

# Radon

## In Georgia

www.p2ad.org 404-872-3549  
 www.southface.org 1-800-745-0037  
 www.fcs.uga.edu/radon  
 www.epa.gov/radon

### Quarterly Newsletter and Outreach Reports October through December 2004

Made possible through a partnership between the University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences and Cooperative Extension Service, Southface Energy Institute, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.



## RADON POSTER CONTEST

The month of January has been designated by the U.S. EPA as National Radon Action Month. During this month, students are encouraged to participate in our Radon Poster Contest. This year, two Walton County students, Abbi Calvert, Youth Elementary 4th grader of Loganville, and Jeneka Avery, Carver Middle School 7th grader of Monroe, won 1st Place in the Georgia Radon Poster Contest. Both placed first in the competition in their respective categories of computer generated and hand-drawn posters promoting radon testing and the dangers of exposure to elevated levels of radon gas. Abbi's poster depicted a wheel of chance. Jeneka's poster showed how radon enters a home. Both first place state winners proceeded to compete on the national level.

The State Radon Poster Contest ceremony was held at the UGA Fanning Institute on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 100 people were in attendance: students, parents, school principals, State government officials, Environmental Protection Agency representatives, and University of Georgia staff. Before the ceremony, winners were recognized by Governor Sonny Perdue, UGA President Michael Adams and Dean Sharon Nickols, FACS. State Representative Len Walker was the guest speaker. Awards were presented to the students by: Elizabeth Cotsworth, National EPA Director of Radiation

& Indoor Air, Dr. Jorge Atiles, Radon Program Director and UGA College of Family & Consumer Sciences Associate Dean, and Marci De Sart, Pollution Prevention Specialist with P2AD.

The Radon Poster Contest was sponsored by the UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Division of Housing and Environment.

Other State Winners included: Computer generated: 2<sup>nd</sup> place Marki Calvert – Youth Middle School, two 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners Adrian Avery – Carver Middle School and Freddy Beninke – Youth Middle School; Hand-drawn winners: 2<sup>nd</sup> place Christin Brown – Youth Middle School and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Kevin Clotfelter-Youth Elementary School. Eighteen students received honorable mention.

My appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed to ensure that the contest and awards ceremony were a success!

*Jorge H. Atiles, Ph.D.*  
 Radon Education Program Director

### Radon Poster Contest Winners



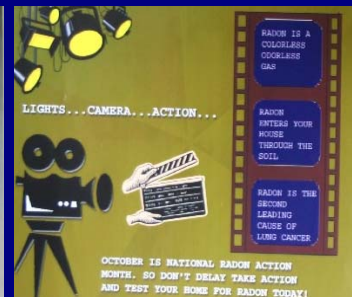
Jeneka Avery, 7th Grader  
 1st Place  
 Hand Drawn



Christin Brown, 7th Grader  
 2nd Place  
 Hand Drawn



Abbi Calvert, 4th Grader  
 1st Place  
 Computer Generated



Marki Calvert, 7th Grader  
 2nd Place  
 Computer Generated

### INSIDE RADON IN GEORGIA

P2AD Awards Radon Grants.....Page 2	Radon Information Available to Hispanic Homeowners.....Page 6
Quarterly Radon Outreach Report..... Page 3	The National Radon Conference.....Page 7
Yearly Radon Outreach Report 2004..... Page 4	Featured Builder.....Page 8
Radon Outreach Summary Results to Date.....Page 5	



## Pollution Prevention Assistance Division Awards Radon Grants

The Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD), through funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently awarded three radon grants of \$7,500 each to Atlanta Fire-Rescue, DeKalb County Board of Health-Division of Environmental Health and Rockdale County Extension Service.

Atlanta Fire-Rescue is distributing radon test kits through the City of Atlanta Radon Elimination (CARE) program, an initiative that will piggyback on their current Atlanta Smoke Alarm Program (ASAP). On September 11, the department distributed radon kits at the Atlanta Braves game to the first 1,000 attendees. Also, firefighters and volunteers will give out free radon test kits during their once-a-month neighborhood canvassing, in addition to checking and maintaining smoke alarms. Since implementation of the CARE program, approximately 400 radon test kits have been distributed throughout various Atlanta communities. Additionally, the test kits will be available to community members at the 30 fire stations within the city of Atlanta. The radon grant will fund the department's purchase of over 1800 kits.

The DeKalb County Board of Health-Division of Environmental Health has a long-standing commitment to providing radon information and testing to the citizens of DeKalb County. In 1993 they developed and implemented a

radon testing program which has served more than 3,900 DeKalb County residences. They are a community-wide educational resource and conduct "no-fee" radon testing and long-term follow up for DeKalb County residents.

P2AD serves as Georgia's lead state agency on radon and plays a critical role in radon education. P2AD administers funds provided by the EPA to provide a variety of radon programs across the state. The mission of P2AD's radon program is to inform the public about the potential health risks associated with radon, to increase awareness about and encourage testing for radon and to support local government efforts to address radon issues in their communities.

Radon—the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. according to the Surgeon General—is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced as uranium and radium break down in soil and rock. It is harmlessly dispersed and diluted in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings can be harmful, especially at elevated levels. Because it is a gas, it can easily seep from the soil or rock into a house through cracks and holes in a foundation or crawl spaces. For more information, visit [www.p2ad.org](http://www.p2ad.org).

*This article was published in The Dekalb Journal, The Story, Central Dekalb on September 23, 2004.*



Governor Sonny Perdue and State Representative Len Walker greet Radon Poster Contest first place winners Jeneka Avery and Abbi Calvert at UGA.



Abbi Calvert (left) and Jeneka Avery (right), first place winners of the Radon Poster Contest, express thanks to all who supported their efforts.



Governor Sonny Perdue and Marci De Sart, Pollution Prevention Specialist with P2AD at the reception for the Radon Poster Contest winners.

# Quarterly Radon Outreach Report

## Program and Media Contacts

These figures represent programming and media contacts for the months of Oct.—Dec., 2004.

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Gwinnett	Hall	Walton	Elbert	Southface	Other	Totals
Programs, Meetings, Classes	6	3	24	9	13	0	55
Number reached	53	88	594	179	760	0	1,674
Medical professionals reached	6	0	5	2	0	0	13
Home builders reached	0	0	3	1	297	0	301
Realtors reached	0	0	30	1	2	21	54
Number of materials distributed	1,637	180	594	60	597	30	3,098
Exhibits or Events	1	3	2	1	1	4	12
Number reached	200	390	563	2,000	287	696	4,136
Number of materials distributed	12	630	300	200	500	546	2,188
Radon Test Kits Distributed	65	78	756	46	288	1261	2,494
Test Results Received	88	43	260	7	0	30	428
Results above 4.0 pCi/L	32	10	36	2	0	4	84
Results below 4.0 pCi/L	56	29	198	5	0	23	311
Results incomplete	4	5	26	0	0	3	38
Percentage of homes with elevated levels	36	27.7	15.4	35	0	14.8	
Highest Reported Level	49	9.3	29.8	9	0	4.6	
Mitigation completed or in progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radon resistant new construction built or being built	0	0	1	0	13	0	14

MEDIA	Gwinnett	Hall	Walton	Elbert	Southface	Other	Totals
Radio Spots	0	3	1	240	0	0	244
Listening Audience	N/A	96,000	800,000	3,600,000	N/A	N/A	4,496,000
TV Spots	84	3	3	0	0	48	138
Viewing Audience	8,652,000	1,536,000	110,000	N/A	N/A	816,000	11,114,000
Newspaper articles published	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Reading Audience	N/A	N/A	63,000	8,000	N/A	N/A	71,000
Newsletters/articles or information published	2	0	3	0	0	0	5
Number Distributed	55	N/A	3,300	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,355

# Yearly Radon Outreach Report for 2004

## Program and Media Contacts

These figures represent programming and media contacts from January—December, 2004

Program Contacts	Gwinnett	Hall	Sumter	Walton	Elbert*	Southface	Other	Totals
<b>Programs, Meetings, Classes</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>
Number reached	1,075	1,017	94	2,013	179	2,451	1,100	7,929
Medical professionals reached	8	20	0	32	2	0	0	62
Home builders reached	0	0	0	74	1	1,518	0	1,593
Realtors reached	0	18	0	88	1	172	28	307
Number of materials distributed	3,008	1,529	11	2,737	60	1,542	30	8,917
<b>*Exhibits or Events</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>76</b>
Number reached	2,633	1,925	0	11,676	2,000	1,087	2,096	21,417
Number of materials distributed	899	2,573	0	2,690	200	1,090	1,346	8,798
<b>Radon Test Kits Distributed</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>7,986</b>
Test results received	302	316	85	694	7	6	286	1,696
Highest reported radon level	49	16.4	8.3	42	9	5.1	77.1	
<b>Mitigation Efforts</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Radon resistant new construction built or being built</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91</b>

\*Elbert County totals represent reports beginning September 2004.

Media Contacts	Gwinnett	Hall	Sumter	Walton	Elbert*	Southface	Other	Totals
<b>Radio Spots</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>259</b>
Listening audience	N/A	841,000	27,000	928,000	3,600,000	N/A	N/A	5,396,000
<b>TV Spots</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>311</b>
Viewing audience	23,832,000	5,841,000	350,000	20,464,000	N/A	1,263,000	1,191,000	52,941,000
<b>Newspaper Articles</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>
Reading audience	152,000	88,000	20,000	356,000	8,000	N/A	23,000	647,000
<b>Newsletters/Articles</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
Number distributed	105	950	1,297	181,370	N/A	43	N/A	183,765
<b>Total Media Impressions</b>	<b>23,984,105</b>	<b>6,770,950</b>	<b>398,297</b>	<b>21,929,370</b>	<b>3,608,000</b>	<b>1,263,043</b>	<b>1,214,000</b>	<b>59,167,765</b>

# Radon Outreach Summary Results to Date

## Program and Media Contacts

These figures represent programming and media contacts from the beginning of the Radon Program April, 2003—December, 2004.

\*The Exhibits and Events totals represent reports beginning January, 2004 to date.

Program Contacts	Gwinnett	Hall	Sumter	Walton	Elbert*	Southface	Other	Totals
<b>Programs, Meetings, Classes</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>373</b>
Number reached	8,440	2,265	1,067	3,338	179	2,711	1,130	19,130
Medical professionals reached	8	20	0	32	2	0	0	62
Home builders reached	0	0	0	74	1	1,518	0	1,593
Realtors reached	0	18	0	88	1	172	28	307
Number of materials distributed	3,008	1,529	11	2,737	60	1,542	30	8,917
<b>*Exhibits or Events</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>76</b>
Number reached	2,633	1,925	0	11,676	2,000	1,087	2,096	21,417
Number of materials distributed	899	2,573	0	2,690	200	1,090	1,346	8,798
<b>Radon Test Kits Distributed</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>12,318</b>
Test results received	785	442	148	1,204	7	7	712	3,305
Highest reported radon level	49	25.5	4.9	42	9	4.2	77.1	
<b>Mitigation Efforts</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Radon resistant new construction built or being built</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>

\*Elbert County totals represent reports beginning September 2004.

Media Contacts	Gwinnett	Hall	Sumter	Walton	Elbert*	Southface	Other	Totals
<b>Radio Spots</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>276</b>
Listening audience	N/A	1,163,000	552,000	1,128,000	3,600,000	2,000	N/A	6,445,000
<b>TV Spots</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>502</b>
Viewing audience	23,832,000	8,217,000	1,050,000	20,547,000	N/A	1,263,000	3,095,000	58,004,000
<b>Newspaper Articles</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>
Reading audience	220,000	147,300	41,000	562,000	8,000	N/A	39,000	1,017,300
<b>Newsletters/Articles</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>
Number distributed	7,170	1,090	2,354	231,390	N/A	43	15,000	257,047
<b>Total Media Impressions</b>	<b>24,059,170</b>	<b>9,283,390</b>	<b>1,645,354</b>	<b>22,468,390</b>	<b>3,608,000</b>	<b>1,265,043</b>	<b>3,149,000</b>	<b>65,723,347</b>

## Radon Information Available to Hispanic Homeowners

### RADON..... EL ASESINO SILENCIOSO



Una casita

#### ¿Qué es el radon?

El radon es un gas radioactivo incoloro, inodoro y sin sabor que se produce de manera natural en la mayoría de las rocas y la tierra. Es el producto del rompimiento del uranio en la tierra, las rocas y el agua. El radon se dispersa sin causar daño en el medio ambiente, sin embargo cuando se queda en lugares cerrados, puede aumentar el riesgo de cáncer de pulmón.

#### ¿Cuál es el riesgo a la salud?

De acuerdo a investigaciones médicas, la exposición al radon es la segunda causa de cáncer de pulmón en los Estados Unidos y se estima que provoca la muerte de 15.000 a 22.000 personas al año.

No se ha comprobado que el radon sea la causa de otras enfermedades tales como infecciones respiratorias, gripas o reacciones alérgicas. Tan sólo se sabe que los efectos en la salud estan aumentando debido al desarrollo de cáncer de pulmón. Sin embargo, así como los que fuman, no todos los que se exponen a altos niveles de radon desarrollarán cáncer de pulmón y el tiempo entre la exposición y la aparición del cáncer puede tomar varios años.

Para hacer un cita sobre el programa de radon, comuníquese con Sharon Cook, Agente de Extensión del condado de Gwinnett al 678-377-4010.

La Universidad de Georgia  
Servicio de Extensión Cooperativa  
Escuela de Agricultura y Ciencias del medio ambiente

**Sharon H. Cook**  
**Agente de Extensión del condado de Gwinnett**

La Universidad de Georgia y la Escuela del Estado de Ft. Valley, el Departamento de Agricultura y los condados Cooperativos del estado. La oficina de Extensión Cooperativa, La Universidad de Georgia, Escuela de agricultura y Ciencias del Medio ambiente ofrece programas educacionales, ayuda y material a todas las personas sin importar su raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, sexo o incapacidad.

Un empleador con iguales oportunidades para todos

## The National Radon Conference

The Georgia Radon Program was well represented at the National Radon Conference that took place November 8-10, 2004 in Newport, RI. Ginger Bennett, Hall County Radon Educator, represented the UGA College of Family & Consumer Sciences and provided an exhibit illustrating the impressive progress of the Georgia Radon Program. Marci De Sart, Georgia Radon Program Administrator, represented the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and also assisted with greeting booth visitors.

The National Radon Conference occurs annually and brings together the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) and the Conference of Radon Control Program Directors (CRCPD). The goal is to share radon technology, radon risk data, medical research, successful radon education program ideas, plus new ways to encourage U.S. citizens to test and mitigate their homes, schools, and work places for radon.

It was very informative and exciting to hear what other state radon programs are accomplishing; to learn about new radon measurement and mitigation techniques; and most interesting of all, to learn the inside story of effectively teaching Native Americans about the danger of radon in their homes. The insights shared by the two Native American radon educators are very applicable to other cultural groups.

Conference participants who visited the Georgia Radon Program booth were very interested in what we are accomplishing in Georgia and asked questions and made positive comments.

**[www.aarst.org](http://www.aarst.org) 1-866-772-2778 or  
[www.crcpd.org](http://www.crcpd.org) 1-502-227-4543**

*Article written by Ginger Bennett  
Hall County Radon Educator.*



Ginger Bennett exhibiting at the National Radon Conference in Rhode Island.



Ginger Bennett sings at the social event which was part of the National Radon Conference.

# Featured Builder

## Robert Farmer installs a radon vent stack in church

Mars Hill Baptist Church, located in Athens, is expanding their facility with the addition of a new, multi-purpose building. The church has elected to install a radon vent stack during construction rather than go back and fix a radon problem, if identified, later. This radon vent stack is not required by code, but its incorporation represents a proactive measure for the benefit of all persons using the facility for many years to come.

Protection Agency as a county with a moderate potential for radon.

The radon vent stack diverts the radon gas from under the foundation to the outside air where it is diluted. This passive sub-slab depressurization system is easy to install. The passive system can be upgraded after occupancy to an active system with the installation of an in-line fan to further reduce the radon level. This upgrade is also used by some builders to control moisture in basements and crawlspaces. Radon resistant features can effectively lower the radon level in most cases to levels below EPA's action level of 4.0 pCi/L.

The EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month to encourage all homeowners to test for radon. Homes with elevated radon can be fixed. Complimentary test kits are available through the County Extension Offices. For additional information on radon, call 770-267-1324.

*Article written by Becky Chenhall for the Oconee section of the Athens Banner Herald.*



**Left to right: Harold Smith; Vice Chairman, Building Committee, Robert Farmer; Builder, Wayne Mixon; Building Committee Chairman, and Charles Jones; Pastor.**

Pastor Charles Jones said, "At Mars Hill Baptist we are committed to more than just the spiritual health of our congregation. That is why we felt it was important to safeguard our new building by installing the radon vent to help protect those who will be learning, working and playing in our new facility.

Radon - the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. - is an invisible, tasteless, naturally occurring radioactive gas. It is produced as uranium and radium break down in soil and rocks. It is harmlessly dispersed and diluted in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings, can be harmful, especially at elevated levels. Because it is a gas, it can easily seep from soil or rock into a house through cracks in a foundation or crawl space. Oconee County has been designated by the Environmental



**The Mars Hill Church multi-purpose building will have radon vent stacks to divert radon gas from under the foundation to the outside air where it will be diluted.**