



White River Solid Waste Management District

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Environmental Education E-News

May 2015

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Yea for May!

If you are a classroom educator like those in my family, by now your thoughts are probably something along the line of, ***"I am going to survive this year after all!"*** After a year of Common Core, PARCC and other testing I am sure everyone's brain – student and teacher alike – is somewhere between over easy and fried! Just a few more weeks, ladies and gents!

It isn't too late to get free Earth Day themed educational materials.

During the month of April we distributed over 7,500 free educational materials to twenty elementary campuses in our ten-county service area. Although every elementary principal is sent information about these materials, not all schools respond each year. The majority of what we provide is 12-16 page educational activity books with a conservation theme. And yes, these are provided through grant funds and are free to educators – no strings attached!

If you are a classroom educator who did not receive any of these materials and are still interested in doing environmental lessons with your students, it is not too late! Our offerings at this point and suggested classroom levels are as follows:

A Child's Book of Recycling (K-2)

Let's Learn About Recycling (Grades 3-4)

50 Ways to Go Green (Grades 5-6)

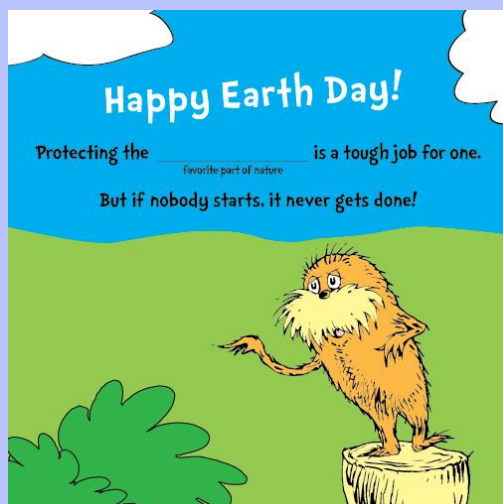
Color and Make Recycle Education Wheel (Grades 3-6)

To obtain any of these materials, contact me at recycle@wrpdd.org or call (870) 793-5233 and provide your name, school, grade level(s) and book quantities. Quantities are limited.

Join the Lorax to help protect the environment.

This Earth Day, ENERGY STAR announced the release of its updated activity book with Dr. Seuss's The Lorax. The activity book, one of EPA's most highly sought after publications, is available for free to schools and classrooms around the country. **Download the activity book** [here](http://go.usa.gov/3Z5bC). <http://go.usa.gov/3Z5bC> (cont'd.)

Looking for other quality homework resources, lesson plans, or project ideas to learn or teach about the environment?



The EPA Office of Environmental Education recently updated its resource center to make it easier for students, parents, and teachers to find K-12 activities and resources. **Visit the center** [here: http://www2.epa.gov/students](http://www2.epa.gov/students).

Do you like the great outdoors? Check out these Jonesboro summer workshops:

(We know your summer is already full of workshops, but these are beneficial and fun!)

Arkansas Game and Fish is presenting a one day, 8-Hr. eligible, professional development workshop, **Project Wet/Project Wild/Project Learning Tree**, in Jonesboro on Thursday, July 30, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. It is at the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, which is a wonderful place to visit. The workshop is free but class space is limited. Lunch is on site, so you will need to brown bag. This is a fun, educational workshop, and the lesson plans and helps you bring home are awesome!

For more information or to register for this workshop, email [Lee Elkins](mailto:Lee.Elkins@agfc.com) or call 870-933-6787 with: your name, phone number, school, email address and workshop name.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is also presenting its **Schoolyard Habitat Workshop for Educators** in Jonesboro on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, from 9am-3pm. Learn to take your students outdoors to explore and develop habitat for wildlife on your school grounds! The workshop is eligible for six ADE approved professional development hours, plus you will receive a free "How-to" guide for developing wildlife habitat on school grounds and a CD full of activities and ideas for use with students in the outdoor classroom. It is located at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources at the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, 600 E. Lawson Road in Jonesboro. The workshop is free, but space is limited so register early. Bring a sack lunch!

For new classroom educators the above two summer workshops are full of good information and good networking with teachers around the state. Learn from the experts and from your peers! **To register**, email [Lee Elkins](mailto:Lee.Elkins@agfc.com) with the following information: name, school or organization, email address, phone number and workshop name.

[Click here for information about these and other PD workshops offered by the AGFC.](#)

Grant opportunities worth looking at:

AEEA Spring Mini Grant for Formal Educators – May 8th Deadline

The Arkansas Environmental Education Association is offering \$500 mini-grants to classroom teachers to be used in the 2015-16 school year. This is an easy to apply for grant application. To learn more, open the following AEEA document.



AEEA Spring Mini
Grant 2015.doc

PLT GreenWorks! Grants – Do you have a group or club that needs a service learning project but need a little seed money to get it going? Project Learning Tree's GreenWorks Grants could be your answer. They fund several projects each year of up to \$1,000, but this is a national, competitive grant so make a good case for your project. Grants request of \$500 may stand a better chance of getting funded – but your project may be a winner at \$1,000. **Here's the catch**, you need to attend one of the area's PLT Workshops (like those above) to be eligible (another reason to attend their free workshops). Read more at <https://www.plt.org/newsletter-greenworks-grants-now-available>. **The deadline for this grant is September 30, 2015.**

It isn't too late to get a little recognition for your recycling program...

...with an ARC Award. Has your school, community or business done an outstanding job of recycling and educating your students or peers about recycling and reducing waste during the past year? If so, get your program some well-deserved recognition through the 2015 Arkansas Recycling Coalition Awards Program. Applications can be completed and submitted electronically. Complete information, including award criteria and categories, is available on the ARC website, www.recycleark.org. But hurry, **the deadline for applying is May 15, 2015.**

Protect our pollinators – their numbers are declining!

Please do not treat your school or home gardens and planters with pesticides that will harm pollinating insects that are so essential to plants. Pesticides, when used properly and sparingly, can benefit your plants, but they contain hazardous chemicals that can be harmful to humans, animals and beneficial insects when used or stored improperly. Learn more by visiting this EPA site: <http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/find-best-management-practices-protect-pollinators>.

Better yet, look into insecticidal soaps and oils which have very low toxicity and are not harmful to beneficial insects. They require a little more work because they need to be sprayed on the insect and infested areas and reapplied until infestation is gone. In addition, there is a ton of information out there on "green" gardening, including beneficial plant combinations, so don't be afraid to Google for alternatives. This is the perfect time of year to start your garden, flower beds and containers. I am using Sevin Dust only as a last resort this year and hope you will too!

An awesome opportunity for a young educator or leader!

2015 Natural Leaders Legacy Camp - The [Children and Nature Network's Natural Leaders Network](#) is looking for dynamic and diverse young leaders (**ages 18-29**) who are committed and enthusiastic to connecting others in their community to the natural world. Participants who are selected will gather tools for growing as individuals, as leaders, and as advocates for nature in their communities. **All meals, lodging, programs, and materials will be provided at no cost.** There are 50 participant slots available for this summer's Legacy Camp, **June 29th-July 3rd**, at the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, but these slots will fill quickly so apply now. The **application deadline is May 15th** and the selections will be announced May 31st. [Click here for details...](#)

How is your waterway?

It is all connected you know. What goes on the ground goes into the ground and into our water table. What goes up in flames ends up in residue on the ground, and then it goes into the ground and into our water. We should all be more concerned about improper disposal of household chemicals, medicines, and motor vehicle waste. We should never burn our trash!!!

The EPA has released an enhanced version of "How's My Waterway?" an app and website to help people find information on the condition of thousands of lakes, rivers, and streams across the United States from their smart phone, tablet or desktop computer. [Learn more...](#) Check out your area's stream or river.

Does your school recycling program need recharging?

When cleaning out your school and classrooms at the end of the school year – paper, cardboard, kitchen recyclables, electronics – keep recycling in mind. at many locations in our ten-county service area (north central Arkansas) we can provide pick-up of year-end recyclables and can drop an empty trailer for old classroom electronics. All materials are recycled in an information secure and environmentally responsible manner.

If your school campus needs to improve or expand its recycling program, summer is a good time to make plans for fall semester start-up. We are here to help. Our grant funded services are free to schools in our area so there is no cost to your school. Really! Contact me at recycle@wrpdd.org or by phone at (870) 793-5233.

Enjoy your summer! Recharge your batteries!

**We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors...
We borrow it from our children.**

Sources for the above information include: Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation, Arkansas Environmental Education Association, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Recycling Coalition, Project Learning Tree, EPA Office of Environmental Education, Washington County Environmental Affairs and Recycling and the White River Regional Solid Waste Management District.

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