

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS****BUILDING STRONG®**

For Immediate Release:
April 29, 2010
News Release: 10-28

Contact:
Billy Birdwell, Public Affairs Officer, 912.652.5014/5279
After hours 912.677.6039 Billy.e.birdwell@us.army.mil
Jeanne Hodge, Public Affairs Specialist, 912.652.5770
Jeanne.hodge@us.army.mil
www.sas.usace.army.mil

Corps' Thurmond Project to host Eco-Meet competition

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – The [U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake](#) Office will host the 10th Annual Middle School Eco-Meet competition on May 7 at Mallard Point in the Lake Springs Recreation Area at Thurmond Lake.

The Eco-Meet was developed by the Central Savannah River Authority (CSRA), Environmental Science Education Cooperative (ESEC) to generate enthusiasm and excellence in environmental education. The Eco-Meet brings students together to learn about the environment and compete in a variety of fun and challenging hands-on activities. The Eco-Meet challenge will include topics on wetland ecology, monarch butterfly biology, avian biology, invasive species, amphibian and reptile biology, and the role of hydropower in the environment.

Participants will include 120 students from middle schools throughout the CSRA and as far away as Wrens, Ga., and Greenwood, S.C. After a day of testing their knowledge in hands-on activities, teams with the top three overall scores will be recognized with plaques, medals, and prizes.

The Middle School Eco-Meet will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Due to the large number of participants and volunteers expected at the meet, the Corps recommends that the public use other areas within Lake Springs during the event. A list of recreation areas can be found at www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/.

The J. Strom Thurmond Project is a member of the ESEC, a local non-profit organization consisting of 24 Federal, state, county and non-profit agencies within the CSRA. This group promotes the CSRA as a center of excellence in environmental science education. It also provides information and access to programs for the community to become more effective environmental stewards through science education, research, technology and public outreach.

ESEC members involved in the event include member organizations such as Ft. Gordon Army installation, Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy, Watson-Brown Foundation, Silver Bluff Audubon Center, Georgia Forestry Commission-Spirit Creek Educational Forest, Columbia County Reed Creek Nature Center, Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division, National Wild Turkey Federation, University of South Carolina-Aiken's Ruth Patrick Science Center, University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Augusta State University, Energy Solutions, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to name a few. Volunteers from the ESEC partners, as well as Midland Valley Future Farmers of America will assist with the event.

For more information on the 2010 Eco-Meet, visit the Environmental Science Education Cooperative (ESEC) website at www.csraesec.org or contact Susan Boyd, with the Corps' Thurmond Project toll free at 1-800-533-3478, ext. 1177, or via email at susan.r.boyd@usace.army.mil.