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1. 'BE THE CHANGE, SHARE THE STORY!' SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST

The contest is challenging 5,000 teams of students at schools across the US and Canada to make a difference and tell the world. It runs from September 4, 2007 to April 30, 2008

Teams pick a social or environmental project and create two short videos about their project. The first video tells how the team plans to make a difference, and the follow up video shows the team in action, making a difference!

Students, viewers, and celebrity judges can log on and vote for their favorite videos. The top teams in each age group will win \$50,000 in cash and prizes for their schools. Quantum Shift.tv wants to empower kids to Be the Change, and Share the Story." <http://www.quantumshift.tv/schools/>

2. AL INTERNATIONAL AIR RIFLE AND AIR PISTOL JUNIOR OLYMPIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

When: Dec. 7-8, 200

Where: Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham

New things this year:

**There will be a sporter class. All air rifle entries will shoot for the standard International Air Rifle awards. Those using sporter class equipment as defined by the 2008 National Council Rules will be eligible for sporter class awards. Please note on your entry if you will be using sporter equipment.

**New for this year is an air pistol event. There will be pistols available for those who would like to try this event. The Junior Olympic match is for one handed unsupported shooters only per USAS rules, however, there will be a Progressive Pistol match at the same time. This will allow younger shooters to participate and compete for awards. Only shooters in the one handed category are eligible to have their scores submitted to USAS for the JO. All shooters are eligible to have fun and compete for awards in their category. There may be a progressive pistol program available soon, but, if you want to shoot don't delay.

**Please indicate what you are signing up for on your entry form. Separate entries for rifle and pistol are needed. Also, please indicate what relay you would like to shoot, along with a second choice, if the first is not available.

For match programs, entry forms & answers to questions, please contact Sam Richardson at SRichieR@aol.com or 205-424-8040.?

Directions: 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.

3. BARE NECESSITIES FOR HIGHPOWER RIFLE COMPETITION

Whether you watched someone compete in a Highpower Match, or have just heard conversation about it, it's clear that something has peaked your interest in the sport.

Being interested in something is great, but without information, it won't get you very far. We have heard new shooters ask people on the range what they need to do to get into Highpower and the responses that a lot of people give are scary! The next thing you know, you are in the store spending a few thousand dollars without even knowing why. In an attempt to avoid this situation, let's sit down and talk about some of the essentials,

and more important information associated with the sport of Highpower Rifle Competition.

More Details

<http://www.odcmp.org/1007/default.asp?page=USAMU_BARENECESSITIES>

Source: By SPC Nathan J. Verbickas, USAMU Service Rifle Team Member

4. SOIL'S EFFECT ON AUTUMN LEAVES

This time of year, broad-leaf trees throughout the northern hemisphere are turning their characteristic yellows, oranges, and reds. The pigments protect the leaves as they produce a final batch of nutrients that will be stored in the trees' roots over winter.

Now, a researcher with the McDowell Mountain Regional Park near Phoenix suggests that the intensity of those colors may have as much to do with the soil a tree grows in as with the species of tree itself.

Researcher Emily Habinck surveyed a section of forest in a nature preserve outside of Charlotte, N.C., while a grad student at the University of North Carolina. She found that in places where the soil was low in nitrogen and other nutrients, sweet-gum and red maples produced large amounts of a red pigment compared with trees in more nutrient-rich areas. The mechanism apparently allows the leaves to survive longer into the fall so they can deliver the right amount of nutrients to tree roots.

The work bolsters results from a study in 2003 that hinted at how important the production of red pigment can be. Montana State University's William Hoch used genetic techniques to block red-pigment production in red-leafed plants. When he did, the leaves succumbed far faster to the weaker fall sunlight and so delivered less nutrients to plant roots. The results of Ms. Habinck's work are being presented at this week's meeting of the American Geological Society in Denver.

Source: Peter N. Spotts, The Christian Science Monitor

5. "KIDS, CREATE YOUR FUTURE" WEBSITE

Created by Japan for Sustainability, a Japanese NGO providing information on the environment to more than 170 countries, the "Create Your Future" Web site is full of ideas for kids to investigate how they can improve the environment including "Ways to Create an Eco-Friendly Lifestyle," and "How to Create a City Without Automobiles," and more. <http://www.kidsforfuture.net/index.php>

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY ARTICLES

This useful resource contains a growing database of environment articles relating to renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, and geothermal energy.
<http://www.clean-energy-ideas.com/articles/>

7. EARTH GAUGE LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Earth Gauge is an initiative by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) providing meteorologists with environmental information to help them connect weather with the environment. Browse the environmental topics for practical tips on dealing with certain weather conditions. <http://www.earthgauge.net/>

8. CLIMATE CLASSROOM

This web site will helping educators and parents tackle a tough subject.
http://online.nwf.org/site/PageNavigator/ClimateClassroom/cc_kids_questions

9. SANCTUARY SAM

NOAA has teamed up with SeaWorld to bring education about the marine sanctuaries to kids by using myspace.com, youtube.com, and flickr.com, etc.

<http://www.youtube.com/sanctuaries>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/8765362@N06/>
<http://www.myspace.com/sanctuariesam>

10. LOOKING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PHOTOS?

USDA Forest Service's "Find-a-Photo" Web site allows access to thousands of copyright-free wildlife, fish, wildflower, and EE photographs available for non-profit use. Please credit the photographer.

http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/find_a_photo.nsf/

11. WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Wetlands International is the only global non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. They work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands, to benefit biodiversity and human well-being. To learn more about their work, go to <http://www.wetlands.org/index.aspx> .

12. SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY CURRICULUM GUIDE

This Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) lesson plan is for undergraduate and advanced high school instructors providing lecture slides, worksheets, homework assignments, essay suggestions, and links to other resources.

http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/restoring/curriculum-guide-introduction.html

13. FRIENDLY FLY?

Can there be such a thing as a "friendly" fly? You may not like flies but some aren't so bad! Nobody likes having flies land on them, but the Friendly Fly got its name for two good reasons -- it doesn't bite and it preys on Forest Tent Caterpillars.

In the spring, adult Friendly Flies emerge and search for Forest Tent Caterpillar cocoons. Once they find one, a female fly places a maggot - these hatch inside her body - on the cocoon and the maggot burrows inside. Soon the pupa has been eaten by the maggot. The maggot then pupates, overwinters, and begins a new generation in the spring. Forest Tent Caterpillars can be a real problem when their voracious appetites strip trees of their leaves, but Friendly Flies can really help reduce caterpillar numbers. <http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/253>

Source: Electronic Naturalist

14. RIGHT FINNED . . . OR LEFT?

Scientists are discovering that, like humans, animals from whales and walruses to frogs, parrots and octopuses favor one side over the other.

http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=115&articleID=1477&utm_source=NationalWildlifeMagazine&utm_medium=Article&utm_term=Jun07&utm_content=RightFinned&utm_campaign=4

15. CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's newest citizen science project "Celebrate Urban Birds!" kicked off in May and nearly ten thousand participants and five hundred organizations are already taking part. All materials are free (including bilingual posters and sunflower seeds) and give individuals, families, and groups all the tools needed to watch birds and collect data in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Celebrate Urban Birds gives people a chance to experience nature directly in order to promote conservation.

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

16. ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEFINED

The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) has developed these understandable and explainable descriptions of "Environmental Literacy" and "Environmental Education" to make it easier for the field to explain and how these terms are directly connected with people's lives. Included with the descriptions are examples of what environmental literacy looks like, how EE and educational achievement are linked, EE "done right," and links to additional resources. http://eetap.org/html/environmental_literacy.php

17. WORLD ECOSYSTEMS BEYOND BORDERS (WEBB)

Free Web-based curriculum to help teachers bring global environmental issues to science and social studies classrooms. The WEBB curriculum engages students in a dynamic study of local and global issues to prepare them for citizenship in an increasingly interconnected world. Sponsored by Global Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. <http://global.wisc.edu/outreach/k-12/webb/>

18. TOX TOWN

Tox Town helps high-school students and teachers learn about environmental health concerns and toxic chemicals pictured in an imaginary town. Includes a text version and some Spanish-language resources.

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/>

19. VIRTUAL ISLAND

This virtual earth-science island, offered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), offers site visitors the opportunity to experience several earth-science phenomena while learning about the cutting-edge science that NOAA conducts regularly.

<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/outreach/si/>

20. WORM POWER: THE FUTURE OF COMPOSTING

If the average cow produces 100 pounds of manure a day, how does a dairy farmer manage all the excess waste? Tom Herlihy, an agricultural engineer, created a unique and environmentally friendly technology to deal with this very problem.

Herlihy owns and operates RT Solutions Inc., which employs 8 million earthworms in a state-of-the-art facility to transform manure into an environmentally friendly, all organic fertilizer called Worm Power.

Worm Power benefits from its process-controlled and quality-engineered vermicomposting process. Vermicomposting is the process of breaking down organic matter using earthworms. The worms eat the organic matter and generate castings that serve as a nutrient-rich, natural fertilizer.

To view the rest of the article, go to

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/research/2007/wormpower.html> .

21. BOTTOMS UP

Grass has a special "strategy" for coping with grazers.

Looking at the trees, shrubs, and flowering plants growing nearby, we know that new growth comes from their outer tips. But not all plants grow in this way. Grass reverses this pattern by growing from the bottom up so the ends (top part) are always the oldest part of the plant

and the base is the youngest.

Many animals graze on grass. Even when the upper portions of a grass plant is being munched on; the lower portions are undamaged and can continue normal growth. A good "strategy" to minimize damage from grazers. Of course, whether it's an animal or lawnmower doing the "grazing", it's all the same to grass! <http://www.enaturalist.org/unit/261>

Source: Electronic Naturalist

22. WHICH HELMET FOR WHICH ACTIVITY

In March of this year, the Raffaelli family of San Mateo, Calif., tragically lost their son Casey, 20, after he fell from his skateboard. Casey's parents and uncle have courageously partnered with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to share a powerful safety message about the unquestionable importance of wearing a helmet when out on a bicycle, skateboard, scooter, etc. The visual and written message from the Raffaellis should motivate everyone to "strap a helmet on – it could save your life!"

To honor Casey and to help create a safer community where you live, they ask that you download this poster (www.cpsc.gov/nsn/helmets.pdf) and share it with friends, family and neighbors.

23. COOL WAYS TO SAVE MONEY & THE ENVIRONMENT

The typical household spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. This summer and fall, ENERGY STAR® at Lowe's makes it easy to keep cool, save money, and help the environment. Here are 5 ways to start making a difference today:

Cool Smart - Look for an ENERGY STAR®-qualified room A/C unit and make sure it's correctly sized to the room. An oversized unit wastes energy.

Save While You're Away - Install an ENERGY STAR®-qualified programmable thermostat and save energy when you're away or asleep - up to \$150 in energy costs per year.

Keep the Cool Air In - Use caulk, spray foam and weather stripping. Add insulation to keep hot air out of your home and prevent comfortable, cool air from escaping.

Cool Off With a Ceiling Fan - Add an ENERGY STAR®-qualified ceiling fan

and feel cooler, cool enough that you can adjust your thermostat to save even more energy and money. Remember to turn off your ceiling fan when you leave the room. Ceiling fans cool you, not the room.

Keep Dry - Use an ENERGY STAR®-qualified dehumidifier to save energy and money. Air with less humidity feels cooler and prevents mold and mildew.

For more savings tips and advice, take a tour through the ENERGY STAR® @home interactive tool <http://email.lowes.com/a/tBGgYoYAPsXh3BOcDhhAI9PRo.APSW2ibZ/estart?EMAIL=ekling@acesag.auburn.edu>

24. TAKE AIM

Most animals that hunt have eyes on the front of their heads, like people do. This allows the animal to focus on an object with both of its eyes. When an animal can do this, it has better aim. If you don't believe it, try this simple experiment.

What you'll need:

- a party blower
- a cup
- a small piece of paper

What to Do:

Place the cup upside down on a table.

Wad the paper into a ball and place it on the cup.

Bend down so that you are level with the cup and put the party blower in your mouth.

With your right eye closed, try to knock the paper off the cup by blowing into the party blower.

Open both eyes and try again.

You should find that your aim is better when both eyes are open.

Source: National Wildlife Federation

25. FALL MIGRATIONS

For birders and their friends who like to watch butterflies, dragonflies, and other animals, the arrival of fall means only one thing: migrations.

The best natural migration corridors occur in mountain ridges, river valleys, and along coastlines. Yet it's possible to see migrating animals just about anywhere. Here are some tips for enjoying the passing hordes.

<http://online.nwf.org/site/R?i=-w-LH18ZGpyHHEXTqh1RaA..>

Source: National Wildlife Federation