4-H Celebrates Earth Day by “Preserving History and Promoting Community Service”

On Saturday, April 24 twelve McDowell County 4-H members and parents met at the old Pea Vine railroad tracks to begin the efforts to clean up the Historically-black Morehead Cemetery in Marion.

As the youth arrived, the first words out of their mouth was “Are you sure this is a cemetery”? “And how did you find it”? After the initial shock of how to get started, the youth decided that talking about the problem was not going to help! The solution was “Work had to be done”!

The youth and their parents grabbed up rakes, weed-eaters, chain saws, trash bags, and took a deep breath and began with clearing a path into what looked like over grown woods. Upon finding the first burial spot everyone decided that the best approach was to start with one small area and see what could be accomplished in one day. Ray McDaniel, and Jamie Schunke took on the task of clearing the main road and the outside boundaries of the 3.5 acres of cemetery. By the end of the workday, McDowell 4-H’ers cleared a spot the size of a large house which included approximately 7 grave sites. This may not sound like much, but it was a great start to what the youth of McDowell county 4-H hopes to turn into a project that will preserve the history of McDowell county.

The historical-black cemetery has fallen in disrepair over the years. Weeds and other vegetation have overtaken over and covered up many of the old graves. There are 166 bodies reported buried in the cemetery with the first reported grave dated back to 1884.

This is a wonderful service project for the community to be involved in. If you are interested in helping restore the “Historical Morehead Cemetery” please contact McDowell County 4-H please ask for Chad Ray or Jane McDaniel at 828-652-8104.
A Note from your 4-H Agent:

Summer is just around the corner and that means that 4-H Summer Discovery is ready to get underway. Please look over the attached Summer Discovery information and register as soon as possible to insure that you will be included in all the great workshops!

The upcoming event calendar is just a reminded of all the events that we mentioned in the March-April 4-H newsletter. If you have questions about any of the events please call me at 652-8104.

McDowell county 4-H is looking forward to a busy exciting summer!

Compiled and edited by:

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