

# A.C.O.R.N

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

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators - March 2006  
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### LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

#### Green School Coordinator Reminder

We have extended the due date of the Green School Participation Logs to **Friday, May 5th**. Don't forget that at least five (5) teachers must complete and document (on the green school participation logs) at least five (5) *Earth Friendly/Environmental Education* activities during the school year to achieve Green School status for your school!! **Good Luck!!**

#### **Don't Forget - 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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org) or 613-3512. Application forms are being mailed to each principal and/or green school coordinator this week.

#### GreenFest 2006

GreenFest 2006 is an annual, month-long celebration providing citizens in Athens-Clarke county with the opportunity to increase their awareness of and interest in improving the environment of their home, neighborhood, business, and community. GreenFest has events for all ages during the month of April! Please visit [www.athensgreenfest.org](http://www.athensgreenfest.org) for a complete list of activities. Join us at the GreenFest Kick-off on Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m. at Big City Cafe (393 N. Finley Street). This event is open to all ages and is FREE! Enjoy music, get a sneak preview of upcoming GreenFest events and possibly win a door prize!

#### Public Works Week - May 2006

Schools NEEDED to help celebrate Public Works Week! Four lucky Athens-Clarke county schools will be selected to receive a FREE outreach program during Public Works Week highlighting the following ACC Departments: Public Works, Public Utilities, Solid Waste, and Transportation. The outreach 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 ACC community. Don't delay - end the school year by celebrating Public Works Week! Last year was such a HUGE success we decided to add an additional day for outreach programs. Available days Monday, May 8 and Tuesday, May 9. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for more information or to register your school.

#### Spring Cleaning with BEE BEE Clean!

Use the beauty of springtime to start talking about litter and the effects of litter on our community. Schedule a visit with the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) mascot, BEE BEE Clean! Bee Bee Clean and staff from KACCB will come visit your classroom and talk trash with your students.

### **Creating a School Garden?**

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful has a gardening tool bank that allows all schools and students to borrow gardening/landscaping hand tools. KACCB would like to help you get your students involved in creating outdoor classroom environments. Call to reserve tools and other gardening resources.

### **Athens in Bloom!**

Contact KACCB for flower seeds for your classroom/school garden! The first five classrooms to contact KACCB will receive seed packets for every student in their class.

### **After the Storm (VHS) Video Available**

This half hour television program was co-produced by EPA and the Weather Channel. The program examines the effects of polluted stormwater runoff.

The show highlights three case studies—Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City— where polluted runoff threatens watersheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. The program is most appropriate for students in grade 3 and older. Contact Cail to receive a copy of this video for classroom use.

### **Garbage Is My Bag Performances by Jack Golden - PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE BELOW!**

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 - Fowler Drive Elementary (*this is a change from the first schedule*)

1:30 - Athens Montessori School (*this is a change from the first schedule*)

#### **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.*

### **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.

**Cooking Up Compost Workshop - Wednesday, March 22, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Join the ACC Recycling Division and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful as they share recipes for backyard composting. Participants will learn the basic ingredients and directions to make compost at home. Composting supplies will be provided to all attendees. The workshop will take place at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Visitor Center, Classroom A. This is a FREE workshop but registration is required. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information or pre-registration at 613-3512.

**Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom**

*Growing Grass People - Baby Food Jar Reuse Idea*

Visit [http://lessonplans.fundingfactory.com/plan\\_details.aspx?id=435](http://lessonplans.fundingfactory.com/plan_details.aspx?id=435) for the lesson plan on Growing Grass People.

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**

**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](http://www.eealliance.org).

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

**Cool Waters Teacher Workshop - 2 PLUs Available - June 6 - 8, Gainesville, GA.**

Workshop will feature training from the "Water Source Book" and the "Healthy Water, Healthy People" portion of the Project WET curriculum. The workshop is a three day course that focuses on three areas of water education: understanding the drinking water treatment process, learning about wastewater treatment, and hands-on Adopt-A-Stream training. Registration fee of \$25 includes meals and materials. Teachers will receive around \$300 worth of materials. Space is limited to 50 participants. To register visit <http://gawponline.org/events.htm> and click on Cool Waters 2006. Cool Waters is hosted by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

**Write On! Wetlands Challenge!**

Bring wetlands to life and participate in the Environmental Concern's 2nd Annual Wetlands Challenge! Join in the fun and help create a children's book written and illustrated exclusively BY kids, FOR kids! It's a great way to celebrate wetland appreciation month in May. The theme for this year's contest is "A Wetland Adventure." Think about a favorite trip that you have taken to a local wetland. What did you do? What (or who) did you see? Use your imagination to build a story; your adventure can be fiction or non-fiction. This contest is for students in grades 7th - 9th. For contest rules and guidelines, contact Bronwyn Mitchell at [dir.educate@wetland.org](mailto:dir.educate@wetland.org), or 410-745-9620 or visit the website [www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org) for additional information. Entries are due April 1, 2006.

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## CALENDAR

- March
- 8 Home Sweet Habitat Art Contest Entries Due
  - 10 School Recycling Award Applications Due
  - 17-19 EEA Conference
  - 22 Compost Workshop
  - 24 GreenFest Art and Poetry Contest Entries Due
  - 26 GreenFest Kickoff
  - 28 Water Festival
  - 29-31 Jack Golden performances

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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 Solid Waste/Recycling Division staff attended (and brought a truck) the Clarke Middle School and Burney Harris Lyons Middle School Career Day.

Classrooms from Clarke Middle, Oglethorpe Elementary, Cleveland Road Elementary and Whitehead Road Elementary are hard at work creating their rain barrel art. The artistic barrels will be used to promote ACC Stormwater's upcoming

community rain barrel project. Keep an eye out for the barrels at Keep Athens-Clarke Beautiful, the Clarke County Extension Office, and other locations around town.

Barrow Elementary, Chase Street Elementary, Clarke Middle School, and Whitehead Road Elementary are participating in the **Return the Warmth** - plastic bottle recycling contest from March 1 - the end of school.

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## REUSED NEWS

*Items that need mentioned a second time.*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org) to win the workshop

### **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](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.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.

### **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](mailto: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](#) 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.eeingeorgia.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.

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**CONTACT US**

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