

# Wakulla 4-H News & Events



Volume VII Number 02 / August 2024

## In this Issue

Title	Page
4-H Club Spotlight.....	1
Featured Clover .....	2
Advisory Council .....	2
2024-2025 4-H Clubs.....	3
Fall Events .....	3
4-H Volunteer Project .....	4

### Wakulla Wonderful 2025 Committee Members Needed!

Wakulla Wonderful is the annual celebration of the county’s founding date. In 2019, Wakulla 4-H members and volunteers celebrated the day the county was founded on March 11, 1843 with a birthday party on the Wakulla County Courthouse lawn. Since that year, the celebration has grown to become a full day festival. In the weeks leading up to the county’s birthday, the community is encouraged to get outside and Walk Across Wakulla. The 32 mile

walking goal was established in 2021 as a way to celebrate the county leading up to the festival.

The 2025 festival will be held Saturday, March 8 from 10 AM to 2 PM in the Wakulla Courthouse Square. Committee meetings begin in September 2024. Adults and youth are welcome to serve on the committee!

Want to be part of the Wakulla Wonderful event? Contact us at the Wakulla UF/IFAS Extension office at 84 Cedar Avenue or call 850-926-3931 or email Dr. Rachel Pienta at [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).



## 4-H Club Spotlight Archery

4-H Program Assistant Christy Pearson coordinates the Wakulla 4-H Archery program with 4-H volunteer instructors. Archery is one of Wakulla 4-H’s most popular programs. The club meets monthly to learn new skills and to practice. The club meetings are split into

novice and experienced levels to maximize the hands-on experiential learning.

Youth are encouraged to develop their skills to qualify for regional and state archery competitions.

To meet your club leader and learn more about the club, attend Open House on August 24 or contact the 4-H team at 850-926-3931. Be sure to bookmark the Wakulla 4-H Facebook page for club and event updates!



## 4-H

### Advisory Council

#### Members

##### Returning Members

Verna Brock

Desiree Gorman

Tonya Hobby

Greg James

Quincee Messersmith

Jared Miller

Al Pasini

##### Welcoming New Members!

Eddie Hand

Novella Franklin

Cerissa Fondo

Lauren Latham

Karen Zak

For more information about joining the Advisory Council, please contact Rachel Pienta at [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).

## Wakulla's 4-H Featured Clover



Libby Justice joined 4-H in Fall 2023 and quickly started making a difference. She volunteered with the Gardening, Chicken, and Horse Clubs. She became a member of the County Council and the Communications Club. Libby also served on the Community Pride Service Project and volunteered her time at the 4-H Summer Camp.

In June, Libby competed at the State Horse Events in Gainesville. She won 2nd place at the 4-H State Event with her Illustrated Talk "Horse Coat Genetics: Colors, Patterns & Textures." Her 2nd place finish qualifies her to compete at Regionals in Georgia in July!

Libby is a great role model for how to make the most of your 4-H experience.

She will represent the state at National in Kentucky in November.

### Way to GO Libby!



## Wakulla 4-H Has an Award-Winning Podcast!

Wakulla 4-H has a podcast. With technical support from community partner Doug Apple from WAVE 94 radio station, 4-H youth interview community leaders about local topics.

The podcast recordings air on Wave 94 and can be found online at Apple, Soundcloud, and more. Youth interested about podcast production and how to develop interview skills can participate in the recordings as 4-H members. Members of any Wakulla 4-H club can become a podcast episode host. Youth can propose a topic, write interview questions, receive expert coaching, and learn from professional technical support.

The podcast has won awards at the state, regional, and national levels.



## 2024 -25 4-H Clubs\*

4-H Livestock Club

(Chickens, Goats, & More)

4-H County Council

4-H Club on Wheels

(bikes, skateboards, skates)

4-H Archery

4-H Shotgun

4-H Air Rifle

4-H Future Leaders of  
Wakulla (FLOW)

4-H Communications & Pod-  
casting

4-H Home School Club

4-H Horse Club

4-H Wildlife Ecology

And more!

\* All our clubs are looking for  
additional adult volunteers.

Please call 850-901-7092  
to schedule a volunteer  
interview.

## 4-H Fall Events

August 24, 2024: Fall Open House

September 21, 2024: International Coastal  
Clean-Up and Teen Retreat

September 28, 2024: Forest Ecology Field Trip to  
Gainesville

October 5, 2024 Adopt-a-Road Clean Up - Cleaning on  
Songbird Avenue

October 6 - 12 National 4-H Week

October 1 – 31 Peanut Butter Challenge

October 26, 2024 Story Walk at Azalea Park

November 7-17, 2024 North Florida Fair

November 16, 2024 4-H Day at the North Florida Fair

**For more information, call 850-926-3931 and ask for  
Christy, Danielle, or Rachel.**

## Wakulla County Extension Faculty & Team

### **Samantha Kennedy, MS**

UF/IFAS Wakulla County  
Extension Director & Agent III,  
Family & Consumer  
Sciences

### **Dr. Rachel Pienta**

UF/IFAS Extension Agent III  
4-H Youth Development



**Sherry Balchuck**, Extension Office Manager

**Patricia Standeford**, Administrative Assistant-/  
Graphics Specialist

**Amy Frazier**, Nutrition Educator



**Christy Pearson**, 4-H Program Assistant

**Danielle Cimino**, 4-H Program Assistant



# 4-H Youth Project Continues to Make a Difference

Each year, Wakulla 4-H youth plan and execute one or more service projects to benefit the local community. Prior projects have included hurricane clean-up efforts, disaster preparedness buckets for senior citizens, a rain barrel installation at the local library, a senior center prom, and a Blessing Box at the Extension office. From 2022-2023, 4-H youth wanted to engage the community in efforts to preserve the natural beauty of Wakulla.

They noted an increase in littering throughout the community and partnered with Keep Wakulla County Beautiful to help raise awareness and plan a hands-on effort.

Youth issued a challenge to the community to join them in raising awareness about working together to keep the county free of litter. Youth also interviewed two community leaders about their work with Keep Wakulla County



Beautiful for the Wakulla 4-H Podcast. You can listen to the podcast episodes with Jim Davis and Greg James on Amazon or Apple podcast streaming services.

Additionally, the youth worked with local artist Rachell Mathis to design three original art pieces to promote an anti-littering message. This artwork is featured on road signs installed around the county on major roads. Keep Wakulla County Beautiful adopted one of the designs as the 2023 International Coastal Clean Up t-shirt design!

In 2023, the project was recognized by Keep Florida Beautiful as Outstanding Collaboration for 2023 and in 2024. One of the podcast episodes was recognized as the top 4-H podcast in the nation!

4-H youth continue to clean a local road through the Adopt-a-Road program. Look for the signs on Songbird Avenue in Crawfordville!

