

A.C.O.R.N

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

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

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Leaping into Green and Healthy Learning - 10th Annual Outdoor Classroom Symposium - Friday, October 27

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center - Mansfield, Georgia - Registration Grants Available from Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

"Leaping into Green and Healthy Learning" will be the theme of the 10th annual Georgia Outdoor Classroom Symposium. The event will be held on Friday, October 27, 2006 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center and Conference Center in Mansfield, GA (about one hour southeast of Atlanta). Additional details and registration information will be available later this summer. Click here for additional registration information

<http://eeingeorgia.org/net/calendar/details.aspx?c=28708&s=39267.0.68.4863>. Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful is offering two grants to pay for the Outdoor Classroom registration fees. Grant application forms should have been received by your green school coordinator - if not contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful for a form or visit http://www.accgreenschools.org/KACCB_Scholarship_Form.pdf for an application form. *Green School Teachers will have priority consideration.*

Registered Green Schools

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

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)
Gaines Elementary, Jenna Thiel (coordinator)
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.

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/
Additionally, www.localharvest.org is a great way to find local produce in your community.
It has a great zip code search!

Are you talking trash in your classroom? Do you want some words of litter?

Tell Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful what you're doing to discuss litter in your classroom. The first teacher to respond will receive the new KACCB litter of words magnet for each child in their classroom!

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.

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 or (706) 613 - 3440, ext. 383. ** *This is a Green School Activity.*

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. ** *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 - two drawer filing cabinet, 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.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

HGTV Recycling Crafts

Visit

http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/pac_ctnt_lnb_gutter/text/0,,HGTV_3938_4766.00.html

for a wealth of information on recycled 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

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. *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.

Youth Clean Community Challenge

Get your school/classroom involved in the statewide youth clean community challenge. Register online at <http://www.litteritcostsyou.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.

Help Name the New State Litter Mascot! Before he can get started in the fight against litter, the new state litter mascot "Brown Trasher" needs a name. This fall, the *Litter. It Costs You* campaign is asking children from Kindergarten through 5th grade to pitch in by giving us their suggestions. Contest entries must be postmarked by October 27th. The

winning child and teacher/guardian will be invited to attend a special recognition ceremony with the anti-litter mascot, and will be featured on the *Litter. It Costs You* website.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Organic School Garden Awards inspire youth to improve their health and that of the Earth by gardening organically and promoting regenerative gardening practices. Any school in the 50 states with an organic garden used for educational purposes may enter. As part of the entry process, applicants must write an 800-word essay about their garden and create a photo poster. The bronze winner will be awarded \$250; the silver winner will receive \$500; and the gold winner will take the top prize of \$1000. All schools that apply will receive a certificate of participation. For information, go to www.kidsregen.org/gardens/index.shtml. For a look at previous winners and their gardens, visit www.kidsregen.org/gardens/2005/winners.php. The deadline is October 31, 2006.

CALENDAR

October 7	UGA vs. Tennessee Game (Volunteer Opportunity)
October 14	UGA vs. Vanderbilt Game (Volunteer Opportunity)
October 21	UGA vs. Mississippi Game (Volunteer Opportunity)
October 27	Outdoor Classroom Symposium and Deadline for the Name the State Litter Mascot

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.).

Native Seasons and Aldo Leopold workshop participants - Steven King, Natalie Hicks, Ellen Dolphus, Shundra Caldwell, Jenna Thiel, Peggy Rowden, Liz Conroy, Helene Marotta, Kathryn Mordecai, and Valorie Oxford.

Chase Street Elementary finished in the top 50 schools in the United States in the 2006 Return the Warmth contest and will be receiving an \$1000 gift card from Sam's.

OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

- . ACC Recycling Division and Binny presented Barrow Elementary with a check for \$206 for the 2006 Return the Warmth Contest from Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful.
- 0. Athens Academy toured the ACC Recycling Facility in September.

REUSED NEWS

Items that need mentioned a second time.

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. It is still a work in progress so we welcome suggestions. Please send suggestions/comments to Andrew Lentini at 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 its 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 in November

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.eeingorgia.org/net/content/item.aspx?s=24834.0.68.48.63> for more information.

Show off your Outdoor Classroom

The Outdoor Classroom Council of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia is inviting teachers to enter two contests that allow them to "show off" their schoolyards regardless of the conditions. Winners will receive free registration for the Outdoor Classroom Symposium and Workshops, October 26-28, 2006 at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife and Conference Center in Mansfield, and other great prizes.

The Ugliest Schoolyard Contest - Postmark Deadline: September 29

Teachers submit the following materials:

- Photographs showing the present state of the schoolyard
- A letter of interest in improving the schoolyard for student learning from the principal, teachers, and PTA/PTO
- A completed entry form and application.

Outdoor Classroom Photo Contest - Postmark Deadline: September 29

Students and Teachers in three categories (pre-K through 5th grade, 6th grade through 10th grade, and 11th grade through adult) submit the following materials:

- Photographs on mounting boards that show how outdoor classrooms help students learn, help teachers teach, and build community and school spirit
- A completed entry form
- A photo release for each child and adult pictured.

For more information about The Ugliest Schoolyard Contest, Outdoor Classroom Photo Contest, and 2006 Outdoor Classroom Symposium and Workshops, visit http://www.eealliance.org/occ%20symposium/about_occ.htm.

President's Environmental Youth Awards - Deadline: October 31st

President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) recognizes young people across America for projects that demonstrate their commitment to the environment. K-12 students sponsored by an adult submit evidence of a completed project as defined in the application to their local EPA regional office.

Application available at: <http://epa.gov/enviroed/pdf/peyaapp.pdf> .

Scotts Give Back to Grow® Awards Deadline: December 1, 2006 According to the National Gardening Association, 83 percent of U.S. households participated in lawn and garden activities last year. Included among this record number of gardeners are thousands of generous individuals who use their green thumbs to give back to their communities. The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's leading marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is celebrating the efforts of these extraordinary gardeners by kicking off its seventh annual *Scotts Give Back to Grow® Awards*. A total of \$40,000 will be awarded to winners in four categories whose gardening efforts have helped grow a better world. Four first place winners will receive \$5,000, and two finalists in each category will receive \$2,500. Nominations are now being accepted for the following categories:

Scotts Classroom Gardener of the Year – Salutes elementary through high school teachers who have incorporated gardening into their curriculums.

Scotts Urban Greenup Gardener of the Year – Salutes volunteers who have used gardening to address the challenges of an inner-city neighborhood.

Scotts Community Beautification Gardener of the Year – Salutes volunteers who have demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship through restoration and/or beautification of a main street, park or neighborhood within their city limits, and in the process significantly contributed to community pride.

Scotts Good Neighbor Gardener of the Year - Salutes volunteers who have helped feed the hungry in their communities by growing produce for donation to food banks and/or encouraging participation in programs such as the Garden Writers Association of America's Plant a Row for the Hungry.

Nomination forms for the seventh annual *Scotts Give Back to Grow® Awards* can be found at www.scotts.com/gbtg or by calling 1-866-565-3554. **Deadline for entry is December 1, 2006.** Winners and finalists will be announced on or before February 9, 2007.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in grades 5 through 12 who have demonstrated exemplary voluntary service to their communities. The program was created in 1995 and is sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals... Schools and officially designated organizations [Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross Chapters, YMCAs, etc.] may select one middle level and one high school Local Honoree for every 1,000 students (or portion thereof). Student applications are due back to schools or organizations by October 31, 2006." http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=539&DID=48173

Nestlé Very Best in Youth Program

The Nestlé Very Best in Youth Program honors young people who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. Twenty-five young people selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers will be featured in a special publication and honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles, CA during the summer of 2007. Nestlé will provide all the expenses for the winners' trips to Los Angeles, and will also donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice. Nominees should have a strong background in citizenship, school, community involvement, and reading. Legal residents of the U.S., between 10 and 18 years of age, are eligible for the program. Visit <http://nestle-verybestinyouth.com/vbiny/home.jspa> for program details and entry forms.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to support hands-on environmental projects for youth in grades K-12 throughout the world. The Foundation's objective is to encourage innovative activities that empower children to work individually and collectively as environmental stewards. Support is provided to nonprofit organizations and schools for environmental education programs that promote interaction and cooperation and that help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills. Grants generally range from \$500 to \$2,500. Requests are reviewed four times per year, and the remaining application deadlines for 2006 are September 30 and December 31. Visit the website listed above for more information. <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/>

CONTACT US

Natalie White

ACC Stormwater
Stormwater Education Coordinator
(706) 613-3440, extension 383
nataliewhite@co.clarke.ga.us
www.accstormwater.com

Stacee Farrell

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful
Executive Director
(706) 613-3501, extension 312
sfarrell@co.clarke.ga.us
www.keepathensbeautiful.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