



The Kids Ecology Corps

Inspiring young people to make environmental action part of their every day lives and in the lives of those around them

Summer 2008 Newsletter

The Kids Ecology Corps
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www.kidsecologycorps.org

KEC Highlights photos...



KEC's newest Board Member and Treasurer, Shaun Bamforth

Sea oat planting with Minority Development & Empowerment campers



"Kids Go Green" contest judges hold up winning posters

Mahogany tree planting at Carol City Elementary in Miami-Dade



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a program of Partners in Action, Inc.

Greetings from The Kids Ecology Corps

From the Desk of:

Emily Nell Lagerquist, Executive Director

As we approach the last days of summer, we at the Kids Ecology Corps would like to share with you some of our recent work. Since the beginning of 2008, staff and volunteers have been busy in schools and in the community. We started the new year with the completion and production of our DVD **Plant Trees Sturdy for the Birdies**. Since then, over 2,000 school children viewed the video and were educated about the benefits and care of native trees.

With a generous grant from the Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation, we are offering more programs in the Palm Beach County area. Starting in January, young people at the Milagro Center, an afterschool program in Delray Beach, learned about various environmental issues and identified simple actions they could take to care for our Earth. Through various art media, older students wrote a play about caring for our oceans and performed it for the younger students, staff and volunteers.

In June, we started working with the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County. The com-

bined ecology, character education and art program reached 45 middle school students at the Delray Beach, Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach facilities. Another highlight was our participation in the Fairchild Tropical Garden's Challenge Immersion Day. For details, turn to page 2.

We especially want to thank our corporate and community partners and sponsors: Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation, South Florida Water Management District, BMW Mini Cooper, Office Depot, Home Depot, Pizza Fusion, ArtServe, A.D. Henderson, Minority Development & Empowerment Inc. and residents of the Renaissance Ocean Condominium Association. A **big thank you** to new and old volunteers for your continuing dedication and perseverance.

Please also join us in welcoming **Mr. Shaun Bamforth** onto the KEC Board and congratulating our longtime Board Member, Dr. Jaap Vos, on his new position as Vice Chairperson of the KEC Board. Please visit our website for more about the KEC Board and staff. We hope to see you soon at our next eco-event! 🌱

KEC and Tri-Rail partner with "Kids Go Green" Contest

Tri-Rail and The Kids Ecology Corps partnered to educate and inspire South Florida's youth about what they can do to help the environment and cut down on greenhouse gases with the "Kids Go Green" poster contest, for grades 6 through 8 in all three counties.

Tri-Rail representatives and KEC staff visited schools in Broward, Palm Beach and Dade Counties to educate students about the positive impact public transportation has on the environment.

More than 200 students participated in this contest for the chance to win \$250 and a Family Adventure at Billie Swamp Safari with swamp buggy rides, Seminole story-telling and more.

Middle school students Sergio Avila of New River Middle School in Broward County (seen below), Jasmin Tello and Corey Smith of Carol City Elementary

School in Miami-Dade County and Carmen Chapparo of Jupiter Middle School in Palm Beach County were selected as the winners of the contest by a panel of judges.

"Best in Show" recognition was awarded to Jordan Lane-Palmer of Bak Middle School of the Arts (Palm Beach County). 🌱



From front to back: Executive Director Emily Nell Lagerquist, The Kids Ecology Corps, and Broward County contest winner Sergio Avila, New River Middle School with the SFRTA Governing Board (SFRTA Executive Director Joseph Giullietti, Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, Commissioner Jeff Koons, Bill Smith, Jr., Commissioner Josephus Eggleston, Jr., Gerry O'Reilly and George Morgan, Jr.).

Creating awareness with “Climate Change in South Florida” Workshops

Capt. Dan Kipnis, Alison Ponn, Debra Miller and Eric Haley of Deerfield’s Pizza Fusion



KEC began its new series of workshops “Climate Change in South Florida” in February. National Wildlife Federation speaker Capt. Dan Kipnis was well received by over 100 middle and high school students, their families and teachers. As a Global Warming Ambassa-

dor of the National Wildlife Federation, Capt. Dan has been giving his dynamic presentation on climate change to hundreds of schools and other organizations across the country with special emphasis on the impact of climate change on our coastal communities and the acidification of our oceans.

Additional guest speakers included Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, Mayor Scott Newton of Wilton Manors and Mayor Peter Bober of Hollywood. Supper was

generously donated by Pizza Fusion and Victoria Park Diner with additional donations by Albertson’s.

Capt. Dan graciously presented a second successful workshop in March to students and teachers at North Broward Preparatory School in Coconut Creek.

KEC’s third workshop focused on “green” LEED-certified buildings (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*). Speakers included Marvin Scharf of IBI Group, LEED-certified engineer Brian Lo-

mel of TLC Engineers and LEED-certified architect John Garra of Square One Architecture, responsible for the LEED design of the local Pizza Fusion sites.

The primary participants of these events were teachers, middle and high school students, parents and community members. The focus of these programs was to raise awareness about the current changes to our environment and the actions young people and community members can take to become stewards of Florida’s environment. 🌍

KEC participates in Fairchild Garden’s “Environmental Immersion Day”

In March, KEC organized the first Environmental Immersion Day in Broward County for the Fairchild Challenge, formerly held only in Miami-Dade County. This intensive education and action event was held at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach.

Students were hand-picked to participate from South Plantation High School and Pembroke Pines Charter High School. The day-long program featured a unique tour of the Oceanographic Center at NOVA U. and participation in habitat restoration projects in the park.

Park Naturalists Carmelo Duesler and Roger Green took the students on a tour of the seven plant communities within the park and explained actions being taken to protect the coast line. Ranger Mary Brown showed students some of the restoration projects currently under way.

Park Naturalist Dan Szopinski educated students on endangered ecosystems and KEC Staffer Maria Marchegiani led a discussion with the participants about the ways they can become environmental leaders in their schools and communities.

Students were able to experience restoration first-hand by planting mangrove trees along the banks of the Intracoastal.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden holds their “Fairchild Challenge” annually, offering South Florida students in middle and high school the opportunity to attend this competitive, multi-disciplinary environmental experience. For more info, visit them at www.fairchildgarden.org. 🌍



North Fork students ensure future habitats by planting mangroves



Walker Dunn and student Jason Watson

Sixty students from North Fork Elementary Marine Science Magnet School in Fort Lauderdale participated once again in mangrove plantings with KEC staff and volunteers. This is the third year that KEC and North Fork Elementary School have partnered to plant mangroves along the New River’s north fork that runs behind the school. Students planted 300 baby mangrove trees along the banks of the New River’s north fork, strengthening

the banks’ walls with the native tree’s sturdy root system and restoring a natural habitat for local fish and wildlife.

Thanks goes to North Fork Elementary’s generous and supportive staff including Principal Ms. Rendolyn Amaker, Magnet Coordinator Mary Lou Soucy and Science Teacher Ross Minott.

Additional thanks to Walker Dunn of the IBI Group who designed the project, coordinated the funds from South Florida Water Management District and helped the North Fork students on the day of planting. 🌍



The Kids Ecology Corps

www.kidsecologycorps.org

KEC honored for its environmental works with two eco-awards

Recently, The Kids Ecology Corps received two environmental awards for their eco-action projects in South Florida.

The first award was presented by **The National Week of the Ocean**, a 25-year old Fort Lauderdale-based marine education program, to KEC for its multi-city sea oat planting/dune restoration project. In total, nearly 200 youth volunteers planted 60,000 sea oats along Hallandale and Dania beaches in 2007 and 2008, effectively creating a stronger coastline for Florida's future.

For more info on waterway cleanups and

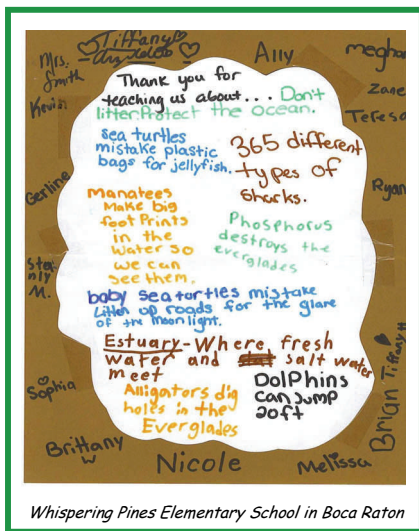
marine fairs, visit their website: www.national-week-of-the-ocean.org.

Next, the Florida Urban Forestry Council and The International Society of Arboriculture Florida Chapter joined together to present to our Executive Director Emily Lagerquist the **2008 Trees Florida: Outstanding Individual Award**. Emily accepted the award on behalf of KEC staff, board and volunteers for a decade of promoting urban forestry by distributing and/or planting over 6,100 trees in Florida. 🌍



Emily accepts award for KEC at the National Week of the Ocean event

From the Mail Box:



Whispering Pines Elementary School in Boca Raton

Best Buy partners to protect Florida's habitats

Volunteer employees from Best Buy teamed up with KEC's staff to help protect one of Florida's natural habitats by removing invasive plants at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton. Last year, Best Buy employees helped out planting hundreds of sea oats at John U Lloyd Park.

This was Best Buy's third sponsored volunteer event with The Kids Ecology Corps. Employees from their local corporate offices give their time at a park or beach in need. In total, Best Buy has donated over 80 volunteer hours to support KEC's environmental programs and projects in South Florida.

This volunteer community action project is part of the Best Buy Tag Team Program, a company-wide initiative supporting local non-profit children's organizations nationwide. 🌍



Staffer Lee Gottlieb with the Best Buy Team

Yes I want to make our world a better place!

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____
 HOME PHONE _____
 MOBILE PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

- Sign me up for KEC email information and event alerts.
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with KEC.
- I am interested in sponsorship opportunities with KEC.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

Please make your checks payable to KEC or charge your credit card:

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For alternative methods of making your gift, please contact Emily Lagerquist, Executive Director, at kec@kidsecologycorps.org or phone 954-524-0366.



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a program of Partners in Action, Inc.

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About Us

The Kids Ecology Corps is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make Environmental Action part of their every day lives and in the lives of those around them.

With a small staff and dedicated volunteer Eco-Presenters, KEC has reached over 60,000 young people from pre-k through high school. We present engaging stories and information about current environmental topics such as: global climate change, water conservation, pollution prevention, urban forestation and the condition of our oceans. No other organization in Southeast Florida covers the spectrum of environmental issues we do, offering young people face-to-face interactive presentations and impactful eco-action events. Our programs are tailored to both class size and students' ages. These experiences are fun and compelling! Following are some examples of our live programs:

Nature's Way of Recycling – A stimulating game to learn the basics of reducing garbage and preserving our natural resources.

Wild Things Around Us – Kids learn about South Florida animals and how to protect their habitat.

Oceans Blue: The Mystery of the Reef – An interactive play that teaches young people how our actions on land impact the health of our oceans.

Kids Care about Our Trees – Kids learn about the importance of trees and the differences between native, exotic and invasive plants.

Wonderful Water – Fun, hands-on experiments plus a fact-filled presentation about the importance of water in our lives.

Keep It Cool—educates young people about climate change, recycling and sources of energy. Kids perform simple audits of their behaviors and surroundings that affect energy consumption.

We touch even more young people in the USA and around the world via our website www.kidsecologycorps.org. In fact, about 50% of those who access our website are Kids Ecology Corps members from countries in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. 🌍

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