

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. 4-H Shooting Sports & Sportfishing Training on 2/27
2. A Woman's Story of the Land
3. Learn About Hummingbird Banding in Mobile
4. Award for Exemplary Service
5. Starbucks Foundation Grants
6. Teacher at Sea Program
7. Wild Gift Wilderness Experience
8. Participate in National EE Week
9. NRA Youth Education Summit
10. Bats, Cavefish & Salamanders
11. Earth: A Graphic Look at the State of the World
12. National Geographic Ednet Resource Library
13. Ocean Image Resource for Teachers
14. Rangers of the Earth
15. Track Spring's Journey North
16. What Bird?
17. Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Update

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1. 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS AND SPORTFISHING TRAINING--FEBRUARY 27
4-H Sportfishing, Air Rifle, Archery, and Shotgun Leader training and certification sessions will be offered February 25 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center. These are special tracks at the 4-H Volunteer and Parent Forum. Participants must pre-register for one of the classes and stay with it all day. They will be reimbursed up to \$60 to help with expenses.

Individuals must register for the Volunteer Forum (Fri PM & Sat cost: \$62.50 or Saturday only: \$25). A two hour "Youth Development" training is a requirement to receive shooting sports and sportfishing certifications. This training will be offered Friday evening at 7:00-9:00 p.m. If participants cannot attend the Friday evening training, they must make arrangements through their County Extension Office to receive this training from their 4-H Regional Extension Agent. Individuals who have attended either of these trainings in previous years have already had the "Youth Development" training. They should indicate the discipline, date and location on the Forum registration form.

The registration deadline has been extended to Friday, February 17!
Registrations can be faxed to 334-844-2252.

2. A WOMAN'S STORY OF THE LAND, REVISITED
First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Alabama
Friday, February 24th, 9:30am-3:00pm

Join us for A Woman's Story of the Land, Revisited, our second workshop for women forest landowners. The first workshop, held in Monroeville, Alabama in November, was a great success. This one will have all new topics, including hunting and outdoor recreation, tax planning, using foresters for help with prescribed burning and inventory, the TREASURE Forest program, Classroom in the Forest, the Alabama Forestry Museum, and resources and opportunities for women. We will also have three more women share their stories with the group. This was the most popular part of the first workshop, as women landowners got to learn from each other. Of course, you do not have to own land to attend. You may just want to learn more about forestry and wildlife.

We will have an activity using the Mighty Trees playing cards, a set of cards about native trees in Alabama. Marisa Lee-Sasser of the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources in Montgomery will talk to the group about outdoor recreation opportunities. Sally Wagner of Hartmann, Blackmon, & Kilgore, PC in Fairhope will talk about timber and real estate. Madeline Hildreth of the Alabama Forestry Commission in Brewton will tell the group who they can call on for help with prescribed burns, inventory, becoming a TREASURE Forest, and more. Three outstanding landowners, Jerry Gibson of Deer Park, Lucille Hooks of Montgomery, and Virginia Harrigan of Grove Hill, will share their stories.

The workshop will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Alabama from 9:30am to 3:00pm on Friday, February 24th, 2006. It is sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University's School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, the Washington County Chapter of Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA), the Baldwin County Chapter of ATFA, and Smith Family Timber.

The registration fee of \$30.00 covers insurance, program supplies, resource materials, catered lunch, and refreshments. Make checks payable to the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, Baldwin County Chapter. The DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH. For details and a registration form, contact Sonya Wood Mahler at mahlesw @auburn.edu or Rhonda Bryars at 251-937-7176.

3. LEARN ABOUT HUMMINGBIRD BANDING IN MOBILE

Fred Bassett will speak on March 9th @ 6:30pm at the Mobile County Extension Office on Schillinger Rd. Fred is one of 100 licensed Hummer banders. He spends much of the year banding birds across the United States. He will discuss attracting birds, habitat, and feeding. He really is worth coming to hear!

4. AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Deadline: April 3, 2006

The Hitachi Foundation Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community recognizes ten high school seniors from around the United States, who have displayed exemplary service and community involvement.

<http://www.hitachifoundation.org/yoshiyama/index.html>

5. STARBUCKS FOUNDATION GRANTS

Letters of Inquiry are reviewed twice per year during two periods:

February 1st - March 1st and August 1st - September 1st.

Starbucks Giving Voice Grant funds programs for youth that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live. Grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000.

<http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp>

6. TEACHER AT SEA PROGRAM

Deadline: February 28, 2006

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program gives K-16 teachers a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and an interdisciplinary educational experience that provides a unique environment for learning and teaching.

<http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/>

7. WILD GIFT WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Deadline: April 1, 2006

The Wild Gift is a 17-month wilderness experience for five students and young professionals, ages 18 to 30. The most important requirement is a record of accomplishment that reflects leadership talent.

<http://www.wildgift.org/apply.htm>

8. PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL EE WEEK

April 16-22, 2006

Sign-up now for the second annual National Environmental Education Week! National EE Week is a full week of educational preparedness for Earth Day and will involve thousands of educators and millions of students. Visit the Web site to sign up as a partner (partnership is free) for National EE Week.

<http://www.eeweek.org>

9. 2006 NRA YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT

Applications are now being accepted for the National Rifle Association's 2006 Youth Education Summit, a free summer program for high school sophomores and juniors. Forty students will be hand selected to spend a week with NRA staff in Washington, D.C. All attendees have to pay for is transportation to and from Washington, D.C.

This week-long program is spent learning about the NRA, U.S. Congress, the federal government, and the military. Attendees in past years have had the chance to meet NRA's Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, visit Capitol Hill, spend a day at Quatic training on courses used by Marines for basic training, visit the White House, visit the Smithsonian museums, and much, much more... The 2006 program is scheduled to take place June 19-25. Applications are due in on April 1. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending, visit www.nrafoundation.org/yes/application.asp and download an application.

10. BATS, CAVEFISH & SALAMANDERS

Sponsored by the Hoosier National Forest & Indiana Karst Conservancy, Cave Biota offers video clips of various cave-dwellers and interviews with scientists about cave issues and conservation.

<http://www.cavebiota.com/>

11. EARTH: A GRAPHIC LOOK AT THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Published by the Global Education Project, this comprehensive resource summarizes the conditions of the world's ecology and humanity and how they affect each other. A valuable tool for anyone teaching about or striving to understand the world's complex environmental and humanitarian challenges.

<http://www.theglobaleducationproject.org/index.shtml>

12. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EDNET RESOURCE LIBRARY

This National Geographic community page provides a wide variety of teaching materials and resources, including grade specific lesson plans, news articles, classroom companions, photos, videos, and more.

<http://www.ngsednet.org/index.cfm>

13. OCEAN IMAGE RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS

Marine Photobank is a free resource of ocean imagery that highlights pressing ocean issues and includes accompanying downloadable Photo Stories. Some subjects covered are Marine Pollution and Trash, Fishing Methods, and Reefs in Peril/Coral Bleaching.

<http://www.marinephotobank.org>

14. RANGERS OF THE EARTH

This new earth education program for 10-11 year olds provides a year's worth of weekly activities for classrooms and youth groups.

Contact: IEE1@aol.com

<http://www.eartheducation.org/resource.asp?sku=brote>

15. TRACK SPRING'S JOURNEY NORTH

February - June 2006 ~ Online

Teachers and students in K-12 classrooms can participate in the online global studies of wildlife migration and seasonal change. Watch spring sweep across the hemisphere by following the migration patterns of monarch butterflies, bald eagles, and other animals; the budding of plants, changing sunlight, and other natural events.

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth>

16. WHAT BIRD?

The ultimate online bird guide for identifying birds of North America. Use the visual search engine to identify birds, create your own bird field guides, and consult with an expert.

<http://www.whatbird.com/>

17. IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER UPDATE

For a long time, scientists thought that the ivory-billed woodpecker was extinct. But then the rare bird was rediscovered in 2004 in the swamplands of Arkansas.

People are excited about the bird's rediscovery, and they're hoping that there are more ivory-bills out there. The ivory-bill was last seen in a wildlife refuge, but other parts of its home are still in danger of disappearing. Why? As cities grow bigger and more roads are built, the nearby swamplands get smaller and more polluted. Also, in places people have pumped the water out for use on croplands. Such changes can mean fewer chances for the ivory-bill's survival.

That's why scientists and volunteers are still searching for signs of ivory-bills in the places the birds were known to once live. Other people, including some at the National Wildlife Federation, the group that publishes Ranger Rick, are working hard to protect these swampy places. This is good news-for the ivory-bill and also for the many other creatures that share its wild home.

To see video of the ivory-billed woodpecker, go to: <http://www.ivorybill.org/> . Scroll down to "video" and click on it.

(Sources: National Wildlife Federation and Big Woods Conservation Partnership)

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