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Subject: ACORN - Back to School Issue

Date: August 4, 2006 9:58:28 AM EDT

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A.C.O.R.N

Athens-Clarke Opportunities and Resources Newsletter - *In a Nutshell*

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators - August 2006

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Welcome Back to School! If you are getting this electronic newsletter for the first time - you must contact the ACC Recycling Division at suki@acc-recycle.org to remain on the monthly e-mail list.

Teacher Reuse Store - 2nd annual open house

The second annual open house for the Teacher Reuse Store will be on Saturday, August 5, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Teacher Reuse Store is located at the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Facility, 699 Hancock Industrial Way, Athens, 30605.

What: This store will provide a variety of items to local educators for **FREE!** These items have been donated from local

business and industry. Most of these items would have been landfilled. Items include: binders, file folders, paper, art supplies, recycling bins, etc. Bring your own bags and you can take ONLY what you can carry. ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Who: This store is open to any teacher in Athens-Clarke, Madison, and Oconee Counties. Public and private school teachers and homeschoolers are welcome. All teachers must provide official documentation to verify teaching status – a school district photo I.D. or a letter on school letterhead signed by the principal will be accepted for entry. Only teachers will be admitted into the store – no helpers please. **NO CHILDREN OF ANY AGE ARE ALLOWED IN THE REUSE STORE!**

Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information at (706) 613-3512.

NEW ACC Green School Website - check it out!

We have an ACC Green School website (thanks to the ACC Recycling Division's new employee, Andrew Lentini) - www.accgreenschools.org . It is still a work in progress so we welcome suggestions. Please send suggestions/comments to Andrew Lentini at andrew@acc-recycle.org .

Green School Registration and Coordinators

Each school should designate a Green School Coordinator and complete the Green School Registration form (the form is located on the home page of the new website in two formats - MS Word and as a PDF). Please send the form to Suki Janssen at suki@acc-recycle.org . The forms are due by **Friday, September 8th**.

FREE - The Georgia Conservancy's Native Seasons Workshop and Aldo Leopold workshop Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9

Native Seasons: Georgia's Flora and Fauna is a GPS/QCC correlated curriculum that will assist you when teaching the natural sciences. When you study the natural world you see that life has few definitive beginnings and endings, rather passes through stages that are part of a continuing cycle. As the seasons revolve, many organisms alter their routines to compensate for the changing temperatures and available food. In this interactive workshop, you will explore the changes that occur in the flora and fauna throughout the Georgia seasons. For additional information about Native Seasons visit http://www.georgiaconservancy.org/Education/ED_workshops.asp . Additionally, the Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold. The Leopold Education Project teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources. Check out the following website for additional information on this workshop www.lep.org . This workshop will be on Friday, September 8th from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (dinner included) at the ACC Recycling Facility and Saturday, September 9th from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (continental breakfast and lunch provided) at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia. PLU credit will be given for this 10 hour workshop. This workshop is provided by the ACC Recycling Division. The workshop is limited to 25 participants - current ACC Green Schools have the first available slots. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional details at (706) 613-3512. Registration information will be sent to schools soon.

Community Day at the Recycling Center - Saturday, August 26th

Join us at the ACC Recycling Facility's Community Day to celebrate our 11th anniversary from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Join the Recycling Division for tours of the recycling facility, games, snacks, and food - **FREE** fun for all ages. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information at (706) 613-3512.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful's - Toast in the Garden

Join the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Board of Directors and enjoy good food and drink in support of Loop 10 ramp beautification projects. The event will be on Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 person or \$15.00 for two. Contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful for additional information and tickets at (706) 613-3501, extension 312.

Recycling Coordinator Open House

Interested in starting or expanding a school recycling program? Is so, visit the ACC Recycling Facility on Thursday, August 31, 2006 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and learn about new waste reduction programs you can add this school year. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information (706) 613-3512.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Garden Junk

Visit the following website <http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/junk/> (Gardenweb) and find some interesting reuse ideas for your outdoor classroom. Send us your classroom reuse ideas and receive a recycled surprise, send entries to suki@acc-recycle.org.

This newsletter is a monthly newsletter from ACC Stormwater, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, Public Utilities Department, and Solid Waste Department, Recycling Division. If you didn't receive this newsletter directly and would like to be put on the e-mail list, contact Suki at suki@acc-recycle.org

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

**Leaping into Green and Healthy Learning - 10th Annual Outdoor Classroom Symposium - Friday, October 27
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center - Mansfield, Georgia**

"Leaping into Green and Healthy Learning" will be the theme of the 10th annual Georgia Outdoor Classroom Symposium. The event will be held on Friday, October 27, 2006 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and Conference Center in Mansfield, GA (about one hour southeast of Atlanta). Additional details and registration information will be available later this summer. Click here for additional information <http://eeingeorgia.org/net/calendar/details.aspx?c=28708&s=39267.0.68.4863>. Stay tuned for potential grant information...

Waste-Free Events - stay tuned for local Waste-Free events coming in November

EPA is announcing its new Waste-Free Lunch program. The cornerstone of this program is an informational poster that shows students, teachers and administrators how to reduce, reuse and recycle their way to a waste-free lunch. The poster includes step-by-step instructions on how to hold a waste-free lunch and the benefits of packing waste-free. A PDF of the poster is attached to this email. The Waste-Free Lunch program is part of EPA's Make a Difference campaign which aims to educate and encourage Middle School students to conserve natural resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste.

For more information on waste-free lunches, including a letter to send home to parents, packing tips, and printable activities, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/lunch.htm> .

Outdoor Classroom Grants

Lowe's, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program for K-12 public schools. Grants of up to \$2000 may be used to create new outdoor classrooms and/or enhance existing outdoor learning environments. Grants will be reviewed three times a year. To meet the next deadline, apply by August 31, 2006. For more information visit: <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pq&p>AboutLowe/outdoor/index.html>.

**AFTER YOU BECOME AN ACC GREEN SCHOOL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:
NEW GEORGIA GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**

Georgia Green & Healthy Schools (GGHS) is a new collaborative initiative to assist and support schools in understanding and practicing environmentally sound principals. All public and private/independent schools (grades K-12) in Georgia are invited to participate in this new program. The GGHS program begins with a pledge and is followed by up to three levels of advancement. To participate, students and teachers use assessment tools to conduct school-based investigations. Students practice real life problem solving skills by collecting data, identifying areas that could use improvement, implementing changes, tracking progress, and sharing results. By completing requirements to advance to higher levels, schools earn awards and recognition. Awards include certificate, banner, patches, awards ceremony, and grant eligibility. Schools may also maintain their accomplishments to earn renewal each school year. Visit <http://www.einigeorgia.org/net/content/item.aspx?s=24834.0.68.48.63> for more information.

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CALENDAR

- August
- 3 **First Day of School**
- 5 Teacher Reuse Store
- 26 Community Day at the Recycling Facility, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 31 Recycling Coordinator Open House, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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BRAG BOARD!

IF you have a great Environmental Education accomplishment that you would like to share, contact Suki Janssen, suki@acc-recycle.org. The accomplishment can be for an individual or a school (examples include: award, grant, prize, activity, etc.).

2006 ACC Green Schools

Congratulations to the following 2006 Green Schools: Barrow Elementary (2nd year renewal), Barnett Shoals, Chase Street, Cleveland Road, Fowler Drive, Oglethorpe Avenue, and Whitehead Road (2nd year renewal). Each school was given \$100 from Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful to further environmental education programs/projects. *We challenge all ACC Schools to strive to become 2007 Green Schools!*

Return the Warmth

Last spring during Keep America Beautiful's "Great American Cleanup," schools were challenged to collect #1 (PETE) plastic bottles, such as water bottles, sports drink bottles, and soft drink bottles. These plastic bottles can be turned into fleece fabric and made into warm fleece jackets. Thanks to "Return the Warmth" project sponsors, Sam's Club and Aquafina, the 50 communities nationwide that collected the most bottles received recycled-plastic fleece jackets to give to needy people in their own communities. In Athens-Clarke County, four schools took part. Chase Elementary collected 1,443 pounds of bottles, Clarke Middle School gathered 515 pounds, Whitehead Road Elementary collected 327 pounds, and Barrow Elementary took in 207 pounds. Way to go, schools! Each school will receive \$1 per bottle collected from Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful and the ACC Recycling Division. This means Chase Street Elementary will receive \$1,443, Clarke Middle School \$515, Whitehead Road \$327 and Barrow \$207. This money will be used to further environmental education projects at the schools.

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

ACC staff programs and partnership with ACC schools during the month of May.

Stay tuned next month....

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Stay tuned next month....

CONTACT US

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