

A.C.O.R.N

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

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

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Happy Holidays from the ACC Green School Committee!!

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!

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.*

O'Reuse Tree

Join the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division and the Lyndon House Art Center as they turn pieces of trash into holiday treasures! Come and make ornaments for your holiday tree or a gift for a friend from a variety of trash items.

Tis' the season to recycle!

Where: Lyndon House Art Center classroom Who: All Ages (Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult) When: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Cost: Free There will be hot cider and holiday snacks. Please call (706) 613-3623 to register.

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 3'2" table (non-folding legs and brown), 3 cafe tables with 4 chairs each, and several 2-door metal cabinets on wheels (about thigh high). **First come, first serve - No deliveries available.** Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information.

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.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Holiday Reuse Crafts

Visit http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/_irec.html and discover some holiday reuse 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.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

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.litteritcostsyoudo.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.

CALENDAR

December

9 O'Reuse Tree

18 Holiday Break Begins

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.).

2006 America Recycles Day - Recap

Over 1,569 ACC residents pledged to...

Buy more recycled content products.

Increase your recycling efforts at home, school, and away.

Participate in some other recycling related activity.

The following schools turned in pledge cards:

Whitehead Road Elementary School 271 pledge cards *(This school will receive a special treat for collecting the most pledge cards.)*

Fowler Drive Elementary 233 pledge cards

Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School 134 pledge cards

Barrow Elementary School 76 pledge cards

Cedar Shoals High School 19 pledge cards

Whit Davis Elementary 8 pledge cards

Amanda Jordan at Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School won the gift certificate for a bicycle!

OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Stormwater Education - Enviroscape Demonstration

ACC Stormwater can do stormwater education for 3rd grade and up using our **enviroscape model**. The enviroscape is a relief model with industrial, residential, agricultural, and natural areas. "Pollutants" (colored koolaid) and "animal waste" (cocoa powder and water) are placed in appropriate areas. We make it "rain" by using a squirt bottle, and as the pollutants move downstream, students get a great visual of how non-point source pollution works. The model has its own basins to catch the water, so it's not at all messy. The size of the model makes it most appropriate for one classroom at a time. We can tie the stormwater lesson into your current lesson plan (history, science, even political science, etc) with a little extra notice. Email Natalie (NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us) to schedule an enviroscape demonstration.

*** This is a Green School Activity.*

Words of Litter

Use words of litter for language arts. The first teacher to respond will receive the new KACCB words of litter magnet for each child in their classroom! There are over 50 words included on each magnet.

Paint BEE BEE Clean

Do your students like to paint or color? Contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful at sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us to request BEE BEE Clean paint sheets.

Get your students involved in the following community service events:

Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program

Get student clubs involved in community service. Call KACCB or visit www.keeppathensbeautiful.org to find out more about our Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program. *** This is a 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 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.

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.

CONTACT US

Natalie White

ACC Stormwater

Stormwater Education Coordinator

(706) 613-3440, extension 383

nataliewhite@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.keeppathensbeautiful.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