



Inside this newsletter you will find:

- Environmental Leadership Days 2011
- Avoid Littering
- Kinderfest at Askren Manor
- CO<sub>2</sub> and Climate Change
- Visit the Climbing Garden "Wolfsschlucht" in Schweinfurt

Environmental services we provide:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

If you have any questions, please contact us at 354-6795 or

[environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil](mailto:environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil)

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

## Environmental Leadership Days 2011

On 17 and 18 May 2011, the Garrison celebrated the annual Environmental Leadership Days. More than 300 children from the Schweinfurt Elementary School visited the Conn Barracks Recycling Center to participate. The children were able to learn about various environmental topics at seven different stalls:

- Paper Manufacturing from Used Paper/Small Living Creatures in our Local Water Bodies
- Organic Waste Recycling, Use of Compost, and Planting of Flowers
- Littering and Recycling
- Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils, their regional provenance and use
- Amphibians in Schweinfurt's Training Areas
- Biotope "Forest"
- Children's Zoo, Wildlife Park Schweinfurt

The children also had the chance to do some practical exercises, e.g. to mine for minerals or to craft a frog-shaped pencil holder.



Exposed Mineral "Cactus Amethyst"



Creating frogs; "Amphibians in Schweinfurt's Training Areas"



Learning about what trees do for us; "Biotope Forest"



Demonstrating where minerals come from; "Rocks, Minerals and Fossils"

## Avoid Littering

Littering occurs when trash is dropped or thrown on the ground and not correctly disposed of. Littered items include waste products such as containers, papers, and wrappers which have been disposed of without consent.

The appearance and safety of our gardens, meadows, playgrounds and waysides deteriorates when garbage is left lying around. Additionally, in Germany, littering is a criminal offence and can be punished by a fine.

**DO NOT LITTER!**



**RECYCLE YOUR WASTE PROPERLY!**

It often takes a very long time - depending on the product - before litter from the environment is broken down through biological processes (for example, it can take up to 2 years for a piece of chewing gum to rot, 5 years for a cigarette stub, and about 500 years for a plastic bottle). Often, others will have to clean up after you.

So please do not throw your empty bottles, cans, or wrapping paper onto the ground. Just take your waste with you, for example in your bag or backpack, until you reach a trash or recycling container and dispose of it properly.

**Litter can harm the environment e.g. in the following ways:**

- Creating unsanitary conditions and breeding ground for disease-causing insects and rodents.
- Damages the appearance of the environment.
- Hazardous to children (e.g. cutting themselves on broken cans or bottles).
- Animals may become trapped, hurt or poisoned due to litter in their habitat.



VOLUME 3 - JUNE 2011



Kinderfest at Askren Manor

CO<sub>2</sub> and Climate Change



On 30 April 2011, the Garrison's Child, Youth and School Services celebrated the Kinderfest at Askren Manor to honor Schweinfurt's military children. Among the many attractions there were some stands created by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

Did you know? Whenever you watch TV, use the air conditioning, turn on a light, ride in a car, play a video game, wash clothes, microwave a meal, or produce trash that will be sent to landfills you are generating greenhouse gases. Fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and oil are burned to produce energy for industries, households, and traffic, causing billions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other air pollutants to be emitted each year.

CO<sub>2</sub>, as the main greenhouse gas, causes our atmosphere to heat up, with severe consequences. For example, heat waves and droughts are increasing, causing desertification in certain areas. Glaciers and polar ice caps are melting causing sea levels to rise globally. While temperatures rise, the global weather balance is disturbed. The number of hurricanes is increasing (Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have almost doubled in the last 30 years).

Climate change and natural disasters are also severe for animals and plants. As their local habitats are destroyed, many species could be driven to extinction.



Though the process of climate change is undeniable, it can still be slowed down or even stopped. There are many things you can do. Think about your habits and try to reduce energy consumption and waste production wherever possible. Your children and future generations will be grateful!

The Operations & Maintenance Division gave SORT guidance by showing recycling containers and also presented and explained several electrical devices at the "DPW Plumber and Pipefitter Shop". At the Environmental Division stall, children could color prepared pictures of butterflies, which could then be taken home or added to this wonderful poster you can see on the left.



Visit the Climbing Garden "Wolfsschlucht" in Schweinfurt

It looks like a military training course or maybe like a big adventure playground. But it is much more than that: It is a learning experience for children and adults, for teams, families, and individuals. For participants at the climbing garden, this new and unusual challenge expands the horizon of experience and creates the potential for learning: The climbing garden can help in developing personality, communication skills, finding and challenging personal limits, or developing team spirit. And, of course, it is great fun!

The climbing garden is located beside the picturesque Senftenhofsee in Schweinfurt. It offers 38 obstacles with a total length of more than 3,600 meters on 30,000 sqm. This is the largest climbing garden in Germany. You will find courses for children and teenagers, for sportsmen, or for teams of colleagues or families; there's something here to attract everyone.

To learn more about the location of the garden, prices or contact info see <http://www.kletterwald-am-see.de/index.html> (German language only).



Pictures: High Ropes Course, Children's Parcours and Team Training (Source: <http://www.kletterwald-am-see.de/index.html>)

