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1. LEARNING ABOUT THE 4-H WILDLIFE CONTEST AT THE AL POWER WILDLIFE CAMP

When: April 14-15

Where: 4-H Center

Cost: \$20/person

Registration Deadline: March 21

Are your 4-Hers interested in participating in the 4-H Wildlife Contest, but don't know much about it? Here is a chance for them and their leader to learn about the contest events through practice sessions. This is an educational event with hands-on involvement—not a practice contest.

Goals:

- *To appreciate our Alabama natural resources
- *To be able to identify wildlife and wildlife foods
- *To learn how to interpret aerial wildlife habitat photographs
- *To be able to work as a team and develop an urban wildlife management plan
- *To be able to evaluate a plot of rural land and make recommendations for the management of deer, turkey, rabbits, quail & other wildlife
- *To learn how to manage a pond for big fish
- *To have fun!

All participating 4-Hers must be accompanied by a volunteer leader who plans to lead or is leading a 4-H Club. For more information and the registration form, go to <http://www.aces.edu/fourh/> and scroll down to the blog about the camp.

2. EARTH MONTH SPONSORSHIP FUNDING

The deadline for applications for the 2007 Earth Month Sponsorship funding opportunity has been extended to March 20.

The Earth Month Sponsorship program is designed to assist communities, organizations and schools by providing funding for the education components of their programs. These programs must center around Earth Month or Earth Day, celebrated during April. The Earth Month Sponsorships are available up to \$300.

For More Information and an Application - http://www.legacyenvd.org/fund/fund_earth.htm

3. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK ACTIVITIES -- APRIL 15-22

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation is coordinating National Environmental Education Week (NEEW) from April 15-22. NEEW is designed to 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. Now in its 3rd year, NEEW is fast becoming one of the largest environmental education events in the country and is made possible through the generous support of Canon, U.S.A. Inc. New features in 2007 include:

- The Richard C. Bartlett Award for Environmental Education which will recognize outstanding environmental education programs by awarding grants awarded to the winning organizations. Visit <http://www.eeweek.org> for more information.
- An on-line Nature Bee which will encourage student identification of wildlife habitats, flora and fauna in their communities. Grade appropriate questions will be developed by a National Teachers' Advisory Committee and will be accessible on-line through <http://www.eeweek.org>.

4. GREENWORKS! SERVICE-LEARNING AWARDS

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is proud to announce it is expanding its GreenWorks! service-learning program. This year, \$100,000 will be awarded to schools and youth organizations for environmental neighborhood improvement projects that involve youth with their community.

Since 1993, Project Learning Tree has distributed approximately \$375,000 to fund over 700 grant projects in communities across the country. In 2007, PLT is making \$100,000 available for "learning-by-doing" environmental projects that:

- partner PLT educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations
- combine academics with community service
- engage elementary through college-age students in active learning about the environment
- provide opportunities for student leadership.

Grants up to \$5,000 are available; the first round of proposals are **due April 30**, 2007. There will be a second funding cycle in the Fall.

For more information, visit http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/31_41_44.html.

5. ALABAMA USAS JUNIOR OLYMPIC 3 POSITION AIR RIFLE STATE QUALIFIER

LOCATION: Lakeshore Foundation; Birmingham, Alabama

DATE: April 21, 2007

SPONSOR: Shelby County Shooting Sports Association

EVENTS: This event is a 4x3x20 team event per rule 5.3.5. Scores fired by each member of a team count for both individual rankings and team rankings. Team scores are calculated by adding the individual scores of the four team members. Block times for each position will be: prone, 30 minutes; standing, 40 minutes; kneeling, 30 minutes. This event will not have a FINAL. Individual competitors are welcome to compete for individual rankings.

ELIGIBILITY: The air rifle match is open to school age competitors (rule 3.1.1) currently enrolled in school or just graduated in 2007. Competitors must be residents of the state of Alabama (see below for declaration of residence). There is no minimum age limit.

TEAMS: Teams will consist of four shooters from the same school or club per rule 3.2.1. Team members must be declared before the competition starts. Teams must also declare whether they are scholastic or club teams. Competitors not part of a designated 4 person team will compete for individual rankings only. No "All Star" teams. Individuals may not participate on more than one team and may compete in one category only.

RESIDENCE: Competitors may claim residence in only one state and must declare the state of residence on the entry form. They must also be regular members of the team they represent.

STATE RESIDENT QUALIFIERS: USA Shooting will issue invitations to the National Junior Olympic 3P Championships in Bowling Green, KY. The top ranking Sporter and Precision teams in both club and scholastic divisions will receive invitations to the nationals. Additional invitations will be given to nationally ranked individuals. Invitations will be offered to individual Sporter shooters firing 525 or higher and Precision shooters firing 580 or higher who are not members of attending teams.

SCHEDULE: Air rifle relays will be held at 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM. There are 10 lanes available in each relay for a total of 40 lanes. If all lanes are filled, a relay will be opened on Friday evening at 5:00 PM. Further space is available on Sunday if required. Friday and Sunday relays will be opened only if necessary to accommodate the number of competitors.

CLASSES: Sporter and Precision air rifle classes per 2006 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.

RULES: The National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules will apply. This is a USA Shooting Junior Olympic State Qualifying Competition. EIC points are governed and awarded by current CMP EIC rules. Qualifying for the National 3 Position Junior Olympic Match is governed by USA Shooting (www.USAShooting.org).

TARGETS: AR-5/10, multi-bull 10 meter targets will be used.

SCORING PROTESTS: A scoring protest fee of \$1.00 per lost challenged shot will be charged.

AWARDS: Awards will be presented to the top three teams and the top three individuals in each air rifle class (Sporter and Precision).

RANGE LOCATION: This match is being hosted by the Lakeshore Foundation at their range in Homewood, Alabama. From I-65 in Homewood (South of Birmingham) exit onto Lakeshore Drive and go East (to the right). Go to the sixth traffic light and turn left at the Lakeshore Foundation sign. Go approximately 1/2 mile and turn left into the Lakeshore Campus. Follow the signs to the Olympic and Para-Olympic Training Facility.

ENTRY FEES: The advanced registration entry fee is \$15.00 for each individual air rifle competitor and \$15.00 for each 4 member air rifle team. Make checks payable to the Shelby County Shooting Sports Association (SCSSA).

ENTRIES CLOSE: Advance entries will close April 14, 2007. Entries will be accepted to range capacity of 40 shooters (10 shooters per relay). Every effort will be made to accept all competitors who enter before the closing date.

POST ENTRIES: Entries made after the closing date will be accepted if space is available. Post entry fee will be \$17.00 per shooter.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations received one week in advance, or earlier, will receive a full refund.

HOW TO ENTER: Send individual/team entry forms to: Shelby County Shooting Sports Association, 574 Elvira Rd., Helena, AL 35080

ACCOMODATIONS: There are numerous hotels in the area.

CONCESSIONS: Bottled water, drinks, chips and snacks will be available at the range.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Richardson at SRichieR@aol.com or (205)-424-8040.

For entry form and liability form, contact Sam Richardson at SRichieR@aol.com or Lynda Montgomery at montgoly@auburn.edu.

6. USAS/NRA PISTOL COACH SCHOOL

The Shelby County Shooting Sports Association in conjunction with USA Shooting and The Lakeshore Foundation is pleased to announce a USAS/NRA Pistol Coach School to be held on May 4-6, 2007 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Information on the USAS/NRA coach program may be found on the NRA website at http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/coach_schools.asp

Registration is \$90 which includes the course materials and the \$30 coaching credentials fee. Lodging and meals are available at The Lakeshore Foundation.

For questions and registration forms, contact Sam Richardson at SRichieR@aol.com or 205-902-6830.

7. AIR RIFLE TARGETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

VIS Air Rifle Targets, a 10 Bull Scanable Target for Three Position Air Rifle, are now available for purchase from the CMP. VIS Targets were used during the JROTC postals and scanned and scored by the Orion program. For more information on the Orion program, visit

http://www.odcmp.org/1206/default.asp?page=JROTC_06. The Orion program will be available for purchase in late 2007. To order VIS Targets, download an order form at <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/targets.htm>. The cost for these targets is \$15.00 per 250 or \$60.00 per 1000.

8. THREE-POSITION SUMMER SHOOTING CAMP

The 2007 Three-Position Summer Camp schedule and application forms are posted on the web at <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/camp.htm>. The dates for the highly popular summer camps were posted in early January and applications are coming in from across the country. If you intend to attend a CMP camp this summer, it is important to select a camp and submit your applications as soon as possible.

9. NRA YOUTH WILDLIFE ART CONTEST

Deadline: October 8

The NRA is now accepting entries for its 2007 Youth Wildlife Art Contest. The contest, the 20th in the annual series, is open to students in grades 1 through 12 (including home-schooled children). NRA membership is not required. The deadline to enter is October 8, 2007.

Winners in each grade category will receive \$500. Second-place finishers will receive \$250, and the third-place award will be \$100.

Entries may be submitted in one of four categories, based on school grade. Category I includes grades 1 through 3. Category II is for grades 4 through 6. Category III covers grades 7 through 9, and Category IV includes grades 10 through 12. Entries may portray any North American game bird or animal that may be legally hunted or trapped. Endangered species and non-game animals, such as eagles and snakes, are not eligible subjects. Call (703) 267-1531 or email artcontest@nrahq.org if you need to confirm whether a certain animal or bird is eligible.

Contestants are limited to one entry each. Entries may be in a medium of the artist's choice (oil, water color, pastels, pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, etc.). Submissions should be on good quality bond or drawing paper, or illustration board. Preferred sizes for the image are 8-1/2" x 11" or 11" x 14"; matting is optional. Entries need not be framed. Composition must be original. Photographs may be used for reference, but artwork determined to have been traced or copied from an existing photograph or work of art will be disqualified.

Entries must arrive at NRA by October 8, 2007, and must be accompanied by a brief statement signed by the student's parent, guardian, or teacher attesting to the originality of the work and verifying the artist's grade level as of October

8, 2007. In addition, the artist's name, age, home address, phone number, and grade must be printed on the back of the entry or on a note attached to the back of the entry. Entries will be judged on effort, creativity, anatomical accuracy, and composition.

Send entries to: NRA Youth Wildlife Art Contest, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. NRA assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged artwork, and reserves all rights to reproduce entries. The immediate families of NRA staff members are not eligible to enter. Questions regarding the contest may be directed to (703) 267-1531 or artcontest@nrahq.org, or visit www.nrahq.org/youth/wildlife.asp.

10. FISHING AND BOATING GRANT PROGRAM

The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are joining forces to help local park and recreation agencies improve the quality of their current fishing and boating programs and create new ones. RBFF will award grants for equipment, staff training, scholarships, program resources and marketing. The grant program creates neighborhood opportunities for fishing and boating and keeps these activities top-of-mind for families in 300 communities across the country.

To find out how your county might partner with NRPA grant sites, e-mail Jim Stewart" jstewart@rbff.org or call him at (703) 519-0013, ext. 113.

11. LUBE JOB

The importance of a bird's feathers to its health and well-being. Daily feather maintenance is not a matter of good looks, but of health. Most birds have an oil-producing preen gland above the base of their tail. A bird periodically nibbles or rubs the gland, getting the oil on its beak and head. Preening then spreads the oil over its feathers, legs and feet.

The oil probably has several uses. It improves the insulating and water repellent properties of the feathers, seems to keep bills and legs healthy, kills bacteria and fungi, and may even help some birds produce vitamin D from sunshine.

A bird's feathers are its roof, transportation and blanket. No wonder preening receives such high priority. <http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/239>

12. 2007 ARBOR DAY REPORT

David West, Calhoun Co. CEC, coordinates the state Arbor Day Postewr Contest each year. This year's winner was Parker Mahan, a fifth grade student at Chapman Elementary School in Huntsville. He was presented with \$50 and a one-year AUFA membership for his winning poster, designed around the contest theme "Trees are Terrific...and Forests are too!" Parker's poster was selected from over 1400 entries from 86 schools statewide.

Parker and contest runners up participated in a tree planting ceremony with First Lady Patsy Riley on the Capitol grounds in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 23rd. He received an Arbor Week Proclamation signed by Governor Riley and spoke on "The Importance of Arbor Day and What the Arbor Day Poster Contest Means to Me".

For scenes from the poster contest, the Montgomery festivities and the Calhoun Co. Arbor Day Celebration go to:

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Calhoun/arborday/index.php>

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Calhoun/arborday/ArborDayMontgomery.php>

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Calhoun/ArborDay.php> .

13. ENVIROMAPPER FOR WATER

Enviromapper for Water (<http://map8.epa.gov/enviromapper/>) is a GIS based application that allows users to visualize and display geographic water information, including a wealth of information stored in EPA's databases (e.g. Water Quality Standards, Impaired Waters/TMDLs, Waterbody Assessments, Water Quality Monitoring, and Point Source Information). To learn more about EPA's tools, sign up for the March 28th Webcast on *Key EPA Tools for Watershed Management* (see below).

14. AMERICAN WETLANDS MONTH

In May, EPA will celebrate American Wetlands Month to highlight the wonderful ways wetlands enrich the environment and human society. EPA encourages interested groups to plan activities and events that will help raise awareness of the critical role wetlands and other aquatic resources play in our environment and build support for the protection and restoration of these valuable ecosystems. All event information will be posted at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm>. To post your even or discuss ways to participate, contact [Kathleen Kutschenreuter](mailto:kutschenreuter.kathleen@epa.gov) (202-566-1383, kutschenreuter.kathleen@epa.gov) or [Gregg Serenbetz](mailto:serenbetz.gregg@epa.gov) (202-566-1253, serenbetz.gregg@epa.gov)