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1. FREE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Description:

The purpose of this workshop is to help provide technical assistance and support to educators, administrators, students and community volunteers who wish to create sustainable wildlife habitats and outdoor classrooms on their school grounds. This workshop will begin the process of training school personnel, Alabama Cooperative Extension employees, and local volunteers to work in partnership to create, use, and sustain local Outdoor Classroom sites.

Where & When:

September 20, Dale County Cooperative Extension Office (Ozark)

September 26, Tuscaloosa County Cooperative Extension Office

September 27, Lawrence County Cooperative Extension Office (Moulton)

October 3, Etowah County Cooperative Extension Office in Gadsden

October 4, Alabama Wildlife Federation in Millbrook (Elmore County) October 9, Mobile County Cooperative Extension Office (Mobile)

What is an Outdoor Classroom?

An Outdoor Classroom site includes components such as bird feeders, nesting boxes, butterfly gardens, aquatic studies areas, nature trails, and other areas around the school grounds that provide habitat for local wildlife while also providing hands-on learning opportunities for students in a fun and exciting environment.

Who Should Attend the Workshop?

- ◆ Educators and Administrators,
- ◆ Extension personnel who will work with the school
- ◆ Volunteers - parents, grandparents, local master gardeners and community members

AWF's Outdoor Classroom Workshop:

Check the workshop and date that you would like to attend.

(An information packet will be sent to you upon registration.)

_____ Thursday, September 20, Dale County Cooperative Extension Office (Ozark)

_____ Wednesday, September 26, Tuscaloosa County Cooperative Extension Office

_____ Thursday, September 27, Lawrence County Cooperative Extension Office in Moulton

_____ Wednesday, October 3, Etowah County Cooperative Extension Office in Gadsden

_____ Thursday, October 4, Alabama Wildlife Federation in Millbrook (Elmore County)

_____ Tuesday, October 9, Mobile County Cooperative Extension Office in Mobile

Complete this registration and fax or mail it to the Alabama Wildlife Federation at (334) 285-4959 or 3050 Lanark Road, Millbrook, AL 36054.

Name: _____

School Affiliation or Organization: _____

County: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Questions? Contact: Doyle Keasal at (334) 844-6398 or keasade@auburn.edu. Or April Waltz at (256) 882-9322 or aprilwaltz@knology.net

http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation_education/teacher_workshops.asp

2. BEST BUY "TEACH" AWARDS

Deadline: September 30, 2007

Through this Best Buy award program, \$3.5 million in total awards will be presented to more than 1500 schools in the United States. The purpose of the Best Buy Teach Award program is to reward K-12 schools for the successful interactive programs they have launched using available technology.

<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp>

3. APPRENTICE ECOLOGIST INITIATIVE

The goal of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative is to elevate young people (including disadvantaged and at-risk youth) into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay. Current award cycle is January 1 - December 31, 2007.

http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist

4. NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY--September 29, 2007

Lend a hand for the 14th annual coast-to-coast effort to clean up public lands to help preserve America's lands. The focus this year will be on countering the tide of invasive species taking over habitats and native species.

<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

5. HEALTHY SPROUTS AWARDS

Deadline: October 15, 2007

The National Gardening Association Healthy Sprouts Award helps support the growth of health-focused school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the U.S. To be eligible, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2008 with at least 15 children, ages three to eighteen. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/>

6. FREE JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER WORKSHOP—October 25

Description: The purpose of this workshop is to provide technical assistance and support to educators, administrators, students and community volunteers who wish to develop a youth gardening program as a part of their outdoor classroom program. During this workshop, participants will be trained in Level 1 of the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program and those who register their school will receive a copy of the JMG Teacher/Leader Guide. In addition, other gardening topics will be covered such as plant growth and development, garden design and construct, weed and pest control, picking the right plants, and other related topics. This workshop will begin the process of training school personnel, Alabama Cooperative Extension employees, and local volunteers such as Master Gardeners to work in partnership to support youth gardening.

Location: Alabama Wildlife Federation, 3050 Lanark Rd., Millbrook, Date: October 25, 2007 Time: 8:30 am –3:00 pm
Cost: Workshop Free (Lunch \$10 - collected on site)

To register, complete this registration form and fax (334-285-4959) or mail it to the Alabama Wildlife Federation at the address listed above.

(An information packet will be sent to you upon registration.)

Name: _____

School Affiliation (if applicable): _____

County: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Questions? Contact: Doyle Keasal at (334) 844-6398 or keasade@auburn.edu. or April Waltz at (256) 882-9322 or aprilwaltz@knology.net

http://www.alabamawildlife.org/conservation_education/teacher_workshops.asp

7. MAGAZINE SEEKING ENVIRO-ACTIVE YOUTH

Deadline: October 31, 2007

FACES Magazine is seeking environmentally active kids, ages 9-16, anywhere in the world to appear in the April 2008 Issue on Clean Earth. FACES is asking for a photo and story about what these children are doing to protect the Earth and its resources. All contributors who are published will receive a complimentary copy of this issue. Contact: Peg Lopata at plopatafacesmag@yahoo.com .

8. 2008 VOLVO ADVENTURE AWARDS

Deadline: January 31, 2008

In collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Volvo Adventure Award rewards young people creating their own environmental projects. There are two competitions for the 2008 awards:

The Adventure Award is for youth, ages 13-16, working in groups of two to five. Winners are invited to the final competition in Göteborg, Sweden, where the best will be awarded cash prizes to support their projects. The second competition is the Great Big Bob the Bunny Cartoon contest for youth under the age of 13, to create a cartoon picture using Bob the bunny. Winning cartoons will be included in a book, and the winners will be invited to a UNEP Children's conference in Stavanger, Norway, in 2008. <http://www.volvoadventure.org/>

9. ENVIROBOWL NEEDS TEAMS & VOLUNTEERS

Do you know any high school-aged youth who would like to compete in a knowledge bowl competition on environmental topics?. If you would like more information on forming a team, the competition, or ways people can volunteer at the competitions, please contact Marijean Hadley (marijean@legacyenvd.org), Legacy Education Manager (<http://www.legacyenvd.org/>) 334-270-5921, 800-240-5115 or Fax: 334-270-5527.

The competitions will be:

- Dothan - Friday, January 11
- Mobile - Tuesday, January 15
- Montgomery - Friday, January 18
- Tuscaloosa - Tuesday, January 22
- Florence - Friday, January 25
- Jacksonville - Tuesday, January 29
- State Competition - Birmingham, April 18

Volunteers are needed as scorekeepers, timekeepers, moderators, or judges. Learning to be a scorekeeper or time keeper is very easy.

10. HOW WAS THE GREENEST BUILDING BUILT?

The Common Fire Housing Co-op is the first Platinum building in New York State and the "Greenest" building in the Eastern USA, as certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. This site provides an in-depth approach to the concept and need for green building as well as the details of the Common Fire project. It also provides a specific link for educators, with a teacher's guide to the site.

<http://www.commonfire.org/community/greenwelcome.html>

11. FREE GREEN VIDEOS ON THE WEB

Green Energy TV will air videos of green energy projects from around the world. The videos are designed to show viewers about energy alternatives that are already available and encourage making an educated switch to clean energy.

<http://www.greenenergytv.com/>

12. "HEALTHY STYLE" DVD

The Healthy Style - Tips for Healthy Eco-Friendly Living and Design DVD is a fun and informative look at healthy, eco-friendly building options & materials for home and work environments with easy and affordable tips for everyone. Learn about energy efficient buildings, recycled and natural materials, hybrid cars, wood burning fireplaces, running a successful green B&B, and creating a healthy bedroom. See how designing for one's health and the health of the environment can be beautiful and practical. <http://www.healthystyleshow.tv/>

13. GOT ENERGY HOGS?

The Alliance to Save Energy's Energy Hog campaign is providing energy education tools to the people who influence the lives of the next generation: teachers. Why? Saving energy lessens our dependence on foreign oil, improves our air and water quality, and reduces our energy bills. To help spread the word about energy efficiency, educators can print out our Student and Teacher Guides and energy Scavenger Hunts from the Web site, or request activity worksheets, bookmarks, and tattoos via email. Contact: Erin O'Sullivan at eosullivan@ase.org <http://www.energyhog.org/>

14. ACTIONBIOSCIENCE.ORG

The American Institute of Biological Sciences hosts Actionbioscience.org, a Web site that promotes bioscience education and literacy. Features include teacher-written lesson plans and peer-reviewed articles that focus on important current issues in areas such as biodiversity, the environment, genomics, biotechnology, and evolution. Select articles are translated into Spanish, suitable for ESL students. See why Scientific American named Actionbioscience.org one of the top five biology websites. <http://www.actionbioscience.org/>

15. LESS CLASSROOM TIME SPENT ON ELEMENTARY SCIENCE

Results from a Center on Education Policy (CEP) survey shows that approximately 62% of school districts increased the amount of time spent in elementary schools on reading and language arts and/or math, while 44% of districts cut time on science, social studies, art and music, physical education, lunch, and/or recess. The survey examined the amount of time spent during the school week on core academic subjects and how the allocation of time across subjects has changed since the 2001-2002 school year, when NCLB was enacted.

Source: North American Association for Environmental Education

16. CLIMATECLASSROOM

National Wildlife Federation's new ClimateClassroom.org website is designed to help parents and teachers talk to students of differing ages about global warming. Its features include guidelines for parents, proposed new national global warming educator guidelines, age-adapted sources of useful curricula, a downloadable slide presentation for kids, presenter's guide, and more.

<http://www.ClimateClassroom.org>

17. THE F.R.E.E. NETWORK

The Forest Resource Environmental Education (FREE) Network is frequently updated and contains more than 100 interactive, scientifically-sound resources for students and teachers at all grade levels to learn about forests and forest management. The network was started by the University of Minnesota and is now hosted by Dovetail Partners, a non-profit environmental organization based

in Minneapolis. Visit the site for classroom resources and take the popular environmental quiz! <http://www.freenetwork.org/>

18. "BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA" ONLINE

From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Birds of North America Online is a comprehensive reference for life history information on over 700 different bird species that breed in the U.S. and Canada. Includes photo galleries, vocalizations, updated text, and video for many species. Subscription required.

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>

19. "WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM" PODCAST

Produced by students of the Teton Science Schools' Graduate Program, "Where the Buffalo Roam" podcasts explore Jackson Hole, Grand Teton National Park, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The shows are free and intended for students, educators, and anyone interested in learning more about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. <http://www.tetonscience.org/blogs/GS/>

20. "EARTH & SKY" PSAs

Combine the power of radio, the Internet, and Project Learning Tree activities to enhance learning in the classroom. Earth & Sky produces short daily radio shows on a range of environmental topics. These 90-second shows can also be downloaded for free from the Internet and many are correlated to Project Learning Tree (PLT) activities. Both Web sites provide a wealth of additional resources for educators and students for each radio show and PLT activity:

<http://earthsky.org/teachers/> & http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_23_60.html

21. "SEA STORIES" ONLINE JOURNAL

Feed your imagination with the just-released Vernal 2007 issue of Sea Stories, an online journal of creative writing and art by ocean-lovers from all backgrounds and walks of life. Educators are invited to use Sea Stories in the classroom or as a publishing opportunity for themselves or their students.

<http://www.seastories.org/>

22. TEACHERTUBE

TeacherTube is an online community for sharing instructional videos. Teachers can post videos designed for students or professional development videos for teacher-to-teacher instruction. <http://www.teachertube.com/>

23. FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO JR. HUNTING & SHOOTING MAGAZINE

FREE subscription to JAKES/Xtreme JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship) Magazine. This quarterly publication comes along with a free membership to the JAKES or Xtreme JAKES program and is loaded with entertaining and educational articles about wildlife, conservation, the shooting sports and the great outdoors. The magazine also includes information about

academic scholarships and chances to win conservation contests and prizes!
What a great way to supplement and enhance your 4-H shooting sports and wildlife conservation programs and curriculums while encouraging literacy and life long activities in the great outdoors.

Free memberships are available while funding lasts. However, JAKES memberships are always available for \$5 and special club rates can be provided for 30+ members. If you are interested in signing your 4-H members up for these great benefits, please visit our website at <http://www.nwtf.org/jakes/educators/partners.html>. You may also direct a letter or email to dholmes@nwtf.net that includes your club name as well as the name, address and age of each of your 4-H members.

*Note: This message was approved by Cathann A. Kress, Director, Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES, USDA

24. RIFLE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

This article will cover one of the many reliable techniques to clean your rifle. The two main reasons we clean our rifles are to maintain consistency in accuracy and to help prevent any possible malfunctions. The cleaning of your rifle can be broken down into four steps: cleaning the barrel, cleaning the chamber, cleaning the bolt, and cleaning the lower receiver.

http://www.odcmp.org/0607/default.asp?page=USAMU_MAINT

Source: SSG William T. Pace, USAMU Service Rifle Team Member

25. SIGHT ADJUSTMENT AND MINUTE OF ANGLE (MOA)

People who shoot for sport, hunting, or even military or law enforcement applications have many convictions, theories and myths about what can be done to improve their ability to hit where they aim and increase the effectiveness of their choice in firearms. There is one conviction, however, where all shooters agree. Every shooter's objective is for their bullets to impact where their rifle is aimed. This sounds simple enough and, if performed correctly, the bullet should always strike where it is aimed. Although this sounds good in theory, the truth is that many shots do not strike where they are aimed. One thing we can do to increase our chances of success is to learn how our sights work. They can then be adjusted so that when the perfect shot is fired, the bullet will land exactly where it is aimed. This article covers what we need to know as shooters to make sight adjustments that will keep our shots hitting where they are aimed. More Details

http://www.odcmp.org/0607/default.asp?page=USAMU_SIGHTADJ_MOA

Source: SSG Daniel M. Pettry, USAMU Service Rifle Team Member