



TALKIN' TRASH

Actual News
You Can
USE!



Mercer County Takes the Bite Out of Mosquitoes

In September, Mercer County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency conducted one of the most successful tire collections statewide. Significant not only for its immense quantity of tires collected but also for the overwhelming evidence that tires are breeding grounds for mosquitoes carrying deadly diseases.

EPA Environmental Specialist Gene Figge reported positive results of both encephalitis and the West Nile Virus in tested mosquito larvae. This only solidifies the tantamount importance of continuing tire collections, and especially those conducted in rural areas.

Working together...

Seventeen counties were represented during the collection. Several municipalities and townships cleaned up their empty lots and cruised roadsides for discarded tires. Aledo, Alexis, Geneseo Township, Henry County Highway Department, New Boston, Matherville, Mercer Township, Millersburg Township, Monmouth, Munson Township, Ohio Township, Perryton Township, and Sherrard all contributed to the collection.



Suzan Nash from the WIRC volunteered her services when another hand was needed at the check-in entrance.

Special thanks goes to the people who worked and publicized the two-day event. They are: John Huffstutler, Mercer County Farm Bureau, and his family; Suzan Nash, Executive Director of the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC); Bart Eshelman, Mercer County Board; Jason Rodriguez, Rock Island Argus; Robert Blackford, Times Record; and the staff of WRMJ radio for all of their help in making this a successful used tire

30,150 tires later...turn to next page

Nov./Dec., 2003
Volume 7, No.5
Must Do...Dates

TCR&WMC

November 24

Warren County Courthouse
Monmouth

7:00 pm

McDonough County

Environmental Comm.

November 3, December 1

McDonough County Courthouse
7:00 pm

Mercer County

Board Meeting

November 4, December 2

Mercer County Courthouse

7:00 pm

Mercer County Recycling Board
TBA

CES Office, Aledo

7:00 pm

Warren County

Board Meeting

November 12, December 17

Warren County Courthouse

9:30 am

Special Events

HHW Collection

November 8

Galesburg High School

1135 West Fremont

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Braatz Receives Award

At the recent Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association (ILCSWMA) conference, TCR&WMC Solid Waste Coordinator Chad Braatz was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Braatz has been the Solid Waste Coordinator for the TCR&WMC for nine years and is responsible for initiating solid waste management and recycling programs in several rural communities throughout the service area.

Pictured left to right are: Bart Hagston of Jackson County, Chad Braatz, and Jeff Lahr of Coles County.

Tri-County Resource and Waste Management Council of McDonough, Mercer, and Warren counties

TCR&WMC

Community

Mercer County tire collection continued...



Bart Eshelman, a Mercer County Board member, lent some muscle to the collection by unloading and loading tires.

The tires came in dump trucks, pickup trucks, flatbeds and horse trailers. Twenty loads of approximately 1500 tires per load were hauled out to be ground up and turned into something else. And that's what this whole event was, **SOMETHING ELSE!** Here are the facts.

| <u>County</u> | <u>% of tires</u> | <u>Number of tires</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mercer | 66% | 19,800 |
| Rock Island | 17.5% | 5,250 |
| Henry | 11.5% | 3,450 |
| Warren | 1.5% | 450 |
| Henderson | 1.5% | 450 |
| Fulton | .5% | 150 |
| Stark | .5% | 150 |
| Peoria | .5% | 150 |
| Knox | .5% | 150 |
| Whiteside | .5% | 150 |
| TOTAL | | 30,150 |

Make Haste to Rid Yourself of Household Hazardous Waste!

Don't forget the Household Hazardous Waste Collection on November 8! The Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Galesburg are co-sponsoring a household hazardous waste collection at the Galesburg high school parking lot, 1135 W. Fremont Street, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This is a great opportunity for area homeowners to properly dispose of their household toxic wastes for free. In addition to the following list of items, 20-pound propane tanks will also be accepted at this collection.

Check your basement, attic, and closets and under your sinks for any of these unwanted items.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Aerosol paints | Lawn chemicals |
| Aerosol pesticides | Mercury |
| Anti-freeze | Oil based paint |
| Car batteries | Paint remover |
| Drain cleaner | Paint thinner |
| Fluorescent bulbs | Pool chemicals |
| Hobby chemicals | Solvents |
| Household batteries | Used Motor Oil |
| Household cleaners | Unlabeled toxins |
| Insecticides | Weed killer |

Call Chad Braatz at (309) 837-3941 for more information.



An Electronics Collection to Beat ALL Electronic Collections!

Once again, Galesburg's Julie Main put together a very successful electronic collection! The event was sponsored by NAEIR, DCM Transport, Central Illinois Access and the City of Galesburg.

Two hundred and eighty households and the Warren County Courthouse contributed twenty tons of electronic materials filling two semi-trucks.

But Wait, There's More!



Not only is this collection significant because of the averting of electronics from the landfill, it also benefits society in other great ways. Central Illinois Access, Inc., one of the co-sponsors, takes the donated items such as computers and electronics and refurbishes them and makes them available to low income and disabled individuals for a small fee. In addition, they provide free home appliances to disaster victims, computers to children with disabilities, and sponsor hands-on computer training for young people Ages 13-18.

NOTE: The people shown in the photographs work for Central Illinois Access, Inc.

Seeing is Believing

There is nothing like going to a recycling center and a landfill to get the point across about the importance of recycling to school children (let alone anyone else). This tour is just one curriculum enhancement of the Tri-County Resource & Waste Management Council education program.



In late September, Mrs. Gates' West Prairie South Elementary 4th grade class had a big taste of solid waste! The kids began their morning with a tour of Bridgewater's recycling center hosted by Suzanne Fuhr and Tug Thompson. These Can-Do participants were able to see how their aluminum cans (and other recyclables) were sorted and baled. Later that morning they viewed the final resting place of all that is not reused or recycled--the Envirofil Landfill. "It looks a lot different since we were here last year!" exclaimed Mrs. Gates.

For more information on how your class can take a tour of a landfill or recycling center, or a combined tour, call Solid Waste Educator Anne Lobdell at (309) 837-3941. Curriculum that parallels these tours is available in the Tri-County Resource & Waste Management Council's education library and is Illinois Learning Standard Goals approved.



Mrs. Gates' 4th Grade class observed the Envirofil Landfill (top picture) and learned about the baling of aluminum by Bridgewater's Suzanne Fuhr.

BIN BRIEFS



November 15 is America Recycles Day!

November 15 is America Recycles Day. One of the best ways (besides being a regular recycler) is to purchase products made from recycled material. Look for the "recycling arrows" and a description such as "Made from 30% post consumer recycled" or "50%-100% recycled content" on the package of household products, school and outdoor supplies, clothing, carpeting, etc.

Our buying habits encourage the manufacturers to keep making what we want. If companies choose to make new products from raw materials instead of using recycled materials, and do not buy commodities from recycling centers to create new products, the recycling loop cannot close. As consumers, we need to influence manufacturers through our purchasing power. Supporting those companies that use recycled packaging is one way of using our influence to close the loop on recycling and that is what America Recycles Day is all about - BUY RECYCLED!

Here are a few ways you can commemorate America Recycles Day!

- Recycle or compost whenever possible instead of throwing items away.
- Purchase items that are recyclable or are made from recycled materials.
- Reuse items and repair them instead of immediately replacing them.
- Purchase items with less packaging and in larger "economy" sizes.
- Donate unwanted items to charitable organizations.



Education Continued

Conservation Day



During Conservation Day in early September, 300 kids and 25 teachers attended a variety of presentations relating to wildlife and resource conservation.

This annual event is sponsored by the McDonough County Board and is organized by McDonough County Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Illinois Extension McDonough County Unit, Argyle Lake State Park and the Tri-County Resource & Waste Management Council.



Get Your Very Own Hand Chair

Many folks have asked us where the TCR&WMC education program acquires its colorful "made from 100% recycled HDPE" hand chairs. The ones we use for teacher incentives are from Maple City Area Recycling Center, and are available for purchasing by the public. Contact Kevin Luvdahl at (309) 734-8423 to order your own, totally recycled, chair!

Recyclers

McDonough County

Bridgeway
900 Deer Road
Macomb, Illinois 61455
309/837-4876

Mercer County

Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Inc.
Route 34 East
1325 SE 2nd Street
Galva, Illinois 61434
309/932-2936

Mercer County Recycling Center
700 NE 7th Ave.
c/o Jo Lawson
Aledo, Illinois 61231
309/582-7089

Warren County

Maple City Area Recycling Center
614 South 3rd Street
Monmouth, Illinois 61462
Kevin Lovdahl
309/734-8423

*c/o The Western Illinois Regional Council
223 South Randolph, Macomb, Illinois 61455
309/837-3941 FAX 309/836-3640
Email - wirc@wirpc.org
www.tricountyresource.org*

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