



[www.fcs.uga.edu/housing](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/housing) 1-800-ASK-UGA1  
[www.dca.state.ga.us](http://www.dca.state.ga.us) 1-800-359-4663  
[www.southface.org](http://www.southface.org) 1-800-765-0037  
[www.epa.gov/iaq/radon](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon) 1-800-767-7236

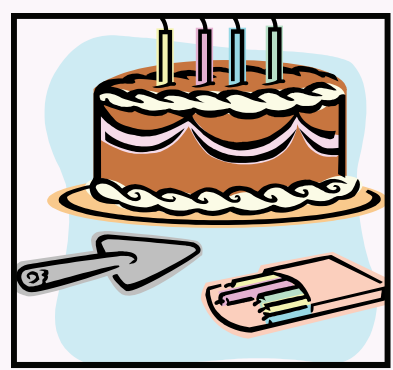
**Quarterly Newsletter and Outreach Report**  
**April through June 2007**

Made possible through a partnership between the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences and Cooperative Extension, Southface Energy Institute, and the Environmental Health Department of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.



**Georgia Radon Program**  
**4 years & Counting**

We're celebrating an anniversary. Four years ago, in April of 2003 to be exact, the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences and Cooperative Extension embarked on a mission to protect families from radon, a radioactive gas that is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.



Funded by an EPA State Indoor Radon Grant, four radon educators completed in-depth training in radon measurement and mitigation and began reaching out to their communities through news media, radon

presentations and radon exhibits. Today, thousands of Georgia homeowners know the dangers of breathing radon and have tested their homes.

The challenge ahead: reaching a changing Georgia and encouraging homeowners with elevated radon to take steps to lower that level.

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## New UGA Radon Education Program Website

Next time you need radon information, look no farther than the new GA Radon Education Web Site. Georgia families may go to [www.gafamilies.com/Housing/radon](http://www.gafamilies.com/Housing/radon) and click on the picture you see to the right. You'll find links to almost everything you need to know about radon: radon maps for Georgia, Radon News, How to Test for Radon, How to Fix a Radon Problem, How to Build Radon Out, Radon Health risks, where to go to talk to someone about radon and more. A separate section of the web site will equip Extension professionals with radon education tools.



### Fix That Radon Problem Now!

Would you willingly expose yourself and your family to a dangerous carcinogen? Most of us would not. But many Georgia homeowners who have tested their homes for radon have chosen to do nothing to lower elevated radon levels. That's hard to understand when fixing the problem is easy: install a simple and affordable venting system that allows radon and other dangerous soil gasses to bypass the home.

Radon is a Class A carcinogen. Breathing radon-laced air definitely causes lung cancer with long-term exposure. Radon gas is produced when uranium in soil and rock decays. Radon gas decays into Alpha, Beta and Gamma particles. It's those Alpha particles that cause the DNA damage to lung cells that leads to lung cancer.

21,000 people in the U.S. die of radon-related lung cancer each year; 600 deaths occur in Georgia. Julia Harris of Winterville GA had never smoked. She died of lung cancer in 2005 after breathing 18 pCi/L of radon in her home for several years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set an action level of 4 pCi/L. However, there is no safe level for this highly radioactive element. Living with 4 pCi/L for a year provides the same radioactive exposure as getting 200 x-rays per year.

For information about how to lower the radon level in your home, contact one of the UGA radon educators today. They will help you find competent professionals to help you lower the level of radon in your home.

# Quarterly Radon Outreach Report

## Program Contacts & Media Impressions for April - June 2007

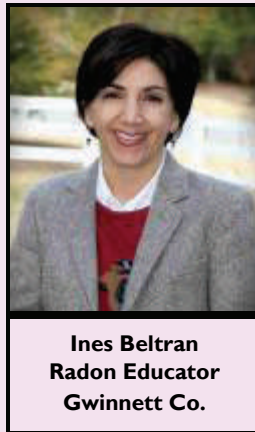
PROGRAM CONTACTS	Dawson/ Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Madison/ Elbert	Walton/ Clarke	South- face	Totals
<b>Programs, Meetings, Classes</b>	10	1	14	14	41	89	169
Participants	209	4	582	303	1,260	850	3,208
Materials Distributed	282	40	800	840	5,000	150	7,112
<b>Exhibits or Events</b>	4	0	3	3	2	7	19
Participants	785	0	400	425	800	418	2,828
Materials Distributed	835	0	700	480	950	100	3,065
<b>Professional Contacts</b>	68	0	25	8	8	409	518
Medical Professionals	46	0	15	7	2	0	70
Homebuilders	22	0	10	1	6	409	448
Realtors	12	16	0	2	2	24	56
<b>Radon Test Kits Distributed</b>	282	18	341	186	570	171	1,568
Test Results Received	69	0	68	76	166	12	391
Results above 4.0 pCi/L	10	0	15	8	16	3	52
Results below 4.0 pCi/L	52	0	49	57	137	6	301
Results incomplete	7	0	4	11	13	3	38
% of elevated levels	16.1%	0.0%	23.4%	12.0%	10.5%	25.0%	
Highest Reported Level	22.6	0.0	27.4	22.6	19.4	7.3	
<b>Mitigations completed</b>	5	1	1	2	1	0	10
<b>Radon resistant starts</b>	1	1	0	1	1	0	4
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Dawson/ Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Madison/ Elbert	Walton/ Clarke	South- face	Totals
<b>Radio Spots/Programs</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Listening Audience	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	12,000
<b>TV Spots/Programs</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Viewing Audience	512,000	0	0	0	30,000	0	542,000
<b>Newspaper Articles Pub-</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading Audience	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Newsletter Articles Pub-</b>	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Number Distributed	500	0	0	0	300	2,405	3,205
<b>Web Site Hits</b>						2,200	2,200
<b>Total Media Impressions</b>	524,500	0	0	0	30,300	2,405	559,405

## Radon Education for a Changing Georgia

Informing people about radon, teaching them how to understand the results from the laboratory, and what to do to lower the radon level in their homes is a serious responsibility, but at the same time a fun job. This educational job becomes more interesting when you are able to do it in two languages. In my case, it would be English and Spanish.

As soon as I started my work as a Radon Educator, I began creating and translating Radon material into Spanish in order to reach those for whom Spanish is their native language. The second step was to become associated with organizations that work with the Hispanic population. Here are a few: churches; Latin American Association; Quality Care for children and its program for Hispanic Child Care providers; school systems and their parent groups and Family & Consumer Sciences teachers; community services; Head Start programs and many more.

To spread the word about the dangers of radon gas to those who speak Spanish in Georgia, I turned to one of the largest Spanish TV networks, Univision. Univision in Georgia broadcasts a special program dedicated to education and health issues, called



“Nuestra Georgia” (Our Georgia). This 30-minute program is aired on Saturday mornings. Last January I taped an interview about Radon gas in Spanish for this program. Approximately 140,000 people in 55 counties watched the program. As a result of this interview the Mexican Consulate contacted me to provide an educational program about Radon. I now provide monthly presentations in the Mexican consulate. Many of the homeowners who receive complimentary radon kits live in rural counties in north Georgia.

Other ways used to reach the Hispanic population has been through the free newspapers published in Spanish. Two of them, “Mundo Hispanico” and “Georgia Latino,” have published articles about radon. Attending health fairs, community fairs, and home expo shows is also a great way to reach people in both languages.

Educating the general public about this health issue is important. The ability to reach people from different cultures is interesting and saving people’s lives is very rewarding to me. I am very proud to be part of the Georgia Radon Education Program.

By Ines Beltran,  
UGA Cooperative Extension–Gwinnett Co.

## Educación sobre el radón para una nueva Georgia

Informar a la gente sobre el radón, enseñarles a interpretar los resultados del laboratorio, y sobre que hacer para reducir los niveles de radón en sus casas es una responsabilidad seria, pero agradable a la vez. Este trabajo educativo es mucho más interesante cuando lo puedes hacer en dos idiomas, que en mi caso es en inglés y en español.

Tan pronto inicié mi trabajo como educadora sobre el radón, comencé a crear y a traducir materiales sobre el radón en español, para alcanzar a aquellos cuya lengua nativa es el español. El segundo paso fue el de asociarme con organizaciones que trabajan con la población hispana. He aquí alguno de ellos: Asociación Latinoamericana, Cuidado de Calidad para Niños y su programa para proveedores hispanos de cuidado diurno, los sistemas escolares y sus grupos de padres, los maestros de Ciencias de la Familia y el Consumidor; servicios comunitarios, el programa de “Head Start” y muchos más.

Para regar la voz sobre los peligros del gas radón entre aquellos que hablan español en Georgia, me acerqué a Univisión, una de las cadenas de televisión en español más grandes y reconocida. Univisión en Georgia lleva al aire un programa especial dedicado a la educación y a problemas de salud, llamado Nuestra Georgia. Este programa de 30 minutos sale al aire todos los sábados por la mañana. El



Translated by:  
Edda Cotto-Rivera  
Radon Educator

pasado enero grabé una entrevista en español sobre el gas radón, para este programa. Aproximadamente 140,000 personas en 55 condados, vieron el programa. Como resultado de esta entrevista, fui contactada por el Consulado Mexicano para ofrecer un programa sobre el radón en sus facilidades. En la actualidad estoy ofreciendo una presentación mensual en el consulado. Muchos de los dueños de casa, que asisten a la presentación y que reciben una prueba gratis para saber si en sus casas hay niveles elevados de radón, viven en condados rurales en el norte de Georgia.

Otras maneras de alcanzar a la comunidad hispana incluyen a los periódicos de publicación gratuita publicados en español. Dos de ellos; *Mundo Hispánico* y *Georgia Latino*, han publicado artículos sobre el radón. El asistir a ferias de salud, ferias de comunidad y exposiciones sobre el hogar es también una manera muy buena de alcanzar a personas en los dos idiomas.

El educar al público en general sobre este asunto de salud es importante. La habilidad de alcanzar a personas de diferentes culturas es interesante, y el ayudar a salvar vidas es muy gratificante para mí. Estoy muy orgullosa de ser parte del Programa Educativo sobre el Radón del estado de Georgia.

Por Inés Beltrán

Educadora sobre el radón, Universidad de Georgia  
Servicio de Extensión Cooperativa—Gwinnett County

# Radon Outreach Results to Date

## Program and Media Contacts

These figures represent programming and media contacts from the beginning of the Radon Program to date (April 2003 through June 2007)

<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and Events totals represent reports beginning January 2004 to date.

<sup>2</sup> Madison/Elbert Radon Education Program began in September of 2004.

<sup>3</sup> DeKalb Radon Education Program began in May of 2007.

<sup>4</sup> "Other" includes data from Sumter Co. and radon programming by other County FACS/4-H agents.

<sup>5</sup> Data in these categories were not tracked in 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Web Site Hits tracked beginning in October, 2006.

Program Contacts	Dawson/ Hall	DeKalb - new <sup>3</sup>	Gwinnett	Madison/ Elbert <sup>2</sup>	Walton/ Clarke	South- face	Other <sup>4</sup>	Totals
<b>Programs &amp; Meetings</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>1,540</b>
Participants	4,366	4	9,627	3,059	8,255	10,922	2,099	38,332
Materials Distributed <sup>5</sup>	5,730	40	7,811	5,126	20,522	5,883	66	45,178
<b>Exhibits or Events<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>226</b>
Participants <sup>5</sup>	22,912	0	12,206	10,027	54,302	6,222	2,996	108,665
Materials Distributed <sup>5</sup>	16,033	0	9,183	6,060	11,430	1,090	1,346	45,142
<b>Professional Contacts<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>414</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>5,700</b>
Medical professionals	126	0	31	78	271	0	24	530
Home builders	99	0	11	399	106	3,593	0	4,208
Realtors	189	16	1	40	149	539	28	962
<b>Radon Kits Distributed</b>	<b>3,673</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3,978</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>6,365</b>	<b>2,821</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>23,629</b>
Test Results Received	1,032	0	1,205	1,054	2,697	341	849	7,178
Highest Reported Level	49.9	0	49	56.8	37.3	77.1	0	
<b>Mitigations Completed</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Radon Resistant Starts</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273</b>
Media Impressions	Dawson/ Hall	DeKalb - new	Gwinnett	Madison/ Elbert <sup>2</sup>	Walton	South- face	Other	Totals
<b>Radio Spots</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,616</b>
Listening Audience	2,641,000	0	0	3,836,000	2,131,000	2,000	377,000	8,987,000
<b>TV Spots</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>1,401</b>
Viewing Audience	18,901,000	0	73,951,000	0	26,329,000	1,263,000	8,335,000	128,829,000
<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b>
Circulation	701,000	0	1,207,117	143,000	1,426,300	0	69,500	3,546,917
<b>Newsletter Articles</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>79</b>
Distribution	6,650	0	246	2,900	1,235,020	895,448	6,054	2,146,318
<b>Web Site Hits<sup>6</sup></b>			1,457			7,724	0	9,181
<b>Total Media Impressions</b>	<b>22,249,650</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75,158,363</b>	<b>3,981,900</b>	<b>31,121,320</b>	<b>2,160,448</b>	<b>8,937,554</b>	<b>143,518,416</b>

## Walton & Oconee Middle School Radon Classes

During April and May, Radon Educator Becky Chenhall presented 32 Radon programs in Walton and Oconee Counties reaching more than 830 students at four middle schools. The end of the school year seems to be an ideal time for radon programs because many science teachers welcome guest speakers after students have completed standardized testing.

Abbi Calvert, former National Radon Poster Contest Winner, is a student in Ms. Gambrel's science class at Youth Middle School in Loganville. Abbi told the class about her trip to Washington, D.C. and helped promote this year's upcoming Radon Poster Contest.

While students are taking a pre-test, Ms. Chenhall passes out copies of EPA's radon map of Georgia, comparison graph showing numbers of deaths from drunk driving vs. radon induced lung cancer and radon mitigation diagram. She begins by asking students to identify the radon potential of the county in which they

reside. She also passes around a radon map showing actual high radon test results found all over Georgia.

Next, she shows the Health Effects of Radon PowerPoint and encourages questions during the presentation. When talking about



the alpha particles striking the mucus membrane lining of the lungs, she uses a right lung model to demonstrate. She asks if anyone knows the anatomical difference between the right and left lung. When presenting the slide showing radon entering the home thru the foundation and originating from soil and rock, she talks about how Stone Mountain extends from deep under the ground with finger-like projections to and beyond the

Athens area and passes around a sample of Stone Mountain granite rock.

Each student has the opportunity to receive a complimentary radon test kit, if he or she returned the Homeowner Agreement Form signed by a parent. An actual test kit is used to

demonstrate how to test a home. Students are shown how to deploy, where to test, length of test, and how to complete the information on the kit. Nearly 100% of the students want to test their homes following a presentation.

After the presentation, students complete a post-test that reveals how much they have learned. The program concludes with an interactive game "Who wants to be a radon millionaire?" The game is especially effective when used on a smart board so that students can walk to the front of the class and select the correct answer to the question A, B, C, or D. The questions in the game are an excellent review of the material in the radon program.

*By B. Chenhall*

## Radon Contacts/Links

### Radon Hotline Numbers

#### State Radon Hotline Numbers

Georgia Hotline/Southface **1-800-745-0037**  
(Outside Atlanta Metro Area)  
Atlanta Area Hotline/Southface **404-872-3549, Ext. 148**

#### National Hotlines:

National Safety Council w/ EPA **(1-800-767-7236)**  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
National Hispanic Indoor Air Quality **1-800-725-8312**  
The Radon Fix It Line: (National Safety Program) **1-800-644-6999**

#### Georgia Web Sites:

Georgia Radon Education Program [www.fcs.uga.edu/housing/radon](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/housing/radon)  
Complete information about radon in Georgia including information about the Georgia Radon Poster Contest.  
Southface Energy Institute [www.southface.org](http://www.southface.org)  
Radon Grant Partner that provides radon-resistant construction techniques for builders and radon training for realtors.

#### National Web Sites:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [www.epa.gov/iaq/radon](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon)  
The source for accurate, up-to-date radon information.  
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)  
National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) [www.nrsb.org](http://www.nrsb.org)  
The two EPA-approved providers of training and certification for radon measurement and mitigation contractors. Go here to find a list of NEHA or NRSB certified radon contractors in Georgia and the U.S.  
National Safety Council (NSC) [www.nsc.org/](http://www.nsc.org/)  
Information about the National Radon Poster Contest  
American Assoc. of Radon Scientist & Technologists (AARST) [www.aarst.org](http://www.aarst.org)  
Members include radon measurement and mitigation contractors.  
American Lung Association (ALA), enter “radon” in search box [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)  
American Cancer Society, enter “radon” in search box [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

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