

Spring 2010



Environmental Newsletter

We're Back...And Looking For You!

By Dick MacKenzie

After a hiatus of almost two years, The Delaware County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Environmental Team has reconvened and is in the process of determining its activities going forward.

Are you or someone you know interested in volunteering for this effort? New members of the team are needed and welcome! If you have an interest in learning about and sharing with others issues impacting the environment, are willing to participate in an occasional project that has a positive impact on the environment, or would like

to participate in support activities such as material coordination and/or preparation of newsletters or flyers, and you have a few

hours per month that you are willing to contribute whenever you might be available, then this team might just be for you!

Since 2004, RSVP has worked in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to raise the community's awareness of various environmental issues that are important to all of us. Training sessions have been conducted by EPA on such topics as Recycling, Climate Change, Sun Safety, Clean Water, Indoor Air Quality and the dangers of Lead, Radon, Mercury, Poisons and Pesticides. This has enabled our volunteer team to share information about these critical topics with a wide range of groups including school children, Y's, libraries and senior centers. Our volunteers have also staffed information booths at a variety of fairs in the community and have assisted with projects

like those upcoming in April -- clean-up efforts of Darby Creek at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum on April 17 and Earth Day events at the Philadelphia Zoo coordinated by EPA from Thursday April 22 thru Saturday April 26.

Remember, you don't have to do it all! The more volunteers that are part of the team, the more opportunities are available and the less each volunteer has to do. So plan to attend the next meeting of the Environmental Team on Wednesday May 19, 2010 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM at the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge, Classroom #1, 8601 Lindburg Blvd., Philadelphia 19153. Please advise Lynn Shelton, RSVP Program Coordinator, if you plan to attend, as lunch will be provided. Lynn can be contacted at 610-565-5563 or via email at lynnshelton55@verizon.net.

Check out the
RSVP website at:
www.rsvpdelco.org

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**Connecting People
to Purpose**

News from the EPA in Observance of National Poison Prevention Week, March 14-20, 2010

PREVENT POISONINGS IN YOUR HOME



What's the Danger? Every 13 seconds, U.S. Poison Control Centers receive a call about someone being exposed to a poison. 40% of these involve a child under 3 years of age. Another 70,000 calls to the Centers concern exposure to common household pesticides. These figures show the need for everyone to lock up pesticides and household chemicals out of a child's reach – preferably in a high cabinet.



What chemical-containing products are in your home? Household products should be kept in a locked cabinet and out of children's reach. Common products that could seriously harm a child if ingested include:

- Bath and kitchen disinfectants and sanitizers, including bleach
- Household cleaning or maintenance products, like drain cleaner, paints or glues
- Automotive products stored around the home, such as anti-freeze or windshield washer fluid
- Health or beauty care products such as medicines and hair and nail products
- Roach sprays and baits
- Other insect repellants or baits
- Rat and other rodent poisons
- Weed killers or other lawn products
- Products used to kill mold or mildew
- Flea and tick shampoos, powders and dips for pets
- Swimming pool chemicals

What can you do to prevent poisonings? Poisoning incidents can be prevented if parents and caregivers remember to lock up products that could harm children. Yet an EPA study found that among households with children under 5, nearly half stored pesticides in unlocked cabinets. Simple steps you can take to prevent poisonings from occurring in your home:

- Always store household products in a locked cabinet or shed away from children
- Read the product label and follow the instructions to the letter
- Use the safest possible cleaning products – Look for the Design for the Environment label
- Never leave products unattended when in use, and re-close them if interrupted when using
- Never transfer pesticides to containers that children may associate with food or drink
- Remove children, pets and toys before applying pesticides – don't return them until safe
- Never use illegal pesticides, as these have not been tested or approved for public use
- Post the **Poison Control Center's national hotline number 1-800-222-1222** near your phone

For more information and additional poison prevention resources, go to:

www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm

