



## RC&D Asks Consumers to Put the Environment on Shopping Lists.

**Q**uick! What's the best way to handle garbage? Recycling? Landfill? How about not buying it in the first place?

That's the idea behind the RC&D's current grocery store campaign.

AmeriCorps members Sharon Smith and Cassandra Sheaffer have been working in the Clinch-Powell counties to give consumers ideas on how to help solve our solid waste problem by shopping wisely.

About 2/3 of household trash is made up of packaging. Careful shopping can help us bring home less packaging with our groceries.

Displays and signs in grocery stores, free message boards with shopping tips, radio announcements, newspaper articles and ads were all used to give shoppers reduction tips.

Probably the most effective method of reaching out to the community is meeting with local citizens groups. To date, AmeriCorps members, with help from PCC Coordinator Angie Johnston, have visited women's groups, home economics classes and the Union County senior citizens center in Maynardville.

Another part of the campaign was a contest which focused on new ways to reuse old items. Gift certificates to participating grocery stores were offered as prizes.



AmeriCorps members, Sharon Smith and Cassandra Sheaffer, pass out free materials and information in one of the grocery stores participating in the Put the Environment on Your Shopping List campaign.

Reusing, Recycling and Reducing are all messages presented during this campaign. Most of all, the campaign is an attempt to get people to think about the packaging and trash they are buying with their groceries. Most of the shopping tips are also money-saving tips too.

The campaign was made possible by a grant from the USDA Forestry Service.

"What's  
Inside....."

\*AmeriCorps Activities, p 2

\*Clinch River Project, p 3

\* PCC Activities, p 4

\* News Shorts, p 5

\* Education Center, p 6-7

\* Upcoming Events, p 8

# AmeriCorps Accomplishments

## Taking Advantage of New Technology

A proposed project, awaiting final approval, will put the Tennessee Wilderness Road Guide on an interactive CD-ROM computer disk. The CD-ROM will allow potential visitors to take a preliminary tour of sites using their computers.

Several historic and scenic attractions will be featured for the viewer to select. Each selection will show a live-action video sequence and give a brief explanation of the site.

AmeriCorps member Jeremy Williams says the CD-ROM is a clearer, more organized form of communication for potential visitors.

Currently information on the Tennessee Wilderness Road and other RC&D projects is available on the Internet. You can reach our Internet website at <http://www.home.aol.com/bacarditn>. Our address for the Wilderness Road Guide is <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~gangwrrc>.

*Visit our web site!  
<http://www.home.aol.com/bacarditn>*



## Hot Off the Press

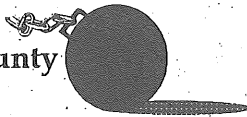
Two new publications are hot off the press from the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road Guide and Map will be distributed throughout the region. It is a full-color guide to historical sites in the area.

An assessment of local heritage, historical and natural resources is also completed, and is available for a \$5 duplication fee. Contact Jeremy Williams at 423-828-5927.

## Festivals and Fun

### Jail Day in Hancock County



Look for more details soon on this day of fun planned for late August. Events will include live music, a fiddling contest, an auction, citizens' arrests and other events. Proceeds will be used to renovate the Hancock County Old Jail in Sneedville.

### Grainger Co. Tomato Festival

To celebrate the Tennessee Bicentennial, the Grainger County Tomato Festival has been expanded to include a weeks worth of events. Events will include a street dance and pie eating contest, and auctioneer contest. Old favorites like the craft booths, Fun Run and Tomato Wars will also be back. Call the RC&D office for a full schedule of events.



## AmeriCorps Takes Part in Hancock County Development Plans.

The Clinch-Powell RC&D is only a small part of the sweeping improvements planned for Hancock County by the Sneedville/Hancock Community Partners.

"A lot of small successes are what we need to make Hancock County an even better place to live, work and visit," said Jack Mullins, chairperson of the Hancock County Industrial Development Board.

The county has seen several successes already. The group's activities range from a Chamber of Commerce fix up, paint up, clean up month in May to the Jubilee Small Business Incubator. Projects have involved all types of local, regional and state organizations and have attracted national attention.

To attract even more attention from potential investors, the county has prepared a marketing folder to be distributed at trade shows. AmeriCorps member Cassandra Sheaffer created the folder and edited and prepared the eight informational inserts for printing.

Another ongoing AmeriCorps project headed by Jeremy Williams, will turn a local landmark into a Hancock County historical museum and meeting room. Plans for the Old Hancock County Jail have been approved by the Tennessee Historic Commission. Jail Days in July will celebrate the history surrounding the jail.

*"A lot of small successes are what we need."*

*-Jack Mullins*

# Diversity, History and Management of Area Resources Meeting Topic.

Several conservation and wildlife groups have studied and commented on the unique biodiversity along the Clinch River.

A special meeting in Hancock County on Friday, March 7, 1996 focused on the diversity and management of river life and forests – two vital resources in our area.

"In this area, you have the richest fish fauna and mussel fauna in the United States. You're essentially living in a museum," said Steve Ahlstedt, U.S. Geological Survey.

Ahlstedt focused on the history of the musselling industry in this area and the role mussels have played in both the economics and natural

*"Cutting trees has become very political,"*  
-David Arnold, Tenn. Division of Forestry



resources of the area. His timeline went from present day back to the American Indians who used the mussels as a food source.

Ahlstedt talked about several species of freshwater mussels that exist only in the Clinch River around Hancock County.

One type of mussel unique to this area extends a "lure" in the shape of a minnow. This lure attracts fish which carry baby mussels to new habitats.

Another species unique to this area emits an eerie blue glow that can be seen from the shore.

Speaker David Arnold, Tennessee Division of Forestry, focused on the timber industry, another huge resource for this area.

"Cutting trees has become very political," Arnold said, "Just because trees are cut down doesn't necessarily mean there's erosion happening." According to Arnold, proper road construction and following Best Management Practices will prevent soil erosion and minimize the impact on the land.

"There are area foresters throughout Tennessee," said Arnold, "If you have questions, call them. That's what they're there for." Arnold said foresters can help recommend loggers, contract methods, tree varieties and road locations.

*"You're essentially living in a museum,"*  
-Steve Ahlstedt, US Geological Survey



## No-Till Planter Purchased For Counties.

No-till farming is a conservation technique that can save time, gasoline and precious topsoil. But no-till farming requires a no-till drill to plant seed.

Like all farm machinery, no-till drills are extremely expensive, so many farmers share planters through the local farmers cooperative. Until now farmers in Hancock County had to drive into a neighboring county to rent a no-till drill.

But this May, the Clinch-Powell RC&D purchased a no-till drill for use in Hancock and other neighboring counties. Farmers can rent the drill for \$6.50/acre starting, in June.

"Every meeting we've had, someone has asked when we're going to get the drill," said Leslie Colley, Clinch River Community Project field representative. "So I think there are a lot of people who want to use it."

The drill is equipped to plant grass, legume and corn or soybean seed.



# Partners for Clean Communities

## Breakfast Meeting Tackles Litter Problems and Solutions

Partners for Clean Communities' latest triumph was a May 15 breakfast meeting in New Tazewell. The meeting called together 36 people to discuss area litter problems. Attendees included county clerks, officials, judges, sheriffs and others from Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union counties.

Speaker Sergeant Sanders spoke about Tennessee litter laws and the Tennessee Highway Patrol litter patrol program, which was reinstated in February 1996.

"We need feedback from county officials and citizens so we know where problem areas are," Sanders told attendees.

According to Sanders, enforcement in the past has been weak in many counties because county officials and citizens are not fully aware of the laws and penalties. Once these issues become clear, things begin to change.

Tennessee Litter Grant Coordinator Ward



Attendees at the PCC Litter Meeting on May 15 discuss litter problems. The meeting is hoped to open more dialogue for creating solutions to the local litter problem.

Hopkins was also present to discuss education's role in litter prevention.

Participants in the meeting looked over an idea for a postcard that would help citizens easily report litterers they see. (See "How You Can Help" for more details.)

Most participants agreed that similar future meetings would be beneficial. RC&D Coordinator Lindy Turner said that information and ideas could be shared by talking across county lines.

## How You Can Help

Local citizens can help litter patrol officers with their job. Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock and Hawkins county citizens can report litter crimes to THP Sgt. Ed Tate at 423-348-6144. In Union County call THP Sgt. Cheryl Sanders, 423-693-7311. Please have the license plate number, the time and location of the offense.

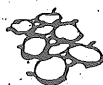
PCC hopes to create and distribute a postcard to help citizens report violations more easily. Plans are to make the postcards available at local businesses and offices. Citizens will be able to mail the cards for free back to PCC.

Like a called-in report, postcards will not lead to a conviction or charge. Instead, accused litterbugs will receive a litterbag and a letter reminding them of litter laws and penalties.



## Compliments to the Chef!

Litter meeting participants weren't just fed up with litter. They were also fed a delicious homestyle breakfast by "The Strugglers" men's club from the New Tazewell United Methodist Church. Thank you guys!



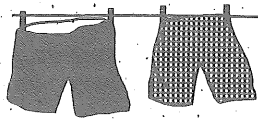
## Plastic Ring Recycling Program

ITW Hi-Cone is an Illinois-based company which is a model of "closed-loop" recycling. ITW or Illinois Tool Works manufactures and sells six-pack rings. The company then promotes and provides kits to start six pack ring recycling programs at schools. Each kit comes with a video, pamphlets, hand-outs, stickers and a plastic tree to hang the rings from. When enough rings to fill a box are collected, the program participant seals the

box, places a return postage sticker on it and mails it free of charge back to ITW Hi-Cone. ITW then takes the rings and recycles them back into more rings and the cycle continues.

Dispersal of these start-up recycling kits is slowly taking place throughout the schools in our region. If you know of anyone or any group that would like to be involved with this new program, call Angie Johnston at 423-828-8494.





## News Shorts

### What's Up in the Wild Wild World of Waste

The **Claiborne County** Ten Year Solid Waste Plan has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The RC&D is now working on a solid waste education grant to help fulfill their obligation under the plan.

The **Grainger County** Ten Year Solid Waste Plan has received comments back from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and revisions are almost complete.

**Hancock County's** Ten Year Solid Waste Plan is also in the revision process. RC&D staff are working with Hancock County to get the convenience center up and running by early July and the recycling program back shortly after.

A new recycling processing center is scheduled to open in **Hawkins County** around July or August. The new center will strengthen existing recycling efforts in the county.



*Learn and Serve members helped out at Conservation Camp by running their own booth called Thumbs Up! It was a big hit with Camp participants.*

### LEARN & SERVE ACTIVITIES

Our local Learn & Serve program is a community-based grant program which encourages high-school students to get involved in their communities through service learning. The program currently involves 22 students from Washburn and Rutledge High Schools. Each student commits to 18 hours of community service each semester of the school year.

This semester Learn and Serve's first project was "60 minutes for the Earth." Students visited classrooms in the elementary and middle schools to encourage students to commit 60 minutes to clean up the Earth. The class with the most minutes turned in won a movie party.

Learn & Serve students have also participated in road side clean ups, assisted with Grainger County's Earth Day Festival, and participated at this year's Conservation Camp.

### Waste Reduction at Work

Beginning in June, the Clinch-Powell RC&D is holding nine "Waste Reduction at Work" workshops for local businesses, industries and offices.

These workshops, funded by the Rural Utilities Service, will focus on waste reduction in the workplace.

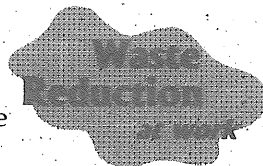
Workshop participants can attend a morning program for business and industry or an afternoon program geared for public service businesses and organizations.

A free lunch will be offered to both groups.

Topics to be addressed in the workshops include waste reduction strategies, setting up reduction, success stories and how to market recyclables. For more information call the RC&D office at 423-828-5927.

#### Workshop Dates

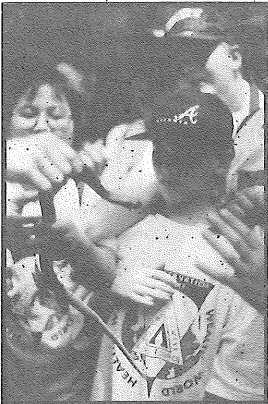
- June 11, Grainger County
- June 18 Hawkins County
- July 9 Union County
- July 11, Hancock County
- July 16, Claiborne County



**P**artners for Clean Communities is involved with several functions throughout the year and is always looking for new volunteers to help out. For more information on how you can get involved with Partners for Clean Communities or Keep America Beautiful, contact Angie Johnston at 828-8494 or 1-800-814-6355.

# Environmental Education and Our Learning Center

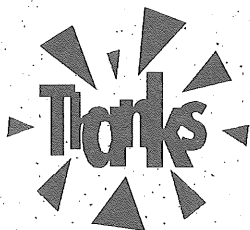
## Conservation Camp – Yet Another Success by the River.



*This is as hands-on as it gets! Students had a chance to handle several residents of Wetlands at this stop.*



*Leslie Colley, Clinch River Community Project, tells sixth-graders about mussels unique to the area.*



*...to all the groups  
and individuals who  
make Conservation  
Camp a success!*

Imagine going to school one day to handle a snake or try to clean up an oil spill. More than 1,300 sixth-graders from Grainger, Claiborne, Hancock, Hawkins and Union counties did this and more when they attended Conservation Camp.

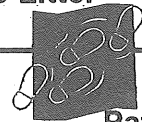
Conservation Camp is an annual educational event offered to area sixth-grade students. The three-day event was held on the banks of the Clinch River at the Grainger/Claiborne County border on May 7, 8 and 9.

Presenters ranged from local Partners for Clean Communities volunteers and soil conservationists to Knoxville Zoo volunteers or state forestry and water quality specialists. Some topics included fish identification, water quality indicators, conservation farming, wild plants and animals, forestry management, litter, private/public land issues, wetlands and mussels.

The RC&D Council supplied booklets to participating teachers so they can reinforce or incorporate camp sessions with their own lesson plans. Students, teachers and presenters also received camp T-shirts.

Conservation Camp is made possible each year by the many volunteers, assisting agencies and presenters. The event is coordinated by the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council in partnership with **The Litter** the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

**The Litter**



**Patrol**

### Garbage Busters Ends Year.

The Garbage Busters program is taking a summer vacation with the 19 schools that participated this year.

Garbage Busters curriculum contains lessons and activities for second-grade students. Hands-on activities range from painting to role playing to sorting plastics for recycling.

Students enjoyed the program and are eager to learn more about their environment

and ways they can protect it.

AmeriCorps member Betty Wilson coordinated this year's program. Classes were taught by her and several volunteers from Claiborne County.

"Students gained a sense of community," she said. "They realize that we -- not only adults, but kids too -- are stewards of the earth and it is our responsibility to keep it clean."

# Local Team Wins State Envirothon!!

For more than six months, members of the Powell Valley FFA Envirothon team studied everything that creeps, crawls, swims and flies through Tennessee.

It was worth it. They returned from Crossville, Tenn., on Tuesday May 14 as state Envirothon winners.

The five-member team competed with six other regional winners from across the state on May 13 and 14 in Crossville.

Winning the state contest qualifies them for the national Envirothon competition in Nebraska this July.

The Envirothon tests high school students on aquatic resources, wildlife, forestry, soils and a current environmental issue. Students work as a team on all sections of the test.

An additional part of the contest at the state and national levels asks students to solve an environmental problem. Students must prepare a presentation of their solution.

Members of the Powell Valley FFA state team are seniors Philip Willis, Eric Hubble and Vann Medley; and sophomores Christy Russell and Michelle Willis. Michael Wilson was on the district-winning team.

Fifteen other teams competed in our regional

contest,

April

25,

and

gave

**Only 10 points separated the top two teams at the state and district levels.**

Powell Valley FFA a run for their money. The Hancock County FFA team came in at second place. The two teams were separated by only ten points. Hancock County FFA members were freshmen Josh Mabe and Josh Ferguson and juniors Amanda Greene, Robbie Barnett and Alex Livesay. Third place went to Powell Valley FFA Team A made up of seniors Jesse Gibson, Shawn Sharpe, Phillip Willis and Jason Thomas. Other participating high schools were J. Frank White Academy, Horace-Maynard, Rutledge, and Cherokee.



Members of the state-winning Powell Valley FFA Envirothon team spend some time in the soils pit at the regional contest.

## Enviro 2000 Is Coming Soon.

Response to last year's Enviro 2000 was amazing. This year we hope to involve even more educators from our five-county area.

Enviro 2000 is an in-service workshop for educators including teachers, librarians and others. This year's E2000 is scheduled for Tuesday August 6.

The workshop gives teachers in our area the opportunity to learn about environmental education materials and activities available to them.

Workshop topics range from grantwriting to integrating computers into lesson plans.

The workshop is free, but pre-registering is required. Call Angie Johnston at 423-828-8494.

## Earth Day Art on Display.

To celebrate Earth Day, many Kindergarten -3rd grade classes in the area created drawings and pictures. The artwork theme was "What can I do as an individual to keep our area pollution-free." These pictures were displayed in area businesses and courthouses.

Thank you to all who participated and helped.

**H**ave you been missing out on these educational programs and opportunities?  
For more information contact us at 423-828-5927.

# Summer Calendar

**Tuesday, June 11**

**Grainger County**  
 "Waste Reduction at Work"  
 seminar. 8:30 - 3:30.

**Tuesday, June 18**

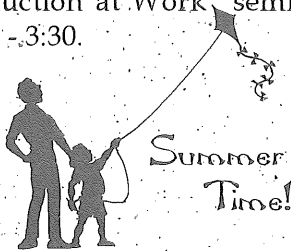
**Hawkins County** "Waste  
 Reduction at Work" seminar.  
 8:30 - 3:30.

**Saturday, June 29**

**MidSouth Brangus Breeders**  
 Field Day at High Fields Farm  
 in Rutledge.

**Tuesday, July 9**

**Union County** "Waste  
 Reduction at Work" seminar.  
 8:30 - 3:30.



**Thursday, July 11**

**Hancock County** Waste  
 Reduction at Work, 8:30 -12:30

**Tuesday, July 16**

**Claiborne County** Waste  
 Reduction at Work 8:30 - 3:30

**July 20-28**

**Grainger County** Tomato  
 Festival. Call Clinch-Powell  
 RC&D for a full schedule.

**Tuesday, August 6**

**Enviro 2000** teacher inservice  
 workshop, Rutledge Middle  
 School.

**August 8 & 9**

**Tennessee RC&D Council**  
 Annual Meeting in Crossville.

**Late August**

**Jail Day** in Hancock County

## Clinch-Powell RC&D

### Board of Directors

**Will Brickley**

**Jim Grigsby**

**Michael K. Hammer**

*secretary/treasurer*

**Marvin Hammond, chair**

**Michael Harrison**

**Mark Hipsher**

**Russell Keck**

**Jenny Lawson**

**David Lietzke**

**Doug Overton**

**Sandra Palmer, vice chair**

**Doug Price**

**Herman Smith**

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status: (Not all prohibited biases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

## Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council

P.O. Box 397, Rte 2 Rutledge, TN 37861  
 (423) 828-5927 Fax: (423) 828-5212

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Rutledge, TN 37861  
 PERMIT NO. 31

Clinch-Powell RC&D Spring 1996