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GENTLE.NEWS

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"No persons are more frequently wrong, than those who will not admit they are wrong."

— François de La Rochefoucauld

Volunteers Help NASA Make Amazing Space Discoveries

NASA is celebrating big wins for everyday people who help explore space. Thousands of volunteers across the country are doing real science. Their work is making a real difference.

One exciting project is called Backyard Worlds. In this project, volunteers helped find most of the known brown dwarfs in space. Brown dwarfs are objects that sit somewhere between a star and a planet. Finding them helps scientists understand our universe better.

Volunteers also reached a huge milestone on a website called Zooniverse. Together, they made one billion classifications of space images. That means one billion times, a volunteer looked at a photo and helped sort it. What an amazing team effort!

Now, NASA has chosen 19 new projects for volunteers to join. One new project is called The Rogue Worlds Project. Volunteers will search space images to find planets that float freely through space. Scientists from the American Museum of Natural History are leading this work.

Anyone can take part in NASA citizen science. You do not need a science degree. You just need curiosity and a little time. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. It is a wonderful way to feel connected to something much bigger than ourselves.

Source: NASA

College Students Turn NASA Dream Into Drone Company

Five years ago, Gavin Gardner was a college student at Michigan State University. He was studying engineering and working on drone technology. NASA helped pay for his research through a special grant program.

The work was hard in ways Gavin did not expect. Building the drones was challenging. But managing money and promoting their work was even harder. Gavin and his teammates had never done those things before.

NASA's program teaches students both science and business skills. Students learn how to build things and how to explain their ideas to others. A NASA manager said the program helps students grow and launch real careers.

Gavin learned to talk about his work in simple, clear ways. "Half the battle is building your product," he said. "The other half is explaining it so everyone understands." Those lessons stayed with him long after college.

In 2024, Gavin and his teammates started their own company called AG3 Labs. They build drones used for military training exercises. Their NASA experience helped make it all possible. It is a wonderful example of how learning and hard work can lead to exciting new things.

Source: NASA

Millions of Birds Fill the Sky This Fall Season

Every fall, something magical happens in the sky above us. Hundreds of millions of birds begin a long journey south. They travel along special paths called flyways. These routes stretch across all of North America.

Birds use four main flyways to travel. These are the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic routes. They connect northern summer homes to warmer winter spots. Birds have followed these same paths for thousands of years.

Nature lovers can watch this amazing show up close. Special wildlife areas across the country offer great views. Wetlands, grasslands, and forests give birds places to rest. Hungry birds stop to eat before continuing their long trip.

Snow geese, ducks, and many other birds make this trip. California's Central Valley is one wonderful place to watch. Nearly 17,000 acres of wetlands welcome tired, traveling birds. Birdwatchers there enjoy a truly breathtaking seasonal show.

These special wild lands are carefully protected and maintained. Taxes paid by makers of hunting gear help pay for them. This old program, started long ago, still helps birds today. Thanks to it, future generations will enjoy this wonder too.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Workers Build Giant Oyster Reef in Chesapeake Bay

Something wonderful is happening in the Chesapeake Bay. Workers are building a huge new home for oysters underwater. They are dropping loads of stones onto the bay floor. These stones will become the foundation for oyster reefs.

The new reef will cover more than 70 acres. That is about the size of 53 football fields. A crane on a barge drops the stones, load by load. Slowly, the reef takes shape beneath the water.

Oysters are very important to the bay. They clean the water by filtering out dirt and algae. Healthy oyster reefs also give fish and other sea creatures a safe place to live. More oysters means a healthier bay for everyone.

This exciting work builds on ten years of success. Scientists and workers have already restored 1,900 acres of oyster reefs in the bay. Almost all of those reefs are doing very well. The oysters are healthy and growing strong.

The goal is to restore 2,000 more acres by the year 2040. One leader called this project "the opening chapter of the next story." The bay's future looks bright, one oyster at a time.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

New Electronic Skin Glows When You Touch It

Scientists have created an amazing new material called "electronic skin." It is thin and soft, like real skin. When you press on it, it lights up! The light shows exactly where and how hard you pressed.

This special skin was made by researchers in Singapore. They worked at the National University of Singapore. Their findings were shared in a top science journal called Nature Communications.

The glowing skin is very detailed. It can even capture the tiny ridges of a human fingerprint. That is incredibly precise. Regular electronic skin cannot do anything close to this.

This invention could help in many exciting ways. Doctors could use it to better understand how patients move and feel. Robot hands could use it to handle objects gently. It could also be used to identify people by their fingerprints safely and quickly.

Scientists believe this glowing skin is just the beginning. It could one day make medical care better for everyone. It is a wonderful example of how clever ideas can help people live healthier, safer lives. The future looks very bright indeed!

Source: Futurity.org

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

PLANET OYSTER WORLDS STONE

BARGE NASA REEF

O	W	O	R	L	D	S	N	R	L	N
S	Y	P	B	N	H	T	A	I	G	K
R	E	E	F	U	O	Y	S	T	E	R
Y	K	G	Y	H	U	M	A	W	O	I
X	Q	V	B	D	X	I	B	G	S	F
P	L	A	N	E	T	B	C	H	G	F
S	T	O	N	E	S	A	E	U	I	V
I	M	Q	F	N	X	R	X	L	N	Z
I	G	O	B	O	Y	G	X	L	H	J
O	Y	R	B	P	P	E	H	N	H	M
W	X	V	L	Y	R	U	K	Q	T	X