



# grapeVINE

Managed by the Cities of Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell;  
Keep Johns Creek Beautiful; and Fulton County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**3.7.15**

### **Alpharetta's Annual Arbor Day Celebration**

CITY CENTER/BROOKE STREET PARK  
Free! Join us from 10am  
- 2pm for our recognition  
celebration.

**3.20-21.15**

### **Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's Annual Conference**

ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER  
[Visit the website](#) for more  
information on sessions and  
speakers.

**3.21.15**

### **Water Drop Dash 5K**

CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER  
A 5K fun and education  
fair that focuses on the  
importance of water. Stay  
tuned for more information.

**4.22.15**

### **Earth Day!**

Check out some [fun ideas for  
celebrating Earth Day](#) with  
your students!

## EverGreen welcomes Sharon Smith and Margaret Lamb

The EverGreen Schools partnership has now expanded to include schools in Sandy Springs, who will be managed by Sharon Smith of Fulton County Water Resources. Additionally, Milton schools will now be managed by Margaret Lamb. Welcome, Sharon and Margaret!



Sharon Smith has worked in the field of Environmental Education for 18 years. With the main focus in water education, Sharon has served to raise the awareness of water resource issues among the citizens of Fulton County through the Adopt-A-Stream program, water quality and pollution prevention programs, and leading conservation minded service projects. She has coordinated hundreds of citizen science volunteers and implemented multiple environmental educational programs for children and adults. Serving on the Board of Directors for the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia for six years allowed

her to take on many new challenges outside her normal range of duties, from fundraising to newsletter editing to serving as webmaster for the organization.

Margaret Lamb has always been a natural historian at heart. She earned her B.S. in Biology from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia. From there she continued to pursue her love of science and nature by attending graduate school in Zoology at the University of Rhode Island. She soon moved to New Zealand where she taught undergraduate Biology at university and started to learn more about the field of education and curriculum design. Since then, Margaret has been an instructional designer in higher education for almost 20 years helping faculty and staff infuse innovative teaching methods into their classrooms. She specialized in instructional technology, but loves to brainstorm with teachers to create the most appropriate new teaching ideas to meet their needs. Currently, Margaret is a docent volunteer at the Chattahoochee Nature Center and serves as the Milton Grows Green committee Education and Outreach Director.



## Arbor Day 2015

Trees are integral to many aspects of our lives. Arbor Day is nationally recognized on April 24, 2015 as an observance of their importance and to promote education and the planting of trees in every community. Georgia celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in February, which in 2015 will be February 20.

Are you looking for Arbor Day program resources or perhaps planting trees with your students this year? The Georgia Forestry Commission has been involved with this for many years. In fact, EverGreen Schools may have worked with them to plant trees at your school with your students!

The Georgia Forestry Commission (<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/community-forests/public-programs/georgia-arbor-day/index.cfm>) is a wealth of information including:

- Curriculum guide
- The history of Arbor Day
- Tree planting information
- The benefits of trees to our communities
- Webcast of Tim Womic's "Trail of Trees" production

The Arbor Day Foundation (<http://www.arborday.org/>) also has very useful and interesting information.

Let your coordinator know if you want to host an Arbor Day planting or program!

### Trail of Trees LIVE at Your School!

During the week leading up to Arbor Day, the Georgia Forestry Commission sponsors Trail of Trees performances by Tim Womick, the modern day Johnny Appleseed. Tim is a trained performer that has turned his passion for trees and life into an entertaining, inspiring, and informative performance on the benefits of trees. Tim interacts with audiences of all ages to relay the importance of trees in our everyday life and to encourage people to recognize their own roles as stewards of the earth. Using props that range from an African drum to tree seeds, Tim gets his message across in a humorous and insightful manner.

The Georgia Forestry Commission would like to offer interested schools and community groups an opportunity to host one of these Trail of Trees presentations. There is no cost to schools or groups. The presentations will take place between February 16th and February 21st, 2015. The preferred audience for these programs is fourth grade and up due to the length of the presentation (approximately 1 hour) and the amount of audience interaction. The average audience size ranges from 25 to 300 people. Generally, two to three performances will be scheduled per weekday and one on Saturday.


If a school or group is interested in hosting a presentation, email [badams@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:badams@gfc.state.ga.us). Please indicate several alternative dates and times if possible. Requests will be filled on a first come-first served based on the tour's schedule and routing.

## Opportunities for Educators

### Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree Educator Workshop

A triple WET, WILD, and Learning Tree workshop is coming up on January 26-27th, 2015 at the Forston 4-H Center in Hampton, GA. Become certified in these incredible hands-on and engaging K-12 curriculum that cover all topics of water, wildlife, and natural resources. To find out more information, visit their [website](#), or contact Allen Nasworthy at [anaswort@uga.edu](mailto:anaswort@uga.edu).

SAVE THE DATE!



## Confluence





Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's  
Annual Volunteer Conference


Saturday, March 14, 2015

Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center  
2020 Clean Water Drive Buford, GA

Discuss, share, and learn more about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program! Meet water quality professionals and AAS local coordinators, trainers and volunteers.

COME EXPERIENCE:

-  Hands-on Workshops
-  Networking opportunities
-  Student water research poster competition
-  Volunteer presentations and awards ceremony








Register online at [www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org](http://www.GeorgiaAdoptAStream.org)

**\$30 per participant (\$20 for students)**

Includes t-shirt, lunch, conference sessions, door prizes and more!

Travel stipends are available for Volunteers! See our website for more details

### Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's Annual Conference

'Spring into Action' is the theme of the 2015 Annual EEA conference. Sessions will focus on one of these four conference strands:

**Grow:** Gardening and pollinators, schoolyard habitats, Monarchs Across Georgia, Farm to School programs, etc.

**Citizen Science:** Hands-on service projects that serve scientists with mass data collection

**Project-based Environmental Stewardship:** Empowering kids to solve real-world problems and implement their solutions (habitat restoration, watershed stewardship, bio-remediation, wildlife conservation, alternative energy, climate change)

**Tools of Action:** Environmental Education administrative tools (evaluation, best practices, engaging visitors, planning and design, professional development)

[Check the EEA Website for more information and registration details.](#)

### NOAA Climate Stewards Education Project (CSEP)

Do you want to learn more about climate science, become part of a science learning community and join other educators who are supporting climate resilience? Then you should become a NOAA Climate Steward! NOAA's Climate Stewards Education Project (CSEP) provides formal and informal educators working with elementary through university age students with sustained professional development, collaborative tools, and support to build a climate-literate public that is actively engaged in climate stewardship. CSEP also provides support for educators to execute climate stewardship (mitigation or adaptation) projects with their audiences to increase understanding of climate science and practical actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

To learn more about the different levels of involvement, potential mini-grant funding up to \$2,000 for stewardship projects, professional development opportunities, webinars and book club announcements, and CSEP contests with monetary and educational resource prizes, [please visit NOAA's CSEP website.](#)



## The Great Backyard Bird Count

Who doesn't love citizen science? This is a great opportunity to get your students outside to learn about birds and contribute to a global science program. It occurs over a few short days in February.

**February 13, 2015 - February 16, 2015**

The Great Backyard Bird Count (<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>) is an annual event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes, is free, fun, and helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the event. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time and then report their counts using an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website.

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore reports from their own town or anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. You can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see.

Check out the link above for some great tools and to see how you can get started!



## 2015 is the International Year of Soils

Earth Science Teachers! Students sometimes have a problem grasping the real-life associations of some topics; especially, on a global level. Soil conservation seems to be one of these difficult topics. It is worthy to note that 2015 has been declared the [International Year of Soils](#) by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.



This will serve as a platform for raising awareness on the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fiber production, essential ecosystem functions and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations.

## Wildlife Habitat Community



The Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission is sponsoring a project to have Alpharetta certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat Community.

We need your help! **We hope to have every Alpharetta school register as a Schoolyard Habitat!** Visit <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Schoolyard-Habitats.aspx> for more information.

Many of our North Fulton Schools are already registered. Creating a habitat and using it for programs can also earn you points toward your EverGreen Schools Program Awards. These learning areas can be used as part of the curriculum for science, geography, social studies, and math with teaching materials provided by the National Wildlife Federation.

## Metro Atlanta Water Essay Contest Winners



The student winner for Fulton County was one of our very own. Congratulations to Jaeden Amiri-Owens of Fulton Science Academy!

[The Water Essay Contest](#) is one of many initiatives conducted by the Metro Water District to raise awareness for conservation efforts and the preservation of water quality in metro Atlanta. Over the years, the contest has engaged thousands of middle school students and challenged them to think critically about our region's water resources.

2014 marks the 13th year of the Metro Water District Essay Contest. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties are invited to participate in the contest. We had a record number of essays submitted - over 1900 essays!

The winners of the 2014 Middle School Water Essay Contest were honored at a reception at the Georgia State Capitol on December 4th. **Thank you to all of our EverGreen schools who participated!**

## New Native Fishes Exhibit on Display at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center

Not that you need an excuse to visit the beautiful Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center, but there is a brand new exhibit now open! Seven native Georgia fish species were collected right from Johns Creek, the city's namesake. You can find bluehead chubs, stonerollers, Alabama hogsuckers, and more in the permanent 240 gallon display courtesy of Keep Johns Creek Beautiful and the Georgia Chapter of the North American Native Fishes Association. Take a field trip or just stop by with your family and learn a little more about the fish living in your backyard.



## EverGreen Schools Coordinators

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## 2014-2015 EverGreen Schools Application

Please complete this registration form and return it to your EverGreen School Coordinator BEFORE downloading and completing the Activity Log.

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ROLE ☐ Teacher ☐ Admin ☐ PTA ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ROLE ☐ Teacher ☐ Admin ☐ PTA ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EverGreen Schools Coordinators

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EVERGREEN SCHOOLS IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN



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## What is the EverGreen Schools Partnership?

The EverGreen Schools Partnership is a program managed by the cities of Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell, as well as Keep Johns Creek Beautiful. This partnership promotes environmental stewardship in schools. K-12 public, private, and home schools are encouraged to participate annually. The program is free and is supported by the local governments.

Our goals are to provide environmental education resources to teachers, assist with developing environmentally based education initiatives at schools, and encourage collaboration between schools in the area.

## How do I become an EverGreen School?

Schools interested in achieving annual EverGreen status at the Green, Silver or Gold levels must first complete the application form and return it to their EverGreen School coordinator. They then must achieve a minimum number of points as follows:

**Green Status - 20 points**

**Silver Status - 30 points**

**Gold Status - 40 points**

### GUIDELINES

1. Points must be recorded in the Activity Log.
2. Download the Excel spreadsheet at <http://eenorthfulton.weebly.com>
3. The completed Activity Log must be submitted to your EverGreen coordinator by April 1, 2015 to be eligible for the EverGreen annual award. Activities scheduled for later in the year can be included with a future date.
3. Each lesson/project can only earn points in ONE of the scoring categories. If you are unsure how to categorize your points, contact your EverGreen School coordinator.
4. Each school must earn points from two or more categories to achieve EverGreen status each year.

## Awards

Schools who achieve EverGreen status by April 1, 2015 will be awarded a metal outdoor sign for display outside the school (first year) or a sticker indicating their EverGreen status and the current school year (subsequent years). Your EverGreen coordinator can work with you to plan other recognition events, such as an official presentation during an assembly or over the morning announcements, a social media announcement, or a press release.

## Scoring Categories

### **Staff Professional Development - 1 point**

- Examples: The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's Annual Conference or Outdoor Learning Symposium, curriculum workshops such as Project WET, Project Learning Tree, or Project WILD.
- 1 point earned for each teacher or staff member that attends professional development related to environmental education.

### **Environmental Education Classroom Programs and Field Trips - 1 point**

- Examples: Any classroom lesson related to the environment, such as the Non-Point Source Enviroscape, erosion and weathering, adaptations, food web, etc.
- Can be taught by school staff, volunteers, or special guest speakers.
- Points are awarded per 40+ minute program, per class.
- You may earn a maximum of 10 points in this category.

### **Community Service Projects - 2 points**

- Examples: Adopt-A-Road, Adopt-A-Stream, Storm Drain Marking, Rivers Alive Cleanup, Bring One for the Chipper.
- Points are per each service project day (ie. Each road cleanup or stream monitoring event will earn 2 points), with no limit on the same project.

### **Previous Project Maintenance - 2 points**

- Examples: Continuing your school recycling program, maintaining the school garden through weeding and watering.
- 2 points are earned for each completed previous project that is being maintained for the current school year.

### **One-time Environmental Project - 5 points**

- Examples: Waste Free Lunch Day, Earth Day Festival, Science Night, Walk to School Day, Schoolyard Cleanup Day, Green Apple Day of Service, OMG Plastic Awareness Week, America Recycles Day.
- Points are per project, with no more than 2 of the same project per year (ie. If you hold 4 Waste Free lunch days over the course of the school year, you would earn 10 points).

### **Sustainable Environmental Project - 10 points**

- Examples: Implement or enhance a recycling program, create or enhance a school garden, start or enhance an Environmental Club.