



Energy Oscars

Jackson County students enjoyed the "red-carpet treatment" at the Energy Oscars, which honored excellence in producing videos about the value of saving energy.

Jackson Energy Cooperative and PRIDE unfurled the red carpet on April 30 at the Jackson County Area Technology Center to premiere four videos that promote energy efficiency with great creativity and persuasiveness.

The special guests were the students from Annville Christian Academy, McKee Elementary School, Sand Gap Elementary School and Tyner Elementary School who created the videos, along with their teachers and families.

The students crafted scripts about why and how to use energy wisely. They acted out the scripts to produce two-minute videos. Jackson Energy edited the videos and made them available to the public at <http://www.myjacksonenergy.com>. The videos also will be broadcast by PRTC on the local cable channel 9.

Wonda Hammons, who is the Jackson County PRIDE Environmental Education Liaison, advised students at all four schools about the energy issues in their videos.



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Homegrown Kentucky

Owsley County students and residents will soon enjoy a community garden, thanks to the innovative Homegrown Kentucky project, which seeks to expand into other counties.

The garden is located at Owsley County High School, where there is a substantial amount of tillable land. Students have been working in the garden, which allows for hands-on learning activities in subjects ranging from home economics to agriculture to math.

The garden is being expanded for educational, economic and public health purposes. It will provide fresh produce for the elementary, middle and high school, with surplus food taken home by students. Community members may apply for a plot and then receive seeds, guidance and access to equipment at no cost. Community members and older students are encouraged to make money by selling produce at the farmers' market.

The agencies partnering to develop the garden are:

- University of Kentucky's Homegrown Kentucky Student Group
- Owsley County Board of Education
- Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
- Owsley County Conservation District
- University of Kentucky Extension Service

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KAEE Conference

"Creating Balance" will be the theme of the 2012 annual conference of the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, which will be held at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, Sept. 14-15.

This family-friendly event will feature informative sessions and workshops for you, as well as hands-on activities for your children. The Outstanding Environmental Education Awards will be presented.

New this year, the Southeast Environmental Education Alliance will hold its first conference in conjunction with the KAEE conference.

Learn more at <http://kaee.org/conference/>.

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PRIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OUTREACH

2011-2012: 36,825 students learned with PRIDE

Nature came to life in classrooms across southern and eastern Kentucky during this school year, thanks to the PRIDE Environmental Education Outreach Program.

The program sent 15 environmental education liaisons into schools in 22 counties, reaching a total of 36,825 students between September 2011 and May 2012.

The liaisons' goal was to help students prepare for state science tests and develop life-long environmental stewardship skills.

They taught lessons and led hands-on activities that covered a span of environmental topics including energy, botany, ecosystems, wildlife concepts, solid waste and water quality. They partnered with teachers to complement their classroom instruction.

The liaisons focused on 3rd, 4th and 5th-grade classes. They also worked with all grade levels involved in PRIDE Clubs, which explore environmental issues and perform community service.

Liaisons also helped with a variety of special projects in their community. For example, the McCreary County liaison, Amanda Wilson, helped the county launch its recycling program by visiting all schools to demonstrate why and how to recycle.

"Students really turn on when PRIDE liaisons lead hands-on activities that bring to life lessons they've been learning in class," said PRIDE's Tammie Wilson. "Environmental education is a great tool for practicing a variety of skills, from math to problem-solving."

"Teacher evaluations of the liaisons were excellent and showed great interest in continuing the program," Wilson said. "I want to thank our liaisons, who are so creative and enthusiastic. They enjoy interacting with students and teaming with teachers."

"We are grateful to the local governments, school boards, utility companies and others who sponsored the program in their counties, as well as the superintendents, principals and teachers who welcomed PRIDE into their schools this year," Wilson added. "You are to be commended for investing in your students and our environment."

PRIDE offers the outreach program in its 38-county service area. In each county, local leaders pay a fee, based on student population, to enroll their schools.

Enroll now for 2012-2013

Now is the time to make sure a PRIDE liaison visits your classroom next year! PRIDE soon will mail letters to county judge-executives, mayors and superintendents, inviting them to join the PRIDE outreach program for the 2012-2013 school year. Please talk to your superintendent and local officials to express your enthusiastic support for enrolling.

To learn more, please call the PRIDE office at 888.577.4339 (toll free) or send an e-mail to PRIDE@centertech.com.

Two liaisons hired this spring

To meet the liaisons who began last fall, visit <http://kypride.org/?p=1453>

Alger Jent - Knox County & Barbourville Independent Schools



A native of Perry County, Alger grew up exploring nature, and he developed a life-long fascination with man's relationship with the environment. He earned a Bachelors degree in Secondary Science Education at the University of Kentucky. He has worked as a supervisor in the mining industry, and he currently is a clinical substance abuse counselor in Corbin.

Alger worked with 2,331 students after he was hired as a liaison in February.

We thank our program partners: Knox County Fiscal Court and Cumberland Valley Electric.

Mary Hampton - Harlan County & Harlan Independent Schools



Mary gained experience supporting educators during the years she was an award-winning volunteer in Harlan Independent Schools while her twins, Eric and Aaron, were students there. She is a life-long resident of Harlan County.

We thank our partners: Harlan County Fiscal Court, Cumberland Valley Electric, Don's Super Saver and Harlan County Conservation District.

Energy Oscars (continued from front page)

"We've gathered here this evening to honor you, our Jackson County students and teachers, for your creative minds and 'on-a-shoestring' video production skills," said PRIDE's Mark Davis, who co-hosted the awards program.

"Because of you, more families will know how to hang onto their money with simple energy-savings tips, and our community will be a greener, more energy-efficient place to live," Davis said.

"You already have influenced thousands of people because 9,763 votes were cast for your videos online," said Jackson Energy's Haley McCoy, co-host. "You generated that online excitement by inviting your family and friends to choose their favorite video. McKee Elementary attracted the most online supporters, followed closely by Sand Gap Elementary. Thank you all for drawing so much attention to this important topic."

"We are grateful to the educators who guided the students in this project," Davis said. "The teachers were Carol Madden, Annville Christian Academy; Angie Carol of Tyner Elementary; Nina Ingram, Sand Gap Elementary; and Jenny Wilson, McKee Elementary."

Each school was awarded an Energy Oscar trophy, which was similar in appearance to the trophy presented to Academy Award winners.

Annville Christian Academy won the "Super Energy Hero" trophy for developing a memorable character to champion the cause of energy conservation.

The McKee Elementary School video, which recreated an evening news broadcast, took home the trophy for "We're Not Gonna Heat Jackson County!"

Sand Gap Elementary School won the "Two Minute Tips" trophy for covering the most energy-efficiency advice in a quick video.

Tyner Elementary School earned the "Light's Out!" trophy for its video that was filmed entirely at night, using cell phones to coordinate cameras and lighting.

Each school also earned the PRIDE Environmental Education Project of the Month Award for participating in the Energy Oscars. The award recognizes creative, effective strategies for inspiring passion and action for the environment.

The Energy Oscars is an environmental education program created in partnership by PRIDE and Jackson Energy Cooperative (<http://www.myjacksonenergy.com>).



Annville Christian Academy: "Super Energy Hero" Award



McKee Elementary School: "We're Not Gonna Heat Jackson County" Award



Sand Gap Elementary: "Two Minute Tips" Award



Energy Oscars reception for students and their families



GOOD NEWS ACROSS THE REGION

Jackson County road signs

In Jackson County, six new road signs alert drivers to stop — stop littering, that is. The signs were designed by local students and Girl Scouts to promote Jackson County’s natural beauty and to discourage littering. The Jackson County Fiscal Court made the signs and installed them along Hwy. 30 and two other locations.

Four signs were created through a design contest for 4th and 5th grade students at McKee Elementary, Sand Gap Elementary, Tyner Elementary and Annville Christian Academy. McKee Girl Scout Troop #1564 and Tyner Girl Scout Troop #164 (photo on right) also designed road signs, earning PRIDE Environmental Action Patches for devoting at least four hours to conservation-related community service.

The Jackson County PRIDE Committee sponsored the road sign project. Wonda Hammons, the Jackson County PRIDE Environmental Education Liaison, guided the students and Girl Scouts in developing their designs.



Pine Knot Spring Cleanup rally

Pine Knot Primary School (McCreary County) students held a pep rally March 23 to gear up for PRIDE Spring Cleanup Month in April and to celebrate the school’s trophy for Greatest Volunteer Participation during the 2011 PRIDE Spring Cleanup Month.

With 209 volunteers in the 2011 Spring Cleanup, Pine Knot Primary earned the 1st Runner Up trophy among the region’s elementary, middle and high schools.

Judge-Executive Douglas Stephens and Principal Stuart Shepherd congratulated the students on their trophy and encouraged them to continue caring for McCreary County’s beautiful landscape.

PRIDE staff then led the fun pep rally — even shooting T-shirts into the stands — to build excitement for the upcoming Spring Cleanup.



Mt. Vernon Elementary wetland

Submitted by Cloia Smith Collins, Mt. Vernon Elementary School

Mt. Vernon Elementary School now has a schoolyard wetland. We would like to thank the Sheltoewe Environmental Education Coalition, Tom Biebighauser, MVES PRIDE Club students and sponsors, and Goff Excavation for helping with the construction of our wetland.

This wetland will be a semi-permanent season pool. This type of wetland will undergo seasonal changes in water levels, but will not dry up because of the liner and pad that have been placed under the topsoil. We hope to attract lots of different wildlife that the students will be able to observe throughout the different seasons. This is going to be an awesome outdoor classroom that can be used by all students.

More information about wetlands is at <http://www.wetlandstreamrestoration.org>.



Homegrown Kentucky (continued from front page)

The UK Homegrown Kentucky Student Group initiated the project and has spearheaded fundraising, raising \$2,000 so far through grants and a bake sale. The Board of Education provides the land. The other partners provide technical and organizational support.

For their leadership in the project, the Owsley County Board of Education and Homegrown Kentucky were awarded PRIDE’s Volunteer of the Month Award. The award recognizes outstanding community service related to environmental education and cleanup efforts in the region.

“The enthusiasm and cooperative spirit shown by all the partners has been incredible, but we thought the UK students and local educators deserved special recognition for their contributions,” said Sandy Gay, who presented the award. She is a PRIDE Board Member and the program coordinator for the Owsley County Conservation District.

“From the school system, we thank Superintendent Tim Bobrowski, Principal Gary Cornett and their team,” she said. “From UK’s Homegrown Kentucky Student Group, we thank Ben Smith, Patrick Johnson, Luke McNally and Adam Meredith. We look forward to working with more UK students as this project grows.”

The Owsley County garden is the inaugural project of the Homegrown Kentucky group, which was formed in 2011. The group plans to start community gardens across the Commonwealth. Through summer internships, UK students can assist with the gardens to earn college credit and gain experience in community organization, leadership, communication, marketing and agriculture.

More information is available at the Homegrown Kentucky web site: <http://www.wix.com/homegrownkentucky/home>.

Rain barrels

PRIDE Field Representative Mark Davis recently worked with Letcher County’s Beckham Bates Elementary School PRIDE Club (photos below left) and Mt. Vernon Girl Scout Troop 276 (photo below right) to construct 35-gallon rain barrels. Rain barrels reduce water bills and benefit the environment. To plan this fun, hands-on activity for your students, call PRIDE at 888.577.4339 (toll free).



SPRING CLEANUP PHOTOS

View more Spring Cleanup photos online at <http://www.facebook.com/EasternKentuckyPRIDE> or <http://www.flickr.com/photos/easternkentuckypride>

Thank you for sending us photos & stories!

The photos and information on this page were submitted by educators. We invite you to send your good news so we can share it in the newsletter, PRIDE web site and PRIDE Facebook page.

Please send your photos and stories to PRIDE@centertech.com or post them at <http://www.facebook.com/EasternKentuckyPRIDE>. Tag your Facebook photos with "Eastern Kentucky PRIDE."



Submitted by Ann Harper Hail, Corbin High School

Corbin High School students volunteered at the PRIDE Spring Cleanup Kick-Off at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park on March 24. John and Sara Hail are in front of CHS students Hayley Abbott, Paige Couch, Lyndsey Noland, Bianca Lambert, Tyler Keith, Sajan Kalgan, Jon Stivers, Zach Coots, Andrew Thaler, JoMo (John Morgan) and Bethany Hicks.



Submitted by Kathy Atkins, St. Francis of Assissi School (Pike County)


The St. Francis School PRIDE Club participated in the 2012 Spring Cleanup on April 30. The group picked up trash in downtown Pikeville along the riverfill starting at the cinemas. Despite the 80-degree weather, the group worked hard to "Save Our World One Cleanup at a Time." Front row: McKenzie Spence, Allison Atkins, Sydney Chaney, Isabella Keene, Marlea Nolan, Allie Fleniken, Kylie Hamilton, Chloe Olegario and Allyah Dotson. Back row: Roland Olegario, Martin Lopez, Luke Onkst, Blake Justice, Stephen Mischewski, Lucas Blackburn, Burke Meade, Alex Mischewski and PRIDE Sponsor Kathy Atkins.



Submitted by Cloia Smith Collins, Mt. Vernon Elementary School

The Mt. Vernon Elementary School GREEN Team conducted a campus cleanup and picked up trash on our "adopted" street. Front row: Aden Amburgey, Lebrana Sparks, Madison Smith, Katherine Coffey, Jacob Loudermilk, Shakeitha Kates, Shawna Mink, Braden Parker and Wesley Clark. Back row: Ashton Monk, Tristan Winstead, Ashlyn Brock, Carleigh McClure, Caimen McClure, Logan Bowman, Jaylon Ponder, Gracelynn Owends, Callie Lewis, Andrew Hurt, Reece McGuire and Nichole Griffin.

Congratulations!



Foothills Academy earned the region's PRIDE Volunteer of the Month Award for regularly answering the call to volunteer for local PRIDE events, such as the Dale Hollow Spring Cleanup (above).

PRIDE Spring Cleanup Kick-Off

Students played a big role in setting a new record for the number of volunteers participating in the PRIDE Spring Cleanup Kick-Off. On March 24, 510 volunteers picked up litter along Hwy. 90 and other roads near Cumberland Falls State Resort Park.

Below left: Beulah Mountain Christian Academy was the largest school-based volunteer group, winning a plaque and \$100 cash.

Below right: Pine Knot Job Corp won the 1st Runner Up plaque.



PRIDE Clean Sweep of US 27 in Pulaski County

Pulaski County's PRIDE Clean Sweep of US 27 drew more volunteers than any other Spring Cleanup event this year. A total of 862 volunteers donated 1,561 hours.

PRIDE presented appreciation plaques to the nine school groups — ranging in age from preschool to college — that volunteered. With 80 students participating, Northern Middle School was the largest school-based volunteer group.

Right: Dunbar Head Start students enjoyed the volunteer appreciation picnic and door prizes.

Below: Somerset Christian School (left) and Pulaski Central School (right) accepted their appreciation plaques.



PRIDE EDUCATION PROJECTS OF THE MONTH

We lift up these projects as creative, effective ways of promoting environmental awareness and stewardship. Learn more about them at <http://kypride.org/category/news/project-of-the-month/>.

Are you familiar with a project that shared the PRIDE message with any age group? Please tell us about it! Self-nominations are welcome. Nominate online at <http://kypride.org/nominate>.

January – In Clay County, Goose Rock Elementary PRIDE Club’s door decorating contest for all grades inspired students to think about energy conservation



February – For Read Across America Day, Owsley County Elementary School highlighted The Lorax and held a contest for all grades to decorate classroom doors with a recycling theme



March – Science Hill Independent School’s March Madness project challenged 5th-8th graders to get creative with conservation, recycling, reducing and reusing, leading to crafts, poems, songs and artwork



April – Annville Christian Academy, McKee Elementary, Sand Gap Elementary and Tyner Elementary participated in Jackson County’s Energy Oscars (see cover story)



May – Russell County Middle School installed Vending Misers to cut electricity usage, with cost savings on track to be \$531 annually



Green Frog Gazette is the environmental education newsletter of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is funded in part by a grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

To be alerted when the newsletter is posted online, sign up for PRIDE e-mails at <http://www.kypride.org>.

