

A.C.O.R.N

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

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators - January 2007

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Happy New Year !!

Green School Coordinator ALERT!

Coordinators please make sure you are keeping a copy of the completed Green School Activity Logs. We have been having some computer issues with uploading the logs on-line so to be safe please keep a copy of all of the logs until the end of the school year. Thanks for your continued support of the ACC Green School program! Lastly, feel free to browse the Green School Activity Submission page of the ACC Green School website at <http://www.accgreenschools.org/submission.php> to see the first logs uploaded by Whit Davis. If you need help uploading your activity logs - contact Andrew Lentini at andrew@acc-recycle.org or call (706) 613-3512.

2007 Eugene Odum Environmental Grant Application Form Now Available - \$200 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. Grants may be awarded to classes at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Please visit <http://www.accgreenschools.org/opportunities.html> to download an application or contact the ACC Recycling Division for an application suki@acc-recycle.org.

NEW - STORMWATER DETECTIVES

Have your students become STORMWATER DETECTIVES! - Three mysterious cases of pollution are going on in Centerville, and YOU (the reader) have been called in to help! This short choose-your-own-adventure style story book lets each student "investigate" sites in town to determine where the pollution is coming from, and what can be done to stop it. Students can work in small groups or individually. Designed for 4th through 6th grade students, this program lasts about an hour. Contact Natalie at NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us or at (706) 613-3440 to schedule the STORMWATER DETECTIVE for your classroom. *** ACC Green School Activity*

Scarecrow Yard Art

Lyndon House Arts Center and the ACC Recycling Division is sponsoring a scarecrow building program and exhibition event for artists and aspiring artists of all ages.

Tap your ingenuity as you craft found objects into a scarecrow for spring's garden. Scarecrows will be displayed at Lyndon House in February. On January 27, you can pick up your armature (wooden frame), basic supplies and guidelines regarding the exhibition. We invite you to come to our studio to work on your scarecrow anytime from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All Ages

Date: January 27 (Please register by January 25)

Location: Lyndon House Arts Center, (706) 613-3623

Fee: \$5 supply fee

Volunteer on Martin Luther King Day of Service, January 15, 2007 - Make it a day on not a day off!

9 a.m. KICK OFF: Light breakfast and registration at the Athens Area Council on Aging (135 Hoyt Street) **10 a.m.-1 p.m. VOLUNTEER:** Activities for all ages the Athens Community Council on Aging, Brooklyn Cemetery, Gaines School Elementary, Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, Loop 10 ramps on MLK Parkway, and Spalding Cemetery. Wear work clothes, shoes and gloves. Bring gardening tools. Children must be accompanied by adult. **1 p.m. - 4p.m. MLK Day CELEBRATION** (Lyndon House Art Center - 293 Hoyt Street)) Lunch, entertainment, inspirational speeches, educational activities, and arts & crafts. For more information contact KACCB at (706) 613-3501 x312. *** ACC Green School Activity*

Bring One for the Chipper Christmas Tree Recycling event Saturday, January 6, 2007.

Community members can bring their undecorated Christmas tree to one of seven drop-off sites to be recycled into mulch. The Barrow Elementary 4th grade students will be manning the Barrow Elementary site from 9:00AM to 2:00PM, giving away free tree seedlings. Thank you Barrow Elementary Students!

For more information about other drop-off sites, please call Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful at 706 613-3501 x312.

FREE Office Equipment available

The ACC Recycling Division has received a large equipment donations and we need move it out of our storage area - as soon as possible to make room for our other teacher reuse store collections. We have a drafting table, large 6'6" x 3'x2" table (non-folding legs and brown), 3 cafe tables with 4 chairs each, several 2-door metal cabinets on wheels (about thigh high) and two 4-drawer filing cabinets. **First come, first serve - No deliveries available.** Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Keep those Holiday Cards and Reuse them!

Check out these greeting card crafts -

http://www.hallmark.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/article|10001|10051|Hallmark Site/Ideas/Holidays/CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY_05_CARD

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 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the annual EEA Conference - **Jekyll Island - March 30 - April 1, 2007**. Visit www.eealliance.org for additional information.

EPA Water Sense game

Check out this Pac Man like EPA Water Sense game for kids:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/water/test.htm>

Get 4 (or 8) free compact fluorescent light bulbs from Lowe's (after rebate). Pay \$7.98 for a 4-pack, then get \$7.98 rebate (limit 2 packs per customer) **the link to the coupon is <http://www.lowespromos.com/PDFs/1327-2.pdf>**, it's an easy way to save energy!

National Environmental Education Week is scheduled for April 15-22, 2007.

For information about resources and how to sign up as a local partner, visit www.eeweek.org

2007 AF&PA Recycling Awards

Entry forms for the 2007 AF&PA Recycling Awards are now available at www.paperrecycles.org! Apply online for an individual, business, community, or **school recycling** award. Entries must be received by Friday, February 16, 2007. The award winners will be announced during AF&PA's 130th Annual Paper Week at the end of March.

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CALENDAR

January

- 3 Back to School from the Holidays
- 6 Bring one for the Chipper - Christmas Tree Recycling
- 8 Bag Recycling Program to Kick-Off
- 12 Watch Your Waste, While Watching Your Waist Requests Due
- 15 MLK Day Holiday - MLK Day of Service - Volunteer Opportunity
- 27 Scarecrow Yard Art Contest Kick-Off

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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.).

Congratulations to Cedar Shoals and Whit Davis for receiving the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, 2006 Excellence in School Recycling Awards. Each school will receive a grant for \$1,500 to further their recycling efforts.

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

ACC Recycling Division participated in the Barrow Elementary Career Day Fair.

Binny made an appearance at Barrow for their Recycling Rangers awards.

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge Coming

Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge Each year, millions of plastic grocery store bags are used to create composite lumber products. Beginning in January, Trex, a plastic-lumber company, and Athens-Clarke County Recycling will be challenging Clarke County's elementary school classrooms to collect plastic bags for recycling and deposit them in special bins provided by Trex. The final bag count will be due to ACC Recycling Division in mid-March. The winning school will receive a recycled plastic-lumber bench or picnic table for their outdoor classroom! Classroom teachers who would like to participate should contact Suki Janssen in the ACC Recycling Division at (706) 613-3512, before

January 8 to set up a 15-minute presentation for their class. During the presentation, the discussion will focus on the importance of recycling in the creation of new products, Trex's recycling process, and information about the contest. Trex and ACC Recycling Division are thrilled to extend this novel challenge to the students of Clarke County Public Schools. Please participate in this fun and unique recycling experience. ** *This is a Green School Activity.*

Watch Your Waste, While Watching Your Waist

EarthFare is teaming up with the ACC Recycling Division to provide a waste-free/waist-free lunch event to one classroom (or afterschool club) in Clarke County. EarthFare will provide the food for a waist-free lunch and the students will put the lunch together with guidance from EarthFare staff. Additionally, the ACC Recycling Division will demonstrate how to make a waste-free lunch and provide each student with some of the tools to make a waste-free lunch. The event would last approximately 45 minutes. Interested teachers should send their name, school, grade level(s), number of participating students, and how their students could take what they learn at this event and educate the entire school about the importance of waste-free/waist-free lunches (or hold a school waste-free lunch event) - paragraph only. One entry will be randomly selected. Please send entries to the ACC Recycling Division, suki@acc-recycle.org by Friday, January 12, 2006. ** *This is a Green School Activity.*

Clear Recycle Bags

Please contact the ACC Recycling Division if you need clear bags for recycling bottles and cans. Please e-mail suki@acc-recycle.org.

Trash Talk!

Each Green School Coordinator received a class set of *Trash Talk!* There are additional copies available - please contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional copies. Student generated articles, poetry, and artwork needed for *Trash Talk!* Topic ideas - waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, litter prevention and education - just to name a few. The ACC Recycling Division needs the articles, poetry and/or artwork by December 15th (make sure to include the first and last name of the student, grade level, school, and teacher). Just e-mail them to suki@acc-recycle.org.

River of Words Contest

Each year, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, River of Words conducts a free international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover. The contest is open to any child in the world, from 5-19 years of age. Older students must have not yet completed high school. There is no charge to enter. Visit http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/form_English.html to find out more about the River of Words poetry and art contest.

Adopt One of Georgia's Nesting Sea Turtles!

Do Your Part for Conservation by Adopting One of Georgia's Sea Turtles

Have you ever wanted to have your very own sea turtle? Now you can do your part for conservation by adopting one Georgia's 8 sea turtles involved in a telemetry monitoring project. These turtles have been fitted with satellite telemetry units that allow their movements to be monitored by satellite and then tracked on the www.seaturtle.org website. The names of these turtles were chosen by school age children from across the state in honor of the countries involved in the recent G8 Summit. Adoption levels are available at \$25, \$50 and \$75 levels and all proceeds benefit the Sea Turtle.org website and sea turtle conservation projects conducted by the Nongame Wildlife & Natural Heritage Section. Visit

<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=363> for more information.

Litter It Costs You Website

Kids can be part of the litter solution! Explore

<http://www.litteritcostsyoud.org/schools.aspx> to find games, activities and programs that get tomorrow's leaders involved in cleaning up our litter problem today. Use the new state Litter Mascot, The Brown Trasher, in a fun and educational way!

2007-2008 Liking Lichens Teacher Workshop

Lichens are symbiotic organisms comprised of algae and fungi. They color trees, rocks, boulders, and soil - covering 8% of the Earth's surface - and have many uses, including to monitor environmental quality due to their pollution sensitivity. **Now it it's 4th year**, this fully-subsidized *TEACHER WORKSHOP* is designed to enhance educators' understanding of LICHEN biology, ecology, natural history, identification, and uses through classroom, laboratory, and field studies; to assist in building a lichen biomonitoring network; and to develop geospatial knowledge and mapping skills. This is a *residential* workshop (housing & meals provided) consisting of multiple meetings, beginning with a five-day session July 9-14, 2006, and three additional one-day sessions on Saturdays throughout the year (October 2006, January 2007, March 2007 - to be scheduled in consultation with participants). For additional information and registration information - please visit http://www.crms.uga.edu/lichen_workshop.htm.

Comments about the workshop from one of our Green School Coordinators, Jenna Thiel - This is a GREAT instructional opportunity. I participated last summer and it was one of the best workshops I have ever participated in. I thought you might want to put it in the ACORN for others to see! :) Contact Jenna Thiel for additional information at jathiel@hotmail.com.

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

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