

A.C.O.R.N

Athens-Clarke Opportunities and Resources Newsletter - In a Nutshell

An Environmental Education Newsletter for Athens-Clarke County Educators - March 2008

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## LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

### GreenFest 2008

GreenFest is a community-wide celebration providing citizens with the opportunity to increase their awareness of and interest in improving the environment of their home, yard, business and community. Visit [www.athensgreenfest.org](http://www.athensgreenfest.org) for a complete list of events.

### 2008 GreenFest Art and Poetry Contest - due Friday, March 28

Enter the 2008 GreenFest art, photography and poetry contest! This year's theme is "Get Outside - Destination Outdoors in Athens!" to encourage everyone to get outside and connect with nature and the outdoors. So get outside and draw a picture, take a photograph or write a poem about getting outside in Athens. Winners will be notified in early April and will be publicly recognized at the GreenFest Award Ceremony on Friday, April 18. The categories are K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8. A first and second place winner will be selected from each grade and medium category (art, photography and poetry) and will receive a prize. 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. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information at (706) 613-3512.

\*\* This is a Green School Activity.

### 2008 ACC School Recycling Awards - due Friday, March 21

Brag about your school recycling program and win! The 2008 ACC School Recycling Awards are back and the winning school will receive \$200 from the ACC Recycling Division to further their environmental programs. Applications have been e-mailed out to all ACORN subscribers and Green School coordinators. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for an application or information at (706) 613-3512.

### 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.

\*\* This is a Green School Activity.

### 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.

### Green School Log Update

To become an ACC Green School, a school must Strive for 5! At least five (5) teachers at a given school must complete at least five (5) Earth Friendly activities during the 2007-2008 school year. Participation logs must be completed for all activities and submitted to the Green School Committee via the website. Please visit [www.accgreenschools.org](http://www.accgreenschools.org) for details and/or to submit your logs electronically. All logs are due by Friday, May 2, 2008.

Water Water Everywhere, Saturday, March 22, 11:00 a.m.

Location - Athens-Clarke County Main Library, 2025 Baxter Street, Auditorium

Fee: No charge (sponsored by ACC Stormwater)

Open to: All ages (geared toward elementary and middle school students)

Fee: FREE

Contact: ACC Stormwater at (706) 613-3440 for complete details

"Water Water Everywhere" is the hilarious show created and performed by Jack Golden. The show is as educational as it is entertaining and stars the comic character Dr. T. "Water Water Everywhere" fills the glasses of elementary and middle school students with information about one of the most valuable resources on the planet - WATER! The program covers topics on water composition, conservation, pollution, stormwater and ground water quality. For more information on the entertainer - visit [www.garbageismybag.com](http://www.garbageismybag.com) . Please encourage your students to attend.

### Be Crafty - Not Trashy

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

<http://www.makingfriends.com/recycle.htm>

This newsletter is a monthly newsletter from ACC Stormwater, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, ACC Public Utilities Department and ACC 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 Annual Conference - It's conference time!!  
Join the Environmental Education Alliance for their annual conference on March 14-16, 2008, at Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, GA, and take part in great presentations on current trends, new information, research, and the classic tricks to make it all work! Activities include educational field trips, an amazing auction and opportunities to meet people in the Environmental Education field who want to share their ideas and gain knowledge. To register visit, [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org).

Environmental Education Materials  
Visit [WWW.EEINGEORGIA.ORG](http://WWW.EEINGEORGIA.ORG) for environmental resources and projects for your students!

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## CALENDAR

March

- 10-14 Spring Break
- 21 ACC School Recycler of the Year award applications are due
- 22 Water Conservation Show
- 28 GreenFest Art, Photography and Poetry entries are 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.).

Eugene Odum Environmental Grant recipients are as follows: Athens Montessori, Fowler Drive Elementary School, Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School, St. Joseph Catholic School, and Whit Davis Elementary School. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jessica Nickelsen from Fowler Drive Elementary School, for being the first teacher to request the new Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful "Keepin' It Clean" stickers for her class.

Congratulations to Barrow Elementary for incorporating composting into their school community. Barrow recently purchased two compost bins to teach students the importance of waste reduction. If you would like to incorporate composting in your school and would like to purchase a compost bin, call KACCB at (706) 613-3501 ext. 312.

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

Recycling Division staff presented at Alps Road Elementary Career Day.

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REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

Bags for Bears Results

First - a HUGE thanks to everyone for making the Bags for Bears program a success!

Now for the results...

1st place with 323,668 bags is Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School

2nd place with 81,083 bags is Fowler Drive Elementary School

3rd place with 74,926 bags is Barrow Elementary School

4th place with 47,370 bags is Whit Davis Elementary School

5th place with 45,350 bags is Oglethorpe Primary School (Oglethorpe County)

6th place with 37,128 bags is St. Joseph Catholic School

Total bags collected by all schools: 853,629 bags (doubled our goal)!!!!

Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail already received over 190 pieces of composite lumber boards to begin the playscapes for the bears, bobcats and otters!!

The top six producing schools will receive a Trex lumber plaque with a bear track mounted to the plaque.

\*\* This is a Green School Activity.

Wormshop

Promote global worming by starting a vermi-composting bin at your school. Invite the ACC Recycling Division to your school to do a "wormshop" for your students. Learn more about the benefits of worms to waste reduction and the environment. Contact the ACC Recycling Division to set up a "wormshop" today!

\*\* This is a Green School Activity.

Do a Green Schools School Yard Project!

Give back to your community by planning a school beautification project! KACCB has tools available to help you make the most of your improvement project. Help keep your school clean, safe, and beautiful! Call KACCB to reserve your tools today.

\*\* This is a Green School Activity.

## Does Your School Use Laser or Inkjet Cartridges?

If so, recycle those cartridges to reduce waste in our landfill. Call KACCB to receive a free ink jet collection box. Collect your used cartridges and deposit them into one of the pre-paid envelopes and then drop it in the mail. It's that simple! Call KACCB for more information.

## Bee Bee Clean

Do your students like to paint or color? Request our free BEE BEE Clean paint sheets. BEE BEE Clean, the KACCB mascot, helps children understand why litter is bad for the environment and community. Get your students involved in discussions about litter through these fun and creative resources. Contact KACCB for the paint sheets.

## Check out the ACC Recycling Division Trash Talk Podcasts!

Podcasts are great ways to listen to current waste reduction and recycling issues in our community. Visit <http://www.acc-recycle.org/trashtalk.htm> to listen to all the podcasts. NOTE: iPods are absolutely not necessary to listen to podcasts. Just click on the link above, click on one of the podcasts and listen! It's easy! These are great for school recycling announcements.

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