

A.C.O.R.N

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

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

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Garbage Is My Bag Performances by Jack Golden - Full Schedule

Performer Jack Golden is back by popular demand to do his show about waste and recycling - *Garbage Is My Bag*. *Green School coordinators - please check this schedule for accuracy.*

March 29

10:30 - Athens Montessori School

1:30 - Fowler Drive Elementary

March 30

8:30 - Whitehead Road Elementary

10:00 - Alps Road Elementary

1:30 - Chase Street Elementary

March 31

8:30 - Winterville Elementary

10:30 - Barnett Shoals Elementary

1:30 - Barrow Elementary

*** This is an ACC Green School Activity.*

Eugene Odum Environmental Grants

The Steering Committee of the annual GreenFest observance is making available grants of \$200 to help students in Clarke, Oconee, Madison, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties plan and carry out innovative environmental projects. The deadline for submitting proposals is **Monday, February 6, 2006**. Application form is attached. Contact Larry Dendy at 613-3615, ext. 231 or ldendy@uga.edu with questions.

NEW School Recycling Award from the ACC Recycling Division - deadline for entries Friday, March 10.

Do you have a great recycling program or innovative waste reduction project? If so, this is your chance to be rewarded for your efforts. This year the ACC Recycling Division will award a School Recycling Award at the 2006 GreenFest Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 21. Enter for a chance to win \$200 in materials for environmental education at your school. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for an application form at suki@acc-recycle.org or 613-3512. Application forms are being mailed to each principal and/or green school coordinator this week.

GreenFest 2006 Art and Essay Contest

Elementary School Teachers, would you consider encouraging your students to think - and draw - about how they could help make the ACC community more environmentally friendly in conjunction with GreenFest? The organizations that sponsor the GreenFest activities have come together and created an opportunity for elementary and middle school students to participate in GreenFest. We are hosting an art and poetry contest. The art (and poetry) contest is limited to ACC schools (both public and private). Students are asked to draw a picture that depicts the following theme: *Get Caught Green-Handed in Athens-Clarke County* (demonstrate how students

can improve and maintain a healthy environment in ACC). The categories are K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. A first and second place winner will be selected from each category. Winners will be notified in early April, and will be publicly recognized at the GreenFest Award Ceremony on Friday, April 21. They will receive a prize at the award ceremony. In addition, all winners will have their art on display at the Lyndon Art House on the evening of the awards ceremony.

All drawings must be submitted to the ACC Recycling Division, Green School Program, P.O. Box 1868, Athens, Georgia 30603 by **Friday, March 24**. *Middle Grade Teachers*, we have created an poetry contest for middle school students (6-8 grades) for GreenFest. Students are asked to write a poem that depicts the following theme: *Get Caught Green-Handed in Athens-Clarke County* (demonstrate how students can improve and maintain a healthy environment in ACC). Entries must include the poet/student's name, grade level, teacher, school and parent signature (parent signature gives permission for the Greenfest committee to publish, present, or display this entry in whole or in part.) Poetry winners will be notified in early April and will be publicly recognized at the GreenFest Award Ceremony on Friday, April 21. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. All poetry must be submitted to ACC Recycling Division, Green School Program, P.O. Box 1868, Athens, Georgia 30603 by **Friday, March 24**. For additional information call the ACC Recycling Division at 613-3512.

New Water Conservation Coordinator with the ACC Public Utilities Department

Welcome Steve Dorsch, the new Water Conservation Coordinator! Contact Steve at (706) 613-3729 or stephendorsch@co.clarke.ga.us for all of your water conservation needs.

FREE - The Georgia Conservancy's Native Seasons Workshop (K-7) - Still Available

Who is the Georgia Conservancy and what is their mission? The first school with the answer (and with a minimum of 10 willing teachers/maximum of 25) will win a FREE Native Seasons workshop - over a \$500 value. Native Seasons: Georgia's Flora and Fauna is a GPS/QCC coorelated curriculum that will assist you when teaching the natural sciences. When you study the natural world you see that life has few definite 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. PLU credit available for 10 hour workshops. Workshop can be scheduled anytime. Contact the ACC Recycling Division at suki@acc-recycle.org to win the workshop.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

School Picture Magnets

Here's an idea for school pictures. They would make great Valentine's Day presents. This project is rated EASY to do.

Materials

School pictures

Juice can lids (any steel lid will work - salsa jars, pickle jars, etc.)

Glue

Magnet strips

Ribbon and lace (optional)

How To Make It

1. Take one of those frozen juice lids, you know the round metal ones.
2. Cut a school picture to fit, with the child's face nicely centered.
3. Glue a piece of magnet strip to the back. Use the ones that come in a long length and you just peel the paper backing off them and they're ready to stick.
4. Optional: glue lace around the outside or a ribbon ruffle.

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

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA) Annual Conference

EEA of Georgia's annual conference: *Green with EE: The Art, Science, and Business of Environmental Education* will be held March 17 - 19, 2006 at Simpsonwood Conference Center and Retreat Center, Norcross, Georgia. The registration deadline for the advance rate and lodging is February 10, 2006. For registration information visit: www.eealliance.org.

DNR Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest - entries due February 17th

The Sixteenth Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest is sponsored by The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia and The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. (T.E.R.N.). The theme changes yearly, though the contest is an ongoing educational effort to help children and teachers gain awareness of Georgia's native plants and animals. Artists, as well as wildlife and plant professionals, judge the contest entries based on artistic interpretation, originality, visual impact and contest theme. The contest is open to K-5 grade students from across the state. For additional information visit <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=134&txtPage=3>.

Georgia Conservancy's Home Sweet Home Habitat Art Contest - entries due March 8th

Make a difference creatively through art! Help protect Georgia's natural environment in the Georgia Conservancy's 6th Annual Home Sweet Home Habitat Art Contest. You don't have to be the best artist to have your art selected. A bright, colorful design that shows why we should protect Georgia's longleaf pine ecosystem is what we are looking for! The contest is open to 3rd - 5th grade students in Georgia. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for more details about this contest at suki@acc-recycle.org.

Georgia Conservancy's Youth Environmental Symposium (YES) - entries due April 4th

What: The 2006 Youth Environmental Symposium (YES) is a statewide competition of student-led environmental projects. Cash prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to the most outstanding projects based on:

- * Project choice—is the project appropriate to the issues of the students' community?
- * Project success—did the project reach its goals? If not, why?
- * Student involvement—was this a hands-on, student-led project?
- * Understanding—do the students know where/how their project fits into the "big picture"?
- * Presentation—how well do the students get their ideas across?

Where: A panel of judges will choose ten finalists to come to Hapeville at the Teaching Museum South April 28, 2006 to present their project.

When: The deadline to submit projects is Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

Who: All Georgia middle and high school-aged students are eligible to enter.

Why: The goal of YES is to develop knowledgeable, dedicated, and interested students who are more aware of environmental issues. In the process, they have an opportunity to learn how they

can make a difference in maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment in their schools and communities. Cash prizes!

How: For details, download the [YES 2006 Information Packet](http://www.gaconservancy.org/Education/2006YES%20Teacher%20Packet1.pdf) from <http://www.gaconservancy.org/Education/2006YES%20Teacher%20Packet1.pdf> or contact Suki for an entry form. Completed entry forms must be received either by mail, e-mail or fax by **April 4!**

**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.eingeorgia.org/net/content/item.aspx?s=24834.0.68.48.63> for more information.

EPA - The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool - now available

The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT V.1.0) is now available for download at <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/>. HealthySEAT brings together all of EPA's regulatory and voluntary programs for schools into a single, free software tool that public, private, and tribal school systems can use, if they wish, to establish and manage comprehensive school facility assessment programs. HealthySEAT is designed to be customized by states and school systems to reflect their own priorities and needs. The software will make it easier for school systems to access and implement EPA programs as well as track the status of facility conditions across all of their schools. EPA has scheduled three webcasts (Jan. 26, Feb. 15, Mar. 2) to help acquaint states, school systems, and others with the capabilities and features of HealthySEAT. To sign up for one of the free webcasts, visit the HealthySEAT web site.

Arbor Day in Georgia - February 17th

The 2006 statewide Arbor Day theme is *Trees Make Dollars and Sense*. For more information about this year's Arbor Day or to have your local event listed in the statewide registry please visit <http://www.gatrees.org/CommunityForests/ArborDay/index.cfm>.

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CALENDAR

February

- 6 Odum Grants Due
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!!
- 15 River of Words Entries Due
- 17 American Forest and Paper Association Recycling Awards Due
Arbor Day in Georgia
DNR Give Wildlife A Chance Posters Due

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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.).

America Recycles Day pledge card drive school winners: Courtney Combs, 7th grader at Clarke Middle School, won the \$250 gift certificate at Sunshine Cycles and Anne Gillis, teacher at Clarke Middle School, won a recycled bottle platter. Athens-Clarke County had over 700 people pledge for America Recycles Day. Clarke Middle School and Cleveland Road Elementary had the most school entries!

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

ACC Recycling Division staff did the Recycling Ranger program at Barrow Elementary for all Kindergarden students.

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Alkaline Battery Recycling - Now Available

Alkaline Battery Recycling is now available in Athens-Clarke County. Just drop off your old alkaline batteries at the Solid Waste Department (1005 College Avenue) or ACC Recycling Facility (699 Hancock Industrial Way). Just place all old batteries in plastic bags and drop them off during operating hours. For additional information, contact the ACC Recycling Division 613-3512 or suki@acc-recycle.org.

10th Annual Environmental Resource Guide and Calendars - They're Here!

The ACC Solid Waste Department publishes an environmental resource guide/calendar each year. They are mailed to approximately 32,000 ACC residents. If you didn't receive one OR you don't live in ACC - please contact Suki for your *FREE* copy.

ACC Recycling Facility Tour - now on DVD!

Can't come to the ACC Recycling Facility for a tour? Well, now you can with the ACC Recycling Division tour on DVD. Contact 613-3512 or suki@acc-recycle.org for a copy.

Free Recycling Bins

If you need recycling bins for your school, contact the ACC Recycling Division at 613-3512. Recycling bins are now available at NO charge to schools wanting to start or continue their recycling program.

River of Words K-12 Art and Poetry Contest - Enter by Feb. 15

River of Words is an international environmental poetry and art project designed to nurture respect and understanding of the natural world. Students learn their "ecological address" by honing their observation skills and describing through poetry and art, their "place in space." A Georgia teacher's guide is also available. State winners are recognized at an awards ceremony coordinated by the Georgia Center for the Book and Georgia Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Eight students are chosen as National Grand Prize Winners and receive a trip to Washington, D.C. The contest is open to youth ages 5-19. U.S. entries must be postmarked by February 15, 2006. To receive a FREE teacher's guide, send your name, organization, complete mailing address, phone number, fax, and e-mail to Petey Giroux at:

Petey_Giroux@dnr.state.ga.us. For additional information, visit <http://www.riverofwords.org/>.

Keep Georgia Beautiful (KGB) Educator Kit Now Available - on-line or hard copy!

KGB has education resources available on a variety of topics - litter, waste, and recycling. Visit <http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org/education.html> or contact Sarah Visser at (404) 679-4853.

American Forest & Paper Association Recycling Awards - Due Feb. 17

Entry forms for the 2006 American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) Recycling Awards (school award) are now available at www.paperrecycles.org/recycling/awards. Entries must be received by Friday, February 17, 2006. The winners will be announced on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, in conjunction with AF&PA's 129th Annual Paper Week.

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CONTACT US

Cail Hammons

ACC Stormwater
Stormwater Education Coordinator
(706) 613-3440, extension 384
cailhammons@co.clarke.ga.us
www.accstormwater.com

Stacey Farrell

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful
Executive Director
(706) 613-3501, extension 312
sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us
www.keepathensbeautiful.org

Steve Dorsch

ACC Public Utilities
Water Conservation Coordinator
(706) 613-3729
stephendorsch@co.clarke.ga.us

Suki Janssen

ACC Recycling Division

Waste Reduction Administrator

(706) 613-3512

suki@acc-recycle.org

www.acc-recycle.org