

# GENTLE.NEWS

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## In Today's Edition

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*"Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift."*

— Mary Oliver

### Amazing Wetlands Are Nature's Special Places

This month we celebrate the wonderful world of wetlands. These special places are some of nature's most amazing areas.

What makes a wetland so special? A wetland is land that has water on it or near it for much of the year. This water makes the soil different from regular dirt. It creates a perfect home for many plants and animals.

Wetlands have three main parts that make them unique. First, they have water that stays around for months at a time. Second, they have special soil that holds lots of water. Third, they have plants that love to grow in very wet places.

No two wetlands are exactly the same. Some are big and some are small. Some have salt water and others have fresh water. You might find beautiful cypress swamps, salt marshes, or mangrove forests.

Scientists study these amazing places to learn how they work. Wetlands are home to countless birds, fish, and other wildlife. They are truly some of nature's most wonderful gifts to our world.

### **Scientists Build Amazing New Tools for Space Discovery**

Scientists are working on something very exciting. They are building special new tools to help us learn about space and the universe.

These amazing tools use something called quantum science. Think of it like having super-powered magnifying glasses that can see things we never could before.

The scientists have already built their first set of these special tools. Now they are ready to use them for real experiments. They want to learn about mysterious things in space called dark matter.

The project brings together smart people from many different areas of science. They work as a team to solve the biggest puzzles about our universe.

These new discoveries could help us understand how everything in space works. It is like being detectives, but instead of solving crimes, they solve the secrets of the stars and planets. The scientists are very excited about what they might discover next. Their work could change how we think about space forever.

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Fish Make Amazing Journeys to Have Babies**

Every year, millions of fish swim amazing distances. They travel through oceans and rivers to find special places. These places are where they were born. The fish go there to have their own babies.

Some fish swim thousands of miles on their journey. Salmon are famous for this long trip. They remember where they came from. Then they swim back to that exact spot.

Scientists work hard to help these traveling fish. They fix rivers and streams that got damaged. They remove things that block the fish's path. This makes it easier for fish to reach their destinations.

The work is paying off well. One river now has 30,000 salmon returning home. That's a record number! The fish are healthier and happier now.

These swimming journeys happen every spring. It's like nature's own amazing travel adventure. The fish follow paths their families used for thousands of years.

## **Technology & Innovation**

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### **Teachers Share Thoughts on Computer Helpers**

Schools across America are trying new computer helpers called AI. These smart programs can help teachers with their daily work.

Two big technology companies, Google and Microsoft, are spending lots of money to train teachers. They want to show teachers how these computer helpers work.

A team of researchers wanted to know what teachers really think. They talked to 22 teachers in Colorado schools. These schools are already using the new computer helpers.

The teachers had mixed feelings about the technology. They liked that it could help with boring paperwork and planning lessons. This would give them more time for students.

But teachers also had some worries. They wondered if the computer helpers might change how they connect with their students. Teachers love the personal side of their job most of all.

## History & Heritage

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### **Wildlife Refuge Near New York City Celebrates Nature**

A special wildlife refuge sits just 26 miles from New York City. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge feels like a peaceful world away from the busy city.

The refuge covers 12 square miles of beautiful wetlands and forests. It sits in northern New Jersey, surrounded by neighborhoods and towns. Yet inside, it feels like pure nature.

Over 244 kinds of birds live there or visit during the year. Mallards and wood ducks swim in the ponds. Beautiful migrating birds like teal and pintails stop by. The refuge is also home to 39 types of mammals. River otters play in the water. Beavers build their dams. White-tailed deer walk through the woods.

Visitors can enjoy many activities at the refuge. They can take photos of wildlife. They can go hiking on trails. Bird watching is very popular. There is even a driving tour for people who want to stay in their cars.

The refuge staff works hard to keep this special place healthy. They restore habitats for animals. They take care of grasslands and forests. They build nesting boxes for birds. Their work helps wildlife thrive near one of America's busiest areas.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

### Words to Find:

TEACHERS

REFUGE

PLANTS

NATURE

BIRDS

TOOLS

FISH

