



WastePaper

A Publication Of Keep Nebraska Beautiful

Spring 2006

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Meth Labs and Litter - Creating Awareness

Governor Dave Heineman has reported, "The growing number of methamphetamine (meth) labs is a serious issue in Nebraska. According to the U.S. Justice Department, 245 meth labs were seized in Nebraska during 2003 and more than 300 labs were dismantled in 2004. Meth made in local labs constitutes roughly 20 percent of the total supply available."

One of the many dangers associated with meth lab production is the resultant litter being dumped in areas where cleanup volunteers could come in contact with the harmful items. Common meth lab waste items that may be found include:

- ❖ Cold/allergy medicine packaging
- ❖ Propane tanks
- ❖ Coffee filters with white or red pasty or powdery substance
- ❖ Coolers, thermos bottles, or other cold storage containers
- ❖ Funnels, hosing and clamps
- ❖ Packaging from epsom salt, rock salt, iodized or table salt

If cleanup volunteers see any suspicious materials, they should move away from the area and call 911 or *55 on their cell phone. None of the items should be touched or smelled.

In an effort to keep volunteers

safe and healthy, Keep Nebraska Beautiful partnered with the Office of Congressman Tom Osborne, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, Nebraska Department of Roads,



and Nebraska State Patrol to form a Methamphetamine Litter Awareness Task Force. Thanks to funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Fund, a brochure and video (also available as a DVD) has been produced. Pictures of some of the more prevalent items that can be found in meth lab litter, the Do's and Don'ts for volunteers, and instructions on how to respond when potential meth

lab litter is found are all included in both the brochure and the video. There is also general information on volunteer safety and health concerns.

Copies of the brochure and video can be viewed and downloaded from our website at <www.knb.org>. If you are unable to download either the brochure or video, please contact the Keep Nebraska Beautiful office at 402-486-4562, or email us at <info@knb.org>. We will be glad to send you copies.

Please help us keep Nebraska both safe and beautiful!

**KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL
NEBRASKA AFFILIATES**

Keep Alliance Beautiful
(308) 762-1729

Keep Beatrice Beautiful
(402) 228-4576

Keep Broken Bow Beautiful
(308) 872-5691

Keep Chadron Beautiful
(308) 432-3805

Keep Columbus Beautiful
(402) 563-9223

Keep Creighton Beautiful
(402) 358-3557

Keep Fremont Beautiful
(402) 727-2808

Grand Island Area Clean Community System
(308) 385-5095

Keep Keith County Beautiful
(308) 284-4066

Keep Kimball Beautiful
(308) 235-3472

Keep Lexington Beautiful
(308) 324-7986

Keep Lincoln & Lancaster Co. Beautiful
(402) 441-8035

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful
(308) 728-3393

Keep Norfolk Beautiful
(402) 379-3260

Keep North Platte/Lincoln Co. Beautiful
(308) 534-8100

Keep Northeast Nebraska Beautiful
(402) 582-4233

Keep Omaha Beautiful
(402) 444-7774

Keep Schuyler Beautiful
(402) 352-3101

Keep Scottsbluff-Gering Beautiful
(308) 632-4649

Keep Sheridan Co. Beautiful
(308) 638-7127

Keep Sidney Beautiful
(308) 254-5851

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Executive Director's Comments

By Jane Polson

Paper ...the everyday wonder. It carries your thoughts, your dreams and your coffee! Now that's versatility! In 2005, Americans recycled more than 51.5 percent of all paper consumed in the United States. All of that old paper went back into new products such as newspapers, corrugated containers, grocery sacks, cereal boxes, and office paper. To build on this success, the U.S. paper industry has set a goal to increase its paper recovery rate to 55 percent of all paper by 2012.



One of the efforts underway to help reach that goal is a partnership between Keep America Beautiful and the American Forest and Paper Association. As a Keep America Beautiful state affiliate, Keep Nebraska Beautiful has initiated an effort to encourage schools across the state to either start a recycling program, or step up their recycling efforts if they already have a program in place.

Schools represent a significant source of paper that can be recovered for recycling. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, waste from schools, institutions, and businesses make up about 35 to 45 percent of all municipal solid waste. On average, up to 80 percent of a school's waste stream can be recovered, and about half of that is paper. High quality products abundant in schools (as well as business offices) including white computer paper, copier paper and office stationery, represent a tremendous growth opportunity for recycling programs.

School recycling makes the grade! When students recycle they become part of a process larger than themselves. Recycling has a positive impact on the environment, adds jobs to the U.S. economy, and turns used products into new ones. Some of the reasons for schools to recycle include:

- ❖ Recyclables have value - Recovered paper accounts for 37 percent of the raw material used to make new paper and paper-board products in the United States.

- ❖ Recycling saves landfill space - Today, more paper is recovered for recycling than is sent to a landfill. Every ton of paper recycled saves more than 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

- ❖ Recycling gets you thinking - Recycling is a hands-on tool for teaching students about the papermaking process, the environment, and personal responsibility. It can also be useful for teaching math and science skills, and collaborative learning.

For more information about the school recycling initiative, contact the Keep Nebraska Beautiful office.

Success Stories from our Local KAB Affiliates

Whether they are working hard to organize an event or talking to students in classrooms or special events, KAB local affiliates are hardworking individuals striving to educate their communities about litter reduction and community beautification. There are 21 local KAB affiliates across the state helping to keep Nebraska clean and beautiful through their efforts. We would like to share a few of the many success stories from our local affiliates.

Keep Fremont Beautiful Children's Eco-Fair

This marked the 11th year for Keep Fremont Beautiful's annual Eco-Fair for area 4th grade students. This year, nearly 450 students attended the festival. They had the opportunity to learn about litter reduction, buying recycled, landfilling, energy conservation, and eco-crime, as well as, other environmental issues at various display booths at the festival. Students also had the opportunity to participate in "hands-on" activities by either making an envelope from wallpaper, a bead from scrap paper, a bookmark from chip board, a card using recycled paper, or a pencil holder from a tin can.

There were 80 adult volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure this Eco-Fair happened. Hundreds of hours of labor were



Members of the Fremont Police Department explain the dangers of Meth and Meth Lab Litter to students.

donated to the Keep Fremont Beautiful (KFB) Committee to complete this project. Partnerships with businesses, government agencies, area schools and colleges assured the success of this "fun" learning project.

The Eco-Fair is funded in part by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Fremont, Keep Fremont Beautiful, and various local businesses. As an added incentive to attend, KFB provides monies to the schools that come for reimbursement of transportation costs. Prizes are donated and awarded at the end of each session. Students always enjoy this portion of the fair experience. Hats off to Keep Fremont Beautiful for this successful annual event!

Keep Schuyler Beautiful "Spring Sing"

Keep Schuyler Beautiful had Kindergarten through sixth grade students singing about the environment in April through visits to 35 music classes in area schools. A total of 663 students learned about litter prevention and recycling by singing familiar songs with new lyrics.



One song, sung to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" had the words changed to, "Save, save, save the cans, throw them in the bin; We can help to save the earth if we all pitch in." Another song, sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques" had the words changed to, "We're not litterbugs, we're not litterbugs; No siree, no siree!; We pick up our trash, we pick up our trash; Yes, siree, yes, siree!; We don't throw it away, we don't throw it away; No, siree, no, siree!" Between songs, the students were presented additional information about litter prevention and recycling. What a fun way to educate students about the environment!

Success story from Keep Omaha Beautiful (Featured on Page 5.)

2006 KEEP NEBRASKA BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Five Steps to Success - Ideas to Improve Your Community", is the theme for this year's Keep Nebraska Beautiful Annual Conference. The conference will take place on June 21 and 22, 2006 and will be held in Columbus, NE at the New World Inn. The conference is open to the public.

Following is an outline of the sessions that will be offered at the conference:

Wednesday Morning, June 21, 2006

- ❖ **Get the Facts on Litter:** The session will include research and study information on the dangerous effects of litter on highways; the economic effect of litter on property values, and the effect litter and illegal dumping has on the quality of our surface and ground water. Presenters will include Sue Smith, Director of Education and Training for Keep America Beautiful and Jim Goeke with the Conservation & Survey Division of the University of Nebraska.

- ❖ **Involve the People: The Abilene Paradox**
This lively session will focus on one of the core dynamics of group decision-making, and will help leaders of organizations, communities and businesses recognize mismanaged agreement which can be counterproductive to a group's overall purpose. Sue Smith and Jane Polson will be the facilitators.

Wednesday Afternoon, June 21, 2006

- ❖ **Develop a Plan - Making Effective Use of an Operation Manual:** Learn how to simplify your workload by using an operation manual guideline when planning and carrying out projects. Sue Smith will teach us how.

- ❖ **Focus on Results in Technology:** Want to learn more about effectively using your digital camera and how to safely use your computer? If so, Tech Guru Jim Smith will show you how to use the latest technology and answer all your technical questions!

- ❖ **Focus on Results: Sharing Program Success:** Conference attendees will share their

most successful project during the past year. It's always the hit of the conference!

Thursday Morning, June 22, 2006

- ❖ **Develop a Plan for a Public Relations Campaign:** What kind of media message will be effective in galvanizing Nebraskans to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments? Sue Smith will share strategies from other states and the results of some recent surveys.

- ❖ **Involve the People: Working with Public Officials:** We will have a mayor, city administrators and a city council member share their thoughts on how to effectively work in partnership with government entities.

- ❖ **Provide Positive Reinforcement**
"Celebrating What's Right with the World": A highly motivating video will be the centerpiece of this session, reminding us to look at what's right, instead of what's wrong in the world about us.

The conference will conclude with the Keep Nebraska Beautiful Environmental Awards luncheon at noon. The Environmental Awards will honor youth groups, schools, businesses, civic organizations, Keep America Beautiful affiliates, and communities all across the state who have accomplished great improvements to the environment within their communities and across our state.

For more information about the conference or to download a registration form, please visit our website at <www.knb.org> or give us a call at 800-486-4562. Early registrations are due by June 1.

This year's conference committee consists of Heather Buttarro, Keep Columbus Beautiful; Harry Heafer, Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful; Angela King, Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful; Joan Mejstrik, Keep Schuyler Beautiful; Dawn Miller, Keep Norfolk Beautiful; Linda Studnicka, Keep Loup Basin Beautiful; and Jane Polson, Keep Nebraska Beautiful.

PUTTING A LID ON LITTER

Litter problems and solutions can vary greatly across different communities. But regardless of where you live, effective litter prevention requires a few necessary ingredients: an understanding of the litter problem itself, organization, enthusiasm and, perhaps most importantly, an ongoing commitment to keep the anti-litter fight alive.

Why People Litter:

Carelessness - A lot of litter is simply created by accident. Failing to immediately put trash into a proper receptacle (and putting a lid on the receptacle) increases the chances of the trash being misplaced. Careless people might be concerned about the litter problem, but they might not yet have connected it with their behavior.

Cost & Convenience - Some people are aware that litter is inappropriate behavior, but they have decided it is cheaper to litter rather than to pay for disposal. The result is piles of trash dumped on public lands or garbage bags found in ditches.

Attitudes - The reason many people litter is simply a reflection of their attitudes and perceptions regarding litter. Keep America Beautiful's research has identified three basic reasons why people litter:

-They feel no sense of ownership, even in public areas such as parks.

-They believe someone else (i.e., park or highway crews) will pick up after them.

-They see litter has already accumulated, reinforcing their negative behavior. In other words, litter begets litter. The key to changing this behavior lies in changing the attitudes and understanding of the people who litter.

How to Establish an Anti-litter Program:

1. Identify Problem Areas - Do an assessment of the littered areas in your community. Are there sufficient trash cans available? Are dumpsters or trash cans overflowing which might indicate more frequent emptying is needed?
2. Spread the Word - Educate and activate your community. Gain public, government and business support to focus on the problem areas.
3. Get People Involved - A community's active involvement in cleaning up litter has been found to go a long way in recovering residents' pride in and satisfaction with their neighborhood.
4. Keep It Clean...and Easy - Keeping our lands and communities litter-free is an ongoing activity, but studies show that as small amounts of litter accumulate, people are more likely to add litter to the area, while people walking through a neat and clean environment are more likely to go out of their way to dispose of their trash properly.
5. Become a Keep America Beautiful affiliate! Contact the Keep Nebraska Beautiful office to learn how you can establish an affiliate in your community.

Success Story From A Local Affiliate Keep Omaha Beautiful Beautifies an Interchange

The interchange at 72nd and Center Streets in Omaha is an area that has been filled with mud, litter and weeds for years. Keep Omaha Beautiful decided to take on the challenge of beautifying the intersection and making it into something that Omahans could be proud of. Currently, they are proposing to plant native, colorful grasses in this large circular area. A funding drive from area businesses has met with much success and the group is already halfway to their goal.

The group hopes to plant the northwest area in June and transform it into a spot of natural beauty. If this project goes well, they hope to do the same to other interchanges with circular areas in the city that could use sprucing up. Thanks to the efforts of this group of dedicated individuals, Omaha is on the way to becoming a more beautiful place to live, work, and visit!



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

On the third Saturday of September, many people around the world will be gathering to remove litter and debris from beaches, lakes, and streams. They will be coming together to do their part for the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). Begun in 1986, the ICC, sponsored by The Ocean Conservancy, has brought together volunteers annually to clean the world's oceans and waterways. This year's event will take place on September 16.

As volunteers perform cleanups, they are asked to track what they collect. The results are used to help shape ocean policy and to educate people around the world. The information received has helped to encourage anti-litter

programs, and has even led to changes in the manufacturing of some items often found during cleanups.



If you would like to become involved, please call our office at 402-486-4562 for more information or to sign up for a cleanup. Help to keep all of Nebraska's lakes, rivers, and streams clean by signing up for the International Coastal Cleanup!

GOLF FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!



Mark your calendar for Friday, September 29, 2006, the date of Keep Nebraska Beautiful's Tenth Annual Charity Golf Tournament! This year's golf tournament will take place at Arbor Links Golf Course in Nebraska City. There will be four divisions of play: Corporate Challenge; Engineering Challenge; Power Struggle; and

Legal Challenge. We will be continuing a new tradition started last year with traveling trophies being awarded to the champion team in each division. The members of the top two teams in each division will also receive trophies.

Gather a foursome together and plan to join us for a great day of golf, food, fun and prizes! For more information, call Jane at 402-486-4562 or e-mail her at <golf@knb.org>. Registration forms are available on our website at <www.knb.org>. Hope to see you there!

THE FUTURE ... FOR TRASH HANDLING?

One man's idea for handling trash could lead to a new way of looking at trash in the future. Jim Poss, founder of Seahorse Power Company in Massachusetts, has created a trash container that can hold and compact trash to just a fraction of its original size. The solar-powered trash compacting containers have the benefit of requiring less frequent emptying. The trash containers are equipped with a sensor that sends a signal each time a container is nearly full. The trash haulers receive the signal and can then plan their routes accordingly. This reduces the need for garbage haulers to make unnecessary trips to empty containers that are only partially full. With fewer trips to empty containers, there is less diesel being spewed into the air from the garbage trucks that haul the refuse.

At about \$4,500 apiece, the cans are meeting with mixed reviews. The benefits need to outweigh the costs for the cans to be accepted by many cities, businesses, and citizens in general. According to the website, the cans pay for themselves in one year by eliminating collection costs. It states that collections are reduced by 8:1. It also has the added feature of keeping animals from getting in and making a mess. With the system being solar-powered the containers can be placed anywhere.



With the need to reduce waste that goes to the landfill, this system may just be something to consider. Is this the future for trash handling?

Keep Nebraska Beautiful Members

Bold text indicates new or recently renewed members

Sustaining Corporate (\$1000+)

Kiewit Companies Foundation.....Omaha

Sponsoring Corporate (\$500-999)

Coca-Cola Bottling Company.....Omaha
Coors Brewing Company.....Golden, CO
Hewlett-Packard.....Omaha
Koley Jessen, P.C.....Omaha
LP Gill Inc.....Jackson
Nebraska Soft Drink Association.....Lincoln
Northern Natural Gas.....Omaha
Omaha Public Power District.....Omaha
Omaha World-Herald.....Omaha
Jim & Sue Smith.....Chicago, IL
Weyerhaeuser Company.....Omaha

Supporting Corporate (\$100-499)

Abe's Trash Service.....Omaha
ADM Corn Processing.....Columbus
Aquila.....Omaha
Ash Grove Cement Company.....Louisville
Beatrice Scrap Processing, Inc.....Beatrice
Bryan LGH Medical Center.....Lincoln
Butler County Landfill, Inc.....David City
Cargill Sweeteners North America.....Blair
Chief Industries.....Grand Island
Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.....Kimball
Countryside Energy.....Firth
CP Recovery.....Omaha
Dempster Industries, Inc.....Beatrice
Eaton Corporation.....Kearney
Electronic Recyclers, Inc.....Omaha
Flowsolve Corp.....Hastings
Fullenkamp, Doyle & Jobeun.....Omaha
G & P Development, Inc.....Milford
HDR.....Omaha
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.....Wahoo
Kirkham Michael.....Lincoln
Lincoln Plating.....Lincoln
Ralph & Beth Kernes Krause.....Julian
McDonalds of Alliance.....Alliance
MFG, Inc.....Omaha
Sara Morris.....North Platte
National Paper & Sanitary Supply.....Omaha
Nebraska Beer Wholesalers Assn.....Lincoln
Nebraska Energy LLC.....Aurora
Nebraska Public Power District.....Columbus
Nebraska Well Drillers Association.....Lincoln
Novartis Consumer Health.....Lincoln
Nucor Steel.....Norfolk
Papio-Missouri River NRD.....Omaha
Pavers, Inc.....Waverly
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. of Hastings.....Hastings
Pepsi Cola Bottling.....Lincoln
Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc.....Omaha
QC Supply.....Schuyler
Sherman County Bank.....Loup City
State Farm Insurance.....Lincoln
Tenneco Automotive.....Cozad
Terracon.....Omaha
TMCO, Inc.....Lincoln
Wis-Pak.....Watertown, WI

Community: 1-4999 Population

City of Albion.....Albion
Village of Arnold.....Arnold
City of Atkinson.....Atkinson
City of Auburn.....Auburn
City of Benkelman.....Benkelman
City of Creighton/Keep Creighton Beautiful.....Creighton
City of Fairbury.....Fairbury
City of Grant.....Grant
City of Laurel.....Laurel
City of Long Pine.....Long Pine
City of Minden.....Minden
City of Ponca.....Ponca
City of Red Cloud.....Red Cloud
Village of Wolbach.....Wolbach

Community: 5,000+ Population

City of South Sioux City.....South Sioux City

Non Profit/Civic Org./Schools/Other Corp.

A Plus Insurance Services (George Acker).....Ogallala
Beatrice Board of Public Works.....Beatrice
Boys & Girls Clubs of Omaha.....Omaha
Catholic Charities.....Omaha
David City Public Schools.....David City
Doane College.....Crete
GFWC Seward Womans Club.....Seward
The Groundwater Foundation.....Lincoln
Heartland Community Schools.....Henderson
Immanuel Lutheran School.....Columbus
Keep Alliance Beautiful.....Alliance
Keep Beatrice Beautiful.....Beatrice
Keep Columbus Beautiful.....Columbus
Keep Lexington Beautiful.....Lexington
Keep Northeast Nebraska Beautiful.....Dakota City
Keep North Platte/Lincoln Co. Beautiful.....No. Platte
Keep Omaha Beautiful.....Omaha
Keep Schuyler Beautiful.....Schuyler
Keep Scottsbluff-Gering Beautiful.....Scottsbluff
Keep Sidney Beautiful.....Sidney
Lincoln Children's ZooLincoln
Lincoln Christian School.....Lincoln
Lower Loup NRD.....Ord
Lower Platte North NRD.....Wahoo
Mosaic.....Holdrege
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts...Lincoln
Nebraska Licensed Beverage Association.....Lincoln
Nebraska Press Association.....Lincoln
Nebraska Safety Council.....Lincoln
NMPP Energy.....Lincoln
North Platte Catholic Schools.....North Platte
Ogallala/Keith Co. Chamber of Commerce...Ogallala
Open Door Mission.....Omaha
Peru Chamber of Commerce.....Peru
Sandhills Ind/No. Platte Opportunity Center....No. Platte
Solid Waste Agency of Northwest Nebraska.....Chadron
Southwest Nebraska RC&D.....Cambridge
Southwest Nebraska Solid Waste Agency.....Imperial
St. John's School.....Lincoln
Southeast Community College.....Lincoln
Tri Basin NRD.....Holdrege
Washington County Recycling Assn.....Washington
Wastecap of Nebraska.....Lincoln

Individual & Family Members

Cindy Adkins.....Gothenburg
Larry & Sue Andersen.....Kearney
Rod & Robin Bates.....Lincoln
Roger & Linda Behrns.....Louisville
Nadine Blair.....Omaha
Matt Boerkircher.....Kearney
Kurt Bogner.....Norfolk
Mary Jo & Dick Coffey.....Omaha
Clancy Dempsey.....Lincoln
Richard W. Edmisten.....Oakland
George & Barbara Frye.....Lincoln
Cheryl Gerkins.....Lincoln
Jim Goeke Family.....North Platte
Gail & Shane Graeve.....Elkhorn
Dennis & Lynn Grams.....Lincoln
Patricia Greene.....Papillion
Linda & Allen Grell.....Beatrice
Neil Heckman.....Hastings
Bob Hemphill.....Des Moines, IA
John & Deb Hendry.....Lincoln
Larry Jobeun.....Omaha
Jason Kennedy.....McCook
Tony Kisner.....Lawrence, KS
Frank Kosiba.....Omaha
Anne Kramar.....Omaha
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Chuck Mardesen.....Omaha
Bob McCarty.....St. Edward
Dr. Thomas & Evelyn McKnight.....Fremont
John Melingagio.....Omaha
Scott Meyer.....South Sioux City
Tomas A. Miller.....Norfolk
Delmar W. Morgan.....Elkhorn
Jay Morris.....Lawrence, KS
Jerry Morris.....North Platte
Kelan Morris.....Omaha
Michael & Debra Mostek.....Omaha
David R. Ostdiek.....Scottsbluff
Jim Otto.....Lincoln
Steve & Trish Owen.....Lincoln
Mary Alice Park.....Lincoln
Alan Phares.....Columbus
Dave & Jane Polson.....Lincoln
Dr. Wayne R. & Janice Price.....Beatrice
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Sue Reyzlik.....Fremont
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Mark Stephens.....Ft. Calhoun
David & Dorothy SternOmaha
Ken Svoboda.....Lincoln
Martha Thomas & Family.....Wymore
Katrina & Todd Trobee.....Ainsworth
Dick Varner.....Omaha
Kevin Warneke & Family.....Omaha
Jeff Waszgis.....Crete
James D. Whitaker.....North Platte
Virginia White.....Grand Island