

WAY TO GO WASTEBUSTERS!

Kendell Nash, PRIDE's 2005-2006 AmeriCorps Volunteer, shares her experiences working with last year's WasteBusters.



The school year was full of exciting challenges and opportunities! I saw over 3,400 students in eight short months! Many of the visits I had with students were one-time meetings, leading the students in one of the monthly activities outlined on Bluegrass PRIDE's Waste Reduction Unit. I was fortunate enough to get to know three groups of students very well, as they were the inaugural class of PRIDE's Waste Buster Program.

PRIDE's Waste Buster program was first offered last year as a part of the Waste Reduction unit. In order to become a

Waste Buster classroom, the students had to participate in one in-class lesson and one enrichment activity each month on different solid waste topics. The topics studied included Landfills, Eco-Shopping, Composting, Household Hazardous Waste, Recycling, Reducing and Reusing.

Two classes from Lexington's Johnson Elementary, Ms. Garrison's and Mrs. Childress' first grade classrooms, became the first elementary students to be certified Waste Busters! These students were a very enthusiastic and dedicated bunch! In October, they learned about what makes a product a hazard and they wrote to the Poison Control Center and requested Mr. Yuk stickers so that they mark the items in their households that are hazardous. These students reported their favorite enrichment activity, however, was making edible landfills! In

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LETTER FROM THE ED

What a great start to a new school year! There have been a lot of changes at Bluegrass PRIDE since our last edition of Truffula Times. I am happy to report that we have overcome some of our funding problems and are still alive and kicking. This is my first letter as Executive Director, but I have been a part of PRIDE, serving as Program Manager and then Deputy Director, since 2002. I am looking forward to my new role, and to facing the challenges in environmental education together.

We had to say goodbye to Angela at the end of August. She was our first Director and will be greatly missed. She and her husband have moved to Columbus, Ohio so that he can start his medical residency program at Ohio State University. They have also just welcomed their first child, Neko, into the world and have their hands full with her.

Before she left, Angela was instrumental in helping PRIDE secure a contract with the city of Lexington to do solid waste education and outreach throughout Fayette County. PRIDE is charged with implementing a new pilot recycling program for businesses and apartment complexes as well as beginning a comprehensive K-12 waste reduction education plan for 38 Lexington schools. We are hoping to extend the contract at least through next year.

We will continue to search for money to provide EE resources throughout Central Kentucky and are currently working on grants to help with water quality education. PRIDE still has a lot to offer all of our counties, including our resource library (see page 6) and our ever expanding website (stay tuned to the For Educators section as well as the For Kids section).

Thank you for your support throughout last year, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Amy Solmer

HANDS ON

I G H L I G H T S

Kentucky NEED (National Energy Education and Development) is challenging students across the state to be leaders in the statewide Change a Light, Change the World campaign. This national program, sponsored by the U.S. EPA and U. S. Department of Energy, encourages families across our country to pledge to change at least one incandescent light bulb to an energy efficient Compact Fluorescent light bulb.

(http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=change_light.changealight_index)

Sign the Pledge!

The Kentucky NEED Project has signed on as a pledge driver and encourages students to help us reach their goal of 1000 families taking the pledge. The URL for the KY Pledge is:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showpledge&cpd_id=697) On the pull down screen for Referring Organization, be sure to scroll down to Kentucky NEED Project.

Kentucky NEED has designed a KY pledge template for teachers to copy and distribute to their students. To request a copy of the specially designed KY Pledge, please contact Karen Reagor at: kreagor@need.org

Teachers' Guide

NEED has developed a Teachers' Guide to Change a Light with additional ideas on how students can be involved in this energy saving campaign. The guide can be downloaded at: <http://www.need.org/needpdf/ChangeALightTG.pdf>

Science & Math Connections: Students can calculate the positive impacts their pledges are having on the environment.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=lighting.pr_lighting

Social Studies Connections: This link will take students to a U.S. map

showing the running totals of pledges by state, showing the number of pledges per capita.

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.growingCommunity>

This is a great opportunity for students to be ENERGY LEADERS in their communities. Send in the pledges your students collect as well as information about your class project and we'll send you a certificate of participation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact Karen Reagor (kreagor@need.org) director of the Kentucky NEED program.



MONEY TREE

LOWE'S OUTDOOR CLASSROOM GRANT PROGRAM

The Outdoor Classroom Grant Program provides outdoor, hands-on science education to students in grades K-12 and assists schools in enhancing their core curriculum in all subjects. Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and *National Geographic Explorer!* classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant program to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. All K-12 public schools in the United States are welcome to apply.



This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school.

How to Apply:

- Complete the online application. <http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p>AboutLowes/Community>
- Print two copies of the completed application. Keep one for your records.
- Assemble your students' outdoor classroom plan, including illustrations, video footage (CD or DVD only) and photos, if applicable.
- Please be sure that the teacher's name and phone number are on each item. Entries without accurate contact information may not be accepted.
- Have your principal or school superintendent write a letter in support of your outdoor classroom project, including budget requirements.
- Send the outdoor classroom plan materials, a copy of the completed online application and letter from your principal or superintendent to Outdoor Classroom Grant Program, P.O. Box 3292, Memphis, TN 38173-0292.
- Only complete online applications, with all supporting documents, will be considered.

Grants will be reviewed three times a year.

PROJECT WILD & PLT COMBINED WORKSHOP AT THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

Tuesday, December 19th, 2006

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. The goal of Project WILD is to assist students of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment.



Project Learning Tree (PLT), through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, provides students, in grades K-12, with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourages them to make informed, responsible decisions.



This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to discover the best of these two widely recognized programs. Each participant will also receive copies of both the WILD & PLT Guides upon completion of the 8 hour workshop.

COST: \$30/participant

Contact: Doug McCoy, Assistant Curator of Education, The Louisville Zoo (502) 238-5343
doug.mccoy@louisvilleky.gov for more information.

WASTE BUSTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE COVER PAGE

February after learning how landfills work, these twenty-three first graders made landfills in a cup using different goodies, such as ice cream and fruit roll-ups to model different components of a landfill. They said it was "delicious garbage"!

On May 5th the two classrooms were each awarded a beautiful Waste Buster Plaque and celebrated with a low-waste lunch and a school wide clean-up!

The first middle school students to be certified Waste Busters were from Ms. Leigh Ann Hushfield's Environmental Science Class at Millersburg Military Institute in Millersburg! These bright young men were excited about learning different waste reduction methods. They each wrote an essay on different types of hazardous waste disposal after they learned about hazardous waste. They also held an ultimate can crusher contest where each student submitted an original design! These students were fortunate to have many different field trips as their enrichment lessons. Some of the places visited were Lexington Fayette County Urban County Government's Arboretum, Sanitation District #1 in Northern Kentucky, Millersburg's Waste Water Treatment Plant and Paris' Sewer Treatment Plant. On May 4th these students were recognized on WKYT-TV and awarded a Waste Buster Plaque and were celebrated with a low-waste lunch and storm-drain stenciling in neighboring Paris!

Working with these thirty students this year was a delight and an unforgettable experience. Each teacher and student was a valuable contributor to PRIDE's Waste Buster Program and I thoroughly enjoyed growing with them this year!

WONDERFUL WEBSITE

www.kentuckypride.com/campaigns/educators/resource_library.htm

For this issue of *Truffula Times*, we are using PRIDE's website as the Wonderful Website to once again draw attention to our Resource Library.

Bluegrass PRIDE's resource library is available to assist in the teaching of environmental topics. PRIDE has developed topic-related buckets that include books, activities, interactive CDs, videos, web sites with background information, human resources, field trip ideas, and other resources.

Details on bucket contents and other Resource Library materials can be found in the For Educators section of www.KentuckyPRIDE.com. Call PRIDE's toll free number, 866.222.1648 to reserve a bucket today!

Bucket Topics Include:

A Sand County ALMANAC

Animal Pelts

Air Quality

Animal Tracks and Signs

Aquatic Wildlife

Birds

Birds of Prey

Composting

Energy Resources

Forestry

Geology

Household Hazardous Waste

Paper Recycling

Recycling

Skull Replicas

Soils

Soil Erosion

Storm Drain Stenciling Kit

Storm Water

Stream Walk Kits

Sustainable Development

Tree Identification

Water Quality and Conservation

Wetland

Wildlife

Other Resources:

Books

Curricula Guides

Videos

Bat and Fish Skeleton

Water Testing Kits

Envirothon Information

Steam Invertebrate Kits

The Blue Traveler (from Conserve Water)

The Tree Factory (from Project Learning Tree)

PRIDE PEOPLE

On August 25, PRIDE said goodbye to Angela Dossett, the organization's first Executive Director. She and her husband have moved to Columbus, Ohio so that Lee can begin his residency program and Angela can prepare to be a first time mom. Angela was instrumental in shaping PRIDE and will be greatly missed.

Amy Sohner, PRIDE's former Deputy Director, has taken over as Executive Director. She has been with PRIDE since shortly after its inception and is looking forward to the challenges associated with her new position.

Esther Cruz Moberly joined Bluegrass PRIDE as Program Manager in July. Her main responsibilities include working with Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Solid Waste to increase recycling among local businesses and apartment complexes, and to develop an anti-littering campaign.

PRIDE would also like to welcome the newest members of our Executive Committee, Kate Shanks and Rachel Cole. Kate is the Environmental Education Coordinator with the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet and Rachel is a Financial Analyst with Kentucky American Water.



The newest addition to the Bluegrass Pride staff is Wendy Cegielski. As our Environmental Educator, she will be bringing recycling education into Fayette County schools. Wendy is a resident of Bath County with a master's degree from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and an undergraduate degree in Agriculture from Morehead State University. Wendy specializes in sustainability issues including "green" waste management, recycling, composting, and organic farming. She has professional community development experience with Heifer International and AmeriCorps and has taught in the Kentucky public school system in summer programs and as a long-term substitute. Her past projects include the development of a hands-on gardening curriculum directed toward at-risk students living in urban poverty. She can be reached at Wendy@KentuckyPRIDE.com.





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*Please pass this newsletter to someone who might be interested,
file it or recycle it! THANKS!*

**CONTACT BLUEGRASS PRIDE
TOLL FREE 866-222-1648
LOCAL 859-266-1572**

OR

WE'VE MOVED!

**VISIT OUR OFFICE IN THE PARK HILLS SHOPPING CENTER
3120 PIMLICO PARKWAY, STE. 126
LEXINGTON**

BLUEGRASS PRIDE STAFF

**AMY SOHNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ESTHER MOBERLY, PROGRAM MANAGER
MAXINE RUDDER, EDUCATION COORDINATOR
WENDY CEGIELSKI, ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATOR
BRENDA LYNCH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TAMMY PATRICK, OFFICE MANAGER**