

School Year 2011-2012

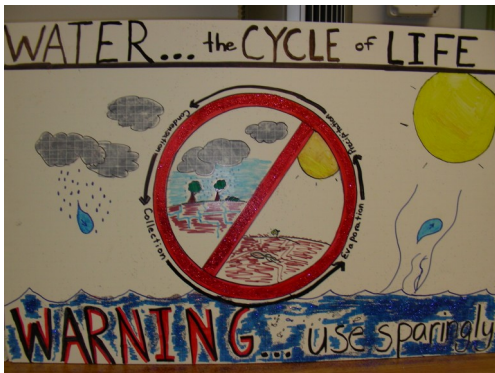


Durham Soil & Water Conservation District ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Teacher's Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to assist educators in finding resources and opportunities for all students in Durham County.

The Durham SWCD has a wide variety of resources, contests, programs and more that Durham County teachers, educators and parents are encouraged to tap into to help kids understand natural resources, nature and the environment.



Visit our website at : www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

One of the top priorities for the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide environmental education opportunities to all Durham County citizens. Our goal includes supporting educators and teachers in the area of conservation education in all grade levels, public, private or home school groups



How we can help you

- Resources and lesson plans for the classroom
- Classroom presentations
- Teacher Workshops
- Environmental Learning Library
- Conservation Contests
- Envirothon

How you can help us

- Share our information with your colleagues
- Encourage your students to participate in the conservation contest
- Call us for assistance!

How to Reach us:

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District
721 Foster St
Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-560-0558

Fax: 919-560-0563

On the web:

www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/

Our Education Staff:

Jennifer Brooks - Soil Conservationist/
Education Coordinator

Lisa Marochak - Administrative Office/
preK-3rd grade programming

Our Board of Supervisors:

- Talmage Layton, Chair
- Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chair
- Danielle Adams, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ray Eurquhart
- Curtis Richardson

District Staff:

- Eddie Culberson, Director
- Lisa Marochak, Administrative Officer
- Jennifer Brooks, Soil Conservationist/
Education Coordinator
- Mike Dupree, Watershed Conservationist/
Agricultural Development Coordinator
- Matt Kinane, District Conservationist, NRCS

Calendar of Events:

August 2011

15th 2011-2012 Poster, Essay & Public Speaking Contests opens

25th 1st day of school for Traditional Calendar schools

September 2011

5th Labor Day

October 2011

1st NC Big Sweep statewide event!

5-6th Environmental Field Days for 3rd grade

November 2011

23-25th Thanksgiving Holiday!

December 2011

21-30th Winter Holiday for Traditional calendar schools

January 2012

16th MLK, Jr. Holiday

February 2012

10th Poster, Essay & Public Speaking Contest entries due

March 2012

TBA Area 4 Envirothon competition

April 2012

TBA NC Envirothon competition

May 2012

TBA SWCD Annual Educational Awards Banquet

28th Memorial Holiday

June 2012

7th Last day of school for Traditional calendar schools

8th Last day of school for Year-Round schools

July 2012

TBA North American Canon Envirothon

Hibernation lesson



Envirothon



Vermacomposting





Classroom Presentations and Resources



Environment Education Learning Library

Who: teachers, naturalists, interpreters, children’s librarians, scout leaders, camp counselors, recreation leaders, daycare personnel, curriculum specialists, etc. who work with children



What: A Free Environmental Education Library for children ages 2 - 9.

How: To view the list of resources or fill out an application and request form, please visit our website at www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/ or call (919)560-0558.

When: All Learning Library materials are available **FREE-of charge** for a **2 week** loan period.

Pre-K - 2nd grade activities

Who: Durham County public or private students in preK - 3rd grade level classes or programs

What: Variety of hands-on activities geared towards younger audience levels.

Examples of popular activities include ‘Earth Bracelets’, ‘Vermicomposting’, ‘Sammy Soil Buddy’ and more....

How: To arrange for an activity or discuss activity options, please call 560-0558 or email Imarochak@durhamcountync.gov

When: Throughout the school year, call for appointment



Earth Day Bracelets!



Sammy Soil Buddy!

Classroom Presentations for all grade levels

Who: Durham County Public or Private students in 3rd - 12th grade

What: Variety of classroom presentations on natural resource topics geared towards grade level NC Standard Course of Study.

Examples of popular topics include Soils, Wildlife, Water Quality, Enviroscape Watershed Model, Conservation Contest’s Theme and more....

How: To arrange for a classroom presentation, please call 560-0558 or email jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov

When: Throughout the school year, call for appointment



Enviroscape Watershed Model

Conservation Contests



Poster, Essay & Public Speaking Contests

What: Poster, Essay and Public Speaking Contests on the theme *'Wetlands Are Wonderful'*

Who: Durham County Public and Private students

Poster: 3rd - 6th grade

Essay: 6th grade

Public Speaking: 7th & 8th grade

When: Contest opens on August 15, 2011 and closes on February 10, 2012

Guidelines and Rules: For a complete list of Rules and the Registration form, please email jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov, call 560-0558 or visit

www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/Environmental_Education.html

Deadline: All posters and essays should be delivered to the Durham SWCD by 5pm on 2/10/12. To arrange for the entries to be picked up by our staff, please contact us by Feb 1, 2012. All Public Speaking participants must register by 2/10/12. The exact date of the speaking event will be announced once all participants are registered.

Awards: 1st and 2nd place awards will be given for each grade division in each contest category.

1st place: \$50 and plaque

2nd place: \$25 and certificate

Important Notice Teachers!!!

If one of your students win First Place in our Poster, Essay, or Public Speaking Contest, you will be awarded \$30 to use at your favorite school-supply Outlet!

All entries will be judged in late February. Winners will be notified via teachers and will receive awards at the Annual Durham SWCD Educational Awards Banquet in late Spring.

The 1st place winner from each category and grade level will go on to compete at an area level competition. (Area 1st place winners will be eligible to enter the state wide contest.)

A complete list of 2011 winners and posters can be viewed on our website at www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/Environmental_Education.html

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District
Environmental Education
Conservation Contests:
Wetlands are Wonderful

The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring our annual Conservation Education Poster, Essay, and Public Speaking contests for Durham County students! The theme for all three contests is: **Wetlands are Wonderful**

Poster
3rd-6th Grade

Essay
6th Grade

Public Speaking
7th & 8th Grade

This encompasses a wide range of idea topics that the students can incorporate in their entries, such as ecology, conservation, natural resources, and will meet the NC DPI Standard Course of Study in a variety of Goals & Objectives.

All contest entries are due to the Durham SWCD office by **February 10, 2012**. Please call, email or visit our website for complete rules and registration.

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District
121 Finner St.
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919 560 0558
Fax: 919 560 0563
E-mail: jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov
Website:
www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/Environmental_Education.html

Soil and Water...Your's for Life!

Programs and Events

Environmental Education Field Days

What: Environmental education learning event

Who: Durham County Public or Private 3rd grade classes

How: Students will spend the day learning about 5 different environmental topics, meet resource professionals and learn about nature while in nature.

When: October 4, 5 or 6, 2011

UPDATE: Sorry, but all spaces for the Environmental Education Field Days are now full! If you are interested in being put on the waiting list in case a school backs out, please contact us at 919-560-0558



Registration:

Envirothon

What: Team competition in Environment and Natural Resource areas; Soils, Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatics and Current Environmental Issues

Who: Middle and High School students in Durham County public or private schools, student groups and clubs. *Home school clubs, scout groups, or 4-H clubs are encouraged to form teams!*

Middle school teams: 5-8th grade

High school teams: 9-12th grade

How: 5 member teams of students will compete against other teams on their knowledge of environmental issues and natural resources.

When: Students should begin studying the provided resource materials in early fall. Competitions are held at an area, state, and national level starting in the early spring. Durham County teams will participate in the Area 4 Envirothon competition in March 2012. (*Exact location and date to be announced later*)

Registration: Interested teachers should contact Jennifer, *Durham County Envirothon Coordinator*, early in the school year to begin studying and training. *919-560-0558 or jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov*



Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)

What: Camp for students interested in natural resource careers.

Who: Durham County public or private school students in high school. Rising 10th, 11th or 12th grades.

Where: NC State University campus

When: late June 2012

Goals: Part college fair, part job fair, the RCW introduces students to many degree and career options that they might have never heard about or thought of. Students who are interested in the environment and might like to pursue a career in it one day learn about soils, wildlife, forestry and more during the RCW. Students are housed in NCSU campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors.

Scholarships and awards: Multiple scholarship and awards are available to participants during the week.

Registration: The Durham SWCD sponsor's a scholarship for a Durham County student to attend the RCW. Interested students should have teachers contact us at 560-0558 or jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov for application packet. Applications are due by April 1, 2012.



NC Big Sweep in Schools

What: State-wide trash clean up event for our waterways and watersheds

Who: Durham County students, parents and citizens

When: Saturday, October 1, 2011. Cleanups can also be scheduled anytime during the months of September and October!

Where: Streams, waterways, parks, school grounds or anywhere there's trash! If you do not have a site in mind, we can help match you with a clean-up area.

Goals: Challenge your class to make a positive difference by removing unsightly litter and debris. Help protect our environment for everyone's enjoyment, people and wildlife. Students will learn about respect for our environment and the impact our actions have on others.

Classroom presentations: Staff will present litter and recycling lessons to classes by appointment to help the students understand the importance of Big Sweep.

Registration: contact the Durham County Big Sweep Coordinator, Jennifer at 919-560-0558 or jbrooks@co.durham.nc.us today for more information or to sign up!



Teacher's Corner

Teachers Workshops

What: Project Food, Land & People and WOW! Wetlands are Wonderful

Who: Teachers and educator in Durham County who would like training in 2 different curriculum guides that contain lesson plans for the classroom.

Workshops: Project Food, Land & People is a K-12 curriculum that help people better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment and people of the world. WOW! Wonders of Wetlands is a K-12 curriculum that helps people better understand wetlands and their importance in a healthy environment.

CEUs: CEU credit hours are available for both workshops.
EENC certification hours are also available.

When: Summers or throughout the school year by appointment

Contact: for more information, please call us at (919) 560-0558



Teacher of the Year Contest

What: Contest to recognize outstanding teachers implementing environmental education in the classroom.

Who: Durham County public or private school teachers:

Elementary division - grades K-5

Middle school division - grades 6-8

High school division - grades 9-12

When: Contest is judged primarily on teaching content and activities of current school year

Guidelines and rules: For a complete list of Rules and the Registration form, please email jbrooks@durhamcountync.gov , call 560-0558 or visit

www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd/Environmental_Education.html

Deadline for Entries: Entries must be received by the first Friday in April of each year.

Awards: Winners from each category will be awarded a cash prize of \$100 at our Annual Conservation Awards Banquet in the Spring!