

# Kids Korner



Kites were given to every kid at the festival. The windmills, in the background, are 200 feet high.

## Hooray For The Wind

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GARRETT (Somerset Co.) — Wind. You can't see it, but, you can feel it. You can hear it.

Wind is a kid's thing. It is everybody's thing.

Wind can be scary. It can put us to sleep at night.

Wind can lift a kite high to the sky. Balloons, too.

Wind housecleans the trees in springtime.

Wind brings relief to hot, sweltering, summer days.

Wind moves sailboats across the water. It makes waves.

Wind blows off your hat and makes you chase it.

Wind drops dead branches from trees (for bonfires and weenie roasts).

Wind sends fall leaves topsy turvy in autumn.

Wind arranges snowdrifts for winter fun.

Wind turns windmills.

Wind produces electricity.

Wind, wind, wind.

Hooray for the wind.

Speaking of wind, eight windmills were built in Somerset County a few weeks ago, near a small town called Garrett. The group of windmills is called Green Mountain Wind Farm. They were built to produce electricity.

On top of each windmill long blades rotate in a huge circle. As the blades spin, electricity is made.

Then, people buy the electricity produced by the wind.

With the electricity they buy, people turn on lights, heat their homes in winter and cool them in summer.

They also operate factories that manufacture cars, trucks, clothes and other items.

Because people buy electricity,

water is pumped into their homes to run out of faucets at sinks and bathtubs. And toilets are flushed.

Also, food can be cooked on stoves and cooled in refrigerators and freezers.

Computers, televisions, washing machines and machines that milk cows, use electricity. So do electronic scoreboards at ballgames.

Everyday, kids and grownups use electricity to work and play.

Wind is "Renewable" energy. Wind, you know, goes by and comes back again. It always seems to return. That makes it renewable.

GreenMountain.com and American National Wind Power are companies that own the Green Mountain Wind Farm. To build the windmills, they first asked permission from the owners of the ground they wanted to use for the project. The landowners were brothers, Donald Decker and Robert Decker.

The Decker men said "Yes," because they were excited about windmills. Nobody in Somerset County had ever had windmill farm with gigantic towers like these would be.

After they got permission to go ahead, the companies hired all kinds of people with many skills to develop the Green Mountain Wind Farm. Even workers on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Building a wind farm seemed like a very technical, or complicated, project.

Kids like Lacey Decker, 12, are learning that wind can produce electricity without polluting the environment. Lacey lives at the wind farm. In May 2000, when the Green Mountain people held the Wind Farm Festival, Lacey Decker got to throw the

switch to start up a windmill. Boy, did she ever get cool gifts like posters and a jacket.

Jessica Miner, Kristen Ritenour, and Amy Ritenour from Connellsville, were all over the place trying to fly their neat kites. Gosh, it was windy.

Little Corey Feaster from Short Gap, W.Va., grinned all over when a lady painted a windmill on his hand.

Other kids tossed rings at the "Ring-a-Renewable" peg game. Different colored pegs represented energy sources that produces electricity. Lots of black pegs stood for coal. Yellow ones were for nuclear, blue were natural gas, brown were for oil and purple were hydroelectric. Last, three green pegs for renewables.

The kids learned that pollution makes a big drop when electric power is produced by a renewable source like wind.

Kids can bring their parents and friends to see the windmills at work. Just stop by a small park that you can't miss on Schrock Road and read all stuff printed on the big plaques.

Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 10, Route 219 S. to Garrett, or visit [www.greenmountain.com](http://www.greenmountain.com) on the internet.

Hooray for the wind!



Corey Feaster, 5, shows a windmill painted on his hand.



Lacey Decker lives on the land where eight windmills were built near Garrett, Somerset County. She got cool presents for throwing a switch to start up a windmill.

