

AT BOLIVIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School-Industry Partnership Promoting Environmental Education

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Pupils at Bolivia Elementary School are in a new partnership with a neighbor.

DuPont's Cape Fear site in Leland helped students celebrate Earth Day belatedly last week, starting them on a good environmental habit with a sturdy 90-gallon cart for collecting recyclables.

The industry also gave Bolivia School a young flowering Bradford pear tree, planted last Wednesday in front of the school, and funding for further beautification of the school grounds.

Principal David Corley calls it a "cooperative partnership," and the contribution by teachers and students was at least a week of classroom time devoted to environmental matters and the start of a recycling program. Kids were asked to bring newspapers from home, and those who did were treated to ice cream on May 4, declared Ice Cream Day by DuPont, which provided the treat.

"DuPont is serious about doing more than its share about the environment," said Twig Wiggins, the company's developmental resource representative, visiting the school for the tree-planting. "We recycle paper, cans and all our processes, and we have reduced our emissions every year."

With the installation of scrubbers and other state-of-the-art equipment, DuPont has brought down emissions from 8.25 million pounds in 1987 to four million pounds in 1992. The volume of solid waste to the landfill fell in one week from 25,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds.

Now the industry hopes to influence the environmental education of children, as well.

"Classroom teachers were told to use this opportunity presented by DuPont," said Corley, "as a vehicle to promote awareness of the importance of cleaning up the environment. Each teacher did this in a different way."

Jenni Johnson's fourth graders were surrounded by posters, recycling demonstrations and papers they had written on the subject. Asked how they have been observing Earth Day, everyone had a different answer.



A FLOWERING PEAR tree will grace the front lawn of Bolivia Elementary School. A gift of DuPont Cape Fear site, the tree is being planted by fourth graders (from left) Dominique Wilson, James Connolly, Nicholas Lash and Billie Hewett.

"I pick up trash," said Roy James, "because it looks bad," while Jeffrey Alcorn reported that every class member collected news articles about recycling. Ashley Sullivan told how the class kept a daily record of recycling efforts at home, and Amica Galloway described the beginnings of a newspaper being put together by one group. "We're writing about recycling," she said.

Johnson said her class had won the banner for three straight months as the top class in can collection. "One of my students brought in 1,200 cans one day," she said. "Her

folks flattened them by rolling over a bagful with a truck."

Bolivia kids are writing about the environment, reading and talking about it in classrooms and they are seeing conservation efforts modeled in their front yard by an area industry. More importantly, they are working at it with an effort that will continue, Corley said, long beyond the tree-planting and even Ice Cream Day.

Their studies will culminate with BEAR Day May 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.



JENNI JOHNSON'S class concentrates on the environment, with essays, art work, can collection and other activities. Gathered around a pollution exhibit with Johnson are (from left) Ashley Sullivan, Amica Galloway, Steven Varnam, Tony Turner, Rufus Randolph and Tabitha Cordray.

Southport's In Running For '92 'All-American' Competition

Southport residents and officials are excited about news just received that their town is among 30 finalists in the All-American Cities competition, sponsored by Allstate Insurance and the National Civic League.

Out of 141 towns across the country, 30 were chosen to make formal presentations June 4 through 6 in Charlotte. From that group 10 will receive the All-American Cities designation for 1992.

Jo Ann Wesson's agency is one of the reasons for Southport's inclusion. She is executive director of Southport 2000, the revitalization corporation that has spawned the Main Street project, focusing on historic preservation and economic re-

structuring in the town.

"We're really pleased to be in the running, as the smallest town of the group," she said. Southport's population is 2,385.

Seven other North Carolina towns were among the 141 entries, including Jacksonville, Boone, Elkin, Garner, Elizabethtown, Wilson and the Piedmont Triad. Only Jacksonville joins Southport as a finalist.

"The criteria they're looking for have to do with community projects," Wesson explained. "In our application, we discussed the Main Street project, our urban design planning and the Maritime Museum, which is in progress."

An architect provided by the

American Institute of Architects donated his services in designing a Southport of the future, according to Wesson, but only after considerable input from community meetings and from organizations in the town.

"The whole purpose of the All-American Cities competition is to find towns that are trying to plan ahead and better themselves with community involvement, not depending on government help to do it," Wesson said.

She and town officials have not decided what form Southport's 10-minute presentation in June will take, Wesson said, but it will include slide scenes of the town and artifacts from the prospective museum.

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