

June 2008



Newsletter

Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please share the newsletter with anyone who might enjoy reading it. To receive electronic notification of newsletter availability and general recycling announcements, sign up for the OKRA list server on our website: www.recycleok.org

Lawmakers Set Recycling Goal for State

Legislation to bring Oklahomans together for a recycling initiative passed the full House thanks to state Rep. Wes Hilliard and Sen. Susan Paddack.

Senate Bill 498, by Hilliard and Paddack (D-Ada), sets a voluntary state goal to recycle at least 10 percent of all municipal waste collected in Oklahoma by 2011.

Hilliard said he hopes to raise awareness on how important recycling is not only to the environment but also for businesses and the economy.

"This is a way to cultivate recycling efforts across the state to form networks of individuals, communities, businesses and Oklahoma industries that can

use these recyclables for manufacturing," said Hilliard, D-Sulphur. "Currently, Oklahoma has 16 large industries that are 'end users' of materials Oklahomans can recycle."

According to a study done by Oklahoma State University and the Metropolitan Environmental Trust in Tulsa, those 16 industries have a \$200 million impact on Oklahoma's economy and are responsible for over 5,500 jobs.

Currently, 42 out of 77 counties have some type of public collection program for recyclables taking more than 34 different types of items from pop cans, brown paper bags, magazines and

newspapers to auto parts, brass and copper.

Hilliard said the Legislators and employees at the Capitol do their best to recycle and have recycle bins on every floor.



"The paper collected at the state Capitol is important to the Oklahoma companies who make paper towels, napkins and other paper products," said Hilliard.

"Whether we reach our goal of recycling 10 percent, this is a step in the right direction. I hope we surpass that goal and then next increase the percentage."

*By Sasha Bradley, April 24, 2008
(Press release from the OK State Capitol)*



OKRA Advocacy Report *by Ellen Bussert*

The OKRA Executive Board would like to thank the following people for their hard work and effort to establish a state recycling goal in Oklahoma. This initiative began in 2006 in the OKRA advocacy subcommittee. First of all, we would like to thank Senator Susan Paddack and Representative Wes Hilliard for sponsoring the bill. Thank you Garmon Smith for working with Senator Paddack to provide her with background information and to answer questions.

We would also like to recognize the work of Richard Chapman, OKRA Advocacy Chair, who not only gave his expertise, but a considerable amount of time and effort to guide SB 498 through the legislative process. A special thank you goes to DEQ Executive Director Steve Thompson for supporting the bill and working with OKRA on its passage. Also on the list is OKRA President Traci Phillips who attended several legislative committee meetings to answer questions regarding the purpose of the state recycling goal. Members of the OKRA Advocacy Committee are: Richard Chapman, Garmon Smith, Michael Patton, Garold Beasley, Ande Reed and Fenton Rood.

And last, but certainly not least, OKRA thanks **YOU**—our members and friends—for your help contacting legislators asking them to support this bill!!!

E-cycling is OK in Oklahoma

With his recent approval of Senate Bill 1631, Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry added the Sooner State to the growing list of U.S. states properly collecting unwanted electronics.

The Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act will require computer manufacturers to establish a state-approved recovery plan, which may include an existing collection and consolidation infrastructure, or creating a jointly-managed system

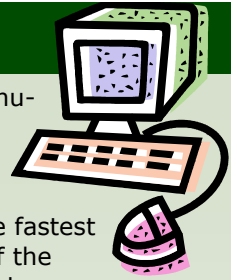
with other processors, re-use organizations, non-profit organizations or retailers. The measure targets desktop and laptop computers and computer monitors and will feature several different possible collection methods.

Under the measure, manufacturers will be asked to submit to the state a declaration that guarantees their recovery program will not landfill any collected electronics. The act

will commence January 1, 2009.

According to the EPA, discarded electronics are the fastest growing portion of the United States' waste stream, up almost 8% from 2004 to 2005, despite an overall decline in municipal wastes.

—from Resource Recycling e-news, May 15, 2008



E-Waste Collection a Big Success!

By Ellen Bussert

As a way of promoting and encouraging recycling, Natural Evolution, Inc. sponsored an e-waste collection on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at their Tulsa facility. The gates opened at 9:00 a.m. and closed at 2:00 p.m. During this time period, over 360 vehicles came with old hard drives, screens, scanners, printers and other electronic waste resulting in the



collection of 55,000 pounds. Drivers were greeted and thanked on behalf of OKRA and P. C. Power. Traffic at the collection was almost non-stop during the entire collection period. Natural Evolution donated \$.50 from each computer collected to OKRA and P.C. Power. OKRA will be receiving a check for \$360.00. **Thank you Natural Evolution for facilitating this event and giving to OKRA!**

US Postal Service Launches Free E-Waste Recycling

The United States Postal Service and Clover Technologies have partnered to provide consumers with free postage for the recycling of certain small electronic devices. Customers can pick up envelopes in the lobby of 1,500 Post Offices. Clover will pay the postage on these items in hopes they can be refurbished. If not, the components will be recycled.

The USPS already has a similar program to recycle light bulbs, and internally recycles one million tons of paper, plastic and other materials each year.

The pilot program will begin in 10 U.S. cities (none in Oklahoma yet), including Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington D.C. If successful, it will launch nationally in the fall.

Items that can be recycled include:

- Inkjet cartridges
- PDAs
- Blackberries
- Digital cameras
- iPods
- MP3 players



(From Earth 911 Newsletter, March 19, 2008)

DEQ CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2008 with "USE LESS STUFF WEEK"

Upon request from the DEQ and the Office of the Secretary of Environment, April 19-26, 2008 was declared as "Use Less Stuff (ULS) Week" by Governor Brad Henry. The proclamation, as well as other Use Less Stuff Campaign materials, may be read online here: <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/mainlinks/uls/index.htm>. ULS Week, spearheaded by DEQ, is set annually to coordinate with Earth Day on April 22nd as a reminder that using less stuff is something anyone can easily do to celebrate Earth Day. DEQ provides assistance and promotional material to civic minded citizens and groups interested in fostering a sustainable society.



NW Classen student uses new recycling bin donated by DEQ

For this year's ULS week, DEQ Land Protection collaborated with The Oklahoman on a 16-page insert about the life cycles of everyday products, using less stuff, the ecological footprint,

climate change and energy efficiency, and various environmental projects being conducted at Oklahoma schools. The article achieved a readership of 20,000 students and their teachers in 800 schools statewide. DEQ assisted C.A.S.T. (Cultural Awareness for Students and Teachers) with a new Earth

Day/Recyclathon event at the OKC Zoo's Rosser Conservation Education center on April 26, 2008. Eleven schools in Central Oklahoma were awarded an event recycling bin by the DEQ for starting a full recycling program by Earth Day. Goodwill Industries, Inc. was on hand at the event to collect and recycle worn out and discarded athletic shoes.

DEQ's Air Quality Division once again partnered with OG+E Energy Corp. to sponsor the ScienceFest for 5,000 Oklahoma students in 4th and 5th grades. This event is designed to foster scientific literacy while educating children about protecting the environment, conserving natural re-



The Recycling Station at Sciencefest

sources, and using alternative fuels and technologies. ScienceFest is annually a day packed with exciting exhibits, presentations, and hands-on demonstrations all developed to show the importance of scientific applications in the environment. The hands-on demonstrations use basic geology, biology, physical science, health and environmental sciences to teach the children how these impact everyday life. Look for information about the 2009 event at www.sciencefestok.com.

—By Subi John & Susie Shields,
DEQ

Is Your Garbage Overweight? Consider the "Waste Diet"

Want to do wonders for your waste line? Take a tip from the Engelmohr family and try out the waste diet. In January 2008 the Engelmohrs started a year-long project called "the waste diet". Their goal is to minimize the amount of landfill waste that they produce for an entire year. They began researching their project and weighing their trash last October and have recently completed their first official month on the diet. They changed their shopping habits, got serious about recycling, and began composting in their backyard. As a result, they have already slashed their monthly waste by over 100 pounds!

Although the Engelmohrs now live in St. Louis, Mo., they do have an Oklahoma connection. Maren (Hess) Engelmohr grew up in Norman, Oklahoma and was a 1982 graduate from Norman High School.



The Engelmohrs are a typical American family of four. They live in a 4 bedroom house on a suburban infill site about ¼ acres. They own two gas-guzzling vehicles and use electricity to run a plethora of convenient appliances. They do, however, live in a brand new green home which is the inspiration for the "waste diet". Their goal is to find environmentally friendly waste solutions while not drastically changing their lifestyle in the hopes that they will provide ideas and inspiration to others.

Consider taking the WASTE DIET challenge and trimming your landfill waste! For more information or to sign up for the challenge, visit the waste diet website at www.thewastediet.com.

Recycling News from Stillwater

For Your Convenience

Stillwater's Perkins Road Recycling Center Adds Staff, Expands Services

Earth Day last year was a day of reckoning for the city's recycling efforts, but this Earth Day brought a day of accomplishment for the city and a higher level of service for residents.

The city of Stillwater held the grand opening for its Convenience Collection Center on Tuesday. A tour of the facility was given and those on hand got to see the new services that are provided.

The collection center, Eighth and Perkins, will feature staff to assist patrons, expanded services and drive-through convenience.

"I think this is going to be a wonderful asset to the community," said City Manager Dan Galloway.

Mayor Roger McMillian spoke at the event and said the city has transformed what was, "at very best a recycling center into what we see here today." He called the collection center "tangible evidence" the city is improving recycling efforts.

What is now offered is a one-way entrance to the facility off of Perkins Road. The collection center is fenced and gated, and has security cameras for extra protection. Patrons will now exit the

facility onto Eighth Avenue.

Fenton Rood, director of waste systems planning for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, was the featured speaker. He said he couldn't think of a better way to celebrate Earth Day. He called Stillwater progressive for accepting yard waste, which totals 20 percent of all waste that enters Oklahoma's landfills.

Rood also said Stillwater is the first community in Oklahoma that has a real answer for recycling televisions. This will be important as technology changes and older televisions are phased out. Rood said the facility will improve recycling and, "It's cheaper to recycle than it is to throw it away."

The collection center is touted as a recycling facility, but can also be used to dispose of household trash. The city is offering a 35-gallon trash bag for \$1.50 that can be filled and disposed of at the collection center. Public Works Director Ralph Kinder said those in the city and county without trash service now have an outlet. The bags can be purchased from

the collection center, and future plans are to market the bags at various locations throughout Stillwater.

Two compactor units are on-site for household waste. McMillian made the ceremonial first compression at the event.

A rain garden has also been constructed at the collection center. The gutters of the buildings have been piped into the garden that features a two-foot rock base and permeable soil. Native plants with deep root systems have been selected for the garden, which is touted to reduce run-off and improve water quality.

David Claytor, stormwater program coordinator for the city, said he is planning a seminar on rain gardens. He also said the plants survive well through drought and the gardens are low maintenance.

The city also showed off its new roll-off container truck. Beginning Monday, a roll-off container can be rented from the city. Monday, the Stillwater City Council approved a rate structure for the containers that range from 10 cubic yards to 40 cubic yards.

— Jon Kocan, *Stillwater News Press*
April 23, 2008

Stillwater Recycling Day Tops Oklahoma City's

E-waste Event Requires Extra Trailer and Employees

The slogan "Stillwater recycles," was brought to life Saturday with area residents out-recycling Oklahoma City at the annual e-waste recycling event.

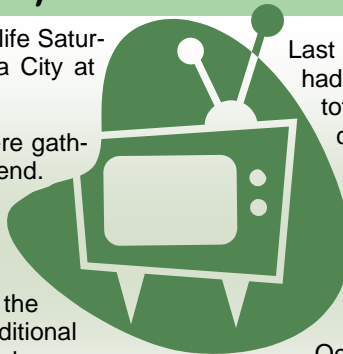
Old televisions, computer systems and more were gathered from more than 440 households last weekend. Though final totals are not in yet, Stillwater's totals will exceed totals from a similar event in Oklahoma City on the same day.

So great was the turnout, the company handling the recycling had to send an extra trailer and two additional employees from Oklahoma City to handle the load. According to the city's Environmental Program Manager Lou Ann Browning, Stillwater out-recycled Oklahoma City pound for pound. More electronics were collected this year than the previous four years.

Last year's event doubled the previous year, and also had 440 households participate. Collections in 2006 totaled 44,903 pounds and numbers of television collections spiked. The boost has been partially attributed to the switch to HDTVs. This was also the first year the event was free.

The City of Stillwater holds two annual recycling events — spring and fall. The household hazardous waste event is an outlet for disposal of household chemicals and is generally held in October.

— Jon Kocan, *Stillwater News Press*, May 1, 2008





GOALS FOR 2008



- Provide a statewide educational opportunity for America Recycles Day and improve distribution of pledge cards and posters
- Organize and begin planning with SWANA to have a joint meeting to discuss possibilities of partnerships—Bring OK landfill operators, solid waste staff and public works officials together to look at what is happening in different regions and build a communication network
- Meet with DEQ Solid Waste Management Advisory Council to talk about recycling issues
- Provide OKRA booth and/or materials for at least 12 conferences to promote OKRA membership, activities, and leadership
- Increase membership by 25 % in 2008
- Create and produce a toolkit for community recycling programs
- Develop the workgroups to function and operate more efficiently
- Provide an activity with a target attendance goal of at least 51% of OKRA members—Event is projected to help members feel more connected to OKRA as well as build a network for communication and exchange of important information
- Publish at least 3 OKRA newsletters in 08
- Meet revenue projections

Is Brown the New Green?

The Brown to Earth Bag Company Says It's in the Bag

Are you tired of seeing those plastic grocery bags pile up around your house? You hate to throw them in the trash, but you know you will never have a use for them all. Plus, the next time you make a trip to the grocery store, you will come home with another five or six to deal with. Well, the Brown to Earth Bag company may just have the solution. They are offering what they believe is the perfect reusable bag for all your shopping needs!

The Brown to Earth Bag company, based in Edmond, OK, is marketing reusable shopping bags made from 100% non-woven polypropylene with added PE board for sturdiness. These bags are strong, durable, washable, and will last for up to 600+ uses!



The Brown to Earth Bag Company says that their bags:

- Can help save the planet
- Are durable and reusable
- Are comfortable to carry
- Are washable
- Hold 2-3 times more than paper or plastic!

Here are some facts about plastic bags.

- A Plastic bag takes 450 years to biodegrade. Imagine 10 billion of them!
- The production of Paper bags causes 70% more pollution than Plastic.

- When plastic ends up in our oceans it appears much like a plankton, and is then consumed by fish. Fish eat it, and it winds up on your dinner table. YUCK!!!
 - The recipe for making paper bags starts with 1 part pulp, 400 parts WATER. What a waste of water!
 - The recycling of plastic emits heavy metals into the air causing extreme air pollution.
 - An average person will use over 350 bags in a single year!
 - In New York City, one less grocery bag per person would reduce waste by five million pounds and save \$250,000 in disposal costs!
 - In 1999 more than 14 million trees were cut down to produce 10 billion paper bags that were used by Americans that year!

These are just some reasons as to why it is imperative that we stop using paper and plastic now. The Brown to Earth Bag Company believes that in 5 years over 90% of the US population will be using reusable shopping bags. Why wait? We should do the environmentally correct thing right now! Using one reusable bag can save 700+ plastic bags over the span of their lifetime.

For more information about the Brown to Earth reusable shopping bags, visit their website:
www.browntoearthbagco.com.



Sierra Club Volunteers Recycle at Paseo Arts Festival

Volunteers from the Cimarron Group (OKC area) of the Sierra Club, organized by Stephanie Jordan and Doug Hill, collected 40 bags of aluminum cans and bottles (735#) and 46 bags of plastic and glass at the Paseo Arts Festival throughout the 3-day festival held Memorial weekend, May 23-25. Event officials estimated the group recovered over 90% of the recyclables this year.

Twenty-seven (27) clear recycling bins were borrowed from the DEQ for this project. The volunteers set up a station where they emptied the recycling bins and sorted the recyclables onsite. The DEQ has recycling bins available for loan. To borrow these bins for your upcoming events, contact: Aaron.Siemers@deq.state.ok.us.



Stephanie Jordan and Doug Hill (in black) and other volunteers collected, sorted and hauled 86 bags of recyclables at the Paseo Arts Festival.



(Left Photo) Johnnie and Jesse, members of the Northwest Classen High School Green Knights (environmental club), helped out by emptying the recycling bins at the Festival.

FYI - Environmental Links from *The Oklahoman*

The Oklahoman has an environmental blog up and running. Check it out at blog.newsok.com/gogreen. Linked to the blog, there is a weekly environment podcast <<http://newsok.com/news/podcasts>>. If you have ideas for stories, blog posts or a show, please post them on the site itself or email John David Sutter at jsutter@oklahoma.com. He is looking for people who will talk about their relationship with the environment and nature -- especially rural Oklahomans who could call in to talk, since they're somewhat underrepresented in news coverage. If you know of someone who you would like to see as a guest on the show, please let him know. The show is recorded at 2pm on Tuesdays.

There is also a Going Green page, at newsok.com/news/gogreen. This is a home for all things environment that we produce. A bunch of videos come in from a range of people.

From that page, you can find links to the Clean Air Site (newsok.com/cleanair), which is being updated to reflect changes this summer.

The Tar Creek page may be found here: newsok.com/news/tarcreek.



ABITIBI PAPER RETRIEVER®



SCHOOLS ON GOAL Contest Winners

The Abitibi Schools on Goal contest is now over. The contest started on Oct. 1 2007 and ended Mar. 31, 2008. Schools had to register on the Abitibi website in order to participate in the contest. There were several ways to win prize money. Existing Abitibi accounts with a single bin had to have a 15% increase in tonnage to win \$200 or a 20% increase to win \$400. Existing accounts with multiple bins had to have a 15% increase to win \$500 and a 20% increase to win \$1,000. New accounts had to have a 2 ton a month minimum to win \$200. If schools came within a ton of their goal then Abitibi went ahead and awarded them their prize. Congratulations to the following prize winners!

\$ 1000 PRIZE WINNERS

SCHOOL	CITY	TONNAGE
Madison Middle School	Bartlesville	49.5
Eliot Elementary	Tulsa	37.30
Haskell Middle School	Broken Arrow	26.35
Northwest Classen High	Oklahoma City	30.03

\$ 500 PRIZE WINNERS

SCHOOL	CITY	TONNAGE
Childers Middle School	Broken Arrow	26.34
School of St. Mary	Tulsa	23.98
McKinley Elementary	Norman	32.60
Oakdale Elementary	Edmond	26.63
Skyview Elementary	Yukon	43.70
Myers Elementary	Yukon	27.44

Abitibi and OKRA would like to say thank you and congratulations to everyone that entered the contest as you are all winners for recycling! Starting September 2008 Abitibi will be hosting a new contest where everyone will be a winner.



- Linda Sturman,
Abitibi-Bowater Recycling

\$400 PRIZE WINNERS

SCHOOL	CITY	TONNAGE
Brassfield Elementary	Bixby	13.91
Mounds Schools	Mounds	16.01
Will Rogers Elementary	Oklahoma City	16.68
Yukon 9th & 10th Grade Center	Yukon	15.76
Parkland Elementary	Yukon	20.23
St Charles Borromeo	Oklahoma City	22.46
Lincoln Elementary	Norman	14.88
Del City Elementary	Del City	17.12
Independence Charter Middle School	Oklahoma City	19.32
St. Eugene	Oklahoma City	25.53

\$200 PRIZE WINNERS

SCHOOL	CITY	TONNAGE
Vandever Elementary	Broken Arrow	14.16
Hawthorne Elementary	Tulsa	18.28
Arrow Springs Elementary	Broken Arrow	11.92
Patrick Henry Elementary	Tulsa	13.80
Clyde Boyd Middle School	Sand Springs	14.13
Owasso 6th Grade Center	Owasso	17.09
Bristow Academy	Bristow	28.53
Hilldale Elementary	Oklahoma City	13.18
Alcott Middle School	Norman	16.18
Yukon High School	Yukon	14.88
St. John's Episcopal	Oklahoma City	11.96
Apple Creek Elementary	Moore	12.81
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Edmond	18.20
Orvis Risner Elementary	Edmond	18.75

We need your help to grow OKRA . . . Join us online!

OKRA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Name (Affiliation)	Position	Email
Traci Phillips (Natural Evolution, Inc.)	President	recycle@naturalevolution.com
Ande Reed (Midland Recycling)	Vice-President	AReed@MidlandRecycling.net
Ellen Bussert (DEQ)	Secretary	ellen.bussert@deq.state.ok.us
Michael Patton (The M.e.t.)	Treasurer	recyclemichael@yahoo.com
Susie Shields (DEQ)	Past-President/ARD Chair	susie.shields@deq.ok.state.us
Richard Chapman (Weyerhaeuser)	Advocacy Chair	Richard.Chapman@weyerhaeuser.com
Dr. Doug Weirick (ECU/Ada Recycling Coalition)	Membership Chair	dweirick@mailclerk.ecok.edu
Chris Daniels (Goodwill)	Market Development Chair	Chris@goodwill.org
Brian Whitacre (OSU Extension)	K-12 Education Chair	Brian.Whitacre@okstate.edu
Trudi Logan (Tinker AFB)	Newsletter Editor	trudi.logan@tinker.af.mil
Vacant	Materials Exchange Chair	
Kathy Moore (OK Composting Council)	At-Large	anichinimoore@hotmail.com
Garmon Smith (EPA/Ada Recycling Coalition)	At-Large	smith.garmon@epamail.epa.gov
Linda Sturman (Abitibi)	At-Large	Linda.Sturman@abitibiconsolidated.com

OKRA Memberships Received April-May 2008

Name	Affiliation	Membership Level
Ande Reed	Midland Recycling	\$ 25.00
Garold Beisly	Midland Recycling	\$ 25.00
The M.e.t.	The M.e.t.	\$ 100.00
Clint Marrs	The M.e.t.	\$ 31.00
Michael Patton	The M.e.t.	\$ 31.00
Terrie Hannam	The M.e.t.	\$ 31.00
Shelly Umezawa	The M.e.t.	\$ 31.00
Ellen Bussert	individual	\$ 25.00
Jack Bussert	student	\$ 1.00
Paul Bussert	student	\$ 1.00
Astrid Sirk-Ojdanic	student	\$ 1.00

OKRA Memberships Received April-May 2008 (cont.)

Name	Affiliation	Membership Level
Jennifer Bean	student	\$ 1.00
Eric Jordan	student	\$ 1.00
Flora Peterson	student	\$ 1.00 (plus \$ 25.00)
Brian Wallace	Oklahoma Computer Recyclers	\$ 250.00
Julia Wright	Osage Nation	\$ 75.00
Susie Shields	individual	\$ 25.00
Traci Phillips	Natural Evolution	\$ 500.00
Richard Chapman	Weyerhaeuser	\$ 100.00
David Griesel	Okla Environmental Mgmt Authority	\$ 500.00
Fenton Rood	ODEQ	\$ 500.00

OKRA Memberships Received Jan-Mar 2008 and Oct-Dec 2007

Name	Affiliation	Membership Level
Trudy Nevland	City of Ada	\$ 81.00
Lauren Lunsford	Individual	\$ 31.00
Monika Hills	Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpin	\$ 100.00
Norma Lynn Paschall	Ardmore Beautification	\$ 75.00
Misty Mader	Bethel Public Schools	\$ 25.00
Christina Stallings	student	\$ 1.00
Larry Wright	Great Plains RC & D	\$ 81.00
Harry Ming	student	\$ 1.00
Marletta Ming	student	\$ 1.00
Justine Thompson	individual	\$ 25.00
Lisa Guimond	individual	\$ 25.00
Jeanette Pennington	ARC intl.	\$ 25.00
Matt Albright	individual	\$ 25.00
Phil Lorenz	individual	\$ 25.00
Ilda Hershey	individual	\$ 25.00
Linda Sturman	Abitibi	\$ 25.00
Garmon Smith	individual	\$ 25.00

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 15** **OKRA Board Meeting, Stroud (Contact: ellen.bussert@deq.state.ok.us)**
- Aug. 16** **OKRA Friends and Family Picnic, Tulsa (check OKRA website in July for details)**
- Nov. 15** **America Recycles Day 2008 (www.recyclok.org)**
- Nov. 2008** **ARD Recycling Conference (check OKRA website in Sept. for date & details)**



**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OKLAHOMA RECYCLING NEWS and
EVENTS for the OKRA website and newsletter.
Email them to Trudi Logan at trudi.logan@us.af.mil**

