

# A.C.O.R.N

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

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

### LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

#### Registered Green Schools

The following schools have registered to become 2006-07 Green Schools:

Athens Montessori School, Tita Gatrell (coordinator)  
Barnett Shoals Elementary, Stephen King (coordinator)  
Barrow Elementary, Natalie Hicks (coordinator)  
Cedar Shoals High School, Stella Guerrero (coordinator)  
Chase Street Elementary, Jennifer Folkerts (coordinator)  
Clarke Middle School, Karl Scott (coordinator)  
Cleveland Road Elementary, Holly Brown (coordinator)  
Fowler Drive, Halley Page and Carolyn Dalusky (co-coordinators)  
Coile Middle School, Jessica Parker (coordinators) - only one person registered  
Gaines Elementary, Jenna Thiel (coordinator)  
Oglethope Elementary, Philip Caskey (coordinator) - only four people registered  
Timothy Road Elementary, Lisa Bendetti (coordinator)  
Whit Davis Elementary, Sharyn Dickerson (parent coordinator)  
Winterville Elementary, Shundra Caldwell (coordinator)

These schools have registered to *Strive for Five!* At least 5 teachers must complete a minimum of 5 earth friendly lesson plans/projects throughout the school year to achieve Green School Status for the 2006-07 school year. Green School Coordinators have been sent a coordinator packet to help manage the program at their school. Please contact the ACC Recycling Division if your coordinator didn't receive the packet.

#### America Recycles Day - Wednesday, November 15th

Have your students pledge take the America Recycles Day pledge and pledge to...

0. Buy more recycled content products.
0. Increase your recycling efforts at home, school, and away.
0. Participate in some other recycling related activity.

Visit [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) and take the pledge today for your chance to win a paid trip to Alaska for two (adult prize) or one of several bicycles (child prize) OR contact the ACC Recycling Division for a pledge card to be registered for state and local America Recycles Day prizes at (706) 613-3512. The only way to be registered for state and local prizes is to contact the ACC Recycling Division for a pledge card.

### **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.*

### **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](mailto:sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us) to request BEE BEE Clean paint sheets.

### **Get your students involved in the following community service events: UGA Recycling Project - *Dawg gone it, Recycle!***

The Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division needs volunteers to monitor recycling drop-off sites throughout UGA campus on each home game, to educate

the tailgaters about the new UGA game day recycling program, distribute promotional items, distribute recycling bags (bags to be used for recyclables and dropped off at bins), and general monitoring of the sites to prevent contamination of the recyclables. Volunteers are asked to help three (3) hours prior to each game. Volunteers that contribute three hours will receive a *Dawg gone it, Recycle!* t-shirt. For additional information, contact the ACC Recycling Division. *Only one game left on Saturday, November 25 - Georgia Tech game. \*\* This is a Green School Activity.*

### **Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program**

Get student clubs involved in community service. Call KACCB or visit [www.keeppathensbeautiful.org](http://www.keeppathensbeautiful.org) to find out more about our Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway Program. *\*\* This is a Green School Activity.*

### **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'x2" table (non-folding legs and brown), 1 plastic storage unit (with shelves inside and doors; lightweight; lockable; indoor use), 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.

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

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

### **Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom Simply Green Giving by Danny Seo (book)**

Idea from the book - this holiday season use spare shoelaces, burnt-out Christmas lights, colorful old measuring tape, old belts, old cassette tapes or VHS tapes to embellish holiday gifts. Challenge your students to reduce and reuse this holiday season.

*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).

## **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES**

### **GRC Excellence in School Recycling Grant - \$1,500 Awards - apply by November 15**

In a special partnership with the Weyerhaeuser Company, the Georgia Recycling Coalition facilitates the annual Excellence in School Recycling Awards Program. Accredited public or private elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state compete for ten \$1,500 awards in the following categories:

(A) excellence in existing recycling programs involving the school's entire student and faculty population,

(B) proposed expansion of an existing recycling program that will increase volume and participation and/or student and public understanding of recycling, or

(C) proposed creation of a new recycling program that will increase student and public understanding of the value of recycling.

For additional information or grant proposal forms, contact the ACC Recycling Division or visit [www.georgiarecycles.org](http://www.georgiarecycles.org). *Each school should have received a grant form.*

### **Georgia America Recycles Day Contest - Enter by November 15**

Celebrate America Recycles Day (November 15, 2006) by having your students compete in a variety of contests. Each contest entry must demonstrate the theme - *Keep the Message Moving - Recycle*. Prizes include: savings bonds, Best Buy Gift Card, and DVD Camcorder. Students can get involved with America Recycles Day this year by entering the following contests:

Grades K-4 - Color Drawing

Grades 5-8 - Original Bookmark OR 30- or 60-second Public Service Announcement on VHS, DVD, or CD (Powerpoint)

Grades 9-12 - Original Bookmark OR 30- or 60-second Public Service Announcement on VHS, DVD, or CD (Powerpoint)

Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by November 15, 2006.

For additional information or entry forms, contact the ACC Recycling Division or visit [www.georgiarecycles.org](http://www.georgiarecycles.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](http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/form_english.html) to find out more about the River of Words poetry and art contest.

## **CALENDAR**

November

15 America Recycles Day

23 Thanksgiving Holiday

24 Thanksgiving Holiday

25 UGA Recycles - Georgia vs. Georgia Tech game

## **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.).

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

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

- . ACC Stormwater would like to thank **Cleveland Road Elementary School** for inviting us to perform our first puppet show. It was a big hit with the students, who understood the stormwater concepts so well that after the show they were able to have an involved discussion about things they could do to prevent stormwater pollution. Please email Natalie White ([NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us)) to schedule a puppet show performance for your classroom. The play is best suited for grades K-2.
- 0. ACC Recycling Division and Binny visited Chase Street Elementary classes.

## **REUSED NEWS**

*Items that need mentioned a second time.*

### **Need Tools for a School Beautification Project?**

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful has a gardening tool bank that allows all schools and students to borrow gardening/landscaping hand tools. KACCB wants to help you get your students involved in creating outdoor classroom environments. Call KACCB to reserve tools or to assist you in your project. KACCB may have other resources available for your garden projects.

### **Go Organic at Your School**

Georgia Organics' directory at [www.georgiaorganics.org/organic\\_directory/](http://www.georgiaorganics.org/organic_directory/)  
Additionally, [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org) is a great way to find local produce in your community. It has a great zip code search!

## **Welcome New Staff Member - *Natalie White***

Please welcome the new Stormwater Public Education Specialist with the ACC Transportation and Public Works Department. Her contact information is as follows: phone number (706) 613 - 3440 ext. 383 and e-mail [nataliewhite@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:nataliewhite@co.clarke.ga.us) .

## **NEW *A Day at the Stream* Puppet Show**

ACC Stormwater has completed the development of a **Puppet Show**, "A Day At The Stream," that educates children about stormwater pollution and how everyday activities can contribute to or reduce this problem. The show involves music, sound effects, and songs (as well as some very colorful characters), and is best suited for grades K - 3. If you are interested in us performing the show in your classroom, please call or email Natalie White, the new Stormwater Public Education Specialist at ACC): [NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us](mailto:NatalieWhite@co.clarke.ga.us) or (706) 613 - 3440, ext. 383. \*\* *This is a Green School Activity.*

## **Youth Clean Community Challenge**

Get your school/classroom involved in the statewide youth clean community challenge. Register online at <http://www.litteritcostsyoudo.org> by January 15, 2007. The Youth Clean Community Challenge is designed to encourage youth organizations and schools to take an active role in developing litter education, enforcement and eradication/clean-up activities. Elementary school-aged groups can win up to **\$500** for litter prevention programs. Middle/high school-aged groups can win up to **\$2,000** for litter prevention programs.

## **NEW ACC Green School Website - *check it out!***

We have an ACC Green School website (thanks to the ACC Recycling Division's new employee, Andrew Lentini) - [www.accgreenschools.org](http://www.accgreenschools.org) . It is still a work in progress so we welcome suggestions. Please send suggestions/comments to Andrew Lentini at [andrew@acc-recycle.org](mailto:andrew@acc-recycle.org)

## **BEE BEE Clean**

Start the new school year with a visit from the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful mascot, BEE BEE Clean! BEE BEE will talk trash with your students and help them learn to put waste in it's place. Call KACCB to schedule a time. \*\* *This is a Green School Activity.*

## **Administrators/Teachers - Recycle Ink Jet Cartridges and Cell phones in your School!**

Recycling is not just for kids! Administrators and teachers - get involved! Recycle your ink jet cartridges-- for FREE. KACCB will provide you with postage paid envelopes and a dispenser that can be placed in the main office or in the teacher break room. Your efforts will help the environment while keeping reusable items out of the landfill. In addition, KACCB is offering each school a cell phone recycling drop off container. Once full, KACCB will pick up the phones or your school can easily send it (as the container is also a postage paid shipping box!). Call KACCB for more details. \*\* *This is a Green School Activity.*

## **Waste-Free Events - stay tuned for local Waste-Free events coming**

EPA is announcing its new Waste-Free Lunch program. The cornerstone of this program is an informational poster that shows students, teachers and administrators how to reduce, reuse and recycle their way to a waste-free lunch. The poster includes step-by-step instructions on how to hold a waste-free lunch and the benefits of packing waste-free. A PDF of the poster is attached to this email. The Waste-Free Lunch program is part of EPA's Make a Difference campaign which aims to educate and encourage Middle School students to conserve natural resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. For more information on waste-free lunches, including a letter to send home to parents, packing tips, and printable activities, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/lunch.htm> .

## **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.

## **CONTACT US**

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