



## *What is a Green School and how you can be part of the Initiative?*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Connecting Florida in the Classroom</i>	2
<i>Species Spotlight</i>	2
<i>Recycled News for Environmental Clubs</i>	2
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	3
<i>The Green Bookshelf</i>	3
<i>Environmental Resources</i>	3
<i>Sunflower Seedlings</i>	4

In general, a majority of schools consume a large amount of natural resources. These include water, food, and paper. Schools also generate waste, use pesticides, and contribute to the loss of wildlife habitat. A Green School is not only a school that improves education about energy, but also saves money on energy costs by employing energy efficient techniques.

If you are interested in converting to a more green school lifestyle, start on a small scale by choosing a few ideas from the "Greening your School" checklist. Create a compost pile for food scraps or adopt an area on school grounds to plant a butterfly garden.

Find ways to reduce paper in your class by printing on both sides or using online forms. Provide a bin to recycle unused paper and magazines. If your school does not have a recycling program, see if you can start one.

Eventually work your way up towards completing the 7 Steps to a Green School and the other items on the green school checklist.

Check out what the Illinois EPA is doing with green school programs by visiting [www.epa.state.il.us/p2/green-schools](http://www.epa.state.il.us/p2/green-schools)



*Green School International Logo*

- 7 Steps To a Green School (Adapted from Eco-Schools)**
1. Establish a Green Committee
  2. Create a mission statement
  3. Conduct an Energy Audit
  4. Create an Action Plan
  5. Monitor and Evaluate
  6. Incorporate Green Education into the curriculum
  7. Inform the Community & Celebrate !

### Points of Interest

- Find out about Green Schools
- Start an Environmental Club at your school
- Share your green story
- Help Promote Environmental Literacy
- Attend environmental workshops or events
- Discover Free resources

## *Recognizing Green Educators*



Send us information on what you are doing at your school to make it a "greener" place. In 100 words or less, explain what you have done to increase biodiversity, reduce energy consumption, or any other action to enhance the environment. Please include a digital photo

of you or your classroom.

Submit articles via e-mail: [Marcia.Anderson@ocfl.net](mailto:Marcia.Anderson@ocfl.net)

## Connecting Florida in the Classroom:

Native bees are an important part of the environment. They are responsible for pollinating a variety of flowers as well as the fruits and vegetables we eat. Unfortunately, many bees are decreasing in populations due to habitat fragmentation, pesticides, and disease.



*Every third bite of food that you take was pollinated by a honeybee.*

In Florida, there are 29 endemic bee species. Eight of these are parasitic and 21 are pollen-collecting species. All of the bee families, except for Melittidae, include Florida bees. Five taxa are in the family Andrenidae (mining bees), five taxa are in Apidae (honey

and bumble bees), five taxa are in Colletidae (plasterer bees), nine taxa are in Halictidae (metallic bees), and five taxa are in Megachilidae (solitary bees). A variety of lesson plans incorporating bees and other pollinators have been developed to enhance science classes.

For elementary students there are Schoolyard Wildlife Standards-based FCAT-Style Activities from Project Wild. Lessons pertinent to Florida pollinators include: "All in the Daisy Family" and "Will You BEE My Favorite Flower."

These activities include exercises in science, math and writing. The Web site is listed in the Environmental Resources section on page 3.

For Middle and High School students, there is a curriculum developed by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).

Other ideas include: joining the Great Sunflower Project where you can sign up your school, receive and plant sunflowers and monitor bees. Your class can design and plant a bee/butterfly garden or build a nesting block for bees.

## Recycled News: Start an Environmental Club

### Things to Do:

- \*Develop a Nature Trail
  - \*School-wide recycling
  - \*Letter writing campaign
  - \*Environ. Career Day
  - \*Have a book reading
- .....and much more

An Environmental Club can provide an abundance of opportunities for students such as exploring environmental issues on school campus, providing solutions to environmental problems, and promoting environmental literacy. If you do not currently have an Environmental Curriculum, a club would be a good forum for Environmental Education.

If you are just beginning a club, the first step you may need to do is write a proposal that will outline the club's purpose, activities, and any needs from the administration. Be sure to review all policies related to extracurricular activities, especially field trip information.

The next step would be to create an organizational structure which would include the

club's mission, membership information, fees, logos, and duties of elected officers.

Finally, recruit members with a kick-off meeting to discuss plans for the year. Plan on your meeting days and times. Active groups do well when they meet every 2 weeks. For more information, check out the Environmental Resources Section on page 3.

## Species Spotlight: Gopherus polyphemus



*Gopher tortoise out for a stroll at Wekiva State Park*

The gopher tortoise is the only remaining land tortoise in the Southeastern United States. Land Development and roadways threaten to damage the natural population of this animal.

The gopher tortoise is one of the most important species in

Florida because they are a keystone species that affect other animals, either directly or indirectly. It is also a species of special concern.

The gopher tortoise creates deep burrows or tunnels that offer shelter and protection to itself and other species such as

the Florida Mouse, Gopher Frog and Indigo Snake.

Florida law prohibits the taking, possession, sale, or purchase of a gopher tortoise without a permit.

## *The Green Bookshelf: Environmental Literature Review* *A Land Remembered by Patrick D. Smith*

*A Land Remembered* is a historical novel that tells the story of one family's journey from Georgia to Florida. It is a fictional novel set in pioneer Florida around the mid 1800's.

Prepare to meet the lively character of Zech MacIvey and travel with him as he and his family rise from the trials of cracker life to the riches of real estate.

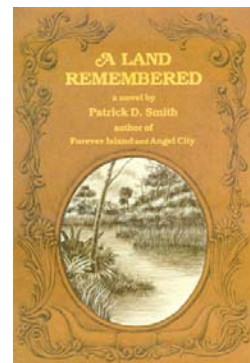
This novel has been used in many schools to help teach about Florida history and

literature. For middle school children, the book has been broken down into 2 volumes.

A Teaching Manual, coordinated with the Sunshine State Standards is also offered for both elementary and middle school ages. You can order these manuals, books and other educational resources online at the Patrick Smith Web site:

[www.patricksmithonline.com/schools.html](http://www.patricksmithonline.com/schools.html)

If you have a suggestion for The Green Bookshelf send us the title, author and a brief summary of the book that explains how it is important to the environment.



*A Land Remembered by Patrick D. Smith*

## *Dates to Remember:*

**June is Great Outdoors and American Rivers Month.**

**June 21** Thunder Bumpers at the Tibet-Butler Preserve. Call (407) 876-6696 to reserve a space.

**June 24-30 Pollinator Week**  
[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

**June 28** Great American Backyard Campout  
[www.nwf.org/backyardcampout](http://www.nwf.org/backyardcampout)

**July is Lakes Appreciation Month**

**July 6-10** Summer Seas Teacher Workshop in Tampa  
[www.flaquarium.org](http://www.flaquarium.org)

**July 7-11** Florida celebrates International Year of the Reef.

**August 20-22** Florida's Wildlife: On the Frontline of Climate Change in Orlando.  
[www.ces.fau.edu/floc](http://www.ces.fau.edu/floc)

**Teacher Workshop on the Everglades:** Fall of 2008. Contact Alana Edwards at (561) 799-8462 for more info.

**September 19-21** Clean up the World Weekend  
[www.cleanuptheworld.org](http://www.cleanuptheworld.org)

**September 27** National Public Lands Day  
[www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)

Find more workshops and dates listed on the League of Environmental Educators in Florida Web site: [www.leef-florida.org](http://www.leef-florida.org)

## *Environmental Resources:*

*All resources and more will be listed on our main Web site at [www.orangecountyfl.net/epd](http://www.orangecountyfl.net/epd)*

**Environmental Clubs:**  
[www.eclsinc.org/id46.html](http://www.eclsinc.org/id46.html)

**Green Schools:**  
[www.greenschools.net/index.html](http://www.greenschools.net/index.html)

**Carbon Calculator for Schools:** [www.earthteam.net/GWCampaign/calculate.html](http://www.earthteam.net/GWCampaign/calculate.html)

**FREE DOWNLOAD**  
**Climate Change Curriculum Unit for Grades 9-12:**  
[www.facingthefuture.org/Home/CurriculumDetails/tabid/131/Default.aspx?ItemID=CCHS](http://www.facingthefuture.org/Home/CurriculumDetails/tabid/131/Default.aspx?ItemID=CCHS)

- BEE Links**
- [www.greatsunflower.org](http://www.greatsunflower.org)
  - [myfwc.com/educatorfriendlyactivities.htm](http://myfwc.com/educatorfriendlyactivities.htm)
  - [www.nappc.org/curriculum](http://www.nappc.org/curriculum)
  - [chiron.valdosta.edu/jbpascar/Intro.htm](http://chiron.valdosta.edu/jbpascar/Intro.htm)

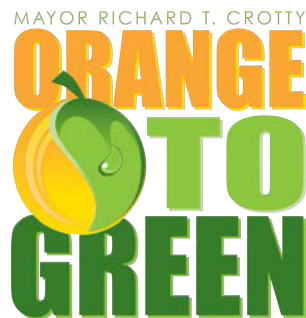


Listen to radio programs at [www.FloridaEnvironment.com/radio.htm](http://www.FloridaEnvironment.com/radio.htm)

## Orange County Environmental Protection Division

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If you would like this newsletter e-mailed to you directly, please send your information to Marcia Anderson Clark via e-mail to [Marcia.Anderson@ocfl.net](mailto:Marcia.Anderson@ocfl.net)



Please help us improve this newsletter by taking a brief [survey](#). Visit [www.orangecountyfl.net/epd](http://www.orangecountyfl.net/epd) and click on the [Education Information](#) link on the left.

### Do you know what your lake is doing?

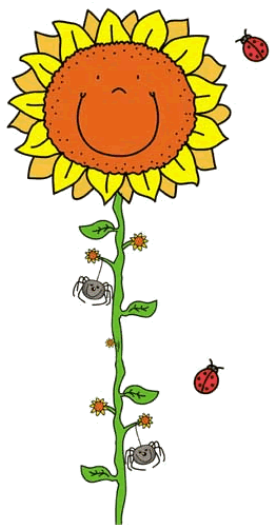
Check out the Orange County Water Atlas: a gateway to information that helps citizens and scientists make informed decisions concerning Orange County's Natural Resources.

Visit the Web site at [www.orange.wateratlas.org](http://www.orange.wateratlas.org)

### *The Orange to Green Initiative:*

On July 19, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution to join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, run by the premiere organization assisting local governments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions: the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). As a participant, Orange County pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change. Orange County has developed and is implementing a Climate Change Plan for our government operations. A community-wide plan is now under development. For more information, visit [www.orangecountyfl.net/orangetogreen](http://www.orangecountyfl.net/orangetogreen)

## *Sunflower Seedlings— Environmental Education for Elementary Students*



*Ideas to stimulate the growth  
of younger minds*

Featured in their Spring 2008 newsletter, Facing the Future has developed a curriculum unit for the elementary grades: Teaching Global Sustainability in the Primary Grades (TGSPG). This resource aims to teach core concepts in sustainability for students in grades K-4.

The guidebook is composed of four lessons that teach the topics of biodiversity, food, identity and culture. A variety of teaching methods are used such as art, singing, writing, role-playing, stories, and simulations.

Features of TGSPG include: teacher background reading, hands-on activities, vocabulary, service learning projects and assessment scoring. Students will demonstrate understanding of the material at the end of each lesson by a presentation or other assignment. Preview the first lesson by visiting:

[www.facingthefuture.org/  
portals/0/skins/ftfskin1//  
Home/PurchaseCurriculum/  
tabid/59/Default.aspx](http://www.facingthefuture.org/portals/0/skins/ftfskin1//Home/PurchaseCurriculum/tabid/59/Default.aspx)

