

A.C.O.R.N

Athens-Clarke Opportunities and Resources Newsletter - In a Nutshell

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators - February 2008

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Green School Log Update

To become an ACC Green School, a school must Strive for 5! At least five (5) teachers at a given school must complete at least five (5) Earth Friendly activities during the 2007-2008 school year. Participation logs must be completed for all activities and submitted to the Green School Committee via the website. Please visit www.accgreenschools.org for details and/or to submit your logs electronically. All logs are due by Friday, May 2, 2008.

Greenfest Steering Committee announce the Odum Environmental Grants - due February 11, 2008

Clarke, Oconee, Madison, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties are eligible for the Eugene Odum Environmental Grants. The \$200 grants may be awarded to classes at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Projects funded can deal with environmental issues on a local, national or global level. Please contact the ACC Recycling Division for complete details.

Bags for Bears Results

First - a HUGE thanks to everyone for making the Bags for Bears program a success! Now for the results...

1st place with 323,668 bags is Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School

2nd place with 81,083 bags is Fowler Drive Elementary School

3rd place with 74,926 bags is Barrow Elementary School

4th place with 47,370 bags is Whit Davis Elementary School

5th place with 45,350 bags is Oglethorpe Primary School (Oglethorpe County)

6th place with 37,128 bags is St. Joseph Catholic School

Total bags collected by all schools: 853,629 bags (doubled our goal)!!!!

Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail already received over 190 pieces of composite lumber boards to begin the playscapes for the bears, bobcats and otters!!

The top six producing schools will receive a Trex lumber plaque with a bear track mounted to the plaque.

** This is a Green School Activity.

Wormshop

Promote global worming by starting a vermi-composting bin at your school. Invite the ACC Recycling Division to your school to do a "wormshop" for your students. Learn more about the benefits of worms to waste reduction and the environment. Contact the ACC Recycling Division to set up a "wormshop" today!

** This is a Green School Activity.

Do a Green Schools School Yard Project!

Give back to your community by planning a school beautification project! KACCB has tools available to help you make the most of your improvement project. Help keep your school clean, safe, and beautiful! Call KACCB to reserve your tools today.

** This is a Green School Activity.

Does Your School Use Laser or Inkjet Cartridges?

If so, recycle those cartridges to reduce waste in our landfill. Call KACCB to receive a free ink jet collection box. Collect your used cartridges and deposit them into one of the pre-paid envelopes and then drop it in the mail. It's that simple! Call KACCB for more information.

Bee Bee Clean

Do your students like to paint or color? Request our free BEE BEE Clean paint sheets. BEE BEE Clean, the KACCB mascot, helps children understand why litter is bad for the environment and community. Get your students involved in discussions about litter through these fun and creative resources. Contact KACCB for the paint sheets.

Check out the ACC Recycling Division Trash Talk Podcasts!

Podcasts are great ways to listen to current waste reduction and recycling issues in our community. Visit <http://www.acc-recycle.org/trashtalk.htm> to listen to all the podcasts. NOTE: iPods are absolutely not necessary to listen to podcasts. Just click on the link above, click on one of the podcasts and listen! It's easy! These are great for school recycling announcements.

Be Crafty - Not Trashy

<http://www.ewswa.org/pages/recycle/crafts.html>

<http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf27404557.tip.html#tf88387830>

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/1C2EC53CB12E449A9840ABAF5A243DF8.html>

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, ACC Public Utilities Department and ACC 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

Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference - It's conference time!!
Join the Environmental Education Alliance for their annual conference on March 14-16, 2008, at Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, GA, and take part in great presentations on current trends, new information, research, and the classic tricks to make it all work! Activities include educational field trips, an amazing auction and opportunities to meet people in the Environmental Education field who want to share their ideas and gain knowledge. Pre-register by February 22, 2008! To register visit, www.eealliance.org.

Fiskars Project Orange Thumb Community Garden Grants

Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living created Project Orange Thumb to provide community garden groups with the tools, plants and materials they need to reach their goals for neighborhood beautification and horticultural education. Project Orange Thumb recipients will receive grants of up to \$1,500.00 in Fiskars® Garden Tools (retail value), as well as up to \$800.00 in gardening-related materials such as plants, seeds, mulch, etc. Recipients will also receive Project Orange Thumb T-shirts for garden members/volunteers. Gardens and/or gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, horticultural education and/or sustainable agriculture are eligible. Community garden groups, as well as schools, youth groups, retirement communities, treatment facilities, community centers, camps, clubs, etc. are encouraged to apply. Please visit <http://www.fiskars.com/US/Garden/Project+Orange+Thumb/> for complete details on how to apply.

Application deadline is February 15, 2008.

Arbor Day in Georgia, Friday, February 15

Georgia's Arbor Day 2008 will be celebrated on Friday, February 15th. The statewide theme for 2008 is: "Connect and Collaborate! Working Together for a Healthy Urban Forest". Visit <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/CommunityForests/ArborDay/index.cfm> for additional information.

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CALENDAR

February

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 11 Odum Grant Due
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Arbor Day in Georgia
- 18 No School

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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.).

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Take a Trashy Tour!

Come visit the ACC Recycling Facility for a great "smelly" field trip. Big trucks, loud machines, moving conveyor belts, strong smells - bring your students to the recycling facility and learn all about waste reduction and recycling. Contact the Recycling Division to schedule a tour! We can extend your tour with a trashy art project too.

Can't take a field trip? Contact the Recycling Division for a free DVD tour of the facility.

** This is a Green School Activity

Composting Coloring Books, Teacher Guides and Backyard Composting Brochures Available

Are you interested in teaching your students the importance composting? If so, call KACCB or the Recycling Division, to request free composting coloring books, teacher guides or brochures. Help teach your students the importance of waste reduction - Mother Nature style!

New KACCB "Keepin' It Clean" Stickers

Show your support for Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful. Request KACCB's new, hip "Keepin' It Clean" stickers for each student in your classroom! E-mail requests to sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us

Project WET School and Teacher of the Year

Do you know a teacher or school that engages students in water education or has participated in an educational water related project? Georgia Project WET is accepting nominations for the Project WET Teacher and School of the Year. Winners will be honored at the Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference in March 2008. All elementary, middle and high school public or private teachers and schools are eligible, please see attached form for more information. **POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS FEBRUARY 15, 2008.** Contact the Recycling Division an application.

Environmental Education Materials

Visit WWW.EEINGEORGIA.ORG for environmental resources and projects for your students!

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