



### **Our Mission**

As part of our commitment to the protection and preservation of the natural world and the creatures that call it home, the Charles Paddock Zoo Education Department now provides supplies for our birthday parties that are among the most “eco-friendly” products available. It is our wish to demonstrate that a small compromise (less “festive” appearance of materials) is an acceptable measure to take in order to lessen the impact of our educational programs on the environment. We thank you for your support of this practice, and urge you to consider ways in which you may be able to adopt similar practices. Together, many small, positive, changes can result in significant benefits.

### **What is “Eco Friendly”?**

We select from an assortment of paper and plastic products that are biodegradable and, in some cases, compostable, derived from renewable raw materials such as starch from corn, potato, tapioca, or other plants and vegetables. We’ve eliminated the use of consumables that require petroleum as a raw material for their manufacture.

### **How you can help:**

“Reusing is Recycling” – Any time we use an item only once, whether it is a paper cup, cardboard box, or plastic fork, we miss an opportunity to not only make greater use of the raw materials required to produce that product, but also the energy required to bring it to market. Whenever feasible, consider a second or third, or perhaps a permanent, use.

Consider substituting traditional wood pulp plates and petroleum-based plastics for alternatives that are made from high post-consumer “recycled” content or from non-wood/petroleum materials such as those available from the sources below.

<http://ecoproducts.com>

<http://trellisearth.com>

### **Did You Know?**

- Just 14 plastic shopping bags contain enough embodied petroleum energy to drive a car 1 mile!
- Only about 700 paper bags can be made from one 15-year-old tree.
- If every American recycled his or her newspaper just one day a week, we would save about 36 million trees a year.

For additional information, please contact:

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