

A.C.O.R.N

Athens-Clarke Opportunities and Resources Newsletter - In a Nutshell

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

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Spring into Schoolyard Planting

Plant the seeds for a beautiful schoolyard! Help your students get their hands dirty! Call KACCB for gardening supplies and flower seeds. \*\* ACC Green School Activity

ACC GreenFest Passport

To raise awareness about this important health issue, GreenFest 2007 has adopted the theme "Get Your Green Hour." GreenFest will challenge children to get outside at least an hour a day, five days a week. Through special events that stress the fun and adventure of the outdoors, GreenFest will encourage kids to limit indoor time with television and video games and instead get plenty of unstructured, outdoor play. Please contact the ACC Recycling Division at (706) 613-3512 for a Get Your Green Hour Passport or visit [www.athensgreenfest.org](http://www.athensgreenfest.org). The passport is a log for the month of April that encourages children and parents to get outside. There will be prizes for those children who complete the passport by obtaining 20 "green" hours during the month of April. Prizes and services have been donated by Academy Sports, Broad River Outpost, Georgia State Parks and Historic Site (Watson Mill State Park), Sandy Creek Park, The Georgian Press, Trex and Wal-mart. Passports will be available soon! \*\* ACC Green School Activity

GreenFest Art, Photography and Poetry Contest

Elementary and Middle School Teachers encourage your students to draw, write a poem or photograph their favorite green hour activity (outdoor activity). 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 the third annual art, photography (new this year) and poetry contest. The contest is limited to Clarke County schools (both public and private). Students are asked to draw, photograph or write a poem about their favorite green hour (outdoor) activity. The categories are K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8. A first and second place winner will be selected from each category (art, photography and poetry). Winners will be notified in early April, and will be publicly recognized at the GreenFest Award Ceremony on Friday, April 20. They will receive a prize at the award ceremony. In addition, all winners will have their art and photography on display at the Lyndon Art House on the evening of

the awards ceremony. The poetry contest winners will be asked to read their poem at the ceremony. All entries must be submitted to the ACC Recycling Division, Green School Program, P.O. Box 1868, Athens, Georgia 30603 by Friday, March 23. Entry forms and guidelines will be mailed to each school next week. For additional information, contact the ACC Recycling Division at (706) 613-3512.

Athens-Clarke County School Recycler of the Year Nominations Due Friday, March 9  
Do you have a great recycling program or innovative waste reduction project/program? If so, this is your chance to be rewarded for your efforts and share your wonderful programs with the community. This is the second year that the ACC Recycling Division will award a School Recycling Award at the 2007 GreenFest Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 20. 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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org) or (706) 613-3512. Application forms are being mailed to each principal and/or green school coordinator next week.

We've Got Worms!

The ACC Recycling Division has worms and will travel. Schools can request a vermicomposting program. Vermicomposting involves using red wiggler worms to compost food scraps. ACC's vermicomposting program gives students and teachers everything they need to know to create a vermicomposting bin at school. The recycling division uses the funny, yet educational book, *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin, to help spread the wormy message. Contact the ACC Recycling Division to set-up a program - (706) 613- 2512. \*\* ACC Green School Activity

3rd Annual Public Works Week Celebration - May 2007

Once again, ACC Landscape Management, Public Utilities, Solid Waste, Transit, Transportation and Public Works are joining forces to showcase their services and the really cool trucks that provide those services. If your school is interested in having the trucks visit your school on May 7th, 8th or 9th - please contact the ACC Recycling Division by Friday, March 30th. The visit will last for approximately one hour and will include a visit from a truck from each of the ACC Departments mentioned above along with a 10-15 minute presentation describing careers in those fields and/or information about the services that those departments provide to the community. Don't delay - end the school year by celebrating Public Works Week. There are a limited number of programs available - register early! Again, contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information or to register your school.

Terracycle

TerraCycle manufacturerer of affordable, potent, organic products that are not only made from waste, but are also packaged entirely in waste! TerraCycle Plant FoodT is made by feeding premium organic waste to millions of worms. The worm poop is then liquified into a powerful organic plant food and bottled directly in used soda bottles. For every bottle that is collected, TerraCycle will donate \$0.05 to the charity of your choice or save 10 square feet of the rainforest through The Nature Conservancy. We provide four boxes with prepaid UPS labels and all you have to do is mail them back full

of 20 oz. soda bottles with the labels removed. After they're cleaned, your bottles are used to package TerraCycle Plant FoodT. To date, we have been able to rescue over 1,406,416 bottles. Just another way to reuse - visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) for additional information. \*\* ACC Green School Activity

#### Make Less Waste at Lunch

Innovative product to help reduce waste at lunch - Wrap-N-Map. To find out more information about this product visit [www.wrapnmat.com](http://www.wrapnmat.com) .

#### Bags to Benches, Bag Recycling Program February Results

January  
February  
March  
April  
TOTAL

Athens Montessori

8,905

n/a

Barnett Shoals

7,443

9,391

Barrow

6,538 9,540

Chase

2,447

6,841

Cleveland

n/a 15,096

Fowler

7,918

16,426

Gaines

1,535

1,995

Timothy

3,350

5,700

Whit Davis

2,600 15,894

Whitehead Road

3,489

13,739

Winterville

1,516

18,616

Congratulations to each school - continue to collect! \*\* ACC Green School Activity

**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 ASAP (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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org).

**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 three 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**

Imagination Factory - this site is loaded with reuse ideas - [www.kid-at-art.com](http://www.kid-at-art.com).

Send us your classroom reuse ideas and receive a recycled surprise, send entries to [suki@acc-recycle.org](mailto: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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org).

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**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES**

**Trash and Climate Change Activity Book**

The EPA is offering kids K-12 education on linking trash and global warming. The publication titled "Trash and Climate Change Activity Book" is designed to educate children about the effects of product reuse and recycling on global climate change. Through a series of word games, the publication describes how children can prevent climate change by reducing solid waste. The Climate Change Kids Site is a Web site designed to educate children about climate change and global warming. The Web site presents the potential causes and effects of climate change along with explanations of the greenhouse effect and the global climate system. In addition, the Web site describes

several methods for reducing global warming. The site also includes a glossary of relevant terms, online games, and links to Web sites designed to inform children about global warming and other environmental issues. For more information on these subjects, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/kids.html>

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](http://www.eealliance.org) for additional information.

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**CALENDAR**

March

- 9 Recycling Award Application Due
- 12-16 Spring Break
- 21 First Day of Spring
- 23 GreenFest Art, Photography and Poetry Contest 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](mailto: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 February.

ACC Recycling Division staff and EarthFare held a waist-free/waste-free event at Winterville Elementary for Dawn Mixon's classroom.

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**REUSED NEWS**

Items that need mentioned a second time.

### Green School Coordinator ALERT!

a.. The design of the ACC Green School website has changed primarily because this template allows for easier submission of your logs. Please visit [www.accgreenschools.org](http://www.accgreenschools.org) and check it out - contact Andrew Lentini at [andrew@acc-recycle.org](mailto:andrew@acc-recycle.org) or call (706) 613-3512 for website information and/or questions. To submit a log simply complete the on-line form OR you can simply upload the log (same way as on the previous website) - visit <http://www.accgreenschools.org/submission/submission.php> to submit a green school log. Don't forget all logs are due by Friday, May 4, 2007 to be eligible to receive 2006-07 ACC Green School status.

b.. Green School Coordinators please make sure you e-mail the ACORN out to any and all interested teachers in your school. At some schools the Green School Coordinator is the only teacher on our mailing list.

### Get Involved in Athens

Interested in Service Learning? Give back to your community -do a schoolyard litter pick-up (along with your Environmental Science lesson plan). KACCB has litter grab-it tools, garbage bags, gloves, and safety vests for your students to use. Help keep your schoolyard clean, safe, and beautiful. Call KACCB to reserve tools. \*\* ACC Green School Activity

### Celebrate American Wetlands Month in May - entries due April 1st

Write-On! Wetlands Writing Challenge for middle grades students and art contest for elementary school students. Visit [http://www.wetland.org/EC%20main/edu\\_writeon06.htm](http://www.wetland.org/EC%20main/edu_writeon06.htm) for additional information or <http://www.accgreenschools.org/resources/opportunities/assets/Outlook.jpg> for an informational flyer.

### 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](mailto:NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us) or at (706) 613-3440 to schedule the STORMWATER DETECTIVE for your classroom. \*\* ACC Green School Activity

### 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](http://www.eeweek.org)

### 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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org) .

### 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!

**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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