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Early Morning Bird Walks

Develop and fine-tune your birding skills and witness the progression of songbird migration through the Campbell Tract this spring. Join BLM staff and Anchorage Audubon Society members for a series of early morning outdoor bird walks in May. Please dress appropriately for the weather and for walking on uneven terrain. Hot cocoa and coffee will be available at the Science Center afterwards.

Dates: May 8, 15, 22, & 29

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. (Participants are free to leave early.)

Meet at the Campbell Creek Science Center parking lot. For more information, call 267-1247.

NSTA Issues National Call for Entries for the 2008–2009 NSTA New Science Teacher Academy

On April 1, NSTA announced a call for entries for the 2008–2009 NSTA New Science Teacher Academy. Cofounded by the Amgen Foundation, the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy is a fellowship program created to help promote quality science teaching, enhance

teacher confidence and classroom excellence and improve teacher content knowledge. NSTA Fellows selected for the program will receive a comprehensive membership package, online mentoring with trained mentors who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional development activities, including web seminars. In addition, each NSTA Fellow will receive financial support to attend and participate in NSTA's 2009 National Conference on Science Education in New Orleans. This year's 150 new science teachers supported by the Amgen Foundation will be named Amgen-NSTA Fellows.

Science teachers located throughout the country who will be entering their second or third year of teaching and whose schedule is a minimum of 51 percent middle or high school science, can apply to become an NSTA Fellow. For more information about the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy or to learn how to apply to become a fellow, please visit www.nsta.org/academy. Applications must be submitted no later than May 23, 2008, to be considered.

Alaska Ag Day is May 6, 2008

Agriculture is a small but vital industry for Alaska. Alaska Ag Facts (2004 information; most recent available)

Number of farms and ranches: 620

Average Farm Size in Acres: 1,452

Average Net Cash Farm Income: \$15,790

Alaska ranks 49th among the states for agricultural production

Did you know?

Some Alaska products are highly sought after because of the low use of chemical herbicides and pesticides here.

There are more than 8,000 head of cattle on the Aleutian Islands — more than twice as many as in the Mat-Su and Fairbanks/Delta Junction areas put together.

Nursery and greenhouse crops had a value of sales in 2004 of \$14.6 million, up from about \$12 million in 2002.

More facts in AG Day attachment or visit the webpage. www.agclassroom.org/ak

Celebrate Earth Day with Vernier

Happy Earth Day! Like many of you, we at Vernier are participating in Earth Day activities. These include biking and busing to work, cleaning up our neighboring wetlands, participating in an employee swap of CDs and videos, and collecting old sneakers for recycling. Once you have finished your Earth Day celebration, take a few

minutes to read this newsletter, where you will find some interesting innovative uses, professional development opportunities, and much more.

1. Investigating the Solar Energy Production at Vernier

Having an eco-friendly business is important to Vernier. Towards that end, we have recently completed a two-phase project to add solar panels to our building to help reduce our carbon footprint. But we wouldn't be Vernier if we didn't turn our project into a learning opportunity for you and your students. You can download the background information, complete with data and sample questions.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/solar/>

2. Spectral Analysis of Fireflies

You know summer has arrived when the fireflies come out. Last year, Ben Carter, son of Vernier consultant David Carter, did a spectral analysis of the light emitted by a firefly using a Vernier Spectrometer. We were so happy to get Ben's data, because we do not have fireflies in Oregon.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/fireflies/>

3. Measuring a Motor's Rotational Speed

Physics teacher Brian Lamore, Chinquapin School, Highlands, Texas, has his students build a simple motor as part of their investigation into electromagnetic induction. To add a little competition, Brian has his students use a Voltage Probe to determine which motor turns the fastest.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/motor-speed/>

4. Have We Got a Deal for You!

We have discontinued items and gently used loaner equipment available for purchase at discounted prices. These items all carry our normal warranty and support. Quantities are limited and availability is not guaranteed. Items include LabPros, Garmin eTrex Vista Cx GPS units, and original Motion Detectors, in addition to various sensors. This is a great opportunity for schools with limited budgets.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/overstock/>

5. Recycle by Reusing

Here is an Earth-friendly idea: If you have older Vernier

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equipment that you are no longer using, let other Vernier customers know you would be willing to donate, trade, or sell the equipment. We have lots of customers who use our Discussion Board for this purpose. If you are looking for something specific, you can also post a request to see if another Vernier customer has what you need.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/trade-and-sell/>

6. New LabQuest Stand

Even though LabQuest is a great handheld, sometimes you want to set it down while you are using it. The new LabQuest stand (order code LQ-STN, \$12) allows you to adjust the LabQuest viewing angle when sitting on a desk or lab table. The stand also lifts the LabQuest off the workspace, keeping it away from spills. (Available late May.)

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/labquest-stand/>

7. Physics Training with P. Laws, D. Sokoloff, and R. Thornton

The University of Oregon's Department of Physics is hosting a summer professional development course June 7-9, 2008. The course entitled "Using Research-Based Curricula and Tools to Promote Active Learning in Introductory Courses" includes hands-on activities utilizing Interactive Lecture Demonstration techniques, RealTime Physics labs, Collaborative Problem-Solving Tutorials, Workshop Physics activities, modeling, and video analysis.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/physics-workshop/>

8. Summer Professional Development from Vernier

Do you want to learn to use Vernier data-collection technology directly from the source? We have several opportunities you can take advantage of. These low-cost courses are perfect for all levels of technology users.

Science and Math Workshops

We are offering 14 one-day, general science and math hands-on workshops at various cities throughout the country. The \$99 registration fee includes six hours of training, workshop materials, and lunch. Special workshop training packages allow you to bundle the purchase of Vernier technology along with the training.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/summer-workshops/>

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AP* Biology, AP* Chemistry and Physics

Back by popular demand is our two-day, subject-specific workshops for biology, chemistry, and physics teachers. These workshops give you an in-depth look at using technology as a tool to explore the subject-specific content. The cost is \$149 and includes the training, course-appropriate lab manual, and lunch. This year, the workshops will be held in Baltimore, Chicago, and San Diego.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/subject-workshops/>

Elementary Science

New this summer is our one-day, hands-on Elementary Science Workshop. Explore the use of Vernier data-collection technology in the teaching of elementary science. Two six-hour sessions will be held in the Boston area. The cost is \$99 and includes the training, Elementary with Vernier lab book, and lunch. You can even bundle your training with technology and save up to \$30.

<http://www.vernier.com/e-news/2008-04-22/elementary-workshop/>

Christine Vernier

Vernier Software & Technology

13979 SW Millikan Way
Beaverton, OR 97005-2886
toll free: (888) 837-6437
phone: (503) 277-2299
fax: (503) 277-2440
info@vernier.com

Plastic Nursery Pot Recycling in 2008

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) and the Alaska Botanical Garden are again teaming up to hold a nursery pot recycling event at the Garden on September 20th, 2008. Many gardeners suggested we do a Fall event as so much planting happens late in the season.

The one-day, Saturday event will run from 10 am to 5 pm. We will again take only those pots that are Number 2, 5 and 7 (look for the chasing arrow symbol with the number on the bottom of the pot.) We realized last year that some # 2's don't have the number on the bottom. However, as long as the pot looks like the other #2's, we'll take it.

TIPS:

Check for resin number on bottom (2,5,7)
Shake all loose soil out of pots or rinse
Remove metal hangers
Stack same size pots as you finish with them this Summer

Remember- not all pots are taken, such as the non-rigid 4 or 6 cell packs or #6 pots.

So, save your plastic pots this summer and bring them to the Garden on Saturday, September 20. Recycled pots are shipped to Seattle and sold to companies who make plastic lumber and other plastic products.

Mary Fisher
Executive Director
ALPAR
644-7968

Alaska Arbor Day - Monday, May 19, 2008

Keeping Habitats Healthy: We All Can Help

<http://www.efieldtrips.org>

Students can "Ask The Experts" from April 29 - May 1, 2008. See efieldtrip attachment.

EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR'S BSCS SCIENCE INSTITUTES

Scientific Inquiry in the Secondary Classroom

5-day onsite experience in Colorado Springs (July 14-18, 2008) 1 year online, asynchronous, Professional Development course and moderated professional learning community (June 1, 2008 – May 30, 2009)

Scientific Inquiry in the Elementary Classroom

(NEW!)

5-day intensive content-deepening experience in Colorado Springs (July 14-18, 2008) 1 year online, asynchronous, Professional Development course and moderated professional learning community (June 1, 2008 – May 30, 2009)

Evolution: Earth Life

6-day intensive content deepening experience in Colorado Springs (July 20-25, 2008) 1 year moderated online professional learning community (June 1, 2008 – May 30, 2009)

Each Institute begins with an online activity and discussion to initiate the online community and provide a platform from which to jump into the summer program.

Don't miss out on early registration and team discounts!

Learn more about the program or register at our website:

Science Institute information and registration
<http://bscs.org/professionaldevelopment/pdservices/scienceinstitutes/?utm_source=eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SI%2BeBlast>

Download printable administrator letter
<<http://www.bsccs.org/pdf/silettertoadmin.pdf>>

Frequently Asked Questions
<http://bscs.org/professionaldevelopment/pdservices/scienceinstitutes/faqs.html?utm_source=eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SI+eBlast>

Contact Dr. Sam Spiegel at sspiegel@bscs.org or Aleigh Raffelson at araffelson@bscs.org or 719.219.4119.

Jason-2 Educator Launch Conference

An exciting OSTM/Jason-2 Educator Launch Conference will be held on 14-15 June 2008 (Saturday/Sunday). The conference will have rich Space and STEM education educator workshops in the afternoon followed by a dinner banquet. JPL OSTM/Jason-2 Project Manager and Scientists (Dr. Ralph Basilio, Dr. Josh Willis and Dr. Lee-Lueng Fu) will be at the dinner banquet at the Pacific Coast Officers Club, Vandenberg AFB with presentations and Q&A session with all of you. There are also outstanding workshop presenters from all over United States and International. Please find attached the final OSTM/Jason-2 Educator Launch conference presenter team. After dinner, NASA and Industry scientists and engineers will do presentations on the OSTM/Jason-2 satellite mission and Delta II launch vehicle. All educators will be bussed to see the Jason-2 satellite launch on a Delta II launch vehicle at 1:47 a.m. from Vandenberg AFB. If you are interested in participating in this exceptional educator conference (30 May 2008 deadline to sign-up), please complete the attached PDF registration form and return it. Your spouses are welcome.

All conference information is also posted on our website at <http://endeavours.org/sec>



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The value of agricultural products sold in Alaska in 2004 reached nearly \$53 million.

Less than one half of 1 percent of the land in Alaska is cultivated for crops. That is about 900,000 acres — compared to 15 million acres estimated to be arable and about 365 million acres total in the state. (An acre is about the size of a football field, without the end zones.)

The number of farms in Alaska increased from 291 in 1974 to 574 in 1987 to 620 in 2004. That's an increase of 97 percent from 1974 to 2004. However, the amount of land in farms has not substantially changed during those 20 years. In many cases, smaller specialty farms are replacing traditional large-acre farms, resulting in the increase in numbers of farms.

Alaska farmers and ranchers commercially produce a wide variety of products: animal feed crops (like barley and hay); root crops (like carrots and potatoes); cole crops (like cabbage and broccoli); greenhouse crops (like tomatoes and cucumbers); other trucks crops (like lettuce and about 40 other vegetables); nonfood crops (like bedding plants and grass seeds); dairy products (milk products); and meat (everything from beef and pork to reindeer and bison).

In 2004, 31,312 acres were planted to crops in Alaska. Nearly three-quarters of this acreage was devoted to hay production. Grain crops (primarily barley and oats) accounted for nearly 22 percent of this total acreage planted to crops. The remainder was devoted to vegetables.

Statistics from Alaska Ag Statistics 2005, published by National Agricultural Statistics Service (Alaska office) and Alaska Division of Agriculture.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Alaska/index.asp#.html

SHARE THE ADVENTURE! BLM ELECTRONIC FIELD TRIPS

KEEPING HABITATS HEALTHY: WE ALL CAN HELP!

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Join BLM for an Electronic Field Trip to explore

Keeping Habitats Healthy: We All Can Help!

Produced in conjunction with Distance Learning Integrators, this web-based program will feature three segments:

- A “virtual visit” exploring habitats, ways in which scientists study habitat change, and ways in which we all can try to keep habitats healthy;
- An “Ask the Experts” segment in which wildlife biologists will be available to answer student questions online; and
- A student journal, which allows educators to assess student learning.

The field trip is available for viewing at www.efieldtrips.org.

Students can “ASK THE EXPERTS” from April 29 through May 1, 2008. Classes should register in advance to participate in the complete program.