



# White River Solid Waste Management District

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On the World Wide Web: [www.whiteriverrecycles.org](http://www.whiteriverrecycles.org) e-mail: [recycle@wrpdd.org](mailto:recycle@wrpdd.org)

Serving Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White and Woodruff Counties

## Environmental Education E-News

March/April 2016

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### Grow Something This Spring!

In your outdoor classroom, school garden, or in pots in your classroom, this time of year everyone loves to see things green up and grow. What a wonderful time of year to teach earth science! A good soil base is an important part of that process, and setting up a school compost pile is a good way to both make your own rich soil and teach your students about putting those leftover vegetable and fruit scraps to work for good. If you are serious about composting, you can also do vermicomposting! We even have a local source for those red wiggler worms you will need to get started - but keep in mind that someone will have to care for them over the summer. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty!

To learn more, download our free composting brochure, *Backyard Composting: Nature's Way of Recycling*, at <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/Composting>. If you have questions or need more information, e-mail us at [recycle@wrpdd.org](mailto:recycle@wrpdd.org) or call 870-793-5233. We also have limited quantities of "Picture Me Making Compost", a Grades K-2 activity book that teaches young students about composting in an easy to understand way. They are available free upon request, but quantities are limited.

### Everything you need to know about getting rid of your old electronics but didn't know who to ask....

The answers to your questions can be found in a new, downloadable flyer, "Old Electronics? Recycle Them!" The flyer explains our District-wide electronic waste recycling program and contains a directory of community drop-off centers in our ten counties (see list above). Our network of twelve permanent drop-off centers is listed. We also host **school and community collection** events throughout the year which can be scheduled upon request. Our electronic waste is recycled in an **information secure, environmentally responsible** process. This is a great program. Take advantage of it! To learn more, download our flyer at: <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/electronic-waste-disposal>. If you need help recycling school electronic waste, give us a call. **We can help!**

### They are coming to a school near you...

...but only if you ask for them – **free Earth Day classroom education activity books!** Your elementary principals will be receiving a sample package from us later this month, so **please tell your incoming mail person and principal to be looking for them.** They are free! There is nothing to buy. Materials are provided through a grant, and quantities are limited. Books are offered on a first come, first served basis. We work very hard to see that all requests are met with educational, age appropriate materials!

**Earth Day is Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and many of our schools celebrate Earth Week (April 18-

22) with lessons and educational activities throughout that week. If you are a K-6 educator in our ten county service area (see county listing above) we will provide upon request free educational coloring and activity books for your classroom! **This is our 16th year to offer free education materials** to elementary schools (one item per student limit). This year's offerings are:

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

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

50 Ways to Go Green (Grades 5-6)

Color and Make 6 Station Recycling Wheel (3 pieces; Grades 3-6)

You can also e-mail material requests to [recycle@wrpdd.org](mailto:recycle@wrpdd.org) or contact us through [www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org](http://www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org), our web site. **You must provide:** name, school, grade level and subject taught, school physical address, telephone or e-mail contact information, and how many of which book you will need for your classroom (one per student).

### **Our Environmental Education Loan Library is growing!**

These new books have been ordered and will now be available for classroom loan:

#1 *The Magic School Bus Gets Recycled!* – Anne Capeci, Scholastic, Level 2.

#2 *Earth Day – Hooray!*, MathStart3 – recycling and math themed. Grades 2+.

#3 *The Adventures of An Aluminum Can*, Allison Inches – recycling. Grades K-4.

#4 *Where Do Recyclable Materials Go? Read, Think, Recycle*, (Garbology Kids), K-2.

#5 *Stuff! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*, Steven Kroll – reuse, share, recycle. Grades 1-3.

#6 *Engineering an Awesome Recycling Center with Max Axiom*, STEM Focus, Gr. 2-4.

A listing of books and videos available for learners from Pre-K to Adult is included as an attachment with this e-mail. You can also visit our Environmental Education Loan Library, at <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/schools>. Just go to the Loan Library link.

**For more teaching activities during Earth Week**, a great web site to visit is the NEA's: <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/Earth-Day-Curriculum-Resources-Grades-K-5.html>.

Also, we can provide a guest story teller and hands-on activities like peanut butter jar paper making! If you have questions or are interested in discussing an event, e-mail me at [recycle@wrpdd.org](mailto:recycle@wrpdd.org).

### **Fun Summer Workshops in Fun Places!**

Teaching your students respect for nature and the environment is one of the most important life lessons you can give them. You will have a great time in these workshops and a great time passing these lessons along!

#### Schoolyard Habitat Workshop for Educators – Arkansas Ozarks

Learn to take your students outdoors to explore and develop a habitat for wildlife on your school grounds! Attend a WILD Schoolyard Habitat workshop to obtain six hours ADE approved professional development, a "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. Come prepared for a day of hands-on fun in the outdoors!

The workshop will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Ponca Elk Education Center in Ponca, AR (Buffalo National River area) from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The workshop is free but space is limited. To register, visit [layne.sleeth@aqfc.ar.gov](mailto:layne.sleeth@aqfc.ar.gov).

Project Learning Tree's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood and Growing Up WILD Workshop – Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center, Little Rock, Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

In this workshop you will learn how to implement environmental activities into your own classroom, camp, or educational program. Materials are correlated to the Arkansas Early Childhood Education Frameworks, the National Head Start Program and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) frameworks. Participants will receive 6 hours of ADE-approved Professional Development. This workshop also qualifies for TAPP credit through the TAPP Registry.

Participants must stay for the full six-hour training in order to receive the curriculum guides and the 6 hours of PD. No partial credit will be given. Participants will receive the Growing Up WILD curriculum for free and have the option to purchase the PLT Early Childhood Curriculum and CD for \$10 at the conclusion of the workshop.

Space is limited and registrations are taken on a first-received basis. Please consider your registration as a commitment to attend. If you cannot attend please cancel your reservation to allow others the opportunity.

To register, e-mail Hollie Sanders ([hollie.berdeja@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:hollie.berdeja@agfc.ar.gov)) and provide your name, school/organization, e-mail address, phone number and the workshop name and date

#### **Teacher Resources**

Project Learning Tree's "The Branch" newsletter is full of good information. Since it was developed in 1976, Project Learning Tree has trained over a half million educators across the country how to incorporate environmental stewardship in teaching curriculum. Workshops (one is listed above) are available across the Arkansas. Additionally, PLT GreenWorks! Grants are awarded annually – this year's applications are due September 30, 2016. Learn more through their quarterly newsletter at <https://www.plt.org/newsletter-winter-2016>. One of its best articles is on teaching PreK-2 students to explore sounds, especially in nature. It is well worth a read!

#### **Get noticed!**

Have you, your business, company, school or college made big improvements in your recycling program over the past year? If so, let others know so they can learn from your successes. A good way to do this is to apply for the Arkansas Recycling Coalition's ARC Awards. The application process can be done on line or on paper. The deadline is April 20, 2016. For more information, visit <http://www.recycleark.org/awards-application/>.

*Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents.  
It is loaned to you by your children.  
Indian Proverb*

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

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