



Great Plains Earth Institute  
829 North Market, Wichita, KS 67214  
**GRASS ROOTS**

Newsletter, Summer, 2008

*After being contacted by Sheryl Connell, librarian of Pray-Woodman Elementary School in Maize, KS, to help the school establish a local environmental event, we partnered with Grandma's Farm to do a two day event. Ten days before the fun was to start, Rita became seriously ill (she is absolutely wonderful now!). Frank Hosford, Kathy Carter and Diane Page offered to take our place and the following is Kathy's account of the magic that happened. We thank all who were involved and supported us.*

**The Delights of Oneness: An Earth Day Presentation**  
Kathy Carter

I had the privilege of working with Cindy and Gary Siebler from Grandma's Farm, Frank Hosford from Earth Renewal Project, Diane Page from Roots and Shoots, Sheryl Connell, the librarian from Pray-Woodman Elementary School in Maize, and over 700 children that attend the school for an Earth Day presentation and project. Cindy Siebler presented a PowerPoint presentation on the history and projects going on at Grandma's Farm. There were many pictures included of the farm and the future look of the farm. The emphasis that Cindy made was on the sustainability that Grandma's farm is working towards and is achieving. The children were fascinated that old bottles could be built into walls for a stained-glass effect. There was also much awe about the name of their school being named after Cindy's family.



After the interesting presentation, we divided the children into seven groups where they moved to centers to explore different facets of nature. There was a bone center where there were different animal bones and turtle shells, and a shell and sand station, which included three different types of sand from around the world. I also provided an items-produced-by-plants center, where they could touch seeds, twigs, leaves, nuts, and dried berries. Next, was a rock and mineral center, where the children could explore many different sizes and shapes of rocks and crystals. Several children were immediately drawn towards the quartz crystal pieces.

Following rotating through the rock and mineral center, the children saw the baby chicks provided by Frank Hosford. This was a favorite center for many of the children, so much that we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Frank also provided two other centers for the presentation. The children learned and gently dug for red wiggler composting worms that had roots back to Nana Jane's Worm Farm, but born in the composting worm section of Frank's own backyard! Frank did a presentation for the children (and adults present) about all the benefits of composting worms. The children were absolutely engrossed and grossed out by the fact that worms can eat feces and turn it into fresh, renewed soil.



If baby chicks and awesome red wiggler worms weren't enough wildlife for the children, there was another grand center with two hens for the children to observe. One of the hens laid an egg during one of the class sessions, which brought a few questions about where the egg came out of the chicken. Frank also provided much information about chickens in his presentation.

Diane Page set-up a center for Roots and Shoots, and the children had the opportunity to practice recycling, as well as an opportunity to write a promise to Earth on a rock to take home with them. Diane also spoke to the children about the importance of taking care of the earth and what they can do to make a difference for the environment.

In closing, the children were gathered to watch a video created by the Foundation for Global Community. A wise wombat summed up our entire production in less than one minute. His message—Oneness, and the importance of all of us on planet earth learning to share and get along, as well as, the connection that we have to everything—even tacos!

I can't do this video enough justice—please enjoy it yourself, and imagine over 700 children's laughter as they experienced it too:

<http://www.globalcommunity.org/flash/wombat.shtml>