

# Environmental & Natural Resource Issues



Newsletter of ENRI Task Force  
University of Kentucky • College of Agriculture



Spring 2005

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## Methamphetamine Waste Can Be Environmental Hazard

Methamphetamine labs pose a serious threat to the natural environment that we Kentuckians so value, as well as to the community environments in which we live. Meth labs create between five and six pounds of toxic waste for every pound of the drug they produce. The cooking process generates lethal gases and creates a highly flammable and explosive environment. These toxic vapors permeate the plaster, drywall, and wood around them and if vented outside, are released into residential neighborhoods. Illegal disposal of toxic by-products leads to the contamination of surface and ground water, soil, and air. Hazardous chemicals are often poured into bathtubs, sinks, and toilets or are taken and dumped along nearby roads, farmland, wells, and creeks.

Methamphetamine waste may include:

- Battery casings that have been stripped
- Soft drink bottles, plastic jugs, and gas cans with tubing attached to the lid
- Containers with liquid that appears to have layers
- Thermal containers with kitty litter in them
- Cold medicine blister packs or bottles of cold medicine
- Iodine crystal containers
- Large bags of salt
- Strange smelling solvents (ether)
- Discarded propane tanks

If you find suspected meth waste, **DO NOT** open, touch, bury, or smell any container or its contents. Burying meth waste or pushing it into a sinkhole puts you at risk of injury and ensures contamination of soil, surface water, and groundwater. This creates a risk of unwanted human exposure, crop contamination, livestock contamination, and expensive cleanup costs if removal of buried waste is necessary.

**Immediately call 1-800-222-5555 to report these findings to authorities.**

*This information compiled from the Walk Your Land Initiative of the University of Kentucky HEEL (Health Education through Extension Leadership) Program. For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office or Holly Hopper at [hehopp2@uky.edu](mailto:hehopp2@uky.edu).*

## *Upcoming Events and News to Use*

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### Muddy Creek Field Day – May 12, 2005

Several agencies including the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), Bluegrass Army Depot, Berea College, and Kentucky Watershed Watch have partnered to coordinate a stream bank stabilization project in the Muddy Creek Watershed, Madison County, Kentucky. These partners have had success in limiting livestock access to streams, installing alternative watering systems, and conducting volunteer tree planting events. On **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005** a field day



focusing on water quality issues, stream bank stabilization, alternative watering systems, and watershed planning will take place at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Service Office and the EKU Meadowbrook Farm. For more information or to register contact Amanda Abnee at 859-257-6094 or [acabne0@uky.edu](mailto:acabne0@uky.edu).

### Southern Region Water Quality Conference



The tenth biennial Southern Region Water Quality Conference will be held in Lexington, KY on October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The overall goal of the conference is to strengthen the capacity for extension agents and other natural resource professionals to develop and deliver successful water quality programs by: (a) providing an opportunity to share successful education strategies and programs; (b) addressing current and potential water quality and environmental issues; and (c) providing a forum for exchange of ideas and information. Scholarships for University of Kentucky (UK) Cooperative Extension Service Agents may be available depending on funding opportunities. If you are a UK Cooperative Extension Service Agent and would like more information about potential scholarship, please contact Ashley Osborne at 859-257-2505 or [arich2@uky.edu](mailto:arich2@uky.edu). For more information about the conference please visit [www.ca.uky.edu/water](http://www.ca.uky.edu/water) or contact Ashley Osborne.

## Call for Presentations for the Southern Region Water Quality Conference

Deadline for submission is **April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

The Southern Regional Water Quality Program is requesting presentations for the 2005 Southern Regional Water Quality Conference to be held on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Lexington , Kentucky** . You are invited to participate in this forum offering opportunities to share your ideas, explore research, and network with peers in the area of water quality. Presentations are invited from participants in these three areas: **Agricultural Pollution Prevention, Rural Environmental Protection, and Watershed Management**. For more information, visit [www.ca.uky.edu/water](http://www.ca.uky.edu/water) and click on the Call for Presentations tab found on the left hand side of the page or contact Ashley Osborne at 859-257-2505 or [arich2@uky.edu](mailto:arich2@uky.edu).



### May is Water Awareness Month

- Use information and resources from the Kentucky Water Awareness Month packet for programs this month. Packet information available at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/KWAM2005b.htm>.
- Brag on yourself: Send a summary of your water program in May and we'll share your success story in the Summer 2005 issue of this newsletter.

### Save the Date

- Earth Day. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. Visit <http://www.environment.ky.gov/earthday/edayky/> for ideas to celebrate the Earth.
- Pond Management In-Service. May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY. For more info contact Bob Durborow at 502-597-6581 or [bdurborow@gwmail.kysu.edu](mailto:bdurborow@gwmail.kysu.edu).
- Bluegrass Energy Expo. September 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Lexington, KY. For more info contact Ben Perry at 606-256-0077 or [benperry@a-spl.org](mailto:benperry@a-spl.org).

# Sharing Ideas That Work

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## Acting Locally

Submitted by Amanda Abnee

Environmental education information comes across my desk and computer everyday. Some days it is water quality education, while other days it involves air quality. Whatever the subject, it is easy to get overwhelmed by the wealth of information available and the conflicting views of what is the most important problem to tackle first. It is also easy to see these issues on a global perspective, and not a local one. To use our natural resources as a figure of speech, we often miss the forest for the trees.

This spring it has been a little different for me. After driving and jogging along Yorkshire Blvd in Lexington a few weeks ago, I actually saw forest products *in* the trees, litter to be exact. This experience opened my eyes to my own neighborhood's problems. How can I expect other's to use our environmental education materials when my own neighborhood is riddled with litter? So with that motivation, I persuaded my colleagues to join me in "celebrating" Commonwealth Cleanup Week (March 20-26). We donned our latex gloves and black trash bags and headed down the street. We got a few strange stares, and probably a few passersby wondering what we had done to deserve such a punishment of "community service." Although, one man stopped and offered us gift certificates to a local fast-food restaurant, his way of thanking us for our service.

Within two hours we had collected six bags of trash and two bags of recyclables from a stretch of road 1.1 miles long. We could visibly see a difference from our work. Unfortunately, it won't take long for the litter to reappear. But the work of our hands will not easily be forgotten, and we'll hopefully maintain sight of our own local issues.

## Surfing the Internet

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Interactive Presentation on Water [http://www.bottledwater.org/public/IBWA\\_movie.htm](http://www.bottledwater.org/public/IBWA_movie.htm)

Provides information on the hydrological cycle, healthy watersheds, and environmental stewardship.

Kentucky Department of Tourism <http://www.kytourism.com/index.aspx>

Spring is here, so get outside! Take a hike! From the homepage of this website, select the "Outdoors" category from the dropdown box, and then select from a dozen outdoor activities available at parks, nature preserves, and other attractions near you.

*About this newsletter...* This newsletter is available on the World Wide Web in a PDF or html format at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/enri/news.htm>. This newsletter is coordinated by Amanda Abnee ([acabne0@uky.edu](mailto:acabne0@uky.edu)) and Ashley Osborne ([arich2@uky.edu](mailto:arich2@uky.edu)), Extension Associates for Environmental and Natural Resource Issues.