

# TRUFFULA TIMES

A BlueGrass PRIDE Publication

## PRIDE Receives Grant for Water Education!

**B**luegrass PRIDE was pleased to receive a grant from Kentucky American Water (KAW) for water education in the service area shared by PRIDE and KAW. This program will provide water activities and lessons for school age children in varying counties. Each graduating class of "Water Ambassadors" will learn about: water conservation, watershed identification, water quality testing, non-point source pollution prevention, water cycle, and macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality.

**P**RIDE educators worked this summer on this project. They provided two days of water education and fun for a day camp in Jessamine County. The children were able to go to a nearby stream to do the activities. Students conducted a visual, chemical and biological assessment of the stream,

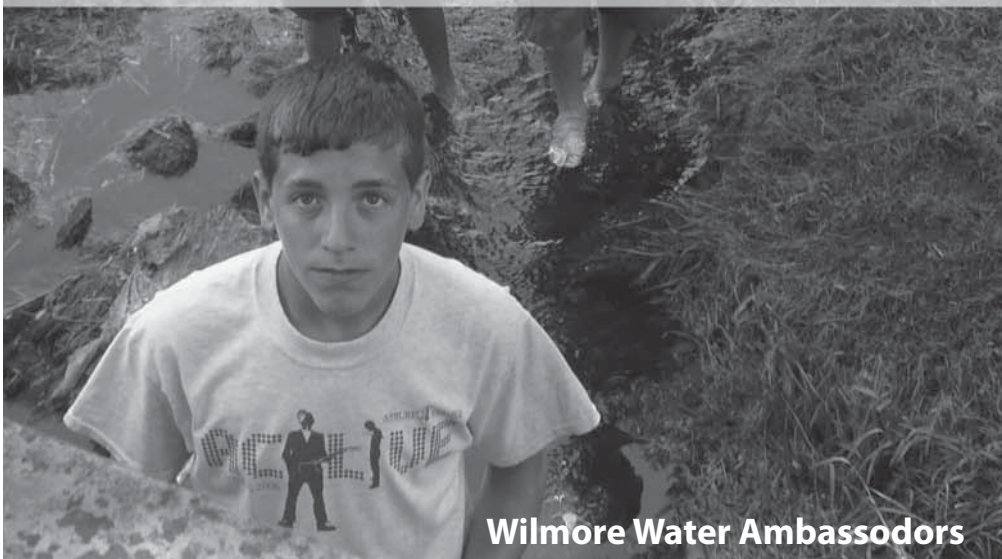
learning about non-point source pollution, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, watersheds, and macroinvertebrates. According to reports, the kids' favorite part was wading in the water looking for the different groups of macroinvertebrates. This was replicated at Wilmore Day Care, and in Scott and Woodford Counties with elementary children. All of these children are now "Water Ambassadors" and have received a certificate and a Water Ambassador backpack.

**T**his grant has allowed PRIDE to pilot the Water Ambassador program and it will provide a basis for our AmeriCorps water education programs. To find out how your students can become Water Ambassadors, contact PRIDE's Education Director, Maxine Rudder at [Maxine@kentuckypride.com](mailto:Maxine@kentuckypride.com).

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# Fall 2008



Wilmore Water Ambassadors

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# Letter from Executive Director



Welcome Back!

It has been a very busy year, and a very productive summer, and I am very happy to report some wonderful changes!

First of all, looking back – PRIDE’s education team did a wonderful job with the WasteBuster Program in Fayette County. We worked with over 50 schools and, because of hard work from the teachers and students, are helping to save Fayette County Public Schools over \$4,000/month in waste hauling costs.

PRIDE educators are also in the middle of working on a pilot Water Ambassador Program. Kentucky American Water gave PRIDE a grant to work with classrooms and summer camps teaching water education. This will serve as a pilot program to other Water Ambassador education opportunities in our other counties.

Looking Forward – I am, for the first time since becoming Executive Director, very optimistic about PRIDE’s future. We have once again, thanks to Congressman Chandler, received federal money to give out grants. The details are still being worked out, but we will be able to offer Community, Education and Educator workshop grants to Clark, Estill, Garrard, Lincoln, Madison, Montgomery and Powell counties.

PRIDE is also able to help with environmental education throughout the region for the first time in a long time. Crista Dittert is our new AmeriCorps member and she is working hard to rebuild contacts in all 18 of our counties. See page 6 for more information about Crista as well as her contact information.

I am also excited to report that we received a grant from the Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence to work with 20 teachers on a yearlong coal/alternative energy education program.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and patience. We are all excited to be working with all of you again.

# Grants



WWW.eeinkentucky.org is an excellent resource for educators throughout our state for grants that are currently available. The following is a list of a few of the ones we thought were great:

## **Kids in Need Teacher Grants:**

Grants range from \$100-\$500 and are for educators to provide innovative and creative classroom projects.

[www.kidsinnedd.net/grant/index.php\\_](http://www.kidsinnedd.net/grant/index.php_)

## **KNPS Native Plant Demonstration Garden Grants for Kentucky Primary and Secondary Schools:**

Grants are \$250 and are for a native plant demonstration garden.

[www.knps.org/knps%20grants.html](http://www.knps.org/knps%20grants.html)

## **Coca-Cola/NRC Grant:**

Grants will be awarded through 2008 and recipients receive recycling bins and help setting up and maintaining a recycling program.

[www.bingrant.org/home.htm](http://www.bingrant.org/home.htm)

## **Target Field Trip Grants**

Target will award 5,000 Field Trip Grants of up to \$800 each during the 2008-2009 school year. That adds up to 5,000 more opportunities for students to explore more of the world outside the classroom.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>



# Hands on Highlights



## Paper Bead Making

### Materials

Magazines or catalogs

Scissors

Pencil

Glue

String, elastic,  
or leather cord

### Activity

1. Tear colorful pages from magazines and catalogs.
2. Cut the pages into long triangles.
3. Center the pencil along the base of one of the triangles. Roll the paper around the pencil towards the triangle's tip. Stop rolling when you are about an inch from the tip.
4. Squeeze a thin layer of glue on the last inch of the paper triangle, and finish rolling the paper to its end. Wipe excess glue from the tip over the rest of the bead to seal and protect it.
5. When the glue has dried, slide the bead off the pencil.
6. Repeat steps 3 – 6 for more beads.
7. Cut string to length.
8. Slide beads onto string. Tie the ends of the strings into a knot.

### Tips

Each bead will be as long as the base of the triangle. For small beads cut out narrow triangles, and for larger beads, cut out wider triangles. For fatter beads roll the paper around markers, paper towel tubes, or even a soda can.

Paper beads can be used for – doorway curtain, earrings, shoelace decoration, pencil and pen toppers, picture frame design, light pull, zipper pull, magnets.

#### Core Content 4.1 Alignment

##### Elementary

##### Practical Living:

PL-EP-3.1.04 Students will identify consumer actions (reusing, reducing, recycling) that impact the environment. DOK 1

PL-04-3.1.04 Students will identify and describe consumer actions (reusing, reducing, recycling) that impact the environment. DOK 2

PL-05-3.1.04 Students will describe consumer actions (reusing, reducing, recycling) and identify ways these actions impact the environment (e.g., conserving resources, reducing pollution, reducing solid waste). DOK 2

##### Middle School

##### Practical Living:

PL-06-3.1.04 Students will describe consumer actions (reuse, reduce, recycle) and explain how these actions impact the environment (e.g., conserving resources, reducing pollution, reducing solid waste, conserving energy). DOK 2

PL-07-3.1.04 Students will describe consumer actions (reuse, reduce, recycle) and explain how these actions impact the environment (e.g., conserving resources, reducing pollution, reducing solid waste, conserving energy). DOK 2

PL-08-3.1.04 Students will describe consumer actions (reuse, reduce, recycle) and explain how these actions impact the environment (e.g., conserving resources, reducing pollution, reducing solid waste, conserving energy). DOK 2



## Coal as Energy: Impacts and Alternatives

**W**here does my electricity come from? How has coal impacted the culture and resources of Kentucky? What are some alternatives to coal as an energy source? These are the types of question teachers and students will explore as they participate in Bluegrass PRIDE's "Coal as Energy: Impacts and Alternatives" program. The program will offer 20 teachers a two day tour of active and

reclaimed coal mines, a coal generated power plant, hydroelectric dam and lots more. PRIDE's Environmental Educators will work with these teachers and their students throughout the school year to implement a series of KERA aligned experiential lessons and arrange field trips focused on coal and energy in Kentucky. All activities will culminate in individual community rallies organized to showcase student projects and demonstrations. For more information on how you can participate contact Maxine Rudder at [Maxine@kentuckypride.com](mailto:Maxine@kentuckypride.com) or call 859-266-1572. This program is funded by a grant received from the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence.

# PRIDE People

Bluegrass PRIDE would like to introduce our new environmental educators, Kara Benge, and Crista Dittert. These new educators will join returning educators Carol Bradford and Pattie Stivender.



Kara Benge is the new Environmental Educator at Bluegrass PRIDE for Middle and High School grade levels. Kara has obtained a B.A. with a focus on Ecological Design and Sustainable Agriculture at The Evergreen State College. She also received an A.S. in Environmental Technology at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. Kara is a Jessamine County native and is currently living in Lexington with her son Cyrus. Her hobbies include organic gardening, cooking and eating delicious food, dancing and being outdoors. Kara can be reached by calling (859) 266-1572 or via e-mail at [kara@kentuckypride.com](mailto:kara@kentuckypride.com).



Crista Dittert joins Bluegrass PRIDE this year as a new Environmental Educator. Crista's position is unique in that it is in affiliation with Eastern Kentucky University's AmeriCorps SERV Program. As an AmeriCorps member, Crista will be working primarily with PRIDE's outreach programs throughout Central Kentucky. Crista attended Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia before completing her B.A. in chemistry from the University of Kentucky. She perpetually looks forward to autumn (for with it come UK football and Keeneland's fall meet) and enjoys working with youth. Crista can be reached at 266-1572 or [AmeriCorps@KentuckyPRIDE.com](mailto:AmeriCorps@KentuckyPRIDE.com).



To all teachers, faculty, LFUCG, and others whom I worked with over the past 2 years. As some of you may have heard, I will be moving to Oxford, MS this August to pursue graduate work in Anthropology/Archaeology at Ole Miss. I was offered an assistantship while working on a prehistoric Native American site in the Mississippi Delta this July. I am extremely excited about the opportunity, but sadly, this also means that I will not be continuing with PRIDE. However, I am happy to have met PRIDE's new educator Kara Benge and happy to know that she will be continuing PRIDE's relationship with everyone this year. I want to thank everyone for all of your hard work and cooperation and it's been a pleasure working with you. Feel free to call PRIDE for my contact information to keep in touch in the future if you like. ~Wendy

**Want to be a real WasteBuster? Get Truffula Times electronically! Send an email to [Michelle@kentuckypride.com](mailto:Michelle@kentuckypride.com), and ask to be on the electronic mailing list for Truffula Times!**

# Outdoor Classroom Corner

## Schoolyard Gardens

The need to create a teaching environment where students can explore nature and learn where their food comes from is becoming obvious. Childhood obesity rates are growing, agricultural lands are disappearing, and many children may not understand the connection to the land and their food. For these reasons some schools are creating schoolyard gardens along with outdoor classrooms to help foster an understanding of agriculture, nutrition, and helping children to have a sense of place.

As a result and recognition of this educational need, many schools have come up with plans to implement a schoolyard garden. There can be different themes to a

schoolyard garden, such as an herb, pizza or art garden. It is up to your school to decide and no matter what they chose, here are some suggested steps to follow to make it successful.

1. **Get Help** – Call on all the resource you can find because no one has time to do it alone. Get other teachers, administration, parents, and community members to form a committee before you even begin to plan.
2. **Formulate objectives** – Is this to be for science classes only or is it multidisciplinary?
3. **Create a Curriculum** – What activities do you want to use in the garden? Which student will this work best with? Do you have anyone with a specific expertise? Call on your resources.
4. **Plan** – Who is responsible for the garden in the summer? What task can each person on the committee do?
5. **Pick a site and build** – Sunlight, water, drainage, electricity and accessibility are consideration when picking a site. Can you build a tool shed near the garden? Consider all the options before you build.

Once a schoolyard garden is in place they are valuable educational tools for children of all learning styles. Students can explore with the five senses creating a greater desire for knowledge. They not only learn how to grow food but see the connection of the land to their food through which they can gain a sense of stewardship. With this newfound sense of stewardship the students begin to learn to work together creating a learning community and hopefully it will guide them to make wise food choices in the future.

Please review the references if you are considering a schoolyard garden, they contain grant opportunities and classroom activities to help get you started.

National Gardening Association – <http://www.kidsgardening.com>

Environmental Education in Kentucky – [www.eeinkentucky.org/](http://www.eeinkentucky.org/)

University of Kentucky Office of Extension – <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/ces/>

School Gardens –

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarten/child/school/sgintro.html>

You can also call one of PRIDE's educators to help you get started!



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