

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Air Rifle Postal Match
2. Student Sustainability Design Competition
3. Aquatic Studies Area Workshop 1/25/07
4. Ponds for Kids Program
5. Captain Planet Foundation Grants
6. High School Essay Contest
7. Volvo Adventure Award
8. Astronomy from the Ground Up
9. Calling All Eco-Heroes
10. Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Workshop
11. Environmental Education Association of AL Conference
12. Legacy Environmental Partnership Conference
13. Living Green
14. Drop a Degree
15. Instructional GPS Trail Mapping DVD Now Available
16. MY Wonderful World
17. Catalog of Conservation Social Science Tools
18. SustainLane
19. Churches Saving in Many Ways
20. Educatiobug Web site
21. Environmental Earth Angels
22. Fisheries Learning on the Web
23. Energy Saving Check List
24. Tree Detectives
25. Critter of the Month

.....  
1. AIR RIFLE POSTAL MATCH

Deadline--12/8/06

The Liberty County High School (LCHS) Rifle Team is sponsoring a "Shoot for Liberty" 2006-2007 Sporter Air Rifle Individual Postal Match. The competition is open to all JROTC Cadets, 4-H Members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, instructors, Scout Masters, 4-H Leaders and will be divided up into three categories: First Year Shooter, Open Competition, and Adult/Instructor/Coach. The course of fire is a 3x10 course with Pneumatic Sporter Rifles (No CO2 Rifles). Trophies for top three individual shooters in each category and top score overall in each position. The entry fee is \$5 per individual and targets must be postmarked no later than December 8, 2006. For more information, contact LTC (R) Minyard at (850) 643-2241, ext. 259 or [minyard\\_c@firn.edu](mailto:minyard_c@firn.edu) or [charlesminyard@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesminyard@hotmail.com) or download the "Shoot for Liberty" flyer at <http://www.odcmp.org/1106/SHOOTFORLIBERTY.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\*

2. STUDENT SUSTAINABLE DESIGN COMPETITION

Deadline: December 21, 2006

The U.S. EPA is looking for cutting-edge technology that could protect the environment while growing the economy through its "People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3)" program. The agency plans to award up to \$1.25 million in grants that enable teams of college students to research, develop, and design these programs.

[http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007\\_p3\\_4thannual.html](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_p3_4thannual.html)

\*\*\*\*\*

3. AQUATIC STUDY AREAS WORKSHOP 1/25/07

Registration Deadline: Jan 19

If you would like to learn how to set up a water garden in your outdoor classroom site for hands-on aquatic study activities, you should attend this workshop! Workshop participants will also find out how they can participate in the Ponds for Kids program. (For more info on the Ponds for Kids program read the article below.) Workshop topics include pond design, maintenance, aquatic plant selection, and much more!

[http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation\\_education/teacher\\_workshops.asp](http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation_education/teacher_workshops.asp)

\*\*\*\*\*

4. PONDS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Through a new partnership with the North American Water Gardening Society's Ponds for Kids program and Vought Water Gardens in Decatur, Alabama, schools enrolled in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program can now receive free assistance with the design and installation of their aquatic study area from a professional contractor. The most exciting part of the program is that the students work hand-in-hand with volunteers to install the pond in just ONE DAY! Learn more about the Ponds for Kids program! <http://www.alabamawildlife.org/pfk.asp> .

\*\*\*\*\*

5. CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION GRANTS

Due December 31-- <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>

6. HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

Deadline: January 15, 2007

The American Planning Association (APA) nationwide essay contest to get high school juniors or seniors to think critically about the role of planning in creating communities of lasting value. \$5000 scholarship will be awarded to the first place winner and 10 honorable mention contestants will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Planners Book Service. <http://www.planning.org/institutions/hseessay.htm> .

\*\*\*\*\*

7. VOLVO ADVENTURE AWARD

Deadline: January 31, 2007

The Volvo Adventure Environmental Award provides international recognition for projects undertaken by young people (ages 10-16) to improve their local environment. Successful groups will win an all-expenses paid trip to Sweden, where they will present their projects and agenda for action. <http://www.volvoadventure.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

8. ASTRONOMY FROM THE GROUND UP ~ ONLINE

January - February, 2007

Thanks to support from the National Science Foundation, this workshop is completely free. Requires an e-mail account, high-speed internet connection, five-six hours per week for three weeks, plus a commitment to implementing and logging activities over the next year. Offered by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) in collaboration with the Association of Science-Technology Centers and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

<http://astro.society.org/afgu/distance.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

9. CALLING ALL ECO-HEROES

Deadline: February 28, 2007

Action For Nature has a juried annual contest, for which cash prizes and other gifts are awarded to young people, 8 to 16 years, who have achieved an outstanding environmental success, and whose efforts will inspire others. Guidelines and application form available on the Web site. Nominations encouraged.

<http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero/ecoheroawards.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

10. HOOKED ON FISHING-NOT ON DRUGS WORKSHOP 12/15/06 AT GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

" Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs® " (HOFNOD) uses a mentor-based fishing program to teach positive life choices. On December 15, Gadsden State Community College will host a HOFNOD workshop.

This one-day class provides the skills needed to lead a mentor-based fishing program that will make a difference in children's lives. Science teachers, physical education teachers, counselors, Boys and Girls Club workers, 4-H Leaders, bass club members, parks and recreation department employees, and volunteers are invited to improve the lives of youth through HOFNOD skills. Participants may register by calling Mr. Doug Darr with the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, 1-(334) 242-3471 or Dr. Hugh Hammer at 1 (256) 549-8345. Participants should register by Tuesday, December 12.

The one-day training session will give volunteers activities and lessons to help children make appropriate decisions and learn to become ethical anglers. HOFNOD programs require youth to participate in fishing and stewardship activities in addition to learning about making good life choices through role-playing and other training. Workshop participants will not only learn to improve their fishing abilities, they will learn how to teach youth how to fish. Participants will become certified HOFNOD instructors and have the ability to use the " Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs® " name and logo.

" Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs® " is a partnership program among the Future Fisherman Foundation, the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and volunteers. The Gadsden State Community College workshop will be held in the Aquaculture Education and Development Center on campus.

For more details about HOFNOD or the training, contact: Doug Darr, Aquatic Education Coordinator, Alabama's Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, 64 North Union Street, Suite 514 - zip 36104, PO Box 301458 - zip 36130-1458, Montgomery, AL. Phone: 1-334-242-3884, Fax: 1-334-242-2061, [Doug.Darr@DCNR.Alabama.gov](mailto:Doug.Darr@DCNR.Alabama.gov), [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*

11. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA CONFERENCE

Reserve the date. February 1-3, 2007, Cheaha Mountain State Park, Talladega, AL. Great Sessions and field trip opportunities. For more information go to

<http://www.aces.edu/eeaa/main.html> .

\*\*\*\*\*

12. LEGACY ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2007 Legacy Environmental Partnership Conference will be held February 14th - 16th at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach! Start making plans now to attend. Registration information will be announced soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

13. LIVING GREEN

As part of the Living Green Series, the University of Florida has available DVDs on Landscaping for Wildlife, Invasive Exotics, and Conservation Easements. To view these 1/2 hour shows online (and to purchase DVDs) - please visit <http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu> .

\*\*\*\*\*

14. DROP A DEGREE

Cold nights in the forecast mean that many Americans will be turning up the heat. In the average U.S. home, about 40 percent of the energy bill goes to heating, but there are simple and inexpensive ways to save energy and money as the weather cools off.

Tip: Turning down your thermostat by just one degree can save up to four percent in heating energy costs, adding up to between 30 and 60 dollars per year, depending on the type of heating you have. Instead of cranking up the heat, try setting your thermostat at 68 degrees during the day and dressing warmly indoors. At night, you can drop the temperature a few degrees lower, adding an extra blanket to stay comfortable.

(Sources: The Alliance to Save Energy (<http://www.ase.org/>) and US Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (<http://www.eere.energy.gov/>)

\*\*\*\*\*

15. INSTRUCTIONAL GPS TRAIL MAPPING DVD IS NOW AVAILABLE!

This new DVD, which is available now through the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), provides OHV enthusiasts and professionals with detailed information on how to gather OHV route (trail) information using GPS technology, and how to provide that information to the USFS in a format that will be usable by the USFS for their upcoming Route Designation process. Emphasis is placed on GPS tools and technology that are available to OHV enthusiasts, and software that can be used to manage, catalog and format GPS data.

The DVD is divided into eight chapters which are easily navigable with a computer or DVD player. Chapter topics include an introduction to the USFS Route Designation process, GPS hardware, preparing for your trip, collecting data, DNR Garmin, Garmin Mapsource, Fugawi Global Navigator, and providing data to the agency.

One sample DVD is free for the asking, but the NOHVCC must charge shipping and handling for multiple orders. To order, call (800) 348-6487 or e-mail [trailhead@nohvcc.org](mailto:trailhead@nohvcc.org) You can also visit their website at [www.nohvcc.org](http://www.nohvcc.org) for more info on their other educational products and services.

\*\*\*\*\*

16. MY WONDERFUL WORLD

My Wonderful World is a National Geographic-led campaign to increase geographic literacy in schools, at home, and in the community. To learn more about geography, what it is and why it matters, explore the beautiful My Wonderful World Web site at <http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/> where you will find games, blogs and articles written for students, teachers and parents.

\*\*\*\*\*

17. CATALOG OF CONSERVATION SOCIAL SCIENCE TOOLS

Check out this search tool from the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), for conservation practitioners, students, and researchers: <http://www.conbio.org/WorkingGroups/SSWG/catalog/sswg.cfm> .

\*\*\*\*\*

18. SUSTAINLANE

SustainLane is an open-source knowledge base for state and local government officials to exchange best practices in sustainability, and network among peers. Also offers a site for people to rate and discuss green products, services, and personal sustainability. <http://www.sustainlane.us/home.jsp>

\*\*\*\*\*

19. CHURCHES SAVING IN MANY WAYS

Read about churches successfully saving \$8,000-\$16,000 each year using energy efficient and clean energy technologies. The National Council of Churches Eco Justice Program report Bottom Line Ministries that Matter: Congregational Stewardship with Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Technologies outlines how congregations can save money and reduce carbon emissions. <http://www.nccecojustice.org/network/index.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

20. EDUCATIONBUG WEB SITE

Educators will find helpful articles on this Web site categorized by type of school, educator, and student age with a wide range of topics. Site also includes a state-by-state school directory and list of resources.

<http://www.educationbug.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

21. ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH ANGELS BIO-ACTION PROGRAM

This student EE program in Ontario, Canada, engages students by providing class modules and labs on biodiversity. The outdoor activities give students a chance to utilize their knowledge and see how they can directly impact the environment. <http://www.earthangels.ca/>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 22. FISHERIES LEARNING ON THE WEB (FLOW)

Award-winning, Web-based curriculum material for grades 4-8. Each standards-based lesson features an engaging activity focusing on one of three primary areas: ecosystem, water, or fish. <http://www.projectflow.us/>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 23. Energy Saving Check List

A typical household spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills. With ENERGY STAR, you can save up to 30% or more than \$600 per year!

Wondering if you can save more energy and money in your home? To download Lowe's checklist and find out how you can start saving money and energy, go to

[http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pq&p=/Energy/checklist06/energy\\_saver\\_checklist](http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pq&p=/Energy/checklist06/energy_saver_checklist) .

Source: Lowe's

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 24. TREE DETECTIVES

How many different kinds of trees are in your schoolyard or neighborhood? When students become "tree detectives" not only will they have fun solving this mystery, but will practice important observation and identification skills at the same time. For more information check out Tree Detectives at

<http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/pdfs/AccessNaturetreedect.pdf> .

Source: National Wildlife Federation

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 25. CRITTER OF THE MONTH

I live in fields and gardens and can be found on shrubs, tall plants and flowers. My abdomen is egg shaped and marked with yellow and black. I am harmless to humans and actually help by eating a lot of insect pests, such as flies, mosquitoes and aphids. Watch out! Don't get "caught up" in my sticky, circular home.

Who am I? To find out, go to:

<http://enature.com/fieldguides/detail.asp?allSpecies=y&searchText=argiope&curGroupID=4&lgfromWhere=&curPageNum=2>.

Emily B. Kling, Ed.D.

Extension Specialist, 4-H & Youth Development

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

210 Duncan Hall

Auburn University, AL 36849-5620

PH: (334) 844-2226

FX: (334) 844-2252

CELL: (334) 750-3540

[klungeb@auburn.edu](mailto:klungeb@auburn.edu)

"Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child, as it is to the caterpillar."

--Bradley Miller