Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Lake County FCS participates in a statewide Trauma Informed Care Basics training team. This quarter, Sandra Slater, the Lake County FCS Educator in Lake County, provided an in-person youth training to Cleveland Metro Parks Youth Outdoors staff, who provide outdoor recreation and nature programming for inner city urban youth.

Learning Objectives of Trauma Informed Care Basics are:

- To generate a shared understanding and language around trauma and adverse childhood experiences.
- Increase participants’ awareness of trauma and its prevalence so they are better able to identify examples of traumatic events.
- Create a shift in thinking, highlighting the prevalence of trauma histories among people that you serve.

Our FCS team has provided this training to some of our partner agencies in Lake County and across the state and will be reaching out to offer this to Lake Metro Parks and other stakeholders who work with youth.

Community Development/CD

Ohio Sea Grant and OSU Extension welcome Tom Polden as their intern for the spring. Tom, native to the shores of Australia, is currently a student at Lake Erie College majoring in environmental science with a minor in mathematics. When asked why he choose Ohio Sea Grant and OSU Extension, Tom says “I am excited to work with people who are passionate and knowledgeable about environmental science. I hope to learn how I can play a role in creating a more sustainable future within Cleveland and back home in Adelaide.”

Tom is being mentored by Jill Bartolotta, Ohio Sea Grant Extension educator, whose work focuses on plastic pollution prevention and removal. After working with Tom for a few months, she states, “Tom has been great. I am very excited to see passionate individuals such as himself interested in the betterment of our environment and coastal communities.” During his internship, Tom has created microplastic kits that will be given to educators, assisted with a plastic pollution session at the Ohio Clean Marina Conference, and assisted in several outreach programs such as juice pouch wallet class at Buckeye Elementary.
4-H Youth Development

The Lake County 4-H program provided a great opportunity for the 4-H livestock youth by partnering with the Lake Farm Park to hold their annual quality assurance training. Quality assurance is mandated for all youth who take livestock projects to fair. Providing quality assurance for animals merges the current state-mandated Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance program with animal handling, care and welfare. This program builds a general understanding of food safety to improve the confidence level of consumers toward a safe wholesome food supply. Almost 100 youth filled the Lake Farm Park auditorium to learn about carcass quality and reducing animal stress, maintaining proper safety, and being a good environmental steward. The Lake County 4-H educator Lisa Manning, trained 4-H advisors and Farm Park staff. The Lake County fair vet provided the youth hands on training to gain information and knowledge to raise quality livestock projects, while protecting the environment. Lake County Buyers should feel confident buying projects raised by a Lake County 4-H youth.

Agricultural and Natural Resources

The Lake County Master Gardeners successfully held their annual Home Gardeners Workshop in March. This event was held virtually and was very successful with over 140 registering and signing on for this event. Presenters were:

Laura Deeter who received her Ph. D. in horticulture from The Ohio State University and is a Professor of Horticulture at Ohio State ATI in Wooster, OH. She presented “The Basics of Design.” Participants gained an understanding of where to begin when it comes to landscape design. The session showed participants how to break down the ‘rules’ of design and apply them; provided examples of design principles, design elements; and shared tips and tricks for just about any landscape situation.

Erik Draper, the commercial horticulture educator for Ohio State University Extension in Geauga County for the past 26 years was the other presenter. Erik’s specialty is to actively use, teach, develop and refine all critical thinking skills necessary to diagnose biotic and abiotic plant disorders. Erik also loves and is devoted to using the science of phytoforensics. Erik presented on the top “20 Questions of Plant Problem Diagnostics… Which Questions Really Matter?”

Success Story

Each year, we look forward to highlighting the artistic talents of students through the Clean and Green Lake County art contest. For over 15 years, OSU Extension, in partnership with the Solid Waste District, engages youth to spotlight the beauty of Lake County and encourage residents to take care of our community. This year, twenty-four schools participated with a total of 875 entries. After three rounds of judging, the artwork of Rees Erickson was chosen as the overall winner. Middle school and high school division winners were also chosen. All winners will be recognized at a commissioner’s meeting.