



Green Matters

Fort Gordon, Ga

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DPW Environmental Office and Natural Resource Division

Pollinator Protection



Did you know that about 85% of all flowering plants need pollinators to produce fruit and seeds? These precious, unique and overlooked creatures are in trouble. Habitat destruction and pesticide use are to blame. Without our insects to pollinate the crops, over 1/3 of your food on your plate would cease to exist. In South Carolina and Georgia, apples, watermelons, squash and strawberries are just some crops that depend on pollinators to reproduce. Not only do insects serve as pollinators, but birds

and bats do as well. Honey Bees of course are the busiest of all and carry most of the burden.

How can we ourselves help these valuable pollinators to thrive?

1. Grow a flower garden with an abundance of flowering plants.
2. Assure the protection of pollinator nesting sites and provide them as well.
3. Don't use pesticides unless it is absolutely necessary.

Flower Gardens. The nectar and pollen from flowers provide the sugars and proteins that pollinators such as bees need to grow and reproduce. Except for the cold months, keep a variety of plants in bloom— trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials. Some favorites for the CSRA include ironweed, goldenrod and coneflowers. Herb plants work well too such as rosemary, oregano, and catnip. Some good flowering trees to plant include tulip trees, redbuds, and magnolias. As much as weeds can be a nuisance to our yards, they are beneficial to our pollinators. Clover, dandelion, wild radish, henbit, morning glory and thistle are some "good" weeds to have around.

Nesting Sites. Different nesting sites are required for different types of bees. For instance, the digger bees need exposed soil to dig their nests into.; bumble bees prefer to nest in abandoned rodent dens; mason bees use hollow plant stems and other tube like structures. Brush piles also make a good nesting ground for native bees and offers them protection.

NO Pesticides Please! "If you kill a beneficial insect, you inherit its job", as the ole gardening saying goes. Pollinators are very sensitive to pesticides. Maintain a "no spray zone" where pesticides are never used such as around your nesting sites and flower gardens. Only use them when necessary. If you have to use them, use them correctly and wisely. Avoid spraying when pollinators are present or when blooms are present. Opt for using horticulture oils and insecticide soaps instead.



Let's help our pollinators flourish so we can flourish as well.



Inside this issue:

Greening Your Spring Break	2
Hard Boiled Eggs	3
Earth Day Festivities	3
Compliance Corner	4
Army Earth Day Invite	5

Training & Events:

- April 18 MOMC Celebration, Barton Field
- April 22 -Army Earth Day Celebration, Wilkinson Lake, 1100-1300
- April 28- 3rd QTR Cross-Functional Meeting, 1300-1430; DPW Conf Rm, Bldg 14600
- May 6-7 -Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600; Bldg 11307
- May 13- SPCC Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307
- May 14 -Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307



Greening Your Spring Break

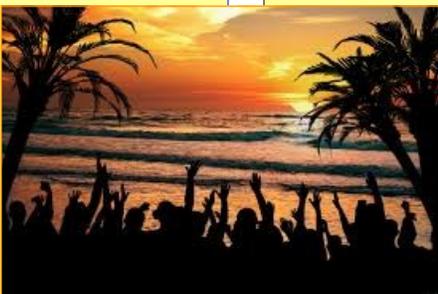
Spring Break! A time of renewal and rebirth. But so much of spring break is spent by some partying and in the process making a mess. Let's be honest, the litter that is left behind is NOT away to celebrate Spring. Fueling these road trips leaves a big carbon footprint behind with the emissions. What about spending it doing something beneficial, like volunteering for a good cause. Now I have nothing against having fun and celebrating with friends and family, but so many times



in the process we neglect the environment around us and waste our natural resources. Having a good time and enjoying Spring Break doesn't have to be a strain on the environment.

There are ways that you can celebrate a "Green" Spring Break.

1. **Make it an Eco-Trip.** Choose an eco-friendly destination which involves activities that are low-impact and support local vendors. Spending time exploring your local city and its attractions will save you money and emissions.
2. **Greener Road Trip.** If you must hit the road with your buddies, car pool and possibly rent a hybrid car to save on emissions and wear and tear on your own vehicle. Stay at a friend's house or timeshare. Also, check with the Green Hotel Association to find housing that meets the sustainability criteria.
3. **Alternative Spring Break-** A great way to give back to humanity. A lot of students are getting on board with volunteering during spring break to help others and to make a difference such as partnering with *Habitat for Humanity*. There are other organizations such as *MTV Alternative Spring Break* and *Break Away*. Students can visit About.com to get involved with other ventures. What a better way to celebrate renewal.



4. **Leave technology behind!** Well at least have the kids power off their electronics and head outside to explore nature. If you have to have them around, at least limit their use and turn them off when not being used. You will save electricity.

Spring Break Facts

- Of the over 100,000 hotels and resorts worldwide, only a few have a sustainability plan. 130 different organizations certify green travel.
- 70,000 tons of waste are produced each year by Cruise ships in the Caribbean.
- Of the 109 countries that contain coral reef, 90 of them have damaged reefs due to cruise ships' anchors, sewage and harvesting coral reef for tourists.
- Over 2 million students will be traveling for Spring Break.
- 100,000 college-age students travel during Spring Break.
- Students spend an average of \$65 a day on Spring Break at the beach versus a regular tourists spending \$22 per day.
- 1,000 people die a year due to skin cancer in the United States and 1 million cases are reported each year in the US.





Hard Boiled Eggs

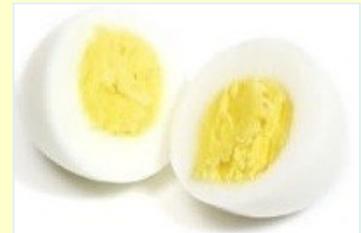
Happy Easter

The Easter Bunny is on his way and so are all the hard boiled eggs, but after the grand Easter egg hunt is over what do you do with all the uneaten hard boiled eggs?

If hard boiled eggs aren't eaten within a few hours they DO need to be refrigerated. It's best not to peel them until you are ready to consume them, but if they are peeled you can store them in the refrigerator in a container covered with water or sealed in a bag covered with damp paper towels. . Change the water daily and they should keep for about a 1 week.

For the best cooked boiled eggs here are a few tips to follow:

1. If eggs are refrigerated , bring them to room temperature by warming under hot tap water or sitting out at room temperature for 20-30 minutes.
2. Choose eggs that are not cracked.
3. Choose the right size pot and try to avoid stacking eggs. One layer only is best. Approximately 1 inch of water should cover eggs.
4. Oh high heat, bring water just to a rapid boil then remove from heat and cover pot with a lid for about 20-30 minutes. Then remove lid and drain water from the eggs.
5. Let the eggs cool for at least 10 minutes in cold water and then peel.



NOTE: Very fresh eggs are harder to peel. Also, to test if an egg is hard boiled just spin it on a hard surface after it has cooled. If it spins fast and steady then it is cooked. If it is wobbly and unsteady then it is undercooked.



Earth Day Festivities ~ April 22

Wednesday

Wilkinson Lake

1100-1300

Displays, exhibits, and special giveaways for Environmental Officers

For questions email at usarmy.gordon.imcom.mbx.dpw-enrmo@mail.mil



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Sources

South Carolina Living, Aiken Co-op March 2015,
Gardening for Pollinators by S. Cory Tanner

http://www.heritage-interactive.com/the-Interactive_5-Ways-to-Take-a-Green-Spring-B.blog

<http://www.treehugger.com/htgg/how-to-go-green-spring-break.html#numbers>

<http://whatscookingamerica.net/Q-A/eggs2.htm>

[Www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



Compliance Corner

COMMON STORMWATER VIOLATIONS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

"Phase II MS4s are required to develop a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the MS4 for construction sites disturbing one or more acres," according to the EPA. This is to ensure that pollutants do not make their way into our lakes, rivers, and estuaries which can have negative impacts on our aquatic life and environment. It is very important to have BMP's (Best Management Practices) in place. The goal for BMPs is to prevent sediment and pollutants from entering state waters. Some of the common stormwater violations seen on construction sites are:

- ◆ **Concrete Washouts.** A common violation is not having concrete washouts, or they are not properly installed and maintained according to the Georgia Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control. No concrete should ever enter a storm drain. It can impair the storm drain system and result in flooding. It can also harm aquatic life.
- ◆ **Silt Fences.** The main violation seen with silt fences is improper maintenance. Perimeter BMPs must stay in place at ALL times.
- ◆ **Construction Exits.** The common violation seen here is the absence of construction exits, or they are not properly installed. The state requires that a construction exit must be 20'x50' with a geo-textile liner, and use stone that is 1.5"-3.5". The purpose is to reduce the transport of mud and other sediments from the construction site onto the roadways. If the gravel or crushed stone becomes overwhelmed with mud/clay, more rock or crushed stone must be added to prevent sediment from leaving the site.



ARMY EARTH DAY



YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

**Special giveaways for
Environmental Officers and
displays & exhibits for ALL!**

PLEASE JOIN US 22 APRIL 2015

FROM 1100-1300

AT

WILKINSON LAKE

For more information, please contact:
DPW, Environmental Division
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