

# ANCHORAGE WATERWAYS COUNCIL



## UPDATE

What's up! April 26, 2011

NEED SOMETHING TO DOO?



Did YOU doo your part in last week's Scoop-the-Poop event? Remember, every day is a Scoop the Poop day!

## **AWC EVENTS!**

### **Scoop-the-Poop Redux! April 30, Noon - 2 p.m.**

Our Scoop-the-Poop (STP) day was SO popular that another dog park is dying to have volunteers help clean up there too. The South Anchorage Sports Area by Klatt, O'Malley, and C St. will have a 2 hour clean-up this coming Saturday. The STP Committee's goal is to again gather volunteers, particularly those whose dogs use the dog park, to pitch in for a day to clean up animal waste before spring breakup and rain send it and harmful pathogens flowing into our creeks and waterways. Bags, gloves and shovels will be provided along with giveaways. Please show your support for having dog parks by being responsible and keeping them clean year-round but especially on April 30. This event is co-sponsored with fufodabo [fufodabo.com](http://fufodabo.com).

Check out Scoop-the-Poop Day on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/anchoragewaterways?ref=ts](https://facebook.com/anchoragewaterways?ref=ts) as well as other information.

### **AWC-MOA Annual Creek Clean-up is May 14!**

The AWC-MOA Annual Creek Clean-up will be May 14, 2011. A HUGE thanks to our sponsorships from BP, CIRI, Bristol Environmental Remediation Services, Oasis Environmental, the Gottstein Family Foundation, HDR, Anchorage Sand and Gravel, Carlile, Fred Meyer, ALPAR, Greenstar, Central Recycling Services, Total Reclaim, Moose's Tooth, REI, Great Harvest Breads, Costco-Diamond, Odom, DiTomasos, Bethel Solutions, and Sourdough Mining Company. All sponsors will be acknowledged in media and on banners at the event. This year we will not only have the fabulous trash awards, but a costume contest will be held. Prizes (from Moose's Tooth, Kaladi's, and REI) will be given away at a drawing during the celebration at Valley of the Moon Park from noon to 2--along with our fabulous free lunch for clean-up volunteers. Lots of educational displays will be there along with great music from Sarahndipity .

If you want to sign up a team for the event--there is still time. Go to [anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup\\_teamsignup.php](http://anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup_teamsignup.php). Or, just show up and grab a bag and start cleaning! Honcho areas are nearly complete. Current information, subject to change, is located at [anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup\\_locations.php](http://anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup_locations.php). Please contact Matt at [matt@anchoragecreeks.org](mailto:matt@anchoragecreeks.org) if you have ideas or are interested in being a Honcho or Honcho helper. This year we will be working closely with Greenstar, Central Recycling, and Total Reclaim in order to keep more trash out of the landfill. People with trucks/trailers will be very helpful in getting recyclable materials (such as tires or pallets) to their correct disposal location. There are other ways to help. If you can't make it to Creek Clean-up, consider making an individual donation to offset our expenses or clean up on another day!

### **2011 Annual NUSA (Neighborhoods, USA) Conference to be held in Anchorage May 25-28!**

The 2011 NUSA Conference titled "Great Land, Great Neighborhoods" is coming to Anchorage. NUSA's mission is to increase citizen participation in local and government affairs, encourage neighborhood cohesion and interactions, and promote collaboration between governments and citizens. AWC has been asked to present a workshop during the conference under the "Green Community Initiatives". The workshop, presented by Executive Director Cherie Northon and Dr. Thom Eley, is titled "What happens in a watershed, stays in a watershed--not!". It is scheduled for Session 5 on Friday, May 27th, from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. The venue is the Egan Center. For more information, check out the NUSA agenda at [www.nusa2011.org](http://www.nusa2011.org).

## **OTHER EVENTS!**

April 30--Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will hold a National Drug Collection Day from 10 am to 2 pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring their unwanted, expired prescription and other drugs to a collection site near them. Not only does this reduce the chances of drugs being diverted, but unwanted drugs that are discarded

down the toilet or sink or into a landfill can make their way into water sources that might just be your drinking water! Pharmaceuticals may also be having serious impacts on fish and wildlife, so let's keep them out of the water! There are 4 sites listed in Anchorage: the Fred Meyer Parking Lots on DeBarr and Abbott, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska at 1200 E. 9th Ave., and the pharmacy on JBER. Go to [justice.gov/dea/index.htm](http://justice.gov/dea/index.htm) for more information.

## **OTHER NEWS!**

### **AWC Trains Eight New Water Quality Monitors!**

In early April, eight new monitors were trained out in Eagle River. Part of the training was held at the great Eagle River Nature Center (ERNC) whose heated yurt kept us nice and warm while performing tests. We also used Cindy Davis' science lab at Chugiak High. Cindy will begin monitoring on the lower end of Eagle River, and the staff of the ERNC will monitor upstream by their center. We will add Jason Mercer to our monitoring on Campbell Creek and shuffle a few others around. Thom Eley, using a grant from the Bullitt Foundation, [bullitt.org](http://bullitt.org), has been evaluating all of the current monitoring sites to see when we've gathered enough baseline data. If we feel that the site warrants continuing, we can try to keep it funded. AWC also wants to look at new areas that should be studied. In addition, over the next month or so, individual reports on the 2010 sites and their monitors will be posted on our website. Meadow Creek is already up. Thanks, Thom (and Bullitt)!

### **Special Request--Incubator Campaign!**

AWC has over 20 water quality monitors who volunteer their time 16 days a year to monitor our creeks. Funding for the program is very slim, and that often means we have to "make do" with minimal equipment. One of our most basic and primitive pieces of equipment is a home-made incubator for the *E. coli* tests. Old copy paper boxes with low watt light bulbs are used to help grow the bacteria colonies so the monitors can do counts for their sites. Recently we have discovered a great, light weight, fire-safe, temperature-constant incubator that costs about \$70. That's the good news. The bad news is that this very light weight incubator costs about \$30-40 to ship up here. AWC is going to run a campaign to collect money to replace our volunteer monitors' incubators. If we can collect enough money for the units, it's likely that we can strike some sort of deal on the shipment costs. If you are feeling so inclined to help the monitoring program--this would be a GREAT way. We could even name the incubator in your honor!



What we'd love to have.



What we have (courtesy of Giselle Bergeron--"moniteur et artiste extraordinaire"). Note the attractive flaps for adjusting the temperature, the thermometer that we use to try and keep the box within a range of 14 degrees F (as opposed to a constant 96 degrees F), and the sturdiness of this safe box. Also, you will see that Giselle has the French version of our incubator, which is only appropriate.

## **AWC MEMBERSHIP**

Being a member of the AWC means that you care passionately about the well-being of your own environment. We work to keep the waterways clean, clear, and of value to all those who use them. From clean water and recreation to creating a general feeling of well-being, our waterways need protecting for our own benefit, as well as for the countless other species that rely on them. Adding your name to our membership means we can make a stronger stand when it comes to the issues that can affect us all--use your vote and become a member today!

It's easy, you can go online at [www.anchoragecreeks.org](http://www.anchoragecreeks.org) and click the "JOIN" button, where you can join, renew or donate. If you have a question about your membership and when it expires, please contact us at [awc@anchoragecreeks.org](mailto:awc@anchoragecreeks.org). If you know someone who wants to help support our great waterways, please forward this email to them. Thanks to all for your continuing support and especially to our sponsors, volunteers who watch the waterways, monitor the creeks, and help this great organization--the ONLY one in Anchorage dedicated to protecting our creeks, wetlands, and watersheds.

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