

A.C.O.R.N

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

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

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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

"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. Application forms will be sent out early next week. *Green School Teachers will have priority consideration.*

REMINDER: Green School Registration and Coordinators

Each school should designate a Green School Coordinator and complete the Green School Registration form (the form is located on the home page of the new website in two formats - MS Word and as a PDF). Please send the form to Suki Janssen at suki@acc-recycle.org. The forms are due by **Friday, September 8th**.

Don't miss this wonderful workshop - space is still available - DEADLINE TO REGISTER WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

FREE - The Georgia Conservancy's Native Seasons Workshop and Aldo Leopold workshop Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9

Native Seasons: Georgia's Flora and Fauna is a GPS/QCC correlated curriculum that will assist you when teaching the natural sciences. When you study the natural world you see that life has few definitive 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. For additional information about Native Seasons visit http://www.georgiaconservancy.org/Education/ED_workshops.asp. Additionally, the Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold. The Leopold Education Project teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources. Check out the following website for additional information on this workshop www.lep.org. This workshop will be on Friday, September 8th from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (dinner included) at the ACC Recycling Facility and Saturday, September 9th from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (continental breakfast and lunch provided) at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia. PLU credit will be given for this 10 hour workshop. This workshop is provided by the ACC Recycling Division. The workshop is limited to 25 participants - current ACC Green Schools have the first available slots. Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional details at (706) 613-3512. Registration information will be sent to schools soon.

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.**

Get your students involved in the following community service events:

Come to the annual Rivers Alive event!

This years River cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 30 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. The first 300 volunteers will get a FREE Rivers Alive T-shirt or patch plus breakfast. Lunch and Entertainment will be provided after the clean-up. This is a great event for first time volunteers and children and it will count as one of your Green School projects. Call KACCB for more information. **** This is a Green School Activity.**

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. **NOTE: We will only be collecting on North Campus during the University of Alabama Birmingham game. We will expand once we have mastered an area.** 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.**

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.*

FREE Office Equipment available

The ACC Recycling Division has received a large equipment donation from Merial 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), 2 - two drawer filing cabinets, 1-four drawer filing cabinet, 2 plastic storage units (with shelves inside and doors; lightweight; lockable; indoor use), and 2 or 3 Rubbermaid carts. **First come, first serve - No deliveries available.** Contact the ACC Recycling Division for additional information.

Radical Reuse Ideas for the Classroom

Timmy the CD Turtle

Visit the following website <http://www.allfreecrafts.com/kids/turtle-cd.shtml> to make Timmy the CD Turtle. You will find other creative reuse craft projects on this site.

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.

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

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.

Tony Hawk Foundation

The mission of the Tony Hawk Foundation is to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on helping children. The principal focus of foundation grants is to encourage and facilitate the design, development, construction, and operation of new quality skateboard parks and facilities located in low-income communities in the United States. Galveston and Kerrville members, have received funding for local skate parks. The next deadline for Tony Hawk Foundation grant applications is October 1. For more information, visit <http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/>.

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/>

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CALENDAR

- September
- 4 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 8 Native Seasons/Aldo Leopold Workshop
- 9 Native Seasons/Aldo Leopold Workshop
- 16 UGA Game Day Recycling Begins - University of Alabama
- 21 Toast in the Garden
- 23 UGA Game Day Recycling - Colorado
- 30 Rivers Alive!

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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. The accomplishment can be for an individual or a school (examples include: award, grant, prize, activity, etc.).

Stay tuned...

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OUT & ABOUT IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

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

ACC Recycling Division presented Chase Street Elementary with \$1,443 for winning the *Return the Warmth* contest.

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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 .

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful's - Toast in the Garden

Join the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Board of Directors and enjoy good food and drink in support of Loop 10 ramp beautification projects. The event will be on Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 person or \$15.00 for two. Contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful for additional information and tickets at (706) 613-3501, extension 312.

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> .

Outdoor Classroom Grants

Lowe's, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program for K-12 public schools. Grants of up to \$2000 may be used to create new outdoor classrooms and/or enhance existing outdoor learning environments. Grants will be reviewed three times a year. To meet the next deadline, apply by August 31, 2006. For more information visit: <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLoves/outdoor/index.html>.

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.

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