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1. "FORESTS FOREVER" GRANT

DUE: APRIL 30

The Forests Forever Foundation Board is accepting grant applications for projects promoting the importance of forests to the environment and economy of Alabama. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000. The application can be downloaded by visiting the website www.alaforestsforever.org (<http://www.alaforestsforever.org>) or by contacting Chris Erwin at 334.481.2133, cerwin@alaforestry.org.

2. TEACHERS' CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

This year's Teachers Conservation Workshops will be held in Tuscaloosa on June 12-14 and in Auburn on July 9-13. There will be many topics discussed during these workshops including the incredible biodiversity found in Alabama. Spend two minutes testing your knowledge by taking the Alabama Biodiversity Challenge.

http://www.alaforestry.org/TCW/Biodiversity/Biodiversity_Challenge/player.html

3. DISCOVERING THE OUTDOORS SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The Alabama Wildlife Federation will host three Conservation Education Summer Workshops for Educators: (1) Exploring Alabama's Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, (2) Discovering Our Heritage through the Outdoors, and (3) Exploring Alabama's Aquatic Ecosystems. All workshops will be held at AWF's headquarters at Lanark in Millbrook, where you'll get to experience the new Alabama Nature Center and its diverse wildlife habitats. Space is limited! Sign up today! -

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=7czwp5bab.0.irclm6aab.oaoqhyn6.786&t>

4. THREE-POSITION AIR RIFLE SUMMER CAMPS

Summer is fast approaching and so are the Civilian Marksmanship Program's highly acclaimed Three-Position Air Rifle Summer Camps. Refresh your skills and learn new techniques from our staff comprised of the top collegiate athletes in the country, including NCAA National Champions, All-Americans and US National Team Members. Our counselors work with small groups of campers to provide personalized instruction. Classroom instruction is led by Camp Director, Dan Durben, 1988 Olympian, 1996-2000 Olympic and National Team Coach, and 2004 Paralympic Team Coach. Coaches and parents are highly encouraged to sit-in on the classroom and range instruction, also there are sessions designed just for adults while athletes are on the range.

Several camps are already full, but there are still camps across the country with space available including CMP's newest addition, the Standing Position Camp. Camp locations and schedules change every year so don't let a camp near you pass you by. Get a jump this summer on your next big competition. Check out the CMP Summer Camp Website for dates and locations at, <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/camp.htm>.

5. RIFLE SAFETY MANUAL

The CMP recently released the CMP Rifle Safety Manual. This 32-page booklet was written for owners of CMP rifles. This guide includes safe gun handling rules and safety guidelines, explains how the rifle operates, range safety rules, how to deal with special problems, tips for accurate shooting, proper care of your rifle and CMP Programs for new rifle owners. This manual is shipped with every .22 rimfire rifle and M1 Carbine purchased from the CMP. Copies of the CMP Rifle Safety Manual can be downloaded from the CMP website at <http://www.odcmp.com/Coaching/CMPSafetyManualBook.pdf>. Printed copies may be ordered for \$3.00 each (NLU #744).

6. NRA MEMBERSHIP

The Shelby County Shooting Sports Association is set up as an NRA Recruiter Club. This club receives a small portion of any NRA membership dues that we generate. This applies to all new memberships as well as renewals.

To help us fund our youth activities, they are asking for people to consider joining the NRA or renewing your membership through our club. You can do this by contacting Sam Richardson srichier@aol.com or by going to the website at www.shelbyshootingsports.org.

7. SHOOTING SPORTS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

4-H Shooting Sports and INTERMEDIA Outdoors has teamed together to provide local 4-H shooting clubs the opportunity to raise money for their clubs by selling magazine subscriptions.

Intermedia is the leader in hunting and outdoor publications with magazines such as Guns & Ammo and Petersen's Hunting, just to name a few. By selling subscriptions to the listed publications, 4-H Shooting Sportsclubs can raise the money needed to "Point Kids in the Right Direction." For details, contact steven.tomicic@primedia.com or Annemarie.okeefe@primedia.com .

8. EXTRA "GET YOUR BEARINGS" COMPASS TEACHING SETS AVAILABLE

Contact Lynda Montgomery at montgly@auburn.edu .

9. BACKYARD HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

Too often we keep our property so clean there are few "homes" for wildlife.

In our efforts to keep a tidy yard or woods we often clean things up too well. Wildlife need places to live and an important location is in our old, "messy" trees. Old trees provide many Cracks, Crevices, and Cavities that are important places for all kinds of animals to live.

The next time someone says you should cut that old tree because it's full of holes, don't let them persuade you. If you want to support efforts to help our wildlife thrive, keeping some of those old trees with lots of CCC on your property will do just that.

<http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/243>

10. BLOWING IN THE WIND

Airborne pollen triggers allergic reactions in millions of Americans; these sufferers can reduce their exposure -- and support wildlife -- by making changes to their gardening practices. Read more.

<http://online.nwf.org/site/R?i=eKEag5E2yio2cCCcivmhKw>

11. SINGING IN THE BRAIN

Unlike most other animals, songbirds -- and humans -- learn the vocalizations they make; studying how they do it is shedding light on how people learn to speak. Read on.

<http://online.nwf.org/site/R?i=mowwyt2P--aHSxDz4mxf1g>

12. YOUTH & THE FUTURE OF HUNTING & FISHING

Recruitment rates of youngsters in hunting and fishing have stabilized after declining through the 1990s, according to a new report based on preliminary data from the 2006 National Surveys of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and information from previous surveys.

"These rates are critical to the future of fish and wildlife conservation," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall. "The North American model of wildlife conservation, a system that keeps wildlife as a public and sustainable resource, scientifically managed by professionals and agencies such as the Service and state counterparts, is funded in large part by hunters and anglers."

"From 1990 to 2000 there was a steady decline in the percent of kids living at home who had ever participated in fishing and hunting," said Service economist Jerry Leonard, who authored the report. "During the last five years this decline has stabilized. Now, 42 percent of our nation's youth have gone fishing and 8 percent have gone hunting at least once."

The report also shows that many first time hunters and anglers - about 33 percent of all first timers -- are 21-years-old and older.

Recruitment declined the least among those with higher incomes, those living in less populated areas of the U.S., and those living in the Midwest. In contrast, the greatest declines were among people with the lowest incomes, those living in urban areas, and those in the New England and Pacific coastal, Rocky Mountain and Southwestern states.

The document, Fishing and Hunting Recruitment and Retention in the U.S. from 1990 to 2005, is available at http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2001_recruitment.pdf >. It is based on a preliminary review of information being compiled for the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, and on information collected during the 1991, 1996, and 2001 Surveys. The Survey, conducted every 5 years since 1955, is one of the Nation's most Important wildlife recreation databases. The Survey is conducted at the request Of the National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The U.S. Census Bureau collects the information and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analyzes the results and writes the reports. The Survey is considered to be the definitive source of information concerning participation and expenditures associated with hunting, fishing and other forms of wildlife recreation nationwide.

Though recruitment rates of children have stabilized, retention rates for fishing continued to decline from 2000 to 2005. "In 1990, 65 percent of anglers fished in the previous three years," said Leonard. "That number fell to 61 percent by 1995, 60 percent by 2000 and 57 percent by 2005."

Hunting retention rates look better. "Hunting retention rates leveled Off in the last five years," said Leonard. "During this period, the

conservation community maintained 43 percent of hunters after losing 4 percent from 1990 to 1995 and 2 percent from 1995 to 2000."

This summer, the Service expects to release information on the number of people who fished, hunted, and observed wildlife in 2006, and the amount of money they spent on these activities. Representatives of the media interested in advisories and possible announcements can be included on a media list by sending an e-mail with name, affiliation, e-mail address and phone number to <Nicholas_Throckmorton@fws.gov>.

The Survey is funded by an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, archery and fishing equipment, and a tax on small-engine boats fuel under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts. A wide range of individuals and groups depend on the Survey to provide an analysis of hunting and fishing participation, total monies spent on outdoor recreation and demographic characteristics of wildlife recreation participants.

13. DID YOU KNOW...? FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT WATER AND HEALTH

- * At the start of the 21st century unclean water is the world's second biggest cause of death for children.
- * Every year some 1.8 million children die as a result of diarrhoea and other diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. This corresponds to 4,900 deaths each day or an under-five population equivalent in size to that of London and New York combined.
- * The diseases and conditions of ill-health directly associated with water, sanitation and hygiene include infectious diarrhoea (which, in turn, includes cholera, salmonellosis, shigellosis, amoebiasis and a number of other protozoal and viral infections), typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, acute hepatitis A, E and F, fluorosis, arsenicosis, legionellosis, methaemoglobinaemia, schistosomiasis, trachoma, intestinal helminth infections (including ascariasis, trichuriasis and hookworm infection), dracunculiasis, scabies, dengue, the filariases (including lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis), malaria, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile virus infection, yellow fever and impetigo.
- * The ill health associated with deficits in water and sanitation undermines productivity and economic growth, reinforcing the deep inequalities that characterize current patterns of globalization and trapping vulnerable households in cycles of poverty.
- * Some 1.1 billion people in the developing world do not have access to a minimal amount of clean water. Coverage rates are lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa, but most of the people without clean water live in Asia.
- * Deprivation in sanitation is even more widespread. Some 2.6 billion people-half the developing world's population-do not have access to basic sanitation. Many more lack access to good quality sanitation. Coverage rates are

shockingly low in many of the world's poorest countries: only about 1 person in 3 in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia has access to sanitation-in Ethiopia the figure falls to about 1 in 7.

* Deaths from diarrhoea in 2004 were about 6 times greater than the average annual deaths in armed conflict for the 1990s.

* Water-related illness produces the loss of 443 million school days each year.

* Close to half of all people in developing countries suffer at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits.

* Malaria causes illness in about 400 million people every year. With its share of the global burden of disease increasing, it is one of the most urgent global health problems.

* Africa accounts for more than half of the world's burden of onchocerciasis (97%), malaria (88%), schistosomiasis (78%) and trachoma (52%). The World Health Organization (WHO) Region of South-East Asia accounts for more than half of the world's burden of dengue (62%) and lymphatic filariasis (56%).

Information from the 1st United Nations World Water Development Report: 'Water for People, Water for Life'

(http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr1/table_contents/index.shtml), from the 2nd United Nations World Water Development Report: 'Water, a shared responsibility'

(http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr2/table_contents.shtml), and from the UNDP's 2006 Human Development Report (<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/>).