

September/October 2003

Environmental Update



NCCE – Onslow County Center
Onslow County Multipurpose Complex
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Jacksonville, NC 28540
(910) 455-5873
Fax (910) 455-0977
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow>



About the house:

You know it's been humid and wet for a prolonged period of time when....**mushrooms start growing on concrete and brick steps!** The rainy weather has made home maintenance issues more problematic than ever. There are, however, certain things that you can do to help the situation:

- Make sure that water does not pool around your home's foundation.
- If you have a crawl space, check that the vents work properly and are not blocked.
- Check the crawl space for standing water, excess moisture, or mold on floor joists.
- Make sure that your heat pump's or air conditioner's condensate drain is working properly.
- If you have a septic system, limit in-home water use as much as possible. The soil is already very wet and additional water can cause problems. Also, make sure that runoff water is directed away from your septic tank and drainfield.
- Check your yard for signs of active erosion or areas where the water stands for three or more days. Erosion adds to the sediment problem, which may cause water drainage to be blocked further down stream. Prolonged standing water can add to the mosquito problem. If you're lucky, mosquito predators may also be flourishing. Dragonflies have been quite numerous this summer; however, they prefer sunny areas.
- Check the outlets on ditches and remove

material that may be clogging them. Of course, for the water to drain away, there has to be somewhere for it to **go!**

Controlling Microbial Pollution in Your Community:

Is your community experiencing shellfish bed closures and swimming advisories? Are tourism and commercial fisheries vital to your community's economy? If yes, plan to attend the workshop **Controlling Microbial Pollution in Your Community** at one of these locations:

September 4th, Museum of Coastal Carolina, Ocean Isle Beach, NC

September 9th, Duke University Marine Lab Auditorium, Beaufort, NC

September 11th, Cape Fear CC Satellite Campus, Hampstead, NC

September 16th, Roanoke Island Aquarium, Manteo, NC

Each workshop (9:15 am until 3:30 pm) will address why microbial pollution is a threat to public health and local economies, introduce the science behind microbial management, and demonstrate through an outdoor exercise how you can become actively involved in controlling microbial pollution in your community. This workshop is **free of charge**, lunch is provided and participants will receive the document "Addressing Microbial Pollution in Coastal Waters: A Reference for Local Governments." **Registrations must be received one week prior to workshop date.** To register, contact Whitney Kurz (whitney_kurz@ncnerr.org) or Lori Davis (lori_davis@ncnerr.org) at 252.728.2170.

NC-EE Teacher Treks:

Geology Adventure

Wake County, NC

Saturday, September 13, 2003

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15

The curator of geology and other Museum educators teach you how to identify rock and mineral samples and practice your identification skills in the field. You will also explore a variety of geologically interesting sites in Wake County. Take-home materials include a jeweler's loupe and a classroom set of rock samples.

Highs and Lows of Pilot Mountain

Pilot Mountain State Park, Surry County, NC

Saturday, September 13, 2003

8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Explore the varied landscape of Pilot Mountain State Park from the lowlands along the Yadkin River to the top of the mountain. Museum and park staff will lead you on a morning canoe trip to explore the diverse natural communities and historic highlights along this less traveled portion of the park. You will end the day at the top of the mountain, comparing the geology and plant and animal communities that span this diverse North Carolina treasure.

Contact Mike Dunn if you are interested or have any questions at (919) 733-7450 ext. 620 or via e-mail at mike.dunn@ncmail.net

Project Learning Tree (PLT) events:

September 9 from 9 am to 3 pm and

September 10 from 9 am to 1 pm

(must attend both sessions)

PreK-12 Workshop

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest

Elizabethtown

To Register, contact Turnbull Creek ESF Rangers at 910-588-4161 or tcesf@intrstar.net

September 20, 2003, 9am – 4pm

PreK-8 Workshop

Clemmons Educational State Forest and Cooper Elementary, Clayton

To Register, contact Clemmons ESF Rangers 919-553-5651 or clemmons esf@mindspring.net

October 21, 2003, 9 am – 4 pm

PreK-8 Workshop

Kerr Lake State Recreation Area (Satterwhite Point Community Building), Henderson

To Register, contact Lori Fleming at 919-841-4060 or email lori.fleming@ncmail.net

The PLT curriculum is now correlated to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades K-8 in the subjects of math, social studies, language arts, and science. For the most current workshop listings, visit the NC Project Learning Tree web page:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/plt/calendar.html>

Upcoming wildlife workshops:

Reptiles and Amphibians

September 26-27

New Bern

This ten-hour workshop, in conjunction with Weyerhaeuser, will offer participants extensive information on native reptiles and amphibians. Through hands-on fieldwork and classroom presentations, participants will learn basic biology, habitat requirements, identification and human interactions with salamanders, frogs, snakes, turtles and lizards.

Contact: Mike Campbell

mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org

(252) 514-6663

Barrier Island Wildlife

September 30

Ft. Fisher

Coastal marshes and barrier islands will be explored by canoe to observe wildlife at Federal Point near Ft. Fisher. Canoes will be provided.

Contact: Wilmington Parks and Recreation

(910) 343-4750

Coastal Birds

October 15

Corolla

The northern Outer Banks is a major migration route for birds heading south for the winter. We will visit beaches and marsh around the

Currituck Lighthouse to observe many species of shorebirds and songbirds, as well as waterfowl. This class is provided through the Wings Over Water Festival. Pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged.

Contact: Wings Over Water
<http://www.wingsoverwater.org>
 (252) 441-8144

Alligators

October 28
 Wilmington

Alligators and humans are both occupying the same habitat in Southeastern North Carolina. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission will offer a day long class to discuss the biology and habits of alligators, and some ideas on how to live with them. We will also visit an alligator habitat to view them in the field.

Contact: Wilmington Parks and Recreation
 (910) 343-4750

Arts in the Gardens tour:

The First Annual **Art in the Gardens** Tour will take place in Wilmington, NC on October 3-5, 2003. This event will provide an opportunity to visit fabulous fall gardens, private and public. Nine private homeowner gardens plus the Arboretum at the NHC Extension Center and Airlie



Gardens will be on the tour. October is a beautiful time to visit the gardens of Wilmington. Most of these gardens have never been on public display at this time of year and the tour promises to be an exciting feast for the senses. This event will take place during Wilmington's 25th Annual Riverfest, so there will be lots to do and see in this historic city.

For information or to reserve your tickets, call Patty Poetter at The Arboretum at New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Center 910-452-6393 ext.211. Tickets are \$15.00 with all proceeds going to benefit the Arboretum. You can preview the gardens at:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/newhanover/gardentour03.htm>

Animal Waste Conference:

The NC Animal Waste Management Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park on Oct. 16-17. For more information contact the Waste Management Programs office at 919-515-6773 or 919-515-6767, or go to the web site:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/waste_mgt/waste_management_workshop.htm

On-site Wastewater Conference:

The 19th Annual On-site Wastewater Conference will be held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh from October 21-23. This year's theme is "the reliability of on-site wastewater systems." A strong focus will be on planning (basinwide as well as in local areas), system choice, and performance issues.

The conference is recommended for environmental health personnel, septic system installers, soil scientists, engineers, local planners and planning board members, and other interested public. For further information or to register, contact Joni Tanner (joni_tanner@ncsu.edu) at 919-513-1678. You can also register on-line at:

<http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/swetc/onsiteconf/2003/main03.htm>

NC-EE Environmental Education Resources online:

Investigate Biodiversity

<http://investigate.conservation.org>

Investigate Biodiversity is a resource site for all ages - for students interested in science fairs; for future conservationists seeking career information; for everyday people looking for ways that they can support biodiversity conservation.

The Electronic Naturalist

<http://www.enaturalist.org>

Free site of weekly material (30 weeks during the school year) covers a wide variety of information on animals and plants, has art work and text, interdisciplinary activities, two reading levels, and access to a professional naturalist via email.

EPA Water Sourcebooks

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/wsb/>

Created by the EPA, the *Water Sourcebooks* contain 324 activities for grades K-12. This environmental education program explains the water management cycle using a balanced approach showing how it affects all aspects of the environment. Activities are available online in PDF and are also available on CD-ROM.

Cycles of the Earth and Atmosphere

<http://www.ucar.edu/learn/1.htm>

An on-line teaching module for middle school science teachers providing background information and supporting classroom teaching materials. The content focus is climate change and issues related to both stratospheric and tropospheric ozone.

Schools Online

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/SchoolsOnline/index.html>

A website for K-12 educators that features brief text or animated presentations on such topics as planting and tending gardens; incorporating 4-H projects in the classroom; and helping students become more aware of how plants, animals, and humans interact with ecosystems. Some activities are available on CD-ROM and in Spanish.

New Air Pollution website online:

A new educational web site on Air Pollution is under development. The site takes a scientific look at the risk of air pollution and attempts to place the risk in the context of other risks in life, allowing the learner to make his or her own comparative decisions on risk, cost/benefit analysis, etc. The site is not intended to have a political advocacy attitude.

The site developers hope that teachers, reporters, political leaders and the public in general will gain some benefit from it. The site is still under development but two sections are now complete enough to stand-alone. You can see it at:

http://www.home.earthlink.net/~air_pollution
(source: Frank McKay/Science Writer/Raleigh)

Format change!:

In an effort to reduce mailing costs, this newsletter is going to a bimonthly format. As always, an electronic version is available on-line at:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow/staff/drashash/newsletr/>

Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
Extension Area Specialized Agent
Natural Resources-Environmental Education

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS