

September/October 2005

Environmental Update



NCCE – Onslow County Center
Onslow County Multipurpose Complex
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Telephone: (910) 455-5873
Fax (910) 455-0977
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow>

NCCE – New Hanover County Center
6206 Oleander Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28403-3822
Telephone: (910) 452-6393
Fax (910) 452-6398
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/newhanover>

NCCE – Brunswick County Center
Brunswick County Government Complex
25 Referendum Drive (Building N)
P. O. Box 109
Bolivia, NC 28422
Telephone: (910) 253-2610
Fax: (910) 253-2612
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/brunswick>

FREE TEACHER WORKSHOP:

PLANTS THAT BITE BACK
at
Carolina Beach State Park
November 5, 2005
9:00am – 4:00pm

This is a Carolina Beach State Park 6 hour EELE (Environmental Education Learning Experience) workshop that can be used for CEUs and/or Criteria I, II, or III for the NC Environmental Educators Certification. This workshop focuses on Carnivorous Plants and Fire Ecology. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes for hiking. Sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses are recommended. You may bring your lunch or go out to eat. There will be hands-on activities throughout the day.



For more information or to register, contact Joe Shimel at (910) 458-8206 or email him at joe.shimel@ncmail.net. Please give your name, address, e-mail and phone number. You must register to attend this workshop. Space is limited, so register early.

Big Sweep 2005:

Each fall, thousands of volunteers across the state clean up North Carolina's waterways during Big Sweep, an international cleanup that takes place in over 80 countries. Last year 323 dedicated volunteers picked up over 5,700 pounds of litter in New Hanover County in just a couple of hours!

Why participate in Big Sweep? Because litter affects everyone! Millions of tax dollars are spent each year by state and local agencies to pick up litter. Glass, metal, and monofilament fishing line can be threats to human health and safety. Littered waterways and parks can also deter tourist dollars. Litter affects animals too, as they can swallow or become entangled in litter causing starvation, strangulation or serious injury.

JOIN US! Your efforts will help make our community safer and more enjoyable, and areas that are litter-free are less likely to become littered. Bring your friends and enjoy a morning along our waterways while helping to make our community a better place.

Groups in New Hanover will meet at 9 am on October 1st at the following locations:

- Johnnie Mercer's Pier at Wrightsville Beach
- Carolina Beach Boardwalk
- Kure Beach Pier
- Greenfield Lake Boathouse

Bring sunscreen, bug spray, water, sturdy closed toe shoes, and clothes that can get dirty. Prizes will given for the most unusual item found and the most trash collected by an individual or group. Call Jennifer O'Keefe at 341-4340 or 512-6820 for more information.

In Onslow County, the North Topsail Beach Big Sweep event will be October 1st. Participants are to meet at the town park across from the beach access at 9 am. The NC Coastal Federation has planned a cleanup of the Morris Landing area, also on October 1st.

The New River and White Oak River Big Sweep

main event will be October 8th. Both the New River Foundation and the Stewards of the White Oak River Basin are recruiting volunteers. For all these events, high school students can receive SAT volunteer credit hours!

People can call Lisa Grant at (910) 455-4470 ext. 401 for more information about specific dates and locations. Plans are also being made for the 2nd annual underwater cleanup, which uses certified divers. This event will likely occur during the last week in October.

Brunswick County is conducting cleanups at several area beaches. Volunteers can call Stephanie Lewis at the Solid Waste & Recycling office at (910) 253-2521 for more information.

Two new plant guides:

The University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service has two new plant guides:

Freshwater Plants in the Southeastern US (UF/IFAS Publication Number SP 348), a recognition guide for 133 plants, and

Invasive and Other Non-native Plants (Publication Number SP 349), a recognition guide for 94 non-native plants.

Currently, these are available FREE to K-12 teachers. Call (800) 226-1764 for more information. If you aren't a teacher, they are available for purchase. Your purchase helps with publishing copies that **are** available to teachers!

(Note: Teachers' copies have all been given out at this time!)

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
North Carolina State University
Onslow County Center
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Water – Use it Wisely!

What is water-saving device #1? People! Yes, that includes YOU! Water saving devices (low flow shower heads) and practices (turning water off while brushing teeth) can reduce in-home water use by up to 30%.

As North Carolina's population continues to grow, so will the demand for drinking water. Water – Use it Wisely is a national water conservation community awareness campaign. The City of Wilmington is one of eight partners promoting Water – Use it Wisely in North Carolina.

For more than 100 easy ways you can save water, log onto www.wateruseitwisely.com or contact the city of Wilmington's Water Treatment Division at (910) 343-3690.



Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash

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