

A.C.O.R.N

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

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

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Happy Earth Month!!

Earth Day books

Earth Day - Hooray by Stuart J. Murphy

Earth Day Birthday by Pattie Schnetzler

Need to borrow one - contact the ACC Recycling Division.

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!!**

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 for a complete list of activities. Join us at the GreenFest Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 21, 2006 at the Lyndon Arts House at 5:30 p.m. This event is open to all ages and is FREE! Visit www.athensgreenfest.org for additional information about GreenFest activities.

Public Works Week - May 2006

ONLY ONE SLOT LEFT! 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. See below for date and times -

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

9:00 Fourth Street Elementary

2:30 - 3:30 Burney Harris

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006

8:30 Whitehead Road

afternoon available - *only slot left*

Contact the ACC Recycling Division to register at (706) 613-3512.

GreenFest 2006 Art and Essay Contest - due date extended Monday, April 10th!

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. For additional information call the ACC Recycling Division at 613-3512.

Athens in Bloom! - Seeds left!

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

Recycling Bookmarks available for FREE!

The Georgia Recycling Coalition has created recycling bookmarks with student artwork on one side and "cool" recycling facts on the opposite side. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for bookmarks. Large quantities are available while supplies last.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Earth Day Crafts

Visit <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/earthday/> for a plethora of Earth Day crafts.

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

Lowe's Grant

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation is dedicated to improving the communities the company serves through support of K-12 public education, community improvement projects and home safety initiatives. The Foundation also provides Vocational Trade School Scholarships to eligible students through selected community colleges and technical schools, as well as grants to K-12 schools through the Outdoor Classroom Grant Program. Applications are accepted at any time (except for the scholarship program), and must be submitted online. Visit the website listed below for application instructions for the Foundation's programs.

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=frameSet&url=apps.bridgetree.com/funding/default.asp>.

Compost Awareness Week - May 7 - 13, 2006

Be a part of the largest environmental education event for composting. The U.S. Composting Council officially invites you to join in celebrating *International Compost Awareness Week*. Across the United States, Canada and the UK, composting advocates will be encouraging everyone to *Compost!* This year's national poster theme, "The Possibilities Are Endless – Compost!" is a great way to get the message out. All types of composting from "do it yourself" composting in your backyard to large-scale, community-wide composting will be promoted during this week. For more information, visit www.compostingcouncil.org.

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CALENDAR

April

21 GreenFest Awards Ceremony

22 **EARTH DAY!**

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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.).

Whitehead Road Elementary School received the *2006 ACC Recycling Division School Recycling Award* !! This will become an annual award during GreenFest to recognize outstanding recycling programs and/or innovative waste reduction projects. Whitehead will receive \$200 for their environmental education programs. Congratulations!

Jennifer Folkerts with Chase Street Elementary was the first teacher to respond to the KACCB seed giveaway spotted in the March ACORN. She received individual flower seed packets for all of her students so that ehy could work on a planting project.

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

Jack Golden performed **Garbage is My Bag** at Athens Montessori, Fowler Drive, Whitehead Road, Winterville Elementary, Barrow Elementary, Barnett Shoals, Alps Road, and Chase Street. He was sponsored by the ACC Recycling Division.

Barrow Elementary, Timothy Road, Athens Montessori, and Oglethorpe Elementary attended the 2006 Winning Water: Children's Water Festival on campus of Athens Tech. ACC Recycling Division, ACC Stormwater, ACC Public Utilities, and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful all helped coordinate the event.

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.

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.

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.

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.

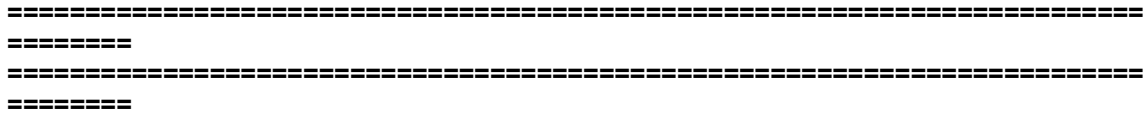
FREE - The Georgia Conservancy's Native Seasons Workshop (K-7) - Still Available

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

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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