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1. GIS GRANT

ESRI announces two grant options for the ESRI GIS Grant Program, designed for U.S. 4-H in cooperation with National 4-H Headquarters, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support its geospatial outreach, education, and community involvement efforts. The goal of this program is to foster and support the integration of geographic information system (GIS) software in U.S. 4-H clubs. Grant categories include an introductory grant for 4-H clubs new to GIS and global positioning systems (GPS) and an intermediate grant for those 4-H clubs that received previous ESRI 4-H grants and completed the grant requirements. Due March 31.

Online, visit http://www.esri.com/grants/esri/06003_4-h_fy06.html

2. LEGACY CALENDAR ARTWORK CONTEST

March 10, 2006 is the deadline for entries in the 2007 Calendar Artwork Contest.

Students from grades K-6 in Alabama are encouraged to submit a drawing concerning an environmental issue such as recycling, ozone, water conservation, wildlife, forestry, and energy conservation. Teachers are encouraged to use this as a means of teaching about Alabama's environment.

For More Information and an Entry Form -

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=hmkd8sbab.0.eoyub5aab.g68xrvn6.2248&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.legacyenvd.org%2Fstudent%2Fstudent_calendar.htm

3. 2ND ANNUAL STATE OF OUR WATERSHED CONFERENCE - THE TALLAPOOSA RIVER BASIN

Date: April 20th, 2006

Location: Oscar C. Dunn Rotary Environmental Education Center, Camp ASCCA, Jacksons Gap, Alabama

Details: Mark your calendar for April 20th, 2006 for the Second Annual State of Our Watershed Conference - the Tallapoosa River Basin, on the shores of beautiful Lake Martin. This free conference is for anyone interested in learning more about the health of streams, lakes and rivers that comprise the Tallapoosa River Basin, current watershed management strategies, long-term economic and development vision of policy makers, and basin management innovations developed by scientists of the Tallapoosa Watershed Project (TWP). Presentations will include results from water quality, remote sensing and fisheries biology studies.

Contact: For more information visit the TWP website at www.twp.auburn.edu or contact Eric Reutebuch, the TWP Coordinator, at reuteem@auburn.edu

4. BRADLEY/MURPHY FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION TRUST
The TRUST wishes to encourage, promote and develop through EDUCATION and the free market system the stewardship of forest and related natural resources in the private sector. Therefore, the TRUST will offer modest Grants, up to \$2,000.00, to publicly recognized and qualified organizations whose programs would fulfill the purpose and objective of the TRUST.

Funds may be used to underwrite the development of educational facilities, ASSIST IN COVERING THE EXPENSES OF CONDUCTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE EXPENSES OF ATTENDEES AND SPEAKERS, develop and conduct human resource surveys, and write and print publications. Such monetary Grants must meet the purposes, objectives and criteria of the TRUST.

The Trustees are giving immediate attention to proposals that:

1. Establish links between non-industrial private forest owners and professional foresters.
2. Involve non-industrial private forest owners and consultant foresters.
3. Provide solutions to environmental problems through the free market system.

Persons or organizations interested in applying for grants should go to <http://www.bradleymurphytrust.org/> and scroll down to the format and guidelines sections.

The deadline for receiving applications is April 30, 2006. Mail applications to Harry E. Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer, BRADLEY/MURPHY FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION TRUST, 3128 Woodhaven Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Applicants will be informed of the status of their application on or before June 22, 2006.

5. VOLCANO 101

Learn about volcanos from the Alaska volcano Observatory web page. Go to <http://www.avo.alaska.edu/index.php>.

6. HOMEOWNER INSPECTION GUIDES

There are two on-line publications that may be useful for homeowners: "A Guide to the Inspection of Existing Homes for Wood-Inhabiting Fungi and Insects" and "A Guide to the Inspection of New Homes for Wood-Inhabiting Fungi and Insects."

Go to <http://sref.info/newsletters/2006-03-01-site-news> and scroll down to "Online publications."

7. HELPFUL HOME REMEDIES

(NOTE: 4-H doesn't specifically endorse any of the following products or remedies, but a wise ole grandma sent them in). Did you know that:

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately - without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional "pain relievers."

Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

Chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints will clear up your stuffed nose.

Mixing 1 Tablespoon of horseradish in 1 cup of olive oil, letting the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then applying it as a massage oil, will give you instant relief for aching muscles.

To cure a sore throat just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

To cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer ; just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly even though the product was never been advertised for this use. (Note: Alka-Seltzer Plus Cold Medicine is not the same...and contains aspirin, which can cause stomach bleeding if you have ulcers.)

Honey is a remedy for skin blemishes... Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Listerine kills toenail fungus... Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Coca-Cola is a cure for rust... Forget those expensive insecticides, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Elmer's Glue-All is a smart splinter remover...just pour a drop of Over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's tomato paste will cure a boil ... cover the boil with Hunt's tomato paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Listerine is a balm for broken blisters...To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine, it's a powerful antiseptic.

Heinz vinegar will heal bruises... Soak a cotton ball in WHITE vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.

Dawn DISH WASHING LIQUID WILL KILL FLEAS INSTANTLY....just add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Goodbye fleas.

About this rainy day cure for dog odor... Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

To eliminate ear mites... All it takes is a few drops of Wesson corn oil in your cat's ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Quaker Oats relieve pain fast....It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

8. ANIMAL KINGDOM MATING HABITS

It's obvious that animals of all sizes and varieties reproduce. But when you stop and think about this delicate subject, there are some pretty tough obstacles that our friends in the animal kingdom have to overcome to "get the job done." How does a frisky porcupine mate without maiming his partner? What's the "secret weapon" that male butterflies use to attract their forever-flying females to the boudoir? And did you know there's one denizen of the deep that begins life as a perfectly-functioning male but after a year or two decides to switch sexes and become a female...perfectly-functioning of course! The six stories that follow will educate and entertain you as to what is really going on out there in the animal kingdom...when no one is looking!

In Hot Pursuit

What's the best place for a male polar bear to meet a potential mate? The experts recommend going to a prime seal-hunting spot. But finding such a spot is only the beginning of the challenge

One reason a male polar bear must work overtime for a date is that females of the species don't breed every year or even every other year. A female polar bear usually breeds only once every three years, which means that males outnumber eligible females three-to-one at the start of breeding season in the spring.

So competition for female attention is fierce, and males must fight one another, sometimes viciously, for the privilege of mating. Further complicating matters is the fact that female polar bears enjoy a good chase and will lead pursuing males across the ice for miles and miles. In some cases, a chase can cover more than sixty miles -- not for the timid or the weak of heart.

Under Lock and Key

Good news for folks who lament the demise of chastity belts: the devices are still quite popular in the insect world. The purpose of a chastity belt, remember, was to prevent intercourse. A sphragis accomplishes the same feat. What's a sphragis? It's the white pouch hanging from the abdomen of a Phoebus Parnassian butterfly -- a female Phoebus Parnassian, to be precise. The male of the species secretes it while mating -- it contains sperm and some nutrients -- and the substance hardens upon contact with the air. Once in place, the sphragis keeps the female from mating again. Yet it doesn't interfere with flying or with the laying of eggs.

Safety First

It's the time of year when porcupines are feeling frisky. But that's not the real news. The real news is that porcupines are able to mate without inflicting serious harm on one another. The porcupine, of course, is known for its sharp quills -- excellent for self-defense but intimidating for a suitor. One misstep and . . . ouch! Thus it's important not to surprise one's partner. First, the female must relax its quills, and then the male must squirt the female with high-pressure jets of urine. These are a few of the steps in one of nature's more elaborate mating rituals. And if the encounter is a success, a little porcupine appears seven months later. Fortunately for the mother, the infant is born in a placental sac, and its short quills are soft for the first half hour or so of its life.

Seductive Assassins

Despite their miniature size and their preference for dark places, fireflies receive a lot of attention when summer arrives. Their remarkable green and yellow flashing lights have a hypnotic effect on people. Children in particular are drawn to fireflies. But the same throbbing glow that attracts youngsters can lead male fireflies to their deaths.

In warm-weather months, especially where open meadows and forests coexist, the adult male fireflies of most species set out on mating flights in the evening hours. The females, meanwhile, await their mates in the foliage, blinking seductively. The task for each male is to find an unmated female of its own species. It's critical that the female be unmated because in many firefly species the females change through internal chemistry into man-eaters once they successfully mate. Thereafter they use their blinks to attract meals. Some females even imitate the idiosyncratic blinking patterns of other species in an effort to attract as many unsuspecting males as possible.

Underwater Gender Bender

Looks can be deceiving. The mild-mannered dock shrimp, for example, doesn't appear at first glance to be a creature with a noteworthy sex life. Yet the dock shrimp undergoes one of the most remarkable sexual transformations in the entire animal kingdom. A marine arthropod that can be found in bays, estuaries, and even some tide pools on the Pacific Coast, the dock shrimp begins life as a male. And for a year or two it functions as a male, mating with female dock shrimp and providing them with sperm. Then, sometime in its second year, the dock shrimp transforms into a female, complete with its own eggs, and soon proceeds to mate with young male dock shrimp and produce offspring.

Insect Aphrodisiac

When it comes to seduction, even Don Juan himself can't compete with male Queen butterflies. But it's not a sport for these insects and others like them; it's a matter of survival. That's because the female of the species, left to its own devices, tends not to cooperate with its suitors. Rather than pausing long enough

for a male to position itself for mating, the female keeps flying. Fortunately for the male, it possesses a not-so-secret chemical weapon: pheromones. These pheromones are released from small brushlike structures called hair pencils on the male's abdomen. When the male flies in front of a female in an attempt to seduce it, the hair pencils protrude and waft their chemicals in the female's direction. The female becomes entranced -- more subdued than usual and more amenable to amorous advances.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

9. AMERICA'S BALD EAGLES SOAR TO SUCCESS

Statement by Larry Schweiger, President of the National Wildlife Federation, February 13, 2006

Regarding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announcement of its proposal to declare the bald eagle "recovered" in the lower-48 states and to remove it from the list of threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

"Today we celebrate the remarkable recovery of the bald eagle. The return of our national symbol is a victory for wildlife, a victory for conservation, and a victory for the Endangered Species Act.

"The bald eagle is one of our nation's greatest symbols. Chosen for its strength, independence and majesty, this icon of the wild exemplifies what it means to be American. As we celebrate the recovery of the bald eagle, we also celebrate the power of the American people to achieve great victories against any odds.

"We cannot commemorate this remarkable comeback without also acknowledging the law that helped us to achieve it. At the very hour that some in Congress are poised to weaken the Endangered Species Act, we are reminded that its safeguards were vital in charting the path of recovery for the bald eagle and other imperiled wildlife. Thanks to this landmark law, our nation's symbol will fly high for generations to come.

"Once again we have proof that the nation's safety net for imperiled wildlife works. Only with a strong Endangered Species Act will we continue to see bald eagles in our skies, wild salmon in our rivers, and grizzly bears in our American West.

"Forty years ago we almost lost the bald eagle because of our recklessness. But as the bird teetered on the edge, Americans took a bold step and declared that we would not allow our national symbol to go extinct. By passing the Endangered Species Act, we resolved to save the bald eagle and all of America's wildlife for future generations.

"When Americans first realized our national symbol was in danger of being lost forever, there were only 417 nesting pairs left in the lower 48 states. Today, eagle numbers are strong with over 7,000 breeding pairs spread across the lower 48.

"The success of the bald eagle is a success for all Americans. The Endangered Species Act provided the framework for the bald eagle's recovery, but it was the will and actions of individuals that brought this bird back from the brink of extinction.

"Thanks to the work of landowners, conservationists, business owners, scientists, federal, state and local agencies, and our champions in Congress, bald eagles are once again thriving throughout the nation. The comeback of the bald eagle is testament to what can be achieved through cooperative conservation.

"To ensure that the bald eagle stays on the road to recovery, we must continue to monitor eagle populations and safeguard the habitat that is critical to their survival. The National Wildlife Federation will evaluate the proposal to ensure effective habitat conservation remains in place for bald eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

"The banning of DDT in 1972, passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, and reintroduction efforts by scientists and citizens across the country have all contributed to the success we celebrate today.

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