

## The Green Notebook

### Recycled Sporting Goods

I read a great article in an environmental magazine about where to donate and find recycled sporting goods. I thought I would share the resources with you since the weather is turning so beautiful and many of us are heading outdoors. Maybe you can send some of your old or unused sporting goods to these programs:

- \* Patagonia's Common Threads Garment Recycling Program—Patagonia will take back and remanufacture your old Capilene, Polartec Fleece, Patagonia Fleece and Cotton T's. To learn more, go to [www.patagonia.com/recycle](http://www.patagonia.com/recycle).

- \* Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe—Sponsored by the athletic shoe giant, this program takes any brand of athletic shoes (no spikes) and turns the shoes into Nike Grind (separating the foam, rubber and fabric parts of the shoes). The "grind" is then used in creating new tracks, turf or playgrounds. Can't beat that! Learn more about individual or group donations at [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com).

- \* Wilson's Green Basketball—Wilson sporting goods company has created their Rebound basketball which is made with 40 percent recycled rubber—even the basketball's box is made with 80% pre- and post-consumer cardboard. Ask your local retailer for it or check out [www.wilson.com](http://www.wilson.com).

- \* Fair Trade Sporting Goods—Fair Trade Sports specializes in 100 percent recycled and vegan athletic balls, all made by workers who are earning a fair wage. According to [Fairtradesports.com](http://Fairtradesports.com), all after-tax profits benefit children's charities.

- \* Soles4souls—This organization provides footwear for the less fortunate around the world, including the U.S. You can donate your old shoes by locating a participating location at [www.Soles4souls.org](http://www.Soles4souls.org).

Another great place to find gently used sports equipment is Play It Again Sports with local locations in Dublin and Westerville.

*Source: "Do-Over Sporting Goods" by Brandon D. Shuler, E: The Environmental Magazine, May/June 2009.*

*Tuesday Trippier lives in Delaware is a writer and mother of three with a special interest in green living.*