IN THIS ISSUE:

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1. 2007 U. S. ARMY JUNIOR AIR RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

The U. S. Army is now sponsoring a new U. S. Army Junior Air Rifle Championship to give sporter and precision class air rifle shooters of all levels of ability a unique opportunity to test their marksmanship skills against other junior shooters in their home states through a nation-wide postal competition and, for the best state championship teams, against the top junior shooters in the nation. The Championship has two phases, a State Championship postal phase and a National Championship shoulder-to-shoulder phase. All entries must be sent to CMP and postmarked not later than 23 February 2007. Postal targets for all participating teams and individuals must be fired and forwarded to the CMP, postmarked not later than 16 March 2007. The official match program and entry forms are posted on the CMP web site at http://www.odcmp.com/3P/Army_Jr_Championship.htm.

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2. AIR RIFLE JUNIOR DISTINGUISHED BADGE PROGRAM

The National Three-Position Air Rifle Council established the Junior Excellence-In-Competition Award Program to provide incentives for junior three-position air rifle competitors to improve and excel. This program awards Bronze and Silver EIC Badges and Junior Distinguished Badges to the most outstanding junior shooters. If you would like more information on this program, visit the CMP web site at http://www.odcmp.com/3P/EICProgram.pdf.

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3. LEGACY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Legacy needs volunteers for moderators, judges, timekeepers, and scorekeepers for the 2007 EnviroBowl Competitions being held in

Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Jacksonville, Dothan and Florence. Without volunteers, they cannot have the competition. The volunteer form can be filled out and either mailed or faxed to Legacy.
http://www.legacyenved.org./student/student_enviro.htm
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4. EPA ANNOUNCES NEW CLIMATE CHANGE KIT FOR HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS

Climate CHECK is a free, user-friendly, Excel-based kit that teaches high-school students about the science, drivers, and impacts of climate change and provides them with the knowledge, tools, and resources to increase climate-change awareness and to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions at their school.

Climate CHECK:
* Educates high-school students about climate change and greenhouse gas emissions,
* Estimates greenhouse gas emissions using built-in calculators and school-specific "activity data," and
* Mitigates greenhouse gas emissions by providing resources and features designed to help students develop and implement a mitigation action plan.

To download Climate CHECK, go to http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/school.html and click on the link under "2. High school students check your school's climate impact."

If you have any questions after reading through the instructions in the tool, please email us at ClimateCHECK@icfi.com, and don't for get to register (per the instructions in the kit)!
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5. PAPER RECYCLING AWARDS

Deadline: February 16, 2007

The American Forest &Paper Association (AF&PA Recycling Awards recognize outstanding programs that promote the recovery of high quality paper for recycling. In 2007 AF&PAwill recognize an individual, one business, two communities (small and large), and two schools (school-wide and college &university).
http://www.paperrecycles.org/recycling/index.html
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6. YOUNG NATURALIST AWARD

Deadline: April 1, 2007

The Young Naturalist Awards, a program from the American Museum of Natural History and sponsored by Alcoa Foundation, is a research-based essay contest for students in grades 7-12 to promote participation and communication in science. All entrants will receive a personalized letter from the judges. Contest winners (two from each grade) win cash scholarship awards from $500 to $2,500, an expense-paid trip to New York City to attend an award ceremony, and their essays are published on the Museum's Web site.

http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/
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7. THACHER SCHOLARS AWARD
Deadline: April 2, 2007
This Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) national competition is for U.S. students in grades 9-12. IGES is seeking the best student projects utilizing satellite remote sensing of the Earth. Cash awards will be given to winning entries. Prizes will also be given to teachers/coaches of winning students.
http://www.strategies.org/education/index.aspx?sub=education&sub2=scholars&sub3=scholars2007
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8. WATERSHEDS: CONNECTING WEATHER TO THE ENVIRONMENT ~ ONLINE
A primer on how weather events relate to the health of a watershed, and how the public can take simple actions to protect watershed health. The online curriculum contains a collection of graphics that make it easy for meteorologists and others to explain watersheds visually. Developed through a grant from the U.S. EPA.
http://www.meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet/watershed/
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9. NATIONAL EE WEEK 2007
April 15-22, 2007
The National Environmental Education &Training Foundation announces 2007 National Environmental Education Week (NEEW). NEEW is designed increase the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. New features added for 2007 include The Richard C. Bartlett Award for Environmental Education and an online Nature Bee. Visit the Web site for details and sign up!
http://www.eeweek.org/
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10. PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY ANIMATIONS
Wycombe High School, UK Web site links to a variety of physical geography animations from coastal processes to urban sprawl.
http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomePage.asp?GroupID=12426
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11. 2007 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Air Rifle, Archery & BB Gun-March 17-AL 4-H Center
Shotgun-May 19-Red Eagle Gun Club (Childersburg)
.22 Smallbore-May 27-Magic City Gun club (Birmingham)
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12. LIFE, A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
By Fran Lanting. The Life Project depicts the journey through time with the birth of the universe and chronicles life through the present. View the slideshow by clicking on "Start the Journey." http://www.lifethroughtime.com/
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13. GLOBAL WARMING
The Earth's climate is getting warmer. Why is this happening? A large part of it has to do

with the modern conveniences, such as lights, TVs, computers, and appliances, many people use.
As you know, these are powered by electricity. And to make electricity power companies burn millions of tons of what are called fossil fuels, mostly coal. Another fossil fuel is burned every time we drive our cars, vans, and trucks. It's called oil. Companies drill oil out of the ground and then turn it into gasoline or diesel fuel.

It's wonderful to have all these appliances and what would we do without our vehicles, right? But there's a problem with so many of them everywhere. All around the globe, people are burning fossil fuel-way too much fossil fuel-to power these things. And as fossil fuel burns, it gives off a gas called carbon dioxide (CO2). The carbon dioxide winds up in the atmosphere. There it forms a "blanket" around the Earth. This blanket holds in too much of the sun's heat. And it's this blanket which is causing the globe to warm up.

How can we help to reduce global warming? We need to find other kinds of energy to power our appliances and vehicles. Many scientists and inventors are already working hard to do just this. They are finding ways to make less harmful fuels from some plants. And they're finding new ways to use the energy from the sun, wind, and waves.

But each of us can make a difference. How? By cutting back on the amount of energy or fossil fuels we use every day. It may not seem like much, but if we each took just a few steps, it would make a huge difference.
Here are some things you and your family can do to join the fight against global warming.
Simple, everyday things to do:
* Turn off the lights, computer, and TV when you are done using them
* Unplug computers, TVs, and other electronic things when you know you won't be using them for a while. Believe it or not, many of them use electricity even when they're shut off.
* Wait until you have a lot of clothes to wash before using the washing machine. And then use the cold water setting. Why? Heating water uses lots of energy.
* Take shorter showers and don't fill the tub way up when you take a bath (see above).
* Wait until your dishwasher is full before running it and use the energy-saving setting.
* Adjust your water heater so it's no higher than 120 degrees.
* In summer, if you have to use an air-conditioner, set the temperature a few degrees higher than you usually do.
* In the winter, set the thermostat on your furnace a few degrees lower than you normally do.
* Going places? If it's just a short distance, think about walking or riding a bike, instead of hopping in the car. (It's always smart to check with your parents first.) If you do need to go by car, see if your family can combine errands instead of going back and forth to the same area several times a day. This can help save gas, as well as reduce the carbon dioxide sent into the air by car exhaust.
* Check the tire pressure on your family's vehicles at least once a month. Low pressure makes a car burn more gas. Also make sure your cars are tuned up. A well-kept vehicle

pollutes less.
* Recycle your paper, plastic, and cans.

Even bigger things to do:
* Install compact fluorescent bulbs in the lights you use most often. The bulbs cost more to buy than regular ones, but they'll save you plenty of money over time, along with saving electricity.
* Insulate your hot water heater.
* Plant a tree or two. Trees take in CO2 from the air, so they can help reduce global warming in their own corner of the world.
* Weatherize your windows and doors to keep out cold air in winter and hot air in summer.
* If it's allowed in your neighborhood, hang your wash outside to dry rather than throwing it in a clothes dryer. (Clothes dryers use a lot of energy.)

Super-sized things to do:

-Shop smart. Whenever you can: Buy fresh, locally grown fruits and veggies, organic products, and things made from recycled products, including recycled paper for your computer printer. Take mesh bags with you to the supermarket and reuse them over and over rather than getting paper or plastic.
-Shop less. Cut down on how much stuff you buy. It takes energy to make, package, and ship things to a store.
-Next time your family is shopping for a car, choose one that gets very high gas mileage. Find out more by logging onto ww.fueleconomy.gov/feg/choosing.shtml.
-Next time your family needs to replace a major appliance, such as a refrigerator, air conditioner, or clothes washer, look for one with an "Energy Star" label. Try and pick the one with the best energy efficiency rating.
-Add more insulation to your home-to help keep out heat in the summer and cold in the winter. And if your family is moving, look for a home that is already well insulated and that isn't larger than what you need. (It takes more energy-and costs more-to heat a large home than a small one.)
-Tell friends, classmates, neighbors, and others about the need to reduce global warming. Your parents can also write, call, or e-mail their elected officials and encourage them to do what they can to reduce global warming.

Learn all you can about global warming. Here are some Web sites to start with:

National Wildlife Federation -- http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming
Stop Global Warming -- http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/sgw_learnmore.asp
Greenpeace -- http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change/take_action/12_steps
National Resources Defense Council -- http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/solutions/?gclid=CLfTyZvRwogCFRVSVAodPTYSMg

Source: National Wildlife Federation
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14. PRETTY POISON

Do you have questions about poisonous frogs--cool, colorful little amphibians. Great! 'Cuz we've got answers:

-- Where does a poison frog's poison come from?

From the frog's food: mostly ants as well as some mites, beetles, and millipedes.

-- How do these tiny invertebrates get their poison?

Most likely from the kinds of rainforest plants that they eat.

-- What about captive poison frogs that are fed mostly fruit flies?

They are completely nontoxic.

--Why aren't the Choco Indians poisoned from eating the animals they kill with poison darts?

Any poison that ends up in the animal becomes harmless when its meat is cooked.

--Have people found new uses for a poison frog's poison?

Scientists are discovering some medical uses for the chemicals in the poison. For instance, some may work as a powerful painkiller.

-- Where can you see poison frogs?

Many zoos, aquariums, and natural history museums have exhibits that include poison frogs. Check with the ones near you. Or go online to the American Museum of Natural History's virtual exhibit at www.amnh.org/exhibitions/frogs/vivarium/

Source: National Wildlife Federation
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15. FROSTY FUN WATER EXPERIMENTS FOR KIDS

Check out some of the wonders of ice for yourself. Just try out these cool ice experiments!

Weird Water

What happens to water when it freezes? Do the water particles or molecules get smaller and more dense? Or do they take up more space-that is, expand-when they freeze?

See if you can figure it out by trying this experiment. Fill a disposable plastic bottle with water, put on the cap, and then leave it outside when the temperature is below freezing (or put it in the freezer). As the water freezes into ice, what happens to the bottle's shape and size?

Hint: Water is different from most liquids. Most of them shrink and get more dense when frozen. But water doesn't. It takes up more space when frozen. That is, it expands. How did your bottle experiment maybe prove this?

The Tip of the Iceberg

You've maybe heard people say, "It's just the tip of the iceberg." That means only a small part of whatever they're talking about is clearly seen. And the saying comes from the fact that most of a chunk of floating ice lies below the surface of the water.

Check the ice fact out for yourself! Fill a clear bowl with water. Then add some ice cubes. How much of each cube is above and how much is below the water?

Water's Rising!
Does sea level go up when an iceberg melts? How about when a glacier melts? Try this experiment to find out. Float some ice cubes in a glass of water. Put a rubber band around the glass to mark where the water level is. Then wait for the "icebergs" to melt. Does the water level change?

Now try it with ice that's not floating. Put some ice cubes in a strainer and suspend it above the water in the glass. As your "glacier" melts, what happens to the water level?

Salty or Sweet?
When salt water freezes, it forms freshwater ice. How is this possible? Ice is formed from only water molecules-that is tiny particles made of hydrogen and oxygen. Salt is made of other things. So when salt water freezes, the salt itself doesn't freeze.

Want proof? Mix salt into a clean cup of drinkable water. Put the cup in the freezer or outside on a freezing-cold day. After the water has frozen, take the ice out of the cup. Rinse the ice off with tap water. Now taste the ice. Is it salty or not?

Melt Down
Ice and snow keep the area around them cool. Why? It's not just because they're cold. It has to do with how the sun's rays reflect off of different colors. Dark colors absorb, or soak up, heat-lots of it. But light colors, including ice and snow, bounce the sun's rays right back up to the atmosphere. If there's snow or ice where you live, you can see this in action.

Gather up some dark-colored sticks, pebbles, or leaves and place them on top of the snow or ice. Check back after a sunny day. The sun should warm up the dark objects more than the light snow or ice around them. So what has happened to the snow or ice under and next to them? And what has happened to your objects? Have they moved or changed position compared to the surrounding snow and ice? Source: National Wildlife Federation
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16. CAMOUFLAGE 101 FOR KIDS
Dressed in White
How does camouflage help an animal to survive in the wild?

What you need:
* brown pants (to fit adult)
* white top (to fit adult)
* area that has a white background (e.g., white house, white van)
* area that has a brown background (e.g., brown house, tree trunk)
What you do:

Dress in the top and pants. Then stand next to the white background.

Have your child walk to a designated place in the distance. Then ask: "Which piece of my clothing is easier to see, the top or the pants? Why?" (The brown pants are easier to see. The white top blends in with the surroundings.)

Now stand next to the brown background. Have your child walk a similar distance away from you, and ask the question again: "Which piece of my clothing is easier to see, the top or the pants? Why?" (The white top is easier to see this time because now the brown pants blend in with the surroundings.)

What you talk about :
Tell your child that a hare has a white coat during cold, snowy weather and a brown coat during warm weather. Ask:
* How does being white in cold, snowy weather help the hare to stay safe?
(It is hard for enemies to spot the hare because it blends in with the surrounding snow.)
* How does being brown in warm weather help the hare to stay safe? (It is hard for enemies to spot the hare because it blends in with the brown ground and tree trunks that now make up the surroundings.)

For older children:
Here are two other points you may wish to cover:
* Coloring that helps animals and plants to blend in with their surroundings is called camouflage.
* Not all white animals change color during warm weather. The snowy owl, for example, stays white year round.

Source: National Wildlife Federation
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17. A GRASS-ROOTS PUSH FOR A 'LOW CARBON DIET'
David Gershon's book guides readers through a series of behavioral changes to reduce their 'carbon footprint.'
Attitudes toward global warming had shifted considerably. (Indeed, a recent poll by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that nearly half of Americans cited global warming as the No. 1 environmental concern; in 2003, only one-fifth considered it that critical.)

A few footprint shrinkers
U.S. homes account for 8 percent of the world's emissions, with the average household contributing 55,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually, according to author David Gershon. His "Low Carbon Diet" workbook makes dozens of suggestions for reducing one's carbon footprint. Here are a few of his book's recommendations and how much carbon he says participants can subtract from their footprints by following through:

* Together, washers and dryers generate five pounds of carbon dioxide per cycle. In

warm or hot water loads, 90 percent of the required energy goes to heat the water. Using cold water saves two pounds per load. Front-loading washing machines cut the amount of water used in half. Drying clothes on a clothesline further diminishes emissions. All in all, using cold water once per week shrinks your carbon footprint by 275 pounds each year; not using the dryer once a week gets you another 200. Replacing an old machine with an Energy Star front-loading washer saves 500 pounds a year.

* A 10-minute shower generates up to four pounds of CO2. A 5-minute shower cuts that in half and a low-flow showerhead drops it further. In a household, each person who reduces their shower to five minutes cuts emissions by 175 pounds per year. A low-flow showerhead saves you another 250.
* Request to be removed from junk mail lists, which needlessly contribute to waste. If you can reduce your weekly waste by 60 gallons, credit yourself with 2,650 pounds yearly.

To read the entire article from the Christian Science Monitor, go to
http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1228/p14s01-sten.html?s=wklyenv

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