



RECYCLING DIVISION OF
MAHONING COUNTY

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The Green Scene

Happy New Year!

Volume IX Issue I

Winter 2017

They're Taking the Food Waste Challenge

Environmental stewardship is a priority at Damascus Elementary School. The school's extensive list of materials collected for both recycling and upcycling include: paper, cardboard, magazines, phone books, food and beverage cans, plastic containers, household batteries, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, drink pouches, and eye glasses. In fact, it is because of these efforts that Damascus has received numerous awards throughout the years from local, state, regional, and national environmental organizations.

Now Damascus is embarking on a new challenge. On November 15, America Recycles Day, Damascus implemented a food waste prevention program that is not only reducing waste, but is benefitting the school and

community. Now, instead of unwanted food being thrown away, it is either composted or placed on a sharing table for food donation.

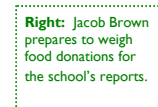
To establish the program, Damascus registered with the USDA's "Food Waste Challenge" and the Environmental Research Education Foundation's "School Cafeteria Assessment Project" (SCrAP). Then, fourth grade students, under the guidance of Mrs. Dattilio, presented a training skit to their classmates that explained program particulars. After the performance, classmates eagerly jumped on board and everything fell into place. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of students, staff and volunteers. Each day before lunch, students collect pre-consumer

food waste from the kitchen that is weighed and placed in backyard compost bins. After lunch, students collect food from the sharing table that is weighed and delivered to local food banks by parent and teacher volunteers. All weights are reported to the appropriate agencies.

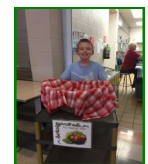
Congratulations are extended to everyone at Damascus Elementary School for making this program possible. They are a true example of environmental stewardship at its best.



Left: Students deposit unwanted food on the sharing table.



Right: Jacob Brown prepares to weigh food donations for the school's reports.



What Could "Pawsibly" Be More Fun?

On January 21, The Green Team is partnering with Angels for Animals to present the Pawsta-Palooza Zero Waste Dinner at Andrews Hall in Canfield. This exciting event will feature a variety of pasta options along with salad, rolls, and desert. However, the unique aspect of this event is that nothing will go to waste. Permanent dinner-

ware will be used and napkins and left-over food will be composted at local facilities. In addition to tasty cuisine, pet-friendly and earth-friendly goodie bags will be available, with donations accepted. All of the funds associated with Pawsta-Palooza will be used to support the shelter's expansion through the Capital Campaign.

So...if you're looking for a fun activity on a cold winter's day, please plan to attend Pawsta-Palooza. The event is scheduled from 4-7 PM and tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under twelve. For more information, visit the Angels website at www.angelsforanimals.org.





Above: Mary Beth White donated holiday bookmarks to those who serve the community.

Below: The GT participated with students at Robinwood Elem. School to create table decorations for veterans.



Recycling For A Cause

Although the Green Team offers service for residents to recycle Christmas Cards, there are other options that not only divert waste from local landfills, but also support noble causes.

Retired teacher, Mary Beth White, makes bookmarks with used greeting cards which she distributes to local libraries.

This year she enlisted help from students at Struthers MS who wrote inspirational messages on the bookmarks and donated them to firefighters, military personnel, and others in service organizations.

The Green Team also reused cards for a special project. In December, students at Robinwood Lane Elementary School

created holiday table decorations from used cards which were donated to local veterans.

In addition to opportunities at the local level, St. Jude's Ranch in Nevada accepts used greeting cards that are crafted into "new" greeting cards. The new cards are then sold to help support charitable programs at St. Jude's.

Environmental Quote

"If you are not recycling, you're throwing it all away."

~ Advertisement Env. Defense Fund *Environment*, November 1990



Earth-Day-to-Earth-Day Placemat Contest



Another exciting "Earth Day to Earth Day Placemat Contest" has arrived! Students in grades one through eight in all Mahoning County public and private schools are encouraged to enter this year's contest. One winner from each grade will receive a \$25 gift card from Dominion.

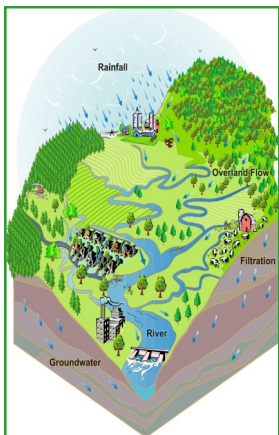
To enter, a student

must design a poster with a theme based upon the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle) or an anti-litter theme. They may be made with crayon, colored pencil, or markers on 8 and 1/2" by 11" paper or 11" by 17" paper, nothing larger. These are due at the Green Team office by 4:30 pm on Fri-

day, March 17, 2017.

Placemats will be made from the winning posters, and laminated copies will be given to the winning artists at an awards' ceremony at a Mahoning County Commissioners' meeting in May. If you have questions, call the Green Team at 330-740-2060.

~ Peg Flynn



Above: Anatomy of a Watershed

Eastgate Receives Funding

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is proud to announce that it has received grant funding for a public education campaign for the Yellow Creek Watershed Project. In collaboration with Poland Township, Poland Village, Poland Local Schools, Mill Creek MetroParks, and the Mahoning

County Engineer, Eastgate plans to produce and erect signage that will inform the public about the importance of the watershed and offer measures for its protection. In addition to signage, Eastgate's environmental staff will work with Poland Local School District's science and multimedia teachers

to develop outreach materials.

The staff at Eastgate would like to recognize the Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) for making this campaign possible. For more information about the Yellow Creek project, visit Eastgate's website at www.eastgatecog.org.

Eating Clean & Green in 2017

If you've resolved to eating healthier this year, you'll probably be adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet. However, it is important to note that fruits and vegetables are not always grown in an Earth-friendly way. Most of the crops produced today contain harmful pesticides.

To avoid eating food contaminated with pesticides, consumers should consider buying organic produce.

This is especially important when it comes to particular crops that the Environmental Working Group (EWG) calls the "Dirty Dozen." Compiled by using data from the USDA, EWG found that the fruits & vegetables posted on the following list contained the highest amount of pesticide residue after cleansing. The list includes:

- * celery
- * peaches

- * strawberries
- * apples
- * domestic blueberries
- * nectarines
- * sweet bell peppers
- * spinach, kale & collard greens
- * cherries
- * potatoes
- * imported grapes
- * lettuce

Please keep this list in mind the next time you shop. You'll be making healthier choices for you & the planet.



Winter Magic in Your Own Backyard

During winter, I love to watch the birds at my backyard feeders. Cardinals, blue jays, chickadees and others provide an array of lovely color against a snowy background. This steady activity reminds me of how essential it is to feed birds when natural food is scarce.

Supporting wildlife pro-

grams and conveying this message to children is important. That is why during winter, Green Team educators regularly conduct classroom presentations encouraging children to get involved. We always begin by sharing a story that illustrates the message and follow up with an enrichment activi-

ty that allows students to create bird feeders for home.

I hope that you will open your hearts and support wildlife by feeding the birds this winter. It is truly a magical experience that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

~ Kim Lewis



How many winter birds can you identify? To learn more, log onto <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/id%20guides/pub414.pdf>



Expressions of Love



With Valentine's Day right around the corner, many of you will be searching for the perfect gift. This year, in addition to expressing your love for that special someone, why not express appreciation for the one who loves you unconditionally: Mother Nature.

You can save trees and support wildlife by sending your beloved an e-card

from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Log onto to www.worldwildlife.org for options.

After you have selected a card, you'll want to buy a gift. If chocolate is on your list be sure that it is eco-friendly. The Rainforest Alliance and The Arbor Day Foundation both sell delicious shade-grown organic chocolates that are farmed

using fair trade practices.

Finally, if your sweetheart likes bling, be sure to ask your jeweler about sustainably mined gemstones. Better yet, check out an estate sale and buy a vintage piece. You'll be surprised at the treasures you'll find.



For a list of "green" Valentine's Day tips, check out www.earthshare.org/2014/02/vday.html





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E-Waste Update

If you received a new computer, TV or other electronic device for Christmas please remember to recycle your old unit. For a complete list of local electronic recycling facilities visit our website at www.greenteam.cc and refer to the recycling catalog. And remember: Always phone ahead for specific information about electronic and all recycling programs.



greenteam.cc



Post-Holiday Reminder



Between now and January 31, gift-wrap and greeting cards will be accepted at all Mahoning County drop-off sites and at the curb. Be sure that paper is loose or in a brown paper bag. **Plastic bags are not permitted in any of the Green Team programs.** Cut trees will be accepted at the locations listed below:

- * Austintown Twp. Park - 6000 Kirk Rd.
- * Berlin Twp. Bldg.- St. Rt. 224, Berlin Center
- * Campbell Roosevelt Park - Struthers Liberty Rd.
- * Canfield Twp. Fire Station - 5007 Messerly Rd.
- * Craig Beach / Milton Twp. - 1979 Grandview, next to fire station
- * Ellsworth Twp. Fire Station.- St. Rt. 45, Ellsworth
- * Goshen Twp. Maintenance Garage - 12649 Seacrist Rd, Salem
- * Green Twp. Cemetery - Intersection of St. Rt. 165 & Beaver Creek Rd.
- * Jackson Twp. Admin. Bldg., 10613 Mahoning Ave, N. Jackson
- * Lowellville Village St. Dept.- 3 W. McGaffney Rd.
- * New Middletown / Springfield - 10720 Struthers Rd, next to fire station
- * Poland Twp. Rd. Dept.-7508 Clingan Rd.
- * Smith Twp. Bldg.- 846 N. Johnson Rd, Sebring
- * Struthers City provides curbside pick-up
- * Youngstown - CCA Building (former South Library) 1771 Market St.



For further information about recycling and other solid waste management programs, visit our website at www.greenteam.cc or follow us on facebook.

