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### 1. BRICK AWARDS FOR YOUNG COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Deadline: December 31, 2007

The annual Brick Awards honor young people (25 and under) in the U.S. and Canada for their community involvement. Nine Brick Award winners will receive a minimum of \$10,000 in community grants and scholarships. One of the nine winners will be selected as a Golden Brick Award winner and receive a total of \$100,000 in community grants to be paid directly to the nonprofit of the winner's choice.

<http://www.dosomething.org/brick>

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### 2. NATIONAL WETLANDS AWARDS

Deadline: January 15, 2008

The Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Awards are presented

annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection, restoration, and education. In addition to recognizing individuals for their outstanding contributions to wetlands, the awards provide an opportunity for awardees to meet other conservation leaders throughout the U.S.

<http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org/index.htm>

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### 3. GRANTS FOR FISHING/AQUATIC EDUCATION IN PE CLASSES

Through a partnership with the <<http://www.rbff.org/>> <<http://www.rbff.org/%3eRecreational>> >Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Future Fisherman Foundation is able to offer grant funds through the Physical Education program to enable physical education teachers to integrate fishing and boating activities into their classrooms.

**The grants will be \$2500.00 and the application is now on line and due by January 21, 2008.** The training workshop will be in Traverse City.

Michigan is leading the way with this program having more trained instructors than any other state. If you want to build on your FISH program, create something new in your school, or work with a school to make fishing/aquatic education part of their curriculum. Apply! Call Jesse Moore if you have questions or contact the Future Fisherman Foundation, i.e. [jmoore@asafishing.org](mailto:jmoore@asafishing.org) or (703) 519-9691

[http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008\\_Application\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008_Application_Guidelines.pdf)

[http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008\\_PE\\_Grant\\_Applicationdoc](http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008_PE_Grant_Applicationdoc)

<[http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008\\_PE\\_Grant\\_Application.doc](http://futurefisherman.org/programs/2008_PE_Grant_Application.doc)>

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### 4. EEAA CONFERENCE ON THE SHORES OF BLUE LAKE

Dates: January 31 - February 2, 2008

Location: Andalusia

The 2008 EE Association of Alabama conference will be held on the pristine shores of Blue Lake. Field trips will include visiting the Turtle Point Environmental Center, a world class fossil site, and touring the Conecuh National Forest, home to some of the last stands of old fire maintained longleaf pine ecosystems. Send CFP Submissions to: Shirley Farrell, 2744 Darlene Circle, Birmingham AL 35235 or [sfarrell@jefcoed.com](mailto:sfarrell@jefcoed.com). <http://www.aces.edu/eeaa/main.html>

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### 5. PONDS FOR KIDS WORKSHOP: JAN 23

Location: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide technical assistance to schools that are interested in adding an aquatic study area to their outdoor classroom through the PFK Program.

During the workshop, participants will learn how students and volunteers build the pond in just one day, and we'll discuss how to utilize the pond as an educational tool for students to study aquatic ecosystems. For more details about the PFK Program visit the AL wildlife Federation's website at <http://www.alabamawildlife.org/pfk.asp>. To register, go to [http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation\\_education/Ponds%20for%20Kids%20Workshop%20NEWJan%2008.pdf](http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation_education/Ponds%20for%20Kids%20Workshop%20NEWJan%2008.pdf)

Note: This workshop is required for all schools who wish to develop their aquatic study areas through the PFK Program with assistance from Vought Water Gardens.

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#### 6. YOUTH GARDENING PROGRAM (JMG) WORKSHOP: JAN 29

Location: Gulf Coast Regional Extension Center in Fairhope  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide technical assistance and support to educators, administrators, and community volunteers who wish to develop a youth gardening program as a part of their outdoor classroom program. During the workshops, participants will be trained in the Junior Master Gardener program. In addition, gardening topics such as plant growth and development, garden design, weed and pest control, and native plants will also be covered.

Download a workshop flier and registration form!

<http://www.alabamawildlife.org/pdf/JMG%20Workshop%20flier%2007-08%20updated.pdf>

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#### 7. FIELD-BASED ALTERNATE SPRING BREAK AT A NATIONAL PARK

For Graduate Students thinking about a career in conservation:

Get involved with actual management while visiting a national park! The George Wright Society (GWS) and the United State Geological Survey (USGS) are working together with the National Park Service to create PARK BREAK.

PARK BREAK is a field-based executive seminar that gives you the chance to work alongside park scientists, managers, and policy makers while exploring topics of importance to parks and protected areas. PARK BREAK is geared towards graduate students interested in conservation of protected areas, and what challenges park professionals face.

For the first two weeks of March 2008, three different national parks will host one five-day PARK BREAK session each. These sessions will be designed as a field-based executive seminar on themes relevant to the challenges facing parks today. Themes will include Civic Engagement, Global Climate Change, and Conservation Policy and the parks will range from urban areas to more remote sites. The field executive seminars will be intimate gatherings so students will be part of a small dynamic team working directly with scientist, policy makers, and park managers. There will be a literature associated with each session so students are prepared for a lively discussion of hot issues while exploring the resources themselves.

Who is Eligible:

Graduate students at the PhD or Masters level studying topics related to parks and/or conservation. Examples of eligible disciplines include conservation biology, ecotourism, civic engagement, youth and development, citizen science, recreation and parks, natural resource management, etc. Students must be currently enrolled at a university and actively pursuing a degree. Application is open to all universities and international institutions. George Wright Society seeks to encourage minorities and other under represented groups to apply. Membership in GWS is encouraged!

What to Expect:

PARK BREAK combines intimate seminars of five to eight participants with field work so students will be familiar with the park setting. PARK BREAK is also an executive seminar with required reading materials- selected students will be expected to be prepared before arriving at the park. Students should also be prepared to be out in the field in all weather conditions.

How to Apply:

The application process will open November 16th and all submissions will be online ONLY. Students will need to submit their application at [www.georgewright.org](http://www.georgewright.org) <<http://www.georgewright.org/>>

Costs:

GWS will cover student travel expenses, lodging and food. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the student.

QUESTIONS?: Please contact Dr. Gillian Bowser Texas A&M University by email [gbowser@tamu.edu](mailto:gbowser@tamu.edu)

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8. CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES WEB SITE

The purpose of the site is to provide a venue for kids in grades 7-12 to learn about degree programs and careers in forestry and natural resources. Key to its design was the creative input from three high school teacher interns who know what young people and teachers might be looking for.

[http://www.forestrycareers.org/sub\\_fish\\_wildlife\\_mgmt.html](http://www.forestrycareers.org/sub_fish_wildlife_mgmt.html)

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## 9. CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS

Learn about city birds, watch birds for science, get involved in projects to “green” up your community, and increase conservation awareness. Free Materials Provided!

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/celebration/>

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## 10. AVIAN INDEX

Teachers, ornithologists, or enthusiasts will find useful resources from the recently updated online Avian Index, from Environment for the Americas. Publications, activities, curriculum, books, speaker's lists, and more, are now in this easy-to-search database.

[http://www.birdiq.com/learn/Resource\\_Dir/index.php](http://www.birdiq.com/learn/Resource_Dir/index.php)

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## 11. WARM WINTER WELCOME FOR CRITTERS

Winter's on the way. What can you do to make backyard wildlife stick around? Plenty! Here are some tips:

### Fill the Feeder

For many creatures, winter means less food. And less daylight can mean less time for food hunting. Birds appreciate an easy treat, especially if your yard becomes covered with snow or ice.

### Leave 'Em Standing

Clumps of dead flowers, grasses, and vines make cozy hideouts for birds, rabbits, and other creatures. Tiny bees and other insects use the stems as winter homes—unless hungry birds find them. Come spring, birds will use the dried plant bits to make nests.

### Pile It On

Clean up rocks or fallen branches from your yard. Then pile them up, with the biggest stuff at the bottom. *Presto*—a comfy home for hibernating butterflies,

beetles, snakes, lizards, and toads. Birds and other small creatures can find shelter there too.

#### Hang a House

Birds such as chickadees or bluebirds might snuggle up in a birdhouse for warmth on a cold winter's night. A birdhouse makes a good storm shelter too.

#### Let There Be Seeds

Let summer flowers go to seed. Seeds are "fast food" for seed-eating birds and other creatures.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

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### 12. FIELD AND FOREST MAMMAL

This mammal can be found in two very different habitats. Whether you call it a Woodchuck or Groundhog this mammal is regularly seen in overgrown fields, roadsides, and pastures across much of the eastern U.S. and most of Canada. Woodchucks dig long, underground burrows that serve as shelter and homes for their young. Although burrow construction enriches and aerates large volumes of soil, it isn't always met with pleasure from homeowners and farmers.

Open habitat is preferred for their summer burrows, but Woodchucks often move their quarters to more sheltered, wooded areas in the fall. Over the winter months, hibernating Woodchucks rely solely on stored fat reserves in their body; they have no stored foods in their burrows for a winter snack.

<http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/278>

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### 13. NATIVE & INVASIVE PLANTS GARDENING GUIDE

It appears that the drought will last throughout the winter—and maybe longer. Gardeners may find this web site useful.

[http://www.enature.com/native\\_invasive/](http://www.enature.com/native_invasive/)

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### 14. VOLUNTEERS & INVASIVE PLANTS: LEARNING & LENDING A HAND

This new e-learning Web site provides science-based, introductory information about invasive plants. The five self-study modules address the purpose and history of the Refuge System, how volunteers help in invasive plant management, how refuges manage invasive plants, and tips for community outreach. The program is part of a larger U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service program in conjunction with partners to engage volunteers in managing invasive species on National Wildlife Refuges.

<http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule/index.html>

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#### 15. WHITE MEAT OR DARK?

At Thanksgiving, many of us are faced with choosing our favorite part of the traditional bird. Some of us prefer the legs and thighs for their dark meat, while others opt for the whiter breast meat. We know which kind of meat we like best, but few of us know the reason for the difference. To find out, go to

<http://enature.com/articles/detail.asp?storyID=403>

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#### 16. INTO THE FLAMES

Thanks to the Disney classic *Bambi*, many Americans carry a distinct image with them of the way animals react to wildfires: thousands of terrified creatures dashing madly for a river as a wall of flames approaches. Unfortunately, this image is hardly accurate. To learn why, go to

<http://enature.com/articles/detail.asp?storyID=344>

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#### 17. BIRDCALL CHALLENGE

Can you tell a twitter from a tweet? A warble from a gobble? A chip from a cheep or a buzz from a trill? Many experienced birders can identify birds by ear, merely by listening to their distinctive songs, whistles, and chatter. Test your knowledge of the songs and calls of a region's birds with e-Nature's audio quiz.

<http://enature.com/challenge/BirdCallChallenge.asp>

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#### 18. PHYSICAL CONDITIONING FOR HIGH-POWER SHOOTING

In most sports, body conditioning is an absolute necessity. For example, the need to condition the body to improve strength or speed is obvious for sporting activities such as football, track, or swimming. Conversely, for most civilian high-power shooters, the need to condition the body to maximize shooting performance is generally not a priority. However, body conditioning is very critical to good shooting.

More Details

<[http://www.odcmp.org/1107/default.asp?page=USAMU\\_CONDITIONING](http://www.odcmp.org/1107/default.asp?page=USAMU_CONDITIONING)>

Source: SGT Walter E. Craig

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#### 19. ARMY JUNIOR OPEN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP POSTAL OPEN FOR ENTRIES

The official program and target order or entry forms for the 2008 U. S. Army Junior Open State Championship Postal Competitions are now posted on the CMP and U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit websites. This competition series is sponsored by the U. S. Army for all junior school-age junior shooters.

The first phase of the Army Championship is a State Championship Postal competition in which all junior clubs, JROTC units and other organizations that shoot sporter or precision class air rifles can enter. The sporter class event features a 3x10 course of fire with awards given at the state level for teams and individuals. The precision class event is a 40-shot standing position event with state team and individual awards.

State Championship postal firing may be done anytime between now and 15 March 2008. Entry fees are just \$5.00 per individual. There is no additional entry fee for teams, and team scores are determined by the top four scores fired by juniors in that organization. Participating organizations are encouraged to enter as many juniors as possible to give them the experience of competing in their state championship competitions.

The top ten state champion teams qualify for the U. S. Army Junior Open National Championship at Fort Benning in August. Remember, this is an "open" junior competition for all junior shooting organizations. Download the official program and target order/entry forms at [http://www.odcmp.com/3P/Army\\_Jr\\_Championship.htm](http://www.odcmp.com/3P/Army_Jr_Championship.htm).

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20. GREEN SCENE PODCASTS: ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE GO  
Whether you're watching online or listening on your MP3 player, Green Scene podcasts are a way to explore environmental issues with EPA's top experts. Through EPA's latest downloadable tool, Agency officials discuss how EPA is helping protect our nation's environment while providing the public with useful tips and information on how they can make a difference in their communities. The discussions will take place biweekly and run roughly five minutes in length.

The agency's first podcast features Dr. George Gray, the agency's chief researcher, talking about America Recycles Day. The Green Scene Podcast box is located near the top of the EPA home page ( <http://www.epa.gov/> )  
In addition, all discussions are archived and posted at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/greenscene>

Source: Andrew Wilkins, (202) 564-4355 / [wilkins.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:wilkins.andrew@epa.gov)

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21. NEW TOOLS MAKE UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY EASIER THAN EVER

Ever used your computer to "fly" through the mountains, or zoom in on a satellite picture of your house? Now you can use the same technology to learn more about emissions and air quality across the country and where you live.

EPA has developed two tools that let computer users "see" air quality

information on a virtual globe. The first tool is part of the new "Air Emission Sources" Web site, which is designed to make emissions data for six common pollutants easy to find and understand. Based on the latest National Emissions Inventory, the site uses charts and Google Earth files to answer a user's questions. Users can look at overall emissions, emissions by type of industry, or emissions by largest polluter.

Want to know what industry emits the most sulfur dioxide in your state? Select your state from a map, pick a pollutant, and the site creates a chart showing you emissions by industry. Want to "see" which refineries in your state emit the most sulfur dioxide? Use the "tilt" feature in Google Earth to quickly find the largest emitter. Then click on the balloon to get more details about emissions from that facility.

EPA also is providing Air Quality Index (AQI) information in the Google Earth format. Use the AQI tool to quickly see air quality across the country, then click on a specific location to see that city's AQI forecast and current levels of ozone or particle pollution.

The AQI is EPA's color-coded tool to inform the public about daily air pollution levels in their communities. EPA, in collaboration with state and local governments, provides AQI forecasts and conditions for more than 300 cities across the United States.

On the web:

Go to the Air Emissions Sources Web site: [www.epa.gov/air/emissions](http://www.epa.gov/air/emissions)  
View information in Google Earth format about which facilities emit any of six common pollutants: <http://www.epa.gov/air/emissions/where.htm>  
See AQI forecasts and current conditions: [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)  
<<http://www.airnow.gov> />

View air quality information in Google Earth format:

[http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=google\\_earth.main](http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=google_earth.main)

EPA is also using the Google Earth platform to display Acid Rain Program data: <http://epa.gov/airmarkets/progress/interactivemapping.html>

Source: Margot Perez-Sullivan, (202) 564-4355/ [perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov](mailto:perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov)  
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## 22. ENERGY STAR COMPUTERS OFFERS OVER \$1 BILLION IN ENERGY SAVINGS

Can surfing the web help protect the environment and save you money? Yes, and it is as simple as buying one of the new Energy Star qualified computer products. With over 500 newly qualified product models already on the shelves, there are many options for home and work that will reduce your energy bill and greenhouse gas emissions.

"As the driver of America's technology revolution, the innovative spirit of the computer industry is now powering our energy revolution," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "Thanks to the new Energy Star specifications for computers, today's consumers can be the link to a cleaner tomorrow."

Since the stringent new requirements for Energy Star computers became effective in July, more than 35 manufacturers have demonstrated their commitment to fight climate change by offering products that save energy. These newly qualified computers offer significant savings opportunities at home and in businesses. In fact, if every U.S. household and business replaced old computers with new Energy Star qualified models, we would save more than \$1.8 billion in energy costs over the next five years and avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 2.7 million cars.

The new specification establishes efficiency requirements for all modes of operation, which ensures energy savings when a computer is active and running basic applications, as well as when it is on stand-by. Newly qualified computers must also include an internal power supply that is at least 80 percent efficient. Under the new specification, only the most energy-efficient computer equipment, including desktop and notebook (or laptop) computers, game consoles, integrated computer systems, desktop-derived servers and workstations, can earn the Energy Star label.

When businesses and other organizations purchase computers in large numbers, the benefits stack up. For every 100 computers a business replaces with computers meeting the new Energy Star specification, it will save \$175 per year on energy bills and more than \$670 over the lifetime of the computers.

It will also be easier for consumers and businesses to find qualified computers and related equipment. Under the new specification, manufacturers must display the Energy Star label on the product and its packaging, in product literature, and on Web sites to clearly indicate which products meet the new specification. Qualified product listings can also be found on Energy Star's Web site at: [http://www.energystar.gov/find\\_a\\_product](http://www.energystar.gov/find_a_product) and click on "Computers"

Computers were the first product to qualify for EPA's Energy Star label in 1992. The United States now has more than 180 million computers in use that consume nearly 58 billion kWh per year or about two percent of the nation's annual electricity consumption.

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. The US Department of Energy joined EPA in this effort and today, the Energy Star label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products. Products that

have earned the Energy Star designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. For more information: <http://www.energystar.gov> [ <http://www.energystar.gov/> ]

Source: Enesta Jones, (202) 564-4355 / [jones.enesta@epa.gov](mailto:jones.enesta@epa.gov)