

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

understanding of water concepts. Over 94 % of participating teachers agree that water festival participation increases student understanding of water concepts and 95% of the teachers agree that their students are more likely to conserve water after they attend a festival. Evaluation results show that 66% of the students who participated in a water festival recognize the definition of a watershed, yet only 41% of adults reached in a national poll could do so! (2004 Roper/NEETF poll)

Teachers say: *This was a very productive field trip (Make a Splash Festival). It is one of the best we have been to. Thank you so very much for all the time and effort it took to accomplish such a huge project. The students learned a lot and really enjoyed the experience. I hope you will continue to offer these services because I feel it really makes a difference. This festival was excellent. Your organization was one of the key factors. Your activities were terrific and were just enough hands-on to make the listening time truly fine. As a teacher, I valued all the activities. It was incredibly valuable!*

Students learn about the water cycle and water resources in their area of the state and say things like:

While I was at the Water Festival I

- *Felt like I was the luckiest kid in the world.*
- *Was so happy when we were learning about water.*
- *Had the best time in my life. I hope we go there again!*
- *Learned more about saving water and why you are supposed to.*
- *Really enjoyed myself & wished I lived by there & it could go on my whole life!*



The above students at the Safford festival are engaged in activities with the Rolling River Trailer, to learn about their community's location within the Gila River watershed.

Arizona Project WET Evaluation: Examining the Impact

APW Director, Kerry Schwartz, developed a 6th grade standards-based unit & trained 47 teachers to deliver the unit. Working with Dr. D'Agostino in the UA College of Education, we received a grant to assess student knowledge on the unit. Using a differential treatment experimental design, researchers found that students learned more about the water concepts specific to their particular interventions, as hypothesized. Based on the study results, researchers conclude that APW lessons are flexible enough that teachers implementing for the first time can deliver effective lessons that lead to student learning. Researchers surmised that students would learn even more if taught by experienced APW teachers and a follow-up study is funded and underway this year.

Interested in this project? Contact APW Director, Kerry Schwartz at 520.792.9591 ext 22 or kschwart@cals.arizona.edu

Reduce, recycle, reuse..... been there, done that!

By Jan Holder

I have to chuckle a little when I read articles in very well-meaning environmental newsletters that instruct people to reduce, recycle and repurpose. In one of those newsletters I saw headlines that were saying: Reuse other people's stuff, Learn to love lending, and my favorite - Free is the magic number!

I thought it was humorous because most of the folks I know have been doing just that for generations. In most rural areas, there are no stores lurking around every corner trying to entice you with expensive shiny new things. When we need a lamp, we see if there's an old one in the shed we can fix up. Or maybe Aunt Suzy has one she's not using. Or maybe we can make one out of a branch or a jug from the garage and some electric stuff from Safford Builders.

It's probably the reason I love our area so much. You don't hear much whining about the economy from people on the land. Even we have very real concerns about the economy, people out here are used to making do, doing without, and tightening our belts. We can make it through rough times.

However, I am seeing some articles that I may actually use. Magazines like *Readymade*, and *Make* have step-by-step instructions on how to make new stuff out of old stuff. Here is one I am going to try.

LUMBER LOUNGE

Transform Shipping Flats into Weekend Furniture

INGREDIENTS

- 48" x 47" pallet
- 4 hinges
- 4 corner brackets
- Wood screws
- 2 casters
- 3/16" steel rod
- Long cushion (optional)

TOOLS

- Crowbar
- Hacksaw
- Handsaw (or reciprocating saw)
- Drill
- Screwdriver
- Sandpaper



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Remove the skids from the bottom of the pallet.
2. Setting your saw flush against the third deck from the end, cut the pallet through the struts into two sections. Each section will have three decks supported by four struts. Then trim away the struts on the side where they protrude. This should give you four 2" square blocks, two of which you'll need later, and two identical pallet sections, one of which will be the seat.
3. On one of the sections, cut through the decks along the far edge of the third strut, creating a three-strut, three-deck section. This is the backrest.

4. Set aside the other piece you just cut away (three decks attached to one strut).
5. Use two hinges to join the seat to the back support along adjoining struts.
6. Using two of the skids you removed in Step 1 and one short deck from Step 4, make a long U-shaped piece and attach it with screws and corner brackets to the bottom of the first two struts of the seat.
7. Use two hinges to attach the remaining two short, wide decks from Step 4 to the center strut of the back support. These become the

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

backrest height adjusters. Cut three pairs of wedge-shaped notches into the top of the U-shaped piece overhang at the intervals where you'd like the backrest to sit

8. Attach two of the 2" square blocks with screws to the inside corners of the U-shaped piece, making sure they're even with the bottom edge. Drill a hole in the center of each block and screw in casters.
9. Cut a skid from Step 1 into four 11 3/4" sections. These are the legs. Attach two legs to the sides of the U-shaped piece with screws.
10. Cut the strut from Step 4 in half and use the two pieces as supports to attach the other two legs to the foot of the seat: Screw a strut into the seat support, then screw a leg into the strut (Fig. 5).
11. Drill a hole 1" or so into the edge of each

backrest height adjuster and connect them with a 3/16" diameter steel rod.

12. Sand the seating surface and slap a long cushion on top.
13. Kick up your feet and sip a cold beverage.

Till taught by pain,

Men really know not what good water's worth;

If you had been in Turkey or in Spain,

Or with a famish'd boat's-crew had your berth,

Or in the desert heard the camel's bell,

You'd wish yourself where Truth is--in a well.

- Lord Byron, *Don Juan*

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 7 p.m.

February's meeting will be held at the City of Safford Annex at 405 W. Discovery Park Blvd., Safford, Arizona

Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 7 p.m.

March's meeting will be held at the Graham County General Services Building, 921 Thatcher Blvd., Safford, Arizona

Our partners include:

Arizona Department of Agriculture
 Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
 Arizona Department of Transportation
 Arizona Department of Water Resources
 Arizona Game and Fish Department
 Arizona Geological Survey
 Arizona State Land Department
 Bureau of Land Management
 City of Safford
 Town of Thatcher
 Town of Pima
 Town of Duncan
 The Coronado RC&D
 Gila Valley NRCD

Discovery Park
 Farm Bureau
 Graham County
 Greenlee County
 Gila Valley Irrigation District
 Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Phelps Dodge Mining Company
 University of Arizona
 Cooperative Extension
 University of Arizona NEMO Project
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service - Apache
 Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 And many community members

Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Jan Holder at the Gila Watershed Partnership, 711 S. 14th Avenue, 85546, 520-395-2499, email-watershedholder@yahoo.com