

Recycling: Awareness can't begin too soon

One of the programs offered to schools this winter by the Independence Oaks Nature Center deals with recycling.

As an introduction, I ask the students in the elementary schools whether they bring their lunch to school in a brown paper bag. Approximately 75 percent of the stu-

dents raise their hand. My next question is: How many of you take that brown paper bag home with you? Only about five or six hands go up.

I use this as an illustration of how people, at any age, can begin to help the environment through recycling and by developing an attitude of environmental consciousness. Recycling brown bags saves trees, saves space in landfills, saves petroleum and begins to instill an attitude of proper use of materials and resources.

One of the reasons the natural world has been around for so long is because everything is recycled, right?



nature
Timothy Nowicki

down to tiny molecules. A sobering thought is that a molecule of water you drank today could have been swallowed by a dinosaur thousands of years ago.

EVERYTHING IS recycled and everything is interconnected. Ecologists talk of food chains that start with the sun and plants, and follow with insects, frogs, snakes, hawks and decomposers that recycle the molecules of any organism that dies.

Using the term chain in this model is very appropriate because removing one of the "links" or organisms in the chain, has consequences on all the others.

We have been able to include recycling and returning videos in our modern literary, recycling and educational use of products can also be included. Rick Lober, a concerned citizen, approached me with his con-

cerns about uses of pesticides by homeowners. I don't claim to be an expert on weed and pest control, but I do know that many people do not know how to use chemicals correctly. Though they read the recommended concentrations, many feel that an extra amount will do an even better job. That is not true.

EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS of chemicals only get added to the food chain unnecessarily. It is encouraging, however, to note that on the shelves of large lawn and garden retailers,

alternative products to the traditional petroleum based pesticides and herbicides are available. Consumers now have options in the products they can use in their gardens and on their lawns. Choices are something that most consumers like so they can make their own decisions.

Homeowners dispense a lot of chemicals yet, with some choices, and some knowledge of their consequences, people can control their homestead problems and not adversely affect the environment and the wildlife they enjoy watching.

Center offers career help

Free career guidance is offered for unemployed Oakland County residents through the Pontiac Adult Career Counseling Center.

Computer programs and resource materials are available at the center to help men and women learn more about their job interest, ability, experience and values.

The center doesn't offer job placement, but counselors help participants work on skills they need to get a job, including resume and interviewing skills.

A joint program of Oakland University and Oakland Community College, the center is on the third floor of the OCCC Pontiac Center, 17 S. Saginaw, near Phoenix Center, Pontiac.

Spring hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and 1-5 p.m. Friday. The center is closed Thursday. Hours remain in effect through June.

To make an appointment, or for additional information, call the center, 340-6793.

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