

What's up with the Clean Air Tree Kits?

by Andree Morneault

Algonquin Section received 2000 clean air tree kits (CATK) in September and we've scratched our heads a bit about how to best use them within the spirit of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant. So, we decided to hand them out to delegates and participants at forestry conferences and section events and to share them with students at school events while:

- Promoting Forests without Borders (FwB).
- Increasing public awareness of the benefits of forests to our environment
- Helping students recognize that they can make a difference for our world by improving the general ecology and biodiversity of their neighbourhoods through tree planting.
- Promoting the use of additional kits for FwB and school fund-raising.

We designed t-shirts promoting the role of forests as carbon sinks to sell as a fundraiser for FwB (each t-shirt is sold for \$20). When possible, we hand out the globes and sell t-shirts at the same time. After Christmas, we will target individual schools for a more active promotion of the clean air tree kits, including growing and planting the trees. We also helped Fred Pinto and Matt Meade create a flyer that describes FwB and its projects to be handed out with CATK and posted at section events.

Events with CATK this fall:

- Sept 26, 2009 - Ferguson Forest Fair – Handed out 100 CATKs to students, teachers, and general public. This event generated lots of excitement and interest from various groups in using as fundraisers, promos, etc!



- Sept 26, 2009 – Kemptville Girl Guides – handed out 30 CATKs to this group which expressed interest in using the kits as a future fundraiser or tree planting activity.
- Oct 7, 2009 – Fall colours parent/student event at École Heritage, North Bay – Handed out 60 CATKs and explained the role of trees in reducing carbon, discussed forest without borders, helped students identify tree species based on leaves, tree identification, etc.



- Oct 7, 2009 - Handed out 15 CATKs to high school class in Bancroft (resource management high skills major program) along with a presentation on forestry by the Bancroft District Forester.
- Oct 22-23, 2009 - Biomass harvesting conference in North Bay. Sold 16 t-shirts and handed out 150 CATKs to students and delegates at CIF booth.



- Oct 26, 2009 – Chinese delegation visit to the Eastern Ontario Model Forest – handed out 7 CATKs

It's been fun. We think we'll do more. Stay tuned for news about other Algonquin Section CATK events!