

# A.C.O.R.N

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

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

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### LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

**Green School Coordinator Reminder- Don't forget to turn the logs in by THIS FRIDAY, MAY 5th!!**

The due date of the Green School Participation Logs is ***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!!***

#### **Public Works Week - May 2006**

Five Athens-Clarke county schools registered to receive a FREE outreach program during Public Works Week highlighting the following ACC Departments: Transportation & Public Works, Public Utilities, Solid Waste, and Transit. 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

11:45 Barrow Elementary

#### ***Wednesday, May 10, 2006***

9:00 Barnett Shoals Elementary

Contact the ACC Recycling Division with questions at (706) 613-3512.

#### **Teacher Reuse Store - 2nd annual open house**

The second annual open house for the Teacher Reuse Store will be on Saturday, August 5, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Teacher Reuse Store is located at the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Facility, 699 Hancock Industrial Way, Athens, 30605.

**What:** This store will provide a variety of items to local educators for **FREE!** These items have been donated from local business and industry. Most of these items would have been landfilled. Items include: binders, file folders, paper, art supplies, recycling bins, etc.

#### **ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

**Who:** This store is open to any teacher in Athens-Clarke, Madison, and Oconee Counties. Public and private school teachers and homeschoolers are welcome. All teachers must provide official documentation to verify teaching status – a school district photo I.D. or a letter on school letterhead signed by the principal will be accepted for entry. Only teachers will be admitted into the store – no helpers please. **NO CHILDREN OF ANY AGE ARE ALLOWED IN THE REUSE STORE!**

**We need some volunteers to help set-up the event. If you would like to volunteer (must volunteer a minimum of 2 hours), please contact the ACC Recycling Division at (706) 613-3512 or [suki@acc-recycle.org](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org). Teachers that volunteer a minimum of 2 hours either Friday, August 4 or Saturday, August 5 will get to shop before the official opening.**

**Return the Warmth - contest complete May 18th!!**

Sam's Club, Aquafina, and Keep America Beautiful partnered this year to bring the **Return the Warmth** - a plastic bottle (PET) recycling program that turns plastic bottles into fleece jackets for needy children. We have four schools participating this year - Barrow, Chase, Whitehead Road Elementary, and Clarke Middle School. So far - Chase has collected 893 pounds, Clarke Middle School 375 pounds, Whitehead Road 190 pounds, and Barrow 70 pounds for a total of 1,528 pounds of plastic. Only a few weeks left - keep on collecting!  
**\*\* This is an ACC Green School activity.**

**Athens in Bloom! - Seeds left!**

Contact KACCB for flower seeds for your classroom/school garden! The next two classrooms to contact KACCB will receive 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.

**New Employee with the ACC Recycling Division**

Please welcome **Andrew Lentini** - the new Program Education Specialist with the ACC Recycling Division. His contact information is [andrew@acc-recycle.org](mailto:andrew@acc-recycle.org) and phone number is (706) 613-3512.

**Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom**

*Newspaper plant pots - just in time for Mother's Day!*

Visit <http://frugalliving.about.com/od/gardeningfrugally/ht/newspaperpots.htm> or [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_1745\\_create-seed-starting.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_1745_create-seed-starting.html) and learn how to make a biodegradable plant pot.

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

**ACORN Summer Vacation**

This will be the last edition of ACORN before the summer break. Please let us know if you would like to remain on the mailing list. Additionally, please send any comments and/or suggestions to help us improve - [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**

**Compost Awareness Week - May 7 - 13, 2006 - Posters available - just contact the ACC Recycling Division.**

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](http://www.compostingcouncil.org) .

**Angel Soft Angels in Action National Awards Program Will Honor Children and Youth for Volunteer Efforts**

Deadline: October 1, 2006

The Angel Soft ( <http://www.angelsoft.com/> ) Angels in Action Awards Program, now in its seventh year, aims to recognize children and youth who are performing exemplary acts of community service. Georgia-Pacific, the makers of Angel Soft toilet paper, invites teachers, parents, guardians, and friends to submit nominations to honor "ordinary kids who are doing extraordinary things" to help improve their communities.

For the first time since the program's inception, one outstanding child or teen will be awarded \$15,000 for "Program of the Year." Two grand-prize winners (one from each age category) will receive \$10,000 and 10 finalists (five from each age category) will receive \$1,000. The age categories are 8 to 15 years old and 16 to 18 years old. Nominators who are 18 years or older are asked to submit an essay of 200 words or less on the nominee's service accomplishments.

Visit the Angel Soft Web site for complete program guidelines and to submit a nomination: <http://www.angelsoft.com/angelsinaction/awardsprogram2006.asp> .

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**CALENDAR**

**May**

- 5 Green School Logs Due
- 7-13 Compost Awareness Week
- 8-10 Public Works Week Truck Tours
- 18 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!**

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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.).

Congratulations to **Ms. LeAnna Carlyle**, kindergarten teacher at Fourth Street Elementary. Ms. Carlyle responded to the KACCB seed giveaway and received 60 seeds packets --one for each kindergarten student at Fourth Street Elementary School!

Additionally, **Ms. Ansley Greene** of Cleveland Road Elementary School received 25 sunflower seed packets from KACCB - one for each of the students in her classroom.

Congratulations to the following students for winning the 2006 GreenFest Art and Poetry Contest:

**Art Contest:**

Kindergarden: Zakiya C. Durant, Chase Street Elementary  
1st grade: Ansley Hale, Staci Dean, Melissa Iniestra, Winterville Elementary  
2nd grade: Spencer E. Bennett, Devin Dailey, Winterville Elementary  
3rd grade: Jose Reyes, Chase Street Elementary  
5th grade: Thanany Kerdpoka, Barrow Elementary

**Poetry Contest:**

3rd grade: Mary Louise Platter, Barrow Elementary  
4th grade: Mariah Pettis, Alps Road Elementary  
7th grade: Tiphani Hodges, Jasmine Pettis, Laura Freeman, Clarke Middle School

***A special thanks goes out to all the teachers that participated in the 2006 GreenFest Art and Poetry contest!!***

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**OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

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

ACC Recycling Division staff participated in the Whitehead Road Elementary science night - students made worm bins and learned about composting with worms.

Binny, ACC Recycling Division mascot, made two appearances at Barrow Elementary. Binny visited Ms. Patterson's Fourth Grade Class to thank them for naming him. Binny and ACC Recycling Division staff provided trail mix fixings and the students created their own trail mix to take home (this was the thank you gift to the class for naming Binny).

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, ACC Stormwater, and ACC Public Utilities attended the Cedar Shoals Environmental Fair on Friday, April 28th.

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**REUSED NEWS**

*Items that need mentioned a second time.*

**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>.

**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**

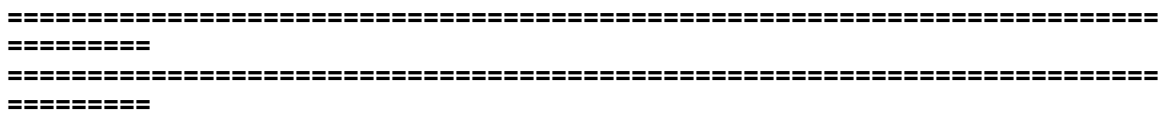
This half hour television program was co-produced by EPA and the Weather Channel. The program examines the effects of polluted stormwater runoff. The show highlights three case studies—Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City— where polluted runoff threatens watersheds 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.

**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

**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**

**Cail Hammons**  
ACC Stormwater  
Stormwater Education Coordinator  
(706) 613-3440, extension 384  
[cailhammons@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:cailhammons@co.clarke.ga.us)  
[www.accstormwater.com](http://www.accstormwater.com)

**Stacee Farrell**

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful  
Executive Director  
(706) 613-3501, extension 312  
[sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us)  
[www.keepathensbeautiful.org](http://www.keepathensbeautiful.org)

**Steve Dorsch**

ACC Public Utilities  
Water Conservation Coordinator  
(706) 613-3729  
[stephendorsch@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:stephendorsch@co.clarke.ga.us)

**Suki Janssen**

ACC Recycling Division  
Waste Reduction Administrator  
(706) 613-3512  
[suki@acc-recycle.org](mailto:suki@acc-recycle.org)  
[www.acc-recycle.org](http://www.acc-recycle.org)