

Center Stream

Keeping our members current on Kaufman County's waste stream

A Service of Environmental Co-op

Summer 2008



Largest Tree in Kaufman County



Environmental Co-op's Urban Forestry program held a Largest Tree contest with the hopes of encouraging the citizens of Kaufman County to get out and look at their Trees. We were very happy with the response. Congratulations to the winners!!!

First Place was won by a mulberry tree that measured 20 ft 10 inches and is owned by Mrs. Roby Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is not sure how old this tree is but said the tree was there when her husband purchased the property in 1946. This tree is located in the fence line at 9014 County Road 4095 off of F.M. Road 148 between Scurry and Warsaw.

Second Place was won by Eddie and Allison Deen, whose tree measured 19 ft 7 inches in circumference. This tree is located at 503 State St. in Terrell.

Third Place was won by Mr. and Mrs. Sutton, their tree measured 13 ½ feet around and approx. 80 feet tall. The Suttons are very proud of the beautiful oaks on their property located in the Post Oak Bend Subdivision.

Thank you to everyone that submitted their trees. For more information on trees that hold records go to the Texas Tree Trails website at www.texastreetrails.org. If you have questions about trees in Kaufman County contact Pam Corder, Urban Forester at 972-567-2433.

Earth Day Celebration Held April 22nd at the Kaufman County Library

Information on county programs: recycling, composting, vermi- composting, tree care, mulching, household hazardous waste, rain water gathering, illegal dumping, organics, xeri-scaping and trash disposal were available from 10:00 a. m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kaufman County Library, 3790 S. Houston St., Kaufman, TX. Over 350 students from Norman Jr. High attended. Environmental Co-op provided an educational day full of information about our programs. We were very pleased that so many young people attended. They all received information about recycling at the three convenience stations in the county plus other educational materials to take home.

Log onto www.freecycle.com

Waste Management a member of Environmental Co-op supports this website which promotes reuse vs. throwing away when you get new stuff. It's a great website to both get rid of usable stuff and acquire usable stuff. You can log onto your area or browse the country. All items on this website are free. You let the owner know you want their item and if you are the 1st to respond and get there to pickup the item(s) it is yours. The Co-op agrees that this is a great website.

Mercury

Is a potent neurotoxin, it falls in our lakes and rivers making some fish unsafe to eat. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns pregnant women and any woman who might want to become pregnant to avoid or limit fish consumption. In-utero exposure to mercury can cause severe mental retardation, cerebral palsy, deafness, blindness, and seizures. A University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio study released April 30th found that autism increased by 17% for every 1,000 pounds of mercury that is emitted locally in Texas. Every year from 2000-2006, Texas has ranked #1 in the nation for mercury emissions and seventeen bodies of water in our State are currently under Fish Consumption Advisory from the Texas Department of State Health Services due to mercury contamination. Remember the new CFL light bulbs have mercury in them and need to be disposed of at the Kaufman County Household Hazardous Waste Site in Kemp. For more information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/mercury> www.trashbusters.org

Detox your laundry!

After WWII, detergent manufacturers started adding complex phosphates to laundry detergents. However, several environmental issues raised their heads in the 60's and 70's regarding detergents. One problem was the use of non-biodegradable surfactants.

These would cause the appearance of persistent suds on streams, rivers, and lakes, which is a graphic indication of man-made pollution. With untreated municipal sewage entering lakes, the phosphate concentrations can go up and enable algae growth to the point where oxygen in the water is depleted and fish die.

Don't add phosphates to your laundry chores! Follow these directions if you would like to make your own. <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/make-your-own-laundry-soap.html>

Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response Training (HAZWOPER)

There will be a 10% discount for all Civil Servants (including volunteer firemen and first responders under Homeland Security).

\$600/40-hour (Civil Servant price \$540 each)
\$125/8-hour Refresher (Civil Servant price \$112 each)
When: 8-Hour Refresher August 11th, 2008
40-Hour August 11th – 15th
Where: Nucor Steel, 600 Apache Trail
Terrell, Texas 75160
Register by August 6th thru Environmental Co-op

Recycle your paper and cardboard in Terrell

By placing your recyclable paper and cardboard in the Terrell City Hall recycling bin *you help us help you!* A paper recycling bin is located at Terrell City Hall next to the Fire Department. This container is provided as a community service for your convenience in recycling paper and cardboard products. Remember, please break the cardboard boxes flat before placing them in the container and do not dispose of phone books in this container. **NO PLASTIC BAGS** please.

Highlighted TCEQ publications

Volunteer to Lend a Helping Hand as an Enviro-Mentor (GI-292) is a brochure describing how environmental professionals can help small businesses and local governments comply with environmental regulations by serving as Enviro-Mentors. The program has had a very successful year and has nearly 100 volunteers. Currently, there is a need for Spanish-speaking individuals who can help small businesses (such as auto body and auto repair) with environmental regulations, especially storm water permits. If you are with a small business or a local government that is regulated by environmental laws, you can receive free, confidential assistance from environmental professionals through the Enviro-Mentor Program. For more information, order a copy of **Get a Helping Hand from an EnviroMentor (GI -293)**. For more info visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/envimntr.html .

The TCEQ Compliance Commitment Program (GI-291) is a brochure for small businesses and local governments outlining the TCEQ program offering free, confidential site visits to identify compliance issues. Participating in the C2 Program could help you qualify for a one-year exemption from scheduled TCEQ inspections.

Do Your Part! Take Care of Texas in Your Office (GI-388) offers 20 environmental tips for improving air and water quality, conserving water and energy, and reducing waste at the office. To order any of the above publications, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications .

Crandall Garden Club enjoyed Co-op Program this Spring

Marilyn May spoke at the Crandall/Combine Garden Club on Tuesday, April 22 about the different ways the club could be involved in Greening Kaufman County.

She talked about eliminating trash by recycling or reusing those waste materials, most of which are valuable resources. One fact that surprised the group is that all plastic is made of oil. All drink and water bottles we throw away by the millions are made of polyester a very easily recycled material. Plastic bottles are now being made into carpeting, fleece jackets and t-shirts. Most new car interior plastic parts are made from recycled plastic milk jugs. In fact car manufacturers use recycled plastic to make most of their car parts and have been for several years. Marilyn stated "the general public has a large voice in how our environment is taken care of just by making sure we purchase environmentally friendly products. Manufacturers will not make products that no one will purchase. If you demand to have recycled then that is what will be made. It is important to recycle also. If you want to recycle in Kaufman County go to our website www.trashbuster.org and find the nearest recycling center."

Saving Water at Home

As the summer gets hotter and drier we will be thinking more and more about saving water. It is important to get in the habit of saving water all the time. Here are some ideas from an article in The Dallas Morning News by Kathleen Purvis.

Get your money's worth:

Plastic bottles of drinking water cost more and add to landfills. Fill your own water bottle and take it with you.

Need just a little hot water? Instead of running the faucet until it gets hot, heat water with a microwave, electric kettle or on the stove.

Wash fruits and vegetables in a container of water and use that water to water your plants.

Instead of using a garbage disposal for your kitchen scraps, put them on a sheet of old newspaper and throw them away. Even better: Make compost. Save egg shells, used coffee grounds, tea bags and trimmings from fruits and vegetables for your compost bin.

Fix drippy faucets and leaking pipes. A faucet that drips on drop per second can waste up to 2,700 gallons of water a year.

Washing up:

It takes less scrubbing to clean residue from pots and pans if you clean them right after you use them.

Wait to run the dishwasher until it is full.

When washing by hand use the two-sink method: Fill one with hot, soapy water and the second with water for rinsing. Or use the one-sink method. Put a few inches of hot, soapy water in the sink. Hold the dish under hot running water just long enough to rinse it. The rinse water will add to the soapy water, keeping it hot as you work.

Don't keep adding glasses to the dishwasher every time you get a drink. Designate a daily drinking glass and don't wash it until the end of the day.

Cooking

Plan ahead and thaw frozen food in the refrigerator overnight. If you need it sooner, place it in a bowl of cold water. Check it every 30 minutes to make sure the water is cold. This is better than thawing under running water.

Cool hot items in a bowl of water instead of running water over them to cool them. except hard boiled eggs

Heating a pot of water without a lid takes longer, and it releases heat that makes your air conditioner work harder, too.

Irrigation Audit

by Sandy Berhendt

Rockwall Master Gardener

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, you should perform an irrigation audit 1-2 times a year. You can do it yourself or hire a professional. Begin by testing each zone of your sprinkler system to see if the zone performs as it should. Here are a few points to evaluate:

- Did the system start at the programmed time?
- Did all the heads pop up, spray or rotate correctly?
- Has grass or soil created an obstruction with the sprinkler?
- Are you watering the street, your sidewalk or driveway?
- Have your plants grown up in front of your heads?
- Is it time to install risers or trim the plants?

To determine if your sprinkler system is evenly distributing water, use 12 or more empty tuna fish cans randomly spaced throughout the zone. If your water distribution is less than 60%, you might need a qualified irrigation contractor to help solve the problem.

For example, if you use 12 cans and 6 have ½" of water, 3 have ¾" of water and 3 have 1" of water, your system is performing at less than a 60% rate and needs attention.

Remember, we are always just one rain away from a drought. Be proactive when using our water this summer!

Electronics Recycling Event October 18th 8:00 a.m. to Noon Wal-Mart Super Center Highway 80, Terrell (parking lot)

Electronics Items that will be collected at no charge include:

Computers—keyboards—(laptops, too)—scanners—printers—copiers/fax machines—cell/corded phones—inkjet and laser cartridges—stereos—microwaves—shavers—mixers—fans—air conditioners—batteries (rechargeable and non) etc.

During this collection event we will also take:
Eyeglasses will be collected for the Lions Club

There will be a charge for the following items (cash only):

Monitors – \$5.00 each

TV's – Small up to 13 inch screens – \$10.00 each

14 inch and larger screens – \$20.00 each

All businesses, schools and citizens are welcome to participate

One more Children's Summer Program

July 18- Environmental Camp, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Ben Gill Park, Terrell

August 5-7 – Outdoors Camp, \$35 per child

Ages 8-13, 9:00–2:00 Scurry- Rosser Middle School

Call the Co-op for more information on programs

972-524-0007

June Meeting of Organic Co-op

In June the Organic Co-op explored rainwater harvesting. Environmental Co-op member Barry Marable made the presentation.

Among the advantages of collecting rainwater are the pure, soft water and lack of disinfection chemicals and salt minerals. Appliances last longer when free of the corrosive and scale effects of hard water. Plants thrive on this stored water. It gives a water supply during dry spells. The collection is close to the site of use eliminating costly delivery systems. There are many other benefits.

Among the factors to be considered in developing your system are: average rainfall, average days without rain (longest period between rains) and how you plan to use the water.

Systems involve catchment (roof, filter, screens, and cisterns), delivery (gravity or pump), and treatment (filtration and disinfection).

To learn more details go to:

www.twdb.state.tx.us/reports/RainwaterHarvestingManual_3rdedition.pdf

This site has a manual you can use. A good resource book is: Rainwater Collection for the Mechanically Challenged by Suzy Banks, Richard Heinichen and Illustrated by Tre Arenz.

Jenny Nichols has allowed us use of her DVD "The Future of Food" if there is interest in viewing this very interesting program we can set up a viewing. Call the office to let us know if you would like to see it.

The next meeting of the Organic Co-op is Wednesday, September 17 at 6 pm. It will be at the Environmental Co-op. Our speaker will be Margaret Ann Trails who will be talking about working with bees. Hope to see you then!

Buy Locally

Not only does shopping locally reduce food miles, it also keeps resources in your community. What are food miles? They refer to the distance a food item travels from the farm to your home.

According to the Sustainable Table, "the food miles for items you buy in the grocery store tend to be 27 times higher than the food miles for goods bought from local

sources. In the U.S., the average grocery store's produce travels nearly 1,500 miles between the farm where it was grown and your refrigerator."

So add to the cost of that green pepper the cost of diesel fuel to ship it 1,500 miles. Yikes! That's one expensive green pepper!

Two local growers are members of the Co-op:

Barking Cat Farm weeklyupdate@barkingcatfarm.com

Akins Farm www.localharvest.org/farms/M6723

Also, Wal-Mart, who, [according to the Associated Press](#), has announced its commitment to locally grown produce. The company plans to purchase and sell \$400 million worth of produce grown by local farmers in its stores this year.

Ask your current grocer to support buying local and save on those food miles!

Water Facts

- The average American uses more than 100 gallons of water each day.
- Less than 1% of the earth's water is safe for use in the home.
- The bathroom accounts for 75 percent of the water used inside a home.
- Installing water saving toilets can cut consumption by up to 20%.
- Washing clothes in hot water uses 15 times more energy than using cold water.
- Each gallon of gasoline per week requires 1,000 gallons of water to produce.
- Each can of soda requires 29,000 gallons of water to produce.
- Each newspaper requires 66,000 gallons of water to produce.

Aluminum Facts

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours or light one 100 watt light bulb 4 hours.
- 34.8 billion aluminum cans are thrown away each year.
- Annually 84,000 tons of batteries are discarded in the U.S.
- The aluminum recycling loop takes approximately 90 days (purchased from the store, it's content's used, container collected, melted into a new container and returns to the store).
- Americans landfill (throw away) enough aluminum every three months to rebuild the entire U.S. commercial airline fleet.
- Aluminum cans take up to five hundred years to decompose when land filled.
- About 65% of America's aluminum is being recycled, yet more than one million tons of aluminum containers and packaging (cans, food trays, and foil) are thrown away each year.

What Can You Do With Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL)?

Are you one of the many consumers who have switched some light bulbs to compact fluorescents (CFL)? It has been an easy way for many people to reduce energy usage. Fluorescents lamps do contain mercury. It is not released when they are used and intact. Should they become broken, they could cause mercury to be released into the environment. That would contribute to an environmental hazard.

Collecting these at the retail store where they are purchased is one of the safest and most convenient ways to ensure proper disposal. **The Home Depot stores** are now allowing customers to bring in expired, unbroken CFL bulbs. Give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The CFL bulbs will then be recycled responsibly by an environmental management company.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) applauds **The Home Depot** for its efforts in this endeavor. The Product Stewardship Institute is a driving force in defining and developing product stewardship initiatives. For more information on compact fluorescent lamp recycling or other product initiatives, go to www.productstewardship.us/FluorescentLighting.

Help conserve our planet's natural resources!

Tired of receiving catalogs and other consumer product mail? Catalog Choice is working to reduce unwanted and misdirected catalogs and mail. Just bookmark their website, then as you receive this type of unwanted mail you can easily go there and opt-out of future mailings.

<http://www.catalogchoice.org/>

NOTE: You can always visit the merchants' catalogs, by clicking on the icon next to their names on the Find Catalogs and My Choices screens.

Summer Pests

This time of year there are plenty of insect pests invading homes and yards. Many insects and bugs are helpful and should be left alone. Others are dangerous and annoying.

Spiders: Those that are outside and not living in your environment should be left alone. Most are actually good as they eat other insect pests. The black widow and brown recluse are two poisonous spiders that are found in this area. The brown recluse has a necrotoxin that kills human tissue and the black widow has a neurotoxin that affects the human nervous system.

Bees and wasps: Bees can only sting a person once because of their barbed stinger, but wasps can sting repeatedly. Bees are important for pollination so should be saved unless they are in the home. It is important to leave wasps alone that aren't bothering you. We need them to go after other insect pests. Wasp nests near your doorway will need to be taken care of.

Cockroaches: Studies have shown a strong link between cockroaches and childhood asthma. Cockroaches mainly come out at night, but it is important to find out where they are living so those areas can be treated.

Termites: It is common knowledge that termites eat wood and can damage a home. Roots, plant debris, paper and cardboard can also be damaged by termites. They should be treated once they are detected.

Mosquitoes: West Nile virus can be carried by mosquitoes. Environmental Co-op carries BTI which can be added to standing water to kill mosquito larvae before they reach adult stage. It can be purchased for \$12.95. It only takes a few drops to treat a lot of water. This product is safe for all other animals to drink it just affects the mosquito larvae making it a great way to control the mosquito population on your property.

Fall Master Composter Class

This fall Environmental Co-op will again host a Master Composter Class.

When: Two Saturdays, September 20 & 27, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: First Christian Church, 405 N. Adelaide St., Terrell

Class Fee: \$30.00 (Co-op members) \$35.00 (Non-members) fee covers instruction, training materials and lunch each day.

This class is a hands-on training class that teaches the basics of composting. Students learn how to build a successful compost pile and how to use compost to build healthy soil for their yards and gardens.

NCTCOG Launches Interactive Recycling Map

Wondering where the closest recycling location is? Sometimes it is hard to find something close to you for a particular item. Many communities and businesses do offer recycling services. Finding out what is available can be difficult. North Central Texans can use a new interactive map to find something close to them.

This map, which can be found at <http://www.timetorecycle.com/map>, employs Google Maps technology to allow the public to search for recycling sites based on markets served, accepted materials, and location.

Decline of Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs a Disaster

Wondering about where the Crab Cakes have all gone? Over harvesting, soil erosion, and pesticide spraying may all be contributing to their decline.

Maryland and Virginia's U.S. senators say there's no time to waste in declaring the decline of Chesapeake Bay blue crabs a federal disaster. In a letter to federal authorities, the senators argue for a declaration that would provide about \$20 million in federal aid to watermen and seafood processors hurt by the crab's decline. The letter was sent to Department of Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland and John W. Warner and Jim Webb of Virginia point out that blue crab stocks in the estuary are down about 70 percent from 1990.

What should be learned from this example is that we can lose many of the food sources we have if we don't take action to stop over harvesting, soil erosion, and pesticide spraying everywhere.

Co-op Calendar

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, call 972-524-0007.

July 18– Environmental Camp, Ben Gill Park in Terrell 9:30-11:30, ages 8-13, \$4.00 for lunch
Aug 5,6,7- Outdoors Camp, 9:30-3:30 daily, Scurry Rosser School
Sept 17 – Organic Co-op Meeting, Terrell, 6:00 pm, Presentation on Bee Keeping
Sept 20 – Trinity River Trash Bash, 9 – 11 am
Sept 16 – E-Business Advisory Council, Terrell, 10 am
Sept 20 & 27– Master Composter Class for State Certification, Terrell 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Sept 27 – Cedar Creek Cleanup
Oct 18 – Vermi-Compost Class, 10-12 noon, at the office
Oct 25 – Caboodle Fest, Kaufman Square, Co-op Booth

Cedar Creek Watershed Protection Plan Draft

A draft of the Cedar Creek Watershed Protection Plan has been posted on the North Central Texas Water Quality website:

http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/meetings_presentations.php

Environmental Co-op supporters


Shiels
Engineering, Inc.

P.O. Box 1193
Kaufman, Texas 75142
972-962-8112
972-962-4848 Fax

GEOSCIENCE & ENGINEERING CONSULTING

A big thanks to NUCOR Building Systems for sponsoring the printing of our newsletter!

NUCOR Building Systems
600 Apache Trail
Terrell, TX 75160

It's Our Nature. 



Life is like a piano, what you get out of it depends on how you play it.

C. Michael Stevens

11887 County Road 352
Terrell, TX. 75161

(972) 551-3863
(214) 770-3866 cell
lafinca@peoplepc.com



Life is like a piano, what you get out of it depends on how you play it.

J. Bruno Schoener

11887 County Road 352
Terrell, TX. 75161

(972) 551-3863
(214) 770-5808 cell
lafinca@peoplepc.com



EXOTIC
EXPECTATIONS, INC.
Creative Landscape Design

C. Michael Stevens

(214) 526-3994 Office
(214) 520-3646 Fax
(214) 770-3866 Cell

cmichaelstevens@yahoo.com

2807 Larry Drive • Dallas, TX 75228

Kaufman Recycling Center

Located at East First North Street and Alton Street
(From Hwy. 34 N. go N.W. on East First North and then
North on Alton)

Open: Wednesday–Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

For information call:

City Hall – 972-932-2216

City Public Works – 972-932-2216

County Courthouse – 972-932-4331

Recycling Center – 972-932-2161

Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn – 972-932-3684

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans	Should be rinsed
Newspaper, office paper, phone books, magazines	Can be mixed Cardboard also accepted
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Oil and oi filters can only be recycled at the Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn at 600 N. Nash in Kaufman
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Glass containers	Should be rinsed

Wood chips are available free of charge. You load.

Terrell Citizen's Convenience Station

Located on CR 319

(North of Terrell between FM 429 N. & Hwy. 34 N.)

Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 am–4:00 pm

For information call:

City Hall – 972-551-6604

Convenience Station – 972-551-6628

Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn – 972-563-5362

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans, Glass bottles and containers	Should be rinsed, can be mixed
Newspaper, office paper, phone books, magazines, paperback books	No cardboard or packing material
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Oil and oil filters can be recycled at the Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn at 601 E. Nash St., Terrell
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Brush	No collection presently

Wood chips are available free of charge. You load.

Kemp ECO-Station

Located at 6520 Plainview Drive off US 175
(north side frontage road)

Hours of operation: Tuesday–Saturday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

For information call:

Kaufman County Sub Courthouse – 903-498-3492, ext. 1

ECO-Station – 903-498-4135

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans, Glass bottles and containers	Should be rinsed, can be mixed
Newspaper, office paper, magazines, paperback books	Can be mixed Cardboard also accepted
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	At the ECO-Station
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Brush	No larger than 4" diameter and 8' length; no wire or nails

Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW)

Days of HHW disposal are Tuesday - Saturday
from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Oil based paint (enamels) & thinners	Automotive Fluids
Pesticides, fertilizers	Pool and yard chemicals
Batteries	Household chemicals
Fluorescent light tubes	Craft and hobby supplies

Not Accepted: Business or medical waste; explosive or shock sensitive materials, smoke detectors or other radioactive material, compressed gas or explosives, including ammunition.

Help the Co-op go paperless

It has been our endeavor at Environmental Co-op to send out as much information via the internet as possible in order to reduce waste along the paper stream. Most of our members like receiving the newsletter and notices over their email accounts. We continue to mail newsletters to those who don't.

But, it is a constant struggle to keep email accounts updated for so many members, and we can't do it unless you send us that information.

Doing our part to reduce and reuse.

Solid Waste Questions?

Find the Answers Here:

Environmental Co-op

Marilyn May, Executive Director
Donita Everett, Office Administrator
Mickey Gober, Recycling Coordinator
Pam Corder, Urban Forester
Phyllis Boerner, Programs
Vonda Scott, Office Assistant
972-524-0007 Phone, 972-551-0854
environmentalco-op@cebridge.net

Information on the Web

www.trashbusters.org
www.tceq.state.tx.us
www.timetorecycle.com
www.epa.gov (we are Region 6)
www.earth911.org
www.nwf.org
www.texasgardener.com
www.earleharrison.com (Jr. Master Composter Program)

Kaufman Trash & Recycling Center
972-932-2161

Terrell Citizen's Convenience Center
972-551-6628

Kemp ECO-Station
903-498-4135

To report illegal dumping activity call: Kaufman County Law Enforcement Center – 972-932-4337

Environmental Co-op
401 N. Adelaide St.
P.O. Box 1833
Terrell, TX 75160