

A Boatload Of Learning

With a \$1,500 grant from the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation, educational cruises were offered along the Iowa River aboard the Empress (the official touring vessel of the Scenic City Empress Boat Club.) The program was provided by the Boat Club in Iowa Falls, along with Calkins Nature Area and the Iowa DNR-certified IOWATER (volunteer water quality monitoring).



Riverbend Middle School science students and science teacher/naturalist Karen Koenig have participated in these cruises. In 2006, middle school science club students participated, and this year seventh grade students boarded the Empress as Koenig, a trained IOWATER volunteer, provided environmental education through water testing experiments.

Jim Hoffman, originator of the grant, Boat Club board member and owner of Plastic Recycling of Iowa Falls,

has been a strong promoter of the Empress, the Boat Club and the environment. Hoffman is excited to see the facility being used as a classroom/learning experience for Iowa Falls students. Hoffmann is hopeful that the Empress and the Boat Club will be available to more schools in the future for educational endeavors such as this. For more information, e-mail Jim Hoffman at jim.hoffman@plasticrecycling.us.



Endangered Species Day May 18, 2007



Environmental and science teachers will join thousands of others throughout the country to celebrate national Endangered Species Day on May 18. Endangered Species Day is an ideal opportunity to learn more about threatened/endangered plant and animal species and celebrate success stories in endangered species protection and recovery. Visit the web site for more information and resource materials: www.stopextinction.org/endangeredspeciesday.

Rail Recycling in Des Moines County

The Des Moines County Regional Waste Commission staff constructed a "Waste Express" train from cardboard for the annual *Day of the Child* event held at Westland Mall in West Burlington. Children and their families were encouraged to draw a picture of something commonly disposed of in a household and to determine which train "car" the item should go into: the recycling car, the Haz Chem car, the landfill car, or the compost car. Over 450 children and their families participated in the booth. *Day of the Child* is held every year with over 40 local agencies hosting activities for children. For more information, e-mail Darven Kendell, Education Coordinator, DMC Regional Waste Commission, dkendell@dmcwaste.org or call 319-753-8722.



May 2007



**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Renew**

For Our Future



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Partially funded by the REAP Conservation Education Program. Invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people. REAP is supported by the state of Iowa, providing funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation and more. For more information visit www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaee/CEP.html.



Weyerhaeuser

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STUDENT CHALLENGE

Project AWARE 2007 – A Ton of Fun –

This June, during the 5th annual Project AWARE, volunteers will cover 110 miles in seven days to help revitalize the Middle and North Raccoon Rivers in south-central Iowa. Last year, Project AWARE 2006 volunteers pulled a record amount of trash from the Iowa and English Rivers.



Can you find the number of tons that were retrieved from last year's event? Students or their teachers may e-mail answers to Shelly Codner at shelly@netins.net by May 25, 2007. All correct answers will be placed in a drawing to win an iPod shuffle. For more information and to find the answer, visit the Project AWARE website at www.iowaprojectaware.com.



The April Student Challenge winner was Marshall Lyons of East Elementary, Waukon. Congratulations, Marshall!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Write (Draw, Too!)

Fellowships in Environmental Journalism

The Middlebury College Fellowships in Environmental Journalism program will annually select 10 journalists and work with them to report and produce news stories for print, the Internet and radio. Graduate Fellows will receive \$10,000 for research expenses and participate in week-long residencies at Middlebury College in the fall and at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in the Spring. Deadline: May 15, 2007. www.middlebury.edu/administration/enviro/fellowship

Students Invited to Illustrate Book

Environmental Concern's 3rd annual national Write-On! Wetlands Challenge invites elementary school students to illustrate the book *Wetlands A to Z*, by Sofia Calicchio. Winning artwork will be incorporated with the text to create a book and winning artists will receive two copies of the book. Deadline: May 18, 2007. www.wetland.org/education_celebrate.htm

Solix Essay Contest

Read the novel *Solix Resettles Blue Mountain*, by Robert E. Dansby and write an essay or short story that connects with the storyline of the book and conveys thoughts concerning global warming. Win scholarships and other prizes. Deadline June 30, 2007. Contact solixessay@edgenics.com for entry form and instructions.

Great American Cleanup

Volunteer for Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. The Great American Cleanup will continue through May 31, 2007. Consult the list below to locate a participating organization near you.

Des Moines County Conservation

11627 Starr's Cave Road, Burlington, IA 52601
Contact: Kim Perlstein, (319) 753-5808
Email: starcave@co.des-moines-ia.us

Keep Linn County Beautiful

700 16th St. NE, Ste 310, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
Contact: Kristin Simon, (319) 365-9941
kristin.simon@ecicog.org
www.keeplinncountybeautiful.org

Keep Council Bluffs Beautiful

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Contact: Gina Hart, (712) 325-3326, ghart@iwcc.edu

Keep Iowa Beautiful

300 E. Locust St., Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50309
Contact: Gerald Schnepf, (515) 323-6507
gschnepf@keepiowabeautiful.com
<http://keepiowabeautiful.com>

Decatur County Rotary Club

111 N. Main, Leon, IA 50144
Contact: Terry Geiger, (641) 446-4841
terry.geiger@greatwesternbank.com

Keep Northeast Nebraska Beautiful

507 7th St., Suite 401, PO Box 1077
Sioux City, IA 51102-1077
Contact: Kristi Quinn, (712) 279-6286
kquinn@simpco.org
www.dakotacountyne.org/knnb/index.htm

Congratulations Cowles Elementary 2007 Environmental Stewardship Award

On April 18, 2007 Cowles Elementary School of Des Moines was recognized as the recipient of the 2007 Metro Waste Authority (MWA) Environmental Stewardship award in the category of Best School Recycling Program. The Annual Dinner was held at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club in West Des Moines.

For a number of years, the school has actively participated in paper recycling. Each week, fourth and fifth graders pick up recycling from each room and act as ambassadors to other students. During lunch, day care students, as young as the age of three, are involved with learning about recycling. The focus on recycling is showing up in other ways, too. Middle school students are expanding their environmental knowledge by taking part in sampling and testing water through the DNR's IOWATER program. Another group of students has started an environmental club.

"The Environmental Stewardship Awards give Metro Waste Authority the opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations who are leaders in developing, implementing and promoting practices that encourage environmental sustainability through recycling, waste reduction, conservation and the efficient use of resources," said Paul Leighton, chair of MWA's Board of Directors. "Each one of the award winners has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the environment and quality of life in central Iowa."

Learn more about this annual event or other information regarding waste reduction and recycling by visiting www.mwatoday.com.

Congratulations Class of 2007

Explore the links below to research environmental careers, internships, and scholarship opportunities.

Summer Student Employment Opportunities The EPA Summer Opportunities for Students web site is a hiring tool useful for students looking for summer work in EPA offices.
www.epa.gov/ohr/student/

Careers in Earth Science Examine NASA professions to see how they relate to your skills and abilities and a possible career in earth science. <http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/archive/career/index.html>

EE Link by State and Region These pages are useful for students who want information on existing environmental organizations, programs and projects in a particular state or region. Visit here if you are looking for specific local or regional information, want to start an environmental project in your own community, or are interested in general environmental information.
<http://eelink.net/eeorganizationsandprojects-stateandregional.html>

EE Link – Student Award and Grant Program A great resource for students looking for opportunities to participate in environmental award programs. Options range from essay contests to community service projects. [http://eelink.net/studentawardandgrantprograms\(environmentaltopics\).html](http://eelink.net/studentawardandgrantprograms(environmentaltopics).html)

Environmental Careers Organization In addition to research and consulting, this organization offers environmental internships, career advice, and career publications. www.eco.org/site/c.dnJLKPNnFkG/b.795025/k.AA86/The_Environmental_Careers_Organization.htm

Environmental Education, Bureau of Land Management Read about professional careers available at the Bureau of Land Management, ranging from archaeologist to wildlife biologist. www.blm.gov/education/LearningLandscapes/students/career.html

Environmental Health Science Education A portal for students, teachers and scientists on environmental health information, activities, jobs, and developmental opportunities.
www.niehs.nih.gov/science-education/

EPA EPA employs about 17,000 people throughout the U.S., including its headquarters in Washington, D.C., 10 regional offices and 17 laboratories. Explore this site to discover the types of jobs available at EPA.
www.epa.gov/careers/

National Institute of Environmental Health Science This site from NIEHS provides information on a number of different environmental health and science topics, as well as environmental careers. www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/hottopics.htm

National Network for Environmental Management This fellowship program was established to encourage college students to pursue environmental careers. The program provides students with environmental research or training experience linked directly to their field of undergraduate or graduate study.
www.epa.gov/enviroed/students.html

NOAA Education Explore this site to find the information you need on weather, climate change, and oceans. You'll also find information on environmental jobs, careers, and research participation programs.
www.education.noaa.gov/

Student Jobs with the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS offers diverse employment opportunities for students in biology, hydrology, computer science, cartography, geology, administration and many other fields.
www.usgs.gov/ohr/student/

What's Up In the Environment Think all environmentalists follow the same path? Check out ten people and the environmental careers they have chosen. Visit www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/cool_careers.html

'A' IS FOR AWARDS

Green Apple Award Winner – Barb Hagerty



Barb Hagerty of Deep River – Millersburg CSD in Poweshiek County was the April 2007 *Green Apple Award* winner. Barb teaches K-2 reading and K-6 Talented and Gifted and was nominated for her work with the Lake Iowa Waste Management and Recycling Project. Barb had previously enrolled in UNI's Service Learning; *Moving "Reduce, Reuse & Recycling" Beyond the Classroom*. Piloted in 2005-2006, the goal of the course was to move students from knowledge to action regarding waste issues. All teachers participating in the course had successfully completed UNI's *Beginning Waste Reduction: Addressing the Overlooked "R"* course, where students garner knowledge. The teachers' final assignment for this graduate credit class was to conduct a waste-related service-learning project with a group of students.

Each participating student was encouraged to volunteer 40 hours to the project, though it was not a course requirement. Barb went the extra mile to attend this workshop and to conduct this quality service-learning experience for her students and school. Congratulations, Barb!

The *Green Apple Award* is sponsored by the Iowa Recycling Association, Green Teacher Magazine (www.greenteacher.com), L.G. Publishing (www.littleguypublishing.com), Climb Theatres (www.climb.org) and Stan Slaughter, Eco-Troubadour (www.stanlaughter.com). Nominations are open to environmental educators in formal and non-traditional educational settings.

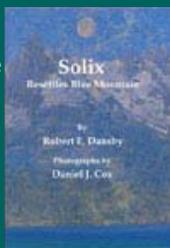
Entry Guidelines

Environmental educators must work within the state of Iowa. Nominations will be accepted on an on-going basis and will be kept on file. One candidate per month will be selected for the *Green Apple Award* and an accompanying prize package. An on-line and downloadable nomination form can be found at www.iowarecycles.org.

Solix Resettles Blue Mountain

by Robert E. Dansby and Daniel J. Cox

Solix Resettles Blue Mountain is a “dramatization” of the environmental changes that are affecting the ecological balance of nature. This story is based largely on actual natural phenomena and facts. The characters are birds, animals and humans who are directly affected by the changing climatic conditions on the planet.



The central character is Solix, a great grey owl, who is given a voice interpreted by the author, in order to convey the messages of this environmental “canary.” Other characters help to bring attention to the warning signs of environmental and ecological damage. Told from the perspective of the birds and animals who are first affected by adverse climate changes, this story makes us realize how important it is to heed the warning signs. For purchasing information, visit the *4R's From the Bookshelf* store at <http://astore.amazon.com/4rfromthebookshelf-20>.

Let's Play TRASH!

by Renee Bartling, Education Coordinator,
Landfill of North Iowa

Let's play “TRASH!” No, I didn't say let's play with trash; I said, let's play “TRASH!” Instead of playing the original version of “BINGO,” I decided to give the game a new twist. I substituted the numbers on the playing cards with pictures of items that can be found in trash or that are related to trash.

My game cards feature items that can all be reused and recycled (see example below). You can ask the players which items on their cards can be recycled, which can be reused, etc. You can discuss what products can be made from the recycled materials. You can talk about how the items are recycled or reused. See the teaching potential? I also used milk jug caps (reuse) for the players to mark their spaces.

Pictures make it easier for younger children to play. For younger kids, just use the pictures and don't worry about the letters on the top. With older kids and adults, use both the letters and the pictures. When a player gets five in a row they yell out “TRASH” (the kids really seem to love this part).

This game can be played with any age group and for however long you need the game to last. For smaller groups we play until everyone has a “TRASH;” for larger groups we may only play until the first “TRASH.” If you have a lot of time, you can play “TRASH (black) OUT.” If I don't have enough cards for the larger groups, I just have the players team-up into partners. The partner method also works well for pre-K kids. Two sets of eyes, ears and two brains working together makes it a little easier!



I've had a lot of positive feedback from the groups that have played “TRASH” out here at the Landfill of North Iowa. It does take a little effort to come up with 30 different game cards, but once you're done you can laminate the cards and they should last a long time. The game is also easy to take to off-site locations.

Not only is this game fun, but it is also a great teaching tool! I encourage you to put a little “TRASH” into your educational program.

For more information, e-mail Renee Bartling at education@netconx.net or call 1-877-LANDFILL.

Retro Recycling – A Blast from the Past

Congratulations to **Jeff Monteith of New Hampton Middle School** who was our April Retro Recycling winner. He submitted the answer, “*Material Safety Data Sheet*” to our question “*What does the acronym MSDS stand for?*” The acronym MSDS has been referred to in several past issues of *4R's*.

You could be a winner, too! Submit your response to the following question by May 25, 2007 and you will be eligible for our drawing to win a \$50 on-line gift certificate to amazon.com. Submit your answer, including your name and telephone number, to shelly@netins.net. A searchable archive of *4R's* can be found at www.iowa-recycles.org. Support *4R's* by beginning all of your amazon.com shopping at the *4R's From the Bookshelf* store at <http://astore.amazon.com/4rfromthebookshelf-20>.

Name an internet site, previously featured in the *4R's*, where you can access information about rain gardens.

Picture This...A Waste-Free World! Entries Due May 31, 2007

All K-12 students in Iowa attending a private, public or home school are eligible for entry. Students must submit a digital photo of a waste-free Iowa landscape. A random drawing will be held on or after June 1, 2007, and one student will receive an HP Photosmart digital camera with “photo share.” In addition, the grand prize winner's teacher will win the same camera. Three consolation winners will



2006 Amazon Gift Certificate winner,
Dominique Buchanan, 5th Grade,
Clearfield Elementary, Clearfield, Iowa.

receive a \$25 gift certificate to amazon.com. All entries must be e-mailed to Shelly Codner at shelly@netins.net. Entries may be used in Iowa Recycling Association publications.