



White River Solid Waste Management District

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On the World Wide Web: www.whiteriverrecycles.org e-mail: recycle@wrpdd.org

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

Environmental Education E-News

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Save the date! STEM Teacher Workshop in Batesville June 29th!

This 6-hour workshop will feature STEM-related activities from Project Learning Tree that can be used as stand-alone activities or incorporated into existing lesson plans. Developed for applications ranging from elementary through 8th grade, workshop activities are adaptable for higher grade levels as well. Hands on learning activities will include paper making and designing seed dispersal models. The take home curriculum guides are wonderful for lesson planning!

Participants will earn 6-hours of ADE approved professional development if they stay for the full 6 hour training. They will also receive free curriculum guides.

The workshop will be held at the White River Regional Services Center Conference Room, 1652 White Drive, Batesville, on June 29, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (Don't rely on GPS alone. It is next to the National Guard Armory.)

The workshop is limited to the first 25 registrants. The \$10 registration fee is being paid by White River RSWMD, and lunch and snacks will be provided. To register, please contact Sarah@wrpdd.org or call (870) 793-5233.

Did you miss National Drug Take Back Day on April 29th?

No worries! Our ten-county service area provides year round, anonymous drug drop off access at county and city law enforcement offices year round. Fifteen different locations offer this service, and you can find one near you by visiting <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/prescription-drug-disposal> and scroll down to your county.

Unneeded medicines left in our homes can be a danger to children and to potential abusers who may enter our homes throughout the year. Placing prescription bottles in garbage bags is not a guarantee that they will be handled properly and will make it to a landfill. Flushing drugs into the sewer system creates potential problems downstream, since municipal

water systems are not designed to remove many of the compounds found in medicines. The safest way to dispose of prescription medicines is to take them to a nearby drug drop box found in the link above.

With the end of the school year nearing, now is a perfect time to inspect your prescription and non-prescription pill inventory and to safely dispose of any items that are out of date or that you no longer need.

Drugs aren't the only hazard potentials around your house.

Herbicides, pesticides and cleaning supplies can also be a hazard to children and pets. Make sure to read your labels. If you see these words – Danger! Poison! Caution! Warning! – follow their safe use instructions and keep them away from children and pets.

Pesticide chemicals pose an additional hazard – to your pollinators! This group includes certain insects and birds, but especially bees, wasps and hummingbirds in Arkansas. Without them we would have no fruits and vegetables, and their numbers are dropping. Learn more about pollinator protection practices at this EPA web site: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/find-best-management-practices-protect-pollinators>.

It isn't too late for Earth Day materials.

Hopefully all mandatory testing is over and your stress level is back to normal limits again. If you need to engage your students in something other than testing prep for a change we can still provide some environmental and solid waste education materials for grades K-6. Just send an e-mail with your grade level and quantity needed to sarah@wrpdd.org.

This is our 17th year of distributing free elementary education activity books among the K-6 campuses in our ten-county service area in April. Over 7,000 pieces of educational materials were delivered to schools this year. We hope your school was a beneficiary of these free materials.

Classroom visits, presentations and hands-on learning activities like paper making are also available in the classroom (schedule allowing). Let us know if we can help.

Project Learning Tree will offer PLT E-Units this year.

PLT's recent news release says these new units are grade level specific (K-2, 3-5 and 6-8) and have been constructed around Next Generation Science Standards performance expectations. They will also align with Common Core language arts and math and the C3 (College, Career and Civic Life) Frameworks. To learn more, contact your state PLT Coordinator (rbeadel@arkforests.org) or subscribe to their free *Branch*

newsletter (<https://www.plt.org/signup>). Learn more about the lessons at <https://www.plt.org/news/new-online-units-grades-k-8/>.

When cleaning out your classroom at the end of the school term

...don't forget to recycle those papers, magazines, catalogs, etc. left behind by your students or from cleaning out your files. Most all paper that comes across your desk is recyclable. Exceptions are construction paper, multi-media art projects, and dark color file folders (dyed through and through). Manila folders and envelopes are fine – even the window envelopes. Paper clips and staples are not a problem either. Many recycling programs will take soft bound books and some will take hard bound books. Contact our office or your area recycling center to be certain. The recycling centers in our ten counties are found at this link: <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/recycling-programs>.

If your school has recycling bins in each classroom, please make sure your maintenance and janitorial folks know to collect and save them for the fall semester. Experience has shown that they tend to disappear during the summer months.

Share this with your administrators and summer managers.

During the summer school campuses get overloaded with boxes of materials and equipment in preparation for the fall semester. Don't pay your trash service to take those boxes to the landfill, and burning them is a violation of Arkansas law! Contact your local recycling center and they will pick them up. Use the link above to find the center near you or give us a call at 870-793-5233 and we will help you find the nearest cardboard recycling service.

If you are updating your computer lab or need to dispose of outdated electronics, we can provide an on-site enclosed trailer to take school electronic waste. All of the electronic waste our program manages is shipped to the UNICOR Recycling Group in Texarkana, Texas. Materials are recycled in an information secure manner and metals, plastics and even leaded glass are tracked to their final destination. Among their clients are the FBI and other Federal and state governmental agencies. Contact sarah@wrpdd.org for more information or to obtain an e-waste trailer.

End of School Year Ideas for You and Your Students

Scholastic's teacher newsletter this month is full of great ideas. From ways to wrap up your school year to fast and easy Mother's Day craft ideas to an online summer reading challenge – Scholastic has it covered and it is all free to download or link to. You can even teach a re-use lesson by re-using existing items for your craft projects! Sign up for your free

newsletter at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/newsletter/signup.htm>. It is worth the read.

Are you taking a trip this summer?

The trending words for minimizing our impact on our natural environment this year are “green travel” and “ecotourism.” Arkansas State Parks have partnered in the **Leave No Trace** initiative, encouraging Arkansans to minimize their impact on nature. Arkansas has its own chapter of this national movement. The link addresses seven principles that show consideration and respect for nature and wildlife. It is a good lesson to teach our youth and well worth the read.

Enough of this teaching stuff! Enjoy your summer!

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

Sources for the above information include: Arkansas Environmental Education Association, Arkansas Forestry Association, Keep Arkansas Beautiful, Project Learning Tree, Scholastic.com, U.S. EPA and White River Regional Solid Waste Management District.

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