
Poster Contest Rules:

Contest is open to Gwinnett County students K-5th grade.

Posters should be 11" x 17".

Write child's name, grade, school, parent's name and phone number on back of poster.

Posters are due no later than April 20th and can be dropped off at **REI in Buford**, Customer Service Desk (770-831-0676).

One winner will be named and notified by April 30th. Winner's poster will be displayed in the Mall of Georgia and at REI during the month of May. Winner will receive gifts from GWF and REI as well as a special tour of Mill Creek Nature Center for their family. The winner's class will have the opportunity for a special in-school program presented by Mill Creek volunteers.

Questions, please contact:

Christina Marr
Volunteer & Program Coordinator—MCNC
Georgia Wildlife Federation

Phone: 770-868-8423 (between 9am-5pm)
Email: cmarr@gwf.org



GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

11600 Hazelbrand Road
Covington, GA 30319

Phone: 770-787-7887
www.gwf.org

GEORGIA WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

**Mill Creek
Nature Center**

3rd Annual “American Wetlands Month” Poster Contest





May is **American Wetlands Month**...

2008 contest theme: “Climate Change and Wetlands”

Georgia Wildlife Federation announces its 3rd Annual Poster Contest for Mill Creek Nature Center.

Mill Creek Nature Center is an education facility owned and operated by GWF and is located in Buford, across from the Mall of Georgia.

Mill Creek Nature Center is 88 acres of wetlands, uplands and floodplains of Ivy Creek. Many species of plants and wildlife call MCNC home and it's important that we protect this unique piece of land.

Even though MCNC is not open to the public yet, you can become a volunteer and support MCNC by helping develop this site and continue our conservation efforts.

To volunteer, please contact Christina Marr, Volunteer and Program Coordinator, at 770-868-8423 (between 9am-5pm) or cmarr@gwf.org.

Wetlands

What are wetlands? Wetlands are unique ecosystems that are transition zones between land and water. Not all wetlands contain water year-round.

Wetlands provide many valuable resources to wildlife, such as habitat to raise young, food, and resting stops for migrating species.

Wetlands are very important to humans. Wetlands filter pollutants and clean water, reduce flooding, provide recreational, educational and research opportunities as well as excellent areas for fishing.



“Climate Change and Wetlands”



Greenhouses keep heat inside for plants that are housed within. Because of human activity, gases such as carbon dioxide and methane have become trapped within Earth's atmosphere keeping the heat there and warming up our planet. This trapping of heat is called “global warming” and it is just one part of “climate change” that is occurring here on Earth.

As the Earth continues to warm up, wildlife and plants are adjusting to survive in areas where sea levels are rising, droughts are occurring in other regions and warming temperatures in the South send migrating birds farther North for cooler areas.

Although some wetland areas are suffering, wetlands can help alleviate some effects of climate change by absorbing floodwaters, storing large amounts of carbon and methane and create a habitat for migrating birds in search of more suitable habitat. (IWLA, *Wetland Sights & Sounds* newsletter).

For more information on climate change, wetlands, and the important relationship between them, check out these websites:

Izaak Walton League www.iwla.org/wetlands

IWL's report that documents impacts of climate change in Minnesota.

Wetlands International (climate change affecting wetland health)
www.wetlands.org/articlemenu.aspx?id=a472daf3-e26a-4d5e-8248-5477e91a9a59

Next Generation Earth (how you can help fight global climate change)
www.nextgenerationearth.org/home

POSTER CONTEST IDEAS:

Poster contest entries may show any or all of the following :

- What is happening to wetlands because of climate change
- Specific plant or wildlife species that climate change is affecting
- OR What people can do to stop climate change and improve wetland areas

