

Congrats to Eco-Tips Winner

Way back during Fair Week, I announced a contest for folks to submit their eco-ideas. I am pleased to announce the winners as Pauline and Ken Scott who volunteer at Stratford Ecological Center. They have decided to donate their \$20 Beehive Books gift card to Stratford for them to purchase books for their story time and summer camp programs. Thanks so much to Pauline and Ken for submitting their ideas and to Beehive Books for the donation of the gift card. All of your generousities are much appreciated.

Now to share the excellent eco-tips which Pauline says is a mix of her and her husband's as well as some ideas implemented by the ecological center:

- Replacing a 30-year-old refrigerator, despite its excellent condition, has resulted in a large reduction in the electric bill.
- Setting the water heater at 120 degrees F instead of 140 degrees with no problems.
- Using cheerful cloth napkins all the time, which can be homemade from scraps of material.
- Recycling monthly calendar pictures to create greeting cards for friends and family.
- Buying furniture from folks who are moving or downsizing to avoid the need to buy new, thus saving resources.
- Making a real effort to turn the faucets on with a less forceful water flow to conserve water.
- Signing up to receive bank statements by email.
- Stratford Ecological Center encourages "no waste lunches" by bringing food in re-usable containers, using cloth napkins and putting any leftovers in the compost pile.
- Stratford uses their garden compost to make "compost tea" by filling an old sack with compost, lowering it into a full rain water barrel until it "brews" and then filling watering cans from the barrel of "tea" and feeding the plants, which thrive on the nutrients.

Pauline also points out the benefits of finding new uses for our seldom used belongings, reminding us that it is often the little things we can do to be eco-friendly which can add up to create big benefits.

"After years of making room for a gift of a large food processor, which I rarely used, I gave it to a friend who could use it in her new baking endeavor," explains Pauline. "My friend saved her 'greenbacks,' the planet benefited as she avoided buying a new processor and I had the satisfaction of reducing, reusing and recycling, along with the anticipation of a wonderful dessert!"

Again, thanks to everyone for your support in sharing eco-tips! Also, as it is the season of thanks, I want to pause to say how grateful I am to have the opportunity to write these columns, thankful to

those of you who take the time to read them and to the *Delaware Gazette* for printing them. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

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