

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION  
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Environmental and Conservation Organization ♦ [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org) ♦ 828-692-0385 ♦ April-June 2011  
 “Working to protect WNC’s natural heritage since 1987.”

**Celebrate APRIL FUELS  
 DAY- Leave Your Car At Home**

Hooray. It’s time to practice  
 what we preach and reduce our carbon  
 footprint! Practice is what we will have  
 on Friday, April 1, 2011. At ECO’s  
 urging, the Henderson County Board of  
 Commissioners and the City of Hen-  
 dersonville City Council have agreed  
 to proclaim this day April Fuels Day, a  
 whole 24 hours when our community  
 will try to reduce the number of cars on  
 the road.

**April Fuels Day!**  
**Leave Your Car At Home**  
 Friday, April 1st  
 Carpool, bicycle, walk or stay home.

Blue Ridge Community College is  
 holding a friendly competition among  
 departments with the best fuel saving  
 department getting a free lunch and  
 Downtown Hendersonville is getting the  
 local business community on board.

ECO volunteers are working hard  
 to persuade businesses, homeowners  
 associations, churches, schools, and  
 organizations to make April Fuels Day  
 a success by finding ways to carpool,  
 bicycle or just stay at home that day.

Join us in this effort and enlist  
 your friends and neighbors. Arrange  
 to carpool to work or to get-togethers.  
 Ride your bike. Walk. This is an oppor-  
 tunity to practice other ways of getting  
 around, ways that will reduce our need  
 to buy ever-more-expensive gasoline.  
 Timely? You bet. ■

**Earth Day Festival to Celebrate  
 Stewardship This April**

A **Watershed Festival** featuring  
 a portable living stream, envirosapes,  
 fresh water turtles, fishing games, and  
 pond dip-  
 ping, **Green  
 Olympics** that  
 includes recy-  
 cling games  
 and a solar  
 pizza box oven  
 competition,  
**live music**  
 featuring some  
 of the best  
 musicians in  
 WNC, a **Bulb  
 Exchange**  
 program to  
 help people  
 change out their coal  
 wasting incandescents to CFLs, a  
**children’s recycled art area, sus-  
 tainability workshops** on everything  
 from low cost solar to raising chickens  
 and beekeeping, **green vendors** from  
 throughout the region, **healthy food**  
 brought to you by the Hendersonville  
 Community Co-op, the awarding of  
 ECO’s first **Green Business Award**  
 and so much more. What’s not to like  
 about this year’s Earth Day Festival?

of our mountains. Students who have  
 been learning about climate change  
 and water quality can demonstrate  
 what  
 they’ve  
 learned  
 through  
 exhibits  
 that will  
 be dis-  
 played at  
 the festi-  
 val. Busi-  
 nesses  
 who have  
 taken  
 important  
 green  
 steps  
 forward can  
 discuss their efforts and one busi-  
 ness will be awarded the first annual  
 Green Business Award. And citizens  
 can learn how they can leave a smaller  
 footprint through a number of work-  
 shops held throughout the day. (see  
 the schedule of activities on p. 3.)  
 Join us to celebrate, reenergize,  
 and renew your commitment to natural  
 heritage stewardship. See you there! ■



Kids participate in the Green Olympics last year.

Earth Day is our chance to cel-  
 ebrate our successes and refocus the  
 community on celebrating stewardship

Join us to celebrate, reenergize,  
 and renew your commitment to natural  
 heritage stewardship. See you there! ■

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**ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION  
 & BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENT**

**EARTH DAY  
 2011 festival**  
**Sat. April 30**

celebrate stewardship  
 of our mountains...  
**10am-4pm BRCC Open Field**

**LIVE MUSIC  
 WATERSHED FESTIVAL  
 KIDS’ RECYCLING ART  
 GREEN VENDORS  
 HEALTHY FOOD  
 WORKSHOPS**

## Sustainability Workshops a Big Success

Three sold out workshops were held this winter led by environmental educator and radio personality Ned Doyle on low cost solar installations. Doyle discussed various options available for homeowners seeking to build their own solar thermal, photovoltaic cells or solar collector. Materials required, plans for building them, relative costs expended and saved were all discussed. Attendees seemed pleased that DIY options were available as energy costs continue to rise.

The second in ECO's sustainability sessions was presented by Chuck Marsh, a regional permaculture expert, whose presentation focused on building an edible backyard. Attendees were able to pre-order fruit or nut trees in advance from Marsh's nursery. Topics discussed included the corporatization of food and how communities and residents could retake their food supply through backyard gardens and community gardens.

Future sustainability workshops will include low cost wind power, a full day hands on workshop on building solar collectors and more. Check ECO's website for updated information.

### Green Business Award Kicks Off

As part of ECO's Earth Day Challenge, ECO has kicked off its first *Environmental Stewardship Award* to be presented to one area business that has taken substantial steps toward being green. Businesses who have taken positive steps forward will be presented with a Green Business decal that they can place in their store window to identify themselves.

Being a green business doesn't have to cost big bucks. Sourcing products locally, recycling and more all qualify for recognition. Join hundreds of local residents committed to patronizing local businesses! If you want to join this Earth Year challenge either as a consumer or a small business owner, please fill out the appropriate form that can now be found on ECO's website: [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org). ■

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Efficiency vs. Sustainability

By David Weintraub



It is almost environmental gospel that energy efficiency is the cornerstone of being truly green. To prove their green

chops, environmentalists buy hybrid cars, strive for tighter building envelopes in their homes, and they buy Energy Star appliances, among other things.

So, naturally after fuel efficiency standards kicked in during the 1970's, Americans now drive twice as much as they did in 1980 with 50 million more cars than people currently populating the country. As a result of improvements in refrigerator efficiency, consumers can now afford more and larger refrigerators, tapping the grid to the max in many areas. And because of improvements in airtightness, window performance, and insulation techniques, homeowners can now afford to build larger houses, hence the proliferation of McMansions.

This seeming contradiction was first formulated by William Stanley Jevons in 1885 when he noticed that as coal burning got more efficient,

people burned more coal. The "Jevons paradox" as it is now known, is the observation that greater energy efficiency, while in the short-run producing energy savings, may in the long-run result in higher energy use.

Although counter-intuitive at first, having a refrigerator that's 40% more efficient makes sense, but only if the new one isn't twice the size, stuffed with frozen foods shipped in from the four continents (or the old energy waster isn't in the basement continuing to suck on coal until the mountains are gone).

The bottomline is that as important as energy efficiency is, it will do little environmental good if we don't change the *consumption* end of the equation. As many folks are learning, a sustainable lifestyle can't be bought at the grocery store (or the car lot or through the real estate broker). It requires planning and foresight on living a life more in balance with the resources on a planet rapidly losing its flora and fauna.

ECO has begun running regular sustainability workshops to help our community better plan for becoming more self-reliant, while decreasing the footprint we leave behind. ■

### PASSIONATE ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANTED

Are you concerned about the health of our streams, the paucity of environmental policies, the level of convenient recycling available or our reliance on mountaintop removal coal? Would you like to see more of the local foodbasket filled with local foods? Would you like to live a more sustainable lifestyle more in tune with our natural heritage?

If you said YES to any of these questions, you qualify for a free, all expense paid journey into the wonderful

world of environmental volunteerism!

Come test and monitor our local streams. Come help advocate for better environmental rules. Join hundreds of other local residents who want to truly make a difference in the future of our community.

Sign up today, by calling ECO at 692-0385 or online at [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org) and tell us you are ready to take the plunge.

We promise an enthusiastic welcome, a never dull experience, and sometimes cookies! We're looking for ya. ■



## Join Us!



Help make a difference, join our committees! It's a great way to get involved!

- \_\_\_ Energy
- \_\_\_ Recycling
- \_\_\_ Events
- \_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_ Water Quality
- \_\_\_ Green Infrastructure
- \_\_\_ Marketing

### Please check your category of membership:

Corporate \$	_____	Maple	_____ \$65
Chestnut	_____ \$500 or more	Hemlock	_____ \$40
Sycamore	_____ \$250	Oak	_____ \$25
Dogwood	_____ \$100	Redbud(student)	_____ \$10

Please contact me about special funding opportunities

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail with your check to: **ECO, 121 Third Avenue West, Suite 4, Hendersonville, NC 28792 (828) 692-0385 or join online at [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org)**

### Logging Grows in Henderson County

Henderson County has seen an influx of timbering operations in the last several years. With the economic downturn and the freeze on development, timbering operations have increased by 200% since 2009 and they are projected to increase dramatically.

The acreage being logged ranges from from 4 to 320 acres. To initiate a logging operation, all a landowner need do is submit a forest management plan to the local NC Forest Service office in Mills River, NC, yet many aren't even doing that. Although the State of North Carolina has suggested best management practices (bmps) for landowners who log, there are no penalties for violating them and the State Division of Forest Resources has no enforcement capability. The result: damage to watersheds, the possibility of fomenting landslides, and the destruction of viewsheds.

What has particularly caught the ire of many Henderson County residents is that timbering need not follow village, municipal or county laws on tree protections by state law.

Several of these operations have been in constant violation of NC Forest Service standards with little recourse. When it rains in Henderson County, tons of sedimentation are flushed into the watersheds and are causing damage to our streams and rivers. ECO is holding a forum on timber operations on May 3rd at 7 pm at the Henderson County Library to educate the public on these issues. If you believe there needs to be a greater balance between property rights and tree protections, please join us for what will certainly be a provocative forum. If you want to make your voice heard on this issue, please sign our logging petition online at [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org). Please join us in the fight to protect our trees and waterways. ■

### Boylston Creek Is Boiling Over . . .

As ECO members and ECO Voice readers know, the North Carolina General Assembly is about to set a very bad precedent by attempting to prevent Boylston Creek from being classified as a trout stream even though it meets the trout stream standards under the Clean Water Act.

The trout stream designation would have little or no effect on current landowners or land use. Its main effect would be to insure that future landowners along Boylston Creek prevent further sedimentation of a stream that already has a number of sediment problems. The main way a stream is protected from increasing silt is through buffers, which is what the trout stream classification would require.

At press time, the NC House had already voted to prevent the classification and the NC Senate is expected to vote in kind. ECO supporters are requested to contact their state senators and to be ready to contact the governor to veto this harmful legislation.

Although it is likely that this bill will be overturned in court under the Clean Water Act, this could take many years. With increasing sedimentation in Boylston Creek, the question remains, will any native trout remain in the murky waters created by the worst environmental NC legislative session in recent memory? ■

## Are You Passionate About the Environment? Want to Make A Difference?

Become An ECO Volunteer!

No experience necessary.

Call us today: 692-0385



## RECYCLING COUNTY UPDATE



A lot has happened with solid waste issues in Henderson County during the last few months. As ECO has reported before, we were expecting a new recycling convenience center to be built as part of the transfer station improvement plan. In fact, we were promised things would be ready for a grand opening in April 2011. What happened? First of all, there was a change in the make-up of the county commission board, then there were delays because of the recession, and finally a flawed bidding process.

In January the commissioners decided to build in phases, and the new recycling center was taken off the table for phase I. Bad news for those of us who had worked so hard and waited so long for things to improve. Then, there was a reversal! In mid-February the commissioners figured that they would never get such a low construction bid again, and they moved forward with the entire plan. It was a split vote however, and the project just barely passed.

It was also touch-and-go for the new material recovery facility (MRF). At first the county talked about building and running a recycling processing facility themselves. Then the idea was to form a public-private partnership. Finally, after the county refused to invest any money in the project, American Recycling Co. agreed to open a MRF here all on their own. The facility, which is going into the old Cranston Printworks building in

Fletcher, should take approximately 9 months to open.

### Composting Bonanza

There was an overwhelming response to ECO's Composting Bonanza program on March 19th. By the number of people calling in to register, we realized the amount of interest was not only in small scale home composting, but also in



Brian Rosa measures out worms for worm bins at ECO's Composting Bonanza in March.

what's going on with large scale commercial composting. Due to a space limit of 30 for the worm-composting workshop, we have started a list of people who

want us to let them know the next time we offer one. If that applies to you too, please call the ECO office at 692-0385 to get on the list. ■

### Waste Reduction and Reuse - the first 2 of the 3Rs:

*Reduce Reuse Recycle.* Anyone wishing to participate in this new, more education-based focus can join the Recycling Committee at their regular meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30.

## RELOOKING AT THE NUCLEAR OPTION

As the world watches Japan, the recent push to build new reactors around

the globe is being called into question. In the U.S., Congressman Ed Markey released a press statement urging national attention to this issue and sent a letter to President Obama, urging him to halt all new nuclear projects until a top-to-bottom assessment of our emergency preparedness is evaluated, structural reinforcements are retrofitted on existing reactors and all threats from earthquakes to terrorism are fully evaluated.

Of greatest concern to Congressman Markey is the apparent lack of agreement by federal agencies as to which one is responsible for emergency response in the event of a nuclear disaster. He writes: "a review of internal documents made public through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by Inside EPA indicates that it appears that no agency sees

itself as clearly in command of emergency response in a nuclear disaster. These materials indicate that: EPA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are not in agreement about which Federal agency would lead efforts to respond to and clean up a large-scale radiation release caused by an accident at or attack on a nuclear reactor."

While the worsening situation in Japan may cause major concern for many, Tom Fanning (chief executive of Southern Company) expects that plans to build two new reactors at Plant Vogtle in Georgia will continue on schedule and says that Southern Company remains committed to building the proposed \$14 billion reactors.

We will continue to hold Japan in our hearts and minds as we monitor further developments. ■  
Source: *Southern Alliance for Clean Energy*



The containment at the damaged nuclear power plant releases a dangerous plume.



### Did You Know?

Hendersonville Community Co-op customers can recycle their clean #5 plastics at the Co-op (such as yogurt containers)

The Coop can be reached at [www.hendersonville.coop](http://www.hendersonville.coop)

Check out our website!  
[www.ECO-WNC.org](http://www.ECO-WNC.org)



## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL GREEN BUSINESS

### Appetite for A Healthier Home

#### Recipe for trouble:

- Start with building codes weak on home conditions of comfort, efficiency, and air quality.
- Apply unfortunate measures of sloppy workmanship.
- Allow maintenance tasks to escape your attention.
- Beat the home for many years with wind, water, and gravity.

#### The result:

\$400 per month energy bills. Mold. Sick house syndrome. Too hot, cold, drafty, damp, dry, or dusty. Energy wasted. Dollars being wasted. Let's change recipes. Call in an

energy auditor to evaluate the situation. Rick Bayless, owner of "A Healthier Home" in Hendersonville, can diagnose conditions of efficiency, health, comfort, safety, indoor air quality, sustainability and affordability.



Bayless assisting a homeowner with a duct problem.

"Every homeowner is surprised to find how many items they could improve upon. I help them find the source of the problem and then find an affordable, effective fix. Homeowners have fun attending my work-

shops as many of these fixes are do-it-yourself tasks." Such an assessment can help you find where to best apply your time, efforts, and dollars to make yours A Healthier Home. Rick Bayless can be contacted at 243-5192 or [www.rickbaylesshealthyhome.com](http://www.rickbaylesshealthyhome.com)

## In support of ECO,

RBC Bank is proud to offer all current ECO members a free checking account, with free basic checks, free online services, and a free 3 x 5 safety deposit box (while supplies last). This offer is available at the Hendersonville location only. Please call (828) 698-6020 to speak with a banker for additional features, details and conditions.

RBC Bank®

# ECO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April-June 2011

**Board meetings** are held the fourth Thursday of each month, 12:00 - 1:30 pm. Committee meetings are as follows:

**Recycling Committee:** 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm ♦ **Water Quality Committee:** 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 pm

**Energy Committee:** 2nd Thursday, 4 pm ♦ **Green Infrastructure Committee:** 3rd Thursday, 4pm

All meetings are held at the ECO office: 121 Third Ave West, Hendersonville. Visitors are welcome.

### APRIL

Fri 1 **April Fuels Day.** Commit to walk, bicycle, or carpool as a first step towards cutting our community's carbon footprint. Contact ECO for more information.

Sat. 9 **Guided Bird Walk.** 9 am. Hendersonville. Co-sponsored by ECO and Henderson County Bird Club, *Jackson Park, Hville*

26-28 **Kids in the Creek at Apple Valley Middle School.** Help teach middle schoolers the basic of water quality. Volunteers needed! Call 691-0385 to volunteer. A cooperative effort between the Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Project and ECO

Sat. 30 **Earth Day Festival.** 10-4 at Blue Ridge Community College Open Field. This free day-long festival will celebrate stewardship of our mountains with a watershed festival, green olympics, sustainability workshops, live music, green vendors, great food and much more.

### MAY



Tues. 3 **Forum: Should Logging be Regulated?** 7 pm. Discussion of the the state of logging in WNC and the lack of regulations that protect propertyowners and ecosystems. *Henderson County Public Library*

Sat. 9 **Guided Bird Walk.** 9 am. Hendersonville. Co-sponsored by ECO and Henderson County Bird Club, *Jackson Park, Hville*

Tue. 17 **Low-Cost and DIY Solar Workshop.** 6:30 pm. Going solar doesn't have to be expensive! Expert Ned Doyle shows how to build simple solar panels to heat water or rooms and how to design entry-level photovoltaic systems. Pre-registration required with suggested donation of \$15. For reservations call ECO. *ECO Conference Room*

Sat. 21 **Reckoning in Appalachia: The Roadmap to a Clean Energy Future.** 10 am. featuring author Jeff Biggers as part of the Blue Ridge Book Fair. Sponsored by ECO at Blue Ridge Community College. *Killian Building, BRCC*

### JUNE

Tues. 7 **Low-Cost Wind Power Workshop.** 6:30 pm. Learn how to build your own small scale wind power device under the masterful instruction of local expert and *Back Home* magazine publisher, Richard Freudenberg. Pre-registration required. Suggestion donation: \$15. *ECO Conference Room*

Sat. 12 **Guided Bird Walk.** 9 am, Cosponsored by ECO and Henderson County Bird Club. *Jackson Park, Hville*

**MORE UPCOMING ... Marvelous Malarkey this summer, Green Home Tour in August**



## EARTH DAY FESTIVAL - Schedule of Events

(All events at BRCC Open Field, Rain Location: Blue Ridge Conference Hall)

### Ongoing Events (10-4)

#### • Water Festival

- Water Cycle Activity
- Build your own solar oven!
- Go Fishing
- What lives in a pond?
- Stormwater: Where does it go?
- A Living Stream
- Live animals
- Enviroscape
- Water Chemistry

#### • Green Olympics

#### • Art with Recycled Materials

#### • Bulb Exchange Program

### • Sustainability Workshops

11:00	Raising Chickens Carolyn Evans	12:30	Ellen Trnka
12:00	Intro to Low Cost Solar Ned Ryan Doyle	1:30	Tom Fisch
1:00	"Neighbor Saves" Program Matt Siegel	2:30	Flat Rock Playhouse Youtheatre, "Rising Stars" Skit and songs
2:00	Our Energy Future Panel Discussion	3:00	Jenny Arch & Friends
3:00	Beekeeping 101 Michele Skeele	4:00	Closing, Gratitudes

### MUSIC STAGE Entertainment

10:00	Musical Blessing, Michele Skeele
10:20	Atomic Sisterhood
10:30	Straight from the Heart- Pam/ Don McMahon
11:30	Carol Deurmit & Steve Whiteside

**Food Provided by Hendersonville Community Co-op**

Sponsored by *RBC Bank, Pardee Hospital, HPC Printing, Carolina First, Mast General Store, Bold Life, Hville Tree Board, Friends of WNC Nature Center and many others.* ■

## ECO's Water Quality Work Protecting Our Watersheds

Just as the time change has just sprung us forward to more evening daylight, the coming of spring brings out ECO's biomonitoring volunteers in April to do the "River Dance". Here at ECO, thirty-two veteran biomonitoring volunteers are practiced at kicking and disturbing a stream bottom to loosen rocks. They have their sampling nets ready to be tilted into the stream flow. The small animals without backbones (macroinvertebrates) that live amongst those rocks and sediment flow into their nets. Then carefully the volunteers identify and count the types of macroinvertebrates that they find.

Populations of fish and aquatic insects respond to changes in water quality and water quantity. Through the examination of organisms that inhabit streams, valuable information about stream health is provided. When a large number of different macroinvertebrates inhabit a stream or when those macroinvertebrates are particularly intolerant to pollution, the stream is considered to be healthy. Healthy streams support diverse populations of organisms with specific requirements, such as high dissolved

oxygen, low temperature and a stream bottom with crevices. An assessment of stream health, therefore, must consider the stream's natural setting as well as how human activities have changed it. ECO volunteers are trained in habitat assessment as a part of the SMIE protocol. Because vegetation near a stream greatly influences its health, determining the type and amount of this riparian (stream bank) vegetation is one of the most important components of a stream health assessment. Riparian vegetation influences aquatic habitat and stream quality by acting as a filter to help keep sediment and other pollutants out of streams. Shade from nearby trees and bushes keeps stream waters cool and provide an energy source to aquatic organisms.

While this is the season for collecting, sorting and identifying macroinvertebrates, other water quality programs such as Adopt-A-Stream push on with their work. They will be walking along their streams to assess the habitat and the state of their stream segments just as Trinity Presbyterian did just a few weeks ago. The newest of the Adopt-A-Stream teams will be

good stewards of Brittain Creek. The future of the Henderson County water quality lies in each community becoming stewards of their own streams.

This spring we welcome the new volunteers that will join expert biomonitors in the process of discovering stream life in Henderson County. ECO relies on volunteers for sampling and gathering information on our waterways in Henderson County. There are several ways to get involved. Our Adopt-A-Stream (AAS), Stream Watch Action Teams (SWAT) and Stream Monitoring Information Exchange (biological) monitoring programs are always looking for interested volunteers. Before we know it, it will be time for Big Sweep.

### Sign Up for Biomonitoring !

Join a biomonitoring team today and help us assess the life of our streams. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Contact Kat Freeman at (828) 692-0385 for more information. Materials about the program can be found at [www.eco-wnc.org](http://www.eco-wnc.org)