Competition that will be held at the Whitetail Ridge Shooting facilities in Blue Springs, MS.

Many 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs started meeting this fall across the District to plan for the 2012 Shooting Sports year. Numerous clubs are hosting sign-ups for firearm and archery cleaning tips, firearm storage tips, safe firearm handling tips and numerous others topics for youth during the Shooting Sports offseason. If you are interested in signing up, you can contact Reid Nevins or Tammy Parker at the information provided:

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young person, is this...What memories are you making now? Are they ones filled with laughter and encouragement or of something else? Cherish the time you have together because they are gone way too soon. I love you Daddy, "Thanks for the Memories".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Long".

John L. Long, Ph.D

4-H Youth Development Specialist/  
Shooting Sports Coordinator



Clay County 4-H Sure-Shots Shooting Sports Club at their December meeting/Christmas Party

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# 2011 Volunteer Training



State Volunteer Workshops were held August 27–28 at the Holmes Community College in Grenada, MS and November 18–19 at the Coastal R & E Center in Biloxi, MS. Two hundred and two volunteers received certification in one of the Pistol, Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloading, Coordinator, Rifle or Hunting disciplines. Many thanks go out to the instructors that made these events an even greater success and who took time away from their family and friends to ensure quality instruction to volunteers around the state. Congratulations to those volunteers who are dedicated to instructing our 4-H youth!



Photos retrieved from the Mississippi State University Extension Service Gallery at MSUCares.com

## 2011-2012 Shooting Sports Executive Board Officers Re-Elected!!

### Bert Sanders– President

Bert is a Level II Rifle Instructor from Tallahatchie Co. and has worked with the 4-H Shooting Sports at the county, district and state level for many years.



### Jeff Hendrix– Vice President

Jeff became our newest Level II Muzzleloader instructor in the spring of 2008. Jeff’s passion is seeing that the youth of Mississippi are given every opportunity to succeed.



### Kathy Petty– Secretary

Kathy is a multifaceted individual serving as the 4-H Youth Agent in Marion Co. as well as one of the two Southeast District Shooting Sports Coordinators. She is also Level II Coordinator, and a Hunter Education instructor.



## Shooters by the Numbers

**14.8**  
million

Number of Americans who currently participate in rifle target shooting

**2-3**  
billion

Number of rimfire rounds sold annually in the United States

**500**  
million

Number of centerfire rounds sold annually in the United States

**25**  
percent

Percentage of Americans who, once invited to shoot, would like to go hunting

**69**  
percent

Percentage of Americans who, once invited, would like to shoot a rifle at the range

**45**  
percent

Percentage of Americans who say an invitation would inspire them to participate in target shooting



**SAFETY FIRST!**

While many hunters are heading into the woods, it is essential that you remember the TAB-K Formula. It is four basic rules of firearm safety that can be easily remembered:

**T** = *Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.*

**A** = *Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.*

**B** = *Be certain of your target and what's beyond it.*

**K** = *Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.*



**Future Shooting Sports Additions:**

The State 4-H Office would like to welcome to the 4-H family:



**Marlie Sheree Headley**

Born September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Weighing 7 lbs., 12.9 oz. 19 ½ inches long

Proud Parents:

Jonathan & Courtney Headley

Siblings: Kylie Grace and Natalie Faithe Headley

Courtney is an Office Associate that assists Dr. John Long with the 4-H Shooting Sports events that are prepared by the State 4-H Office.

**AND!!!**



**Jacob Moore Edwards**

Born September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Weighing 8 ½ lbs. 22 ½ inches long

Proud Parents:

Scott & Lydia Edwards

Sibling: Reed Edwards

Scott is a Level II Pistol Instructor in Oktibbeha County and is a Private Lands Biologist with Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

## ATV SAFETY CORNER

### New ATV Safety Law

Have you heard about the most recent law passed and went into effect July 1, 2011? Mississippi passed a law that encourages ATV operators to wear an approved safety helmet. The new law is summed up by the following: The law requires anyone driving an all-terrain vehicle on public property to have a driver's license or has completed an ATV Safety RiderCourse. The law also requires a helmet for anyone younger than 16 who's driving or riding on an ATV on public property. The fine for violating either requirement ranges from \$25 to \$50.



Mississippi 4-H has been proactive since beginning an ATV Safety program some several years earlier. 4-H'ers, 4-H Volunteers, 4-H parents and immediate family members of 4-H'ers, have been involved with the ATV safety program and ATV Safety awareness for several years now. More recently, 4-H got involved with the ATV Safety Institute (ASI) *RiderCourse* program about three years ago. Mississippi State University and the Extension Service through 4-H, was able to secure grant dollars to have 14 Extension Staff members become certified to teach the all-important ATV *RiderCourse*. Currently these staff members are reaching out to 4-H youth and their family members to teach ATV safety. The course is a part of the ASI ATV Safety program and if you are interested in enrolling your young person in the ATV *RiderCourse*, please contact your local County Extension Office. This office will direct you on how you can get the *RiderCourse* offered in your area. Call them today!

*-Larry Alexander-  
Extension 4-H Specialist  
4-H ATV State Coordinator*



### ATV Safety Awareness during 4-H Celebration



Recently Mississippi 4-H hosted a 4-H Celebration at the Agricultural and Forestry Museum located in Jackson, Mississippi. There were a number of activities offered and 4-H ATV Safety was a part of the many activities conducted. There were 4-H ATV Safety Instructors on hand to promote the rapidly growing 4-H Safety Program. As part of the big Celebration, there were ATV sessions that offered important information about Safety Gear and Equipment; Riding the Right Size ATV; Risk of Riding Double; Youth got to experience the ATV Safety Simulator/Kiosk; and there was an interactive stop that allowed participants to realize what it is like to ride ATV's under the influence of alcohol (Use of Drunk

Glasses in a walking obstacle course).

The Brain Injury Association of Mississippi joined forces with 4-H ATV Instructors to provide information about the new Mississippi ATV Safety Law. In addition to the Brain Injury Association, the ATV Safety Stations had on hand an Emergency Room Doctor to talk about the importance of wearing safety helmets. The day was filled with lots of fun and great information shared about ATV Safety. A special thanks goes to Got Gear Motorsports of Jackson for providing the onsite ATV's.

Should you want to get involved with ATV Safety or would like to have the experience of participating in the ATV e-Course, we would encourage you and others to go to [www.atvsafety.org](http://www.atvsafety.org) website and find out how you can sign up for the ATV Safety Institute E-Course. The ATV Safety E-Course is an excellent way to prepare for the actual ATV Safety *RiderCourse*. Check it out today!



BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF MISSISSIPPI

-Larry Alexander-  
Extension 4-H Specialist  
4-H ATV State Coordinator

## Mississippi State Collegiate 4-H



### Collegiate 4-Hers:

(Left to right) Shad Benn, Le'Shawn Dedeaux, Taryn Smith (Collegiate 4-H President), Brittany Reed, Dr. John Long (Collegiate 4-H Advisor), and Terence Norwood in Knoxville, TN

The Mississippi State Collegiate 4-H traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to represent the Mississippi State Chapter of Collegiate 4-H at the annual Southern Region Collegiate 4-H Invitational, November 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The event gives Collegiate 4-Hers in the southern region the opportunity to discuss upcoming events and exchange ideas of service projects that will better their club in the upcoming year.

At the start of every fall semester, Mississippi State University puts on Dawg Daze, a week long program made up of several events to welcome freshmen to campus and give them the opportunity to meet new people. Collegiate 4-H participated by hosting the

Cupcake Social. The club partnered with Active Minds, another student organization, to provide cupcakes for students to decorate for free. Along with the cupcakes and icing, the clubs also provided candy and drinks. The event got Collegiate 4-H's name out amongst new students and both organizations saw an increase in attendance at their first meetings of the year.

Mississippi State University's chapter of Collegiate 4-H is very active on campus as well as in the community. Right before Christmas, the club hosts its annual toy drive benefitting the children at Palmer Home Orphanage in Columbus, MS. This year, to make the toy drive even bigger and better, Collegiate 4-H partnered with Psi Chi Honor Society to make it a campus-wide effort. Donation boxes were placed in residence halls, sorority houses, the Bost Extension building and other places on campus. The children of Palmer Home Orphanage will receive more toys than ever this year thanks to the efforts of Collegiate 4-H and Psi Chi.

*If you are graduating high school and thought your 4-H days had to come to an end...Never Fear, Mississippi State Collegiate 4-H is Here! Entering college at Mississippi State University can be scary, but making friends can be easy when you join Collegiate 4-H!*

To join contact:

State 4-H Office  
(662) 325-3350

Dr. John Long, Collegiate 4-H Advisor  
jlong@ext.msstate.edu



How did the 4-H Shooting Sports program get started?

## Meet Your Volunteer

### Christy King

#### Level II Hunting Instructor & Level I Rifle Instructor



Christy King grew up as the daughter of a 4-H agent where her mother made sure that her 4-H experience was well rounded. Her main project was sheep, but she participated in other project areas such as leadership, public speaking, food and nutrition, clothing construction, photography, and even forestry. Shooting Sports was one project area that she never participated in; however, she loved going in the backyard as a young child and target practicing with the .22 rifle.

During her first years as a 4-H Agent in Clarke County, she began an active involvement in growing the shooting sports program that only contained four active members. She has experienced tremendous growth in the county program by recruiting and training new volunteers. Christy's family supports her in doing this with her mom serving as the county shooting sports coordinator and her husband serving as the shotgun coach.

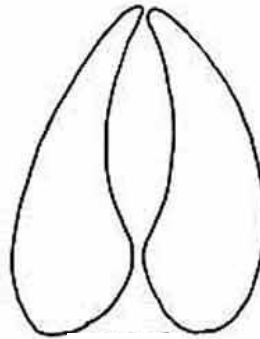
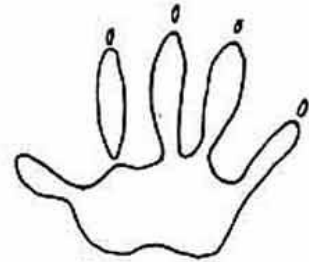
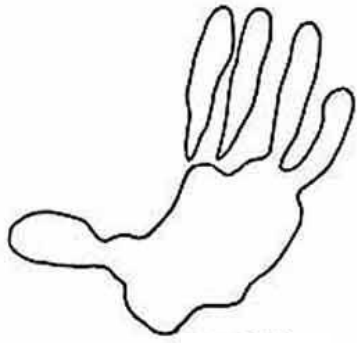
Christy is a certified Level I instructor in Rifle and a Level II instructor for the Hunting discipline. When asked what her favorite discipline is, she found it hard to decide between the .22 Rifle and Hunting. As a child she felt the connection with the .22 Rifle, but she loves hunting as well.

When asked her favorite part of the Shooting Sports Program, Christy mentioned watching the kids grow up and mature throughout the year. Not just in their respective disciplines, but also in life. She said it is always rewarding when 4-Hers progress in their shooting abilities, knowledge, and skill of shooting sports. Christy said although she wants her 4-Hers to be successful on the range, it is much more meaningful that they develop the life skills they learn by being part of the shooting sports program.

She hopes that she not only instills in the 4-Hers how to shoot, but she hopes that the 4-Hers remember that there was an adult in their life that cared about them both on and off the range in the many years to come. When Christy was asked how she would like to be remembered in one hundred years, she said she would like to be remembered as a "role model who made a difference in the life of a child, who taught young people that nothing is impossible with effort, who taught youth to believe in themselves, and who taught young people that anything worth having is worth working hard for."

Christy's advice to future and current volunteers in the shooting sports program is to "Always remember that the program is about Youth Development". She loves shooting sports because she gets to teach youth how to be good adults and uses shooting sports to do it. "Never lose sight of the fact that the 4-H Shooting Sports program is about providing the members with a positive environment in which to interact with other youth and adults who care," says Christy. Christy also reminds volunteers that each time you come in contact with a 4-H member; you have the opportunity to shape the life and future of a young person.

### Kid's Corner



See how many animal tracks you can guess!

Answers on Page 11

### *Twas the Night of Shooting Sports*

*Twas the night before Christmas, when all across the state  
4-H'ers were settling down before it got late  
The ribbons were hanging of accomplishments with care  
From competitions at Nationals, Districts, State, and State Fair.*

*The 4-H'ers were thinking of the upcoming year  
Hoping Santa would bring them new Shooting Sports gear.  
A new bow for Sarah, A rifle for Glenn  
Santa, don't forget a wildlife ID for the new Hunting discipline.*

*Maybe he'll bring some pellets or targets to shoot  
I bet a shirt with the logo sure would be cute!  
A neat little box with a pistol inside  
Or how about a muzzleloader with powder provide.*

*The new friends I made at competitions this year  
Gave excitement and joy knowing they will be near,  
When all the encouragement starts filling my heart  
Shooting Sports volunteers know just where to start.*

*With my agent supporting me and guiding my aim  
I know this year at Nationals won't be the same.  
More rulebooks to view and distances to study  
If I have any questions, Dr. John Long is my buddy!*

*Now Reid and Tammy, and Ellen and Kathy  
Mari Alyce, Sherry, Phillip and Jeremy;  
To the top of the state, and the bottom as well  
These coordinators keep me informed by phone and by mail!*

*As targets are placed, I look through my scope  
Was that a Bullseye? Man I hope!  
Keep on guard and be safe is number one key  
4-H'ers lined up as far as I can see.*

*And then, in a voice, I heard John say  
Bert Sanders and Jeff Hendrix are on the way!  
My arrow drawn, no one making a sound.  
Ready!... Fire!... is heard all around.*

*As I wait for the signal, to much my delight  
The aim was good, the suggestions just right!  
Accomplishment and pride as I come running back  
I knew if I practiced, I would stay on track!*

*So this year I thank all of my supports  
From the state, coordinators, agents, and volunteers of Shooting Sports!  
4-H is my family, as I watch it grow,  
**Head, Heart, Hands, & Health** .... This is what I know!*

**4-H Shooting Sports**

**Newsletter**

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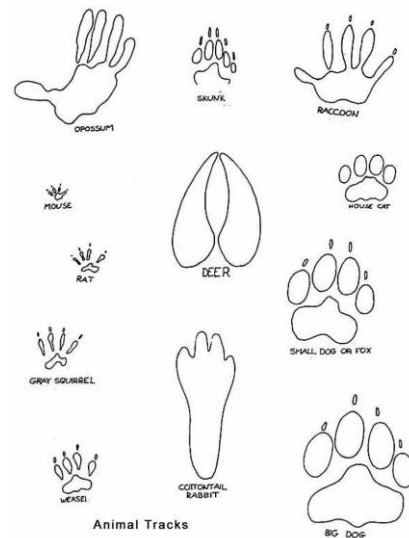
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To Make the Best Better

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



**Answer to Trivia Question:**

*Shooting Sports have been a part of 4-H since the 1930's when there were shooting competitions in many states. There was also shooting sports at some 4-H camps that had ranges. However, there was no organized training program where leaders were taught how to teach youth about shooting. In 1976, staff members in Texas realized that there needed to be a training program in place to teach volunteers how to teach shooting skills. They requested that this be done as an expansion of the existing rifle project. Approval was given, and 4-H Shooting Sports was born. After being effective in Texas, it was decided in 1977 that the program should be expanded to include other states.*

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