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1. NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY 9/22/06

September is a great month to get outdoors. Whether you're hiking, biking or doing some late-season camping, it's a good time for you and other family members to watch wildlife and enjoy the world around you.

Here's an additional outdoor opportunity this month. Sportsmen's groups, including some National Wildlife Federation affiliate organizations around the country, are observing National Hunting and Fishing Day --SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-- with special events and activities. These events are family-oriented, fun and hands-on that everyone will enjoy. This is a great way to introduce youth and newcomers to outdoor sports while teaching them about the important role that hunting and fishing play in wildlife conservation programs.

Check out the National Hunting and Fishing Day website:

http://nwf.convio.net/site/R?i=qEw1Z6NNQ_ZyZSnms58sZA.

2. EPA EDUCATES STUDENTS ABOUT ESTUARIES

Please join students and other viewers in an exploration of Estuaries by watching Estuarylive, a real-time interactive field trip to different estuaries via the internet on Friday, Sept. 29th. This broadcast helps to educate people across the country about the importance of protecting America's estuaries, "where rivers meet the sea." Hosted by EPA's National Estuary Programs (NEP) and NOAA's National Estuarine Research

Reserves (NERR), four estuaries will be featured during the broadcast scheduled on Friday, September 29. Included are Peconic Nationals Estuary Program, New York; New Jersey Harbor NEP, NJ; South Slough NERR and Tillamook Bay National Estuary; and Padilla Bay NERR, Washington State.

Classrooms across the country will tour these estuaries by asking questions of trained naturalists and educators leading the expeditions. For more information on each field trip and associated activities, and to find out how to participate, visit <http://www.estuaries.gov/> and click on EstuaryLive. To find out about these programs, visit <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/> .

3. ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Deadline: November 30, 2006

Seaworld/Busch Gardens/Fuji Film Environmental Excellence Awards program rewards K-12 students & community groups working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve their local environment.

<http://www.seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/about.htm>

4. TOYOTA TAPESTRY GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline: January 18, 2007

Toyota Tapestry Grants are administered by NSTA and are available to K-12 teachers of science. 2006 awards include 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 each. <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/>

5. INTRODUCTORY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

If you're just beginning to develop your outdoor classroom site and you haven't registered for our Introductory Outdoor Classroom Workshop, then you need to register today! Four workshops will be held in September and October across Alabama to help provide technical assistance and support to educators, administrators, and community volunteers who wish to create sustainable outdoor classrooms on their school grounds. Topics include "Keys to Success," "Wildlife Management," and much more!

For more information, go to

http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation_education/teacher_workshops.asp

6. "BUTTERFLIES WITHOUT BORDERS" ACTIVITY

September is the perfect time to study the fall migration of the Monarch Butterfly. In this Outdoor Classroom "Seed" Activity, students observe butterflies in your outdoor classroom site while

searching for monarch butterflies, tracking the migration path of the monarch, and sending a "Symbolic Monarch Butterfly" and letter to students in Mexico. Note: The deadline to send your "Symbolic Monarch Butterfly" is October 13, 2006 (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/sm/index.html>).

Check out this and other Outdoor Classroom activities at <http://www.alabamawildlife.org/seedactivities.asp> .

7. 2007 YOUTH GARDEN GRANTS PROGRAM

Deadline: Nov 6 - <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp> .

8. 2007 "RIVERS OF WORDS" POETRY AND ART CONTEST

Deadline: February 15, 2007

An Environmental Art & Poetry Program for Alabama's Youth

Information is available at: <http://riverofwords.auburn.edu>

9. FREE RESOURCES FROM AL POWER COMPANY

The Water Course - An educational center located in Clanton, the Water Course teaches visitors through interactive exhibits about the importance of water to our state and in our daily lives. The tour is self-guided and admission is free. For more information about the Water Course or to schedule a class visit, call toll-free (800) 280-4442 or log on to www.alabamapower.com/education and click on "Water Course."

Science Suitcases - For years, teachers across the state have relied on the Science Suitcases program, which offers free, interactive science kits for classroom use. Educators can choose from more than 300 suitcases, which can be shipped to the Alabama Power office that is most convenient to the teacher for pickup. The kits are then returned to the office after the lesson is completed so they can be refurbished and used again. Teachers can review the list of suitcases and print out a request form at www.alabamapower.com/education. Click on "Science Suitcases."

10. WHAT'S YOUR EARTH GAUGE?

This is the first in a series of Earth GaugeT weather-environment tips from the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF). Learn more about the program and browse Earth Gauge information for cities across the U.S. at <http://www.earthgauge.net/> .

11. DON'T TRASH ELECTRONICS

It is estimated that more than 250 million computers will become obsolete in the next five years, and that mobile phones will be thrown away at a rate of 130 million per year!

Computer monitors, TVs, and other electronics that are sent to landfills contain lead, mercury, and other contaminants that can seep into groundwater supplies when it rains, putting our water quality at risk.

Viewer Tip: Before throwing away old computers, televisions, or cell phones, check to

see if there are recycling centers in your area. You may also consider donating electronics in working order to charities or others who can reuse them. Visit <http://www.earth911.org/master.asp> for listings of recycling and donation centers in your community.

(Source: US EPA. "eCycling.")

12. THE OIL + WATER PROJECT

To promote the use of alternative energy, the Biofuels Education Coalition (BEC) Oil + Water Project will send a demonstration vehicle fueled by vegetables to communities for public and youth oriented demonstrations.

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

13. FREE ENVIRO SCIENCE POSTERS

From Tufts University Wright Center for Science Education, the posters were conceived in direct response to requests from educators and are available at no cost. Request by mail only. http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/svl/posters/posts.html

14. DR. E'S SCIENCE PAGE POWER POINTS

From La Canada High School in California, Dr. E's Science Page provides a large number of PowerPoint presentations, mostly created by students in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science class.

<http://www.lcusd.net/lchs/mewoldsen/PowerPoint.htm>

15. EARTHTRACE

Earthtrace is a bid to break the world record for circumnavigating the globe in a powerboat using only renewable fuels, to raise awareness of sustainable use of resources.

<http://www.earthtrace.net/>

16. EDUCATOR E-NEWSLETTER ACTIVITIES

From the National Wildlife Federation--

<http://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/newsletteractivity.cfm>

17. FREE ARBOR DAY EDUCATIONAL VIDEO

The National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota are offering a new video that helps promote Arbor Day throughout the nation. The 18-minute Arbor Day: the Holiday that Makes a Difference is now being made available to 4-H communities nationwide.

In the video, filmed at the historic home of Arbor Day, forestry experts and schoolchildren talk about the benefits of tree planting and the impact trees have on the environment and our lives. The Holiday that Makes a Difference offers inspiring examples of young people who are keeping the Arbor Day tradition alive by planting and caring for trees in their communities.

The video also explores the vision of J. Sterling Morton in transforming

the barren Midwestern prairie into a land blessed with trees. Through Morton's leadership, the Arbor Day holiday was born and since the first celebration in 1872 has spread to every state in the nation.

To request your free copy of the Arbor Day: the Holiday that Makes a Difference video contact The National Arbor Day Foundation, P.O. Box 85784 Lincoln, NE 68501, tel. 888-448-7337, or e-mail education@arborday.org.

For more information on the Foundation and its programs, including additional educational material, go to arborday.org.

18. INTERNATIONAL AIR RIFLE POSTAL LEAGUE

South Fork High School JROTC is hosting the Sixth Annual International Air Rifle Postal League (5 Matches). This League will involve Youth / High School and Shooting Clubs from around the world. This is a great opportunity for your Team (s) to compete Internationally at a limited cost.

Every shooter and team, regardless of the type of equipment they use or their level of experience, will have an opportunity to compete for awards in this high quality competition. This postal match is going to be the most prestigious match for the youth of the world in 2006-2007. We challenge you and your team to participate in this world-class competition and hope this challenge is met with the spirit of sportsmanship we know your organization possesses.

This International Postal League will be held from 1 October 2006 through 28 February 2007. Each team top shooter will receive a medallion in all five matches. Teams will have the option of competing in one of two categories--Sporter or Precision.

There will be five matches held for this League; each match will receive trophies for the top four Teams in each category. There will be an overall first place trophy awarded for the number one team in each category for the League.

Entry Fee: Teams competing in International Postal League all five matches cost will be \$125.00 or \$30.00 for each individual match per four (4) person team. (No refunds.)

RULES: National Standard 3-Position Air Rifle rules will apply.

Military Style Medals given to the top shooter from each team in each match, Coaches will award the Medals at the completions of each match.

Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams in each match, in each category. The Team coach with most wins or if a tie the highest aggregated team score in each category will receive an award and the title of "INTERNATIONAL Air Rifle Postal (SPORTER or

PRECISION) COACH OF THE YEAR 2007"

This League is a superb opportunity to promote the art of competitive shooting worldwide. We are looking forward to your participation and appreciate your time.

For registration information, contact SGM CHARLES R. FORD (RET),
6952 NW HERSHY CIRCLE, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL. 34983-3919,
ffordcar@aol.com or 772- 879-0772

19. WALKING ON WATER

Many animals walk or run across the surface of water. Big animals such as geese and lizards splash across the surface by dashing as fast as they can. Their big flat feet push down on-and break through-the water's surface. But the water beneath their feet pushes back, and this holds them up just long enough for them to take the next step.

For smaller animals such as water striders, no dashing and splashing is necessary. The animals' weight makes tiny dents in the water surface, but their feet don't break through it. This allows them to walk around almost as if they were on solid ground, with little worry about sinking.

But why doesn't the water surface break? It's all because of "molecule power"! (Careful, there's some serious science coming up, but try sticking with it, OK?) Molecules (MOHL-uh-cules) are the tiny, tiny bits of stuff that you and almost everything else in the world is made of.

One thing molecules are good at is holding on to each other. Water molecules in a pond (or even in a water drop) hold onto each other equally. But the molecules at the surface don't have any molecules above them to hold onto, so they hold onto each other extra tightly. And this creates what scientists call surface tension.

If all of this has your brain boggled, then try to picture a balloon filled with water. When you push in on the balloon with a finger, the rubber stretches but it doesn't break. The rubber in a balloon is acting like the surface tension on the surface of a pond. The water's surface tension isn't strong enough to hold up heavy animals, but it's plenty strong for the lightweight.

Want to see surface tension in action right in your own home? Just fill a glass with water and gently place a straight pin or needle onto the surface. The metal pin is heavier than water, so it would sink if you were to poke it through the surface. But since you laid it down gently and didn't break through the surface tension, the tension is able to hold it up.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

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