

GENTLE.NEWS

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"A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people."

— Thomas Mann

Old Farm Becomes Thriving Home for Fish and Visitors

A beautiful nature preserve in Florida is a great success story. The Robinson Preserve covers 700 acres near the coast. It used to be old, worn-out farmland. Now it has been brought back to life.

Workers restored the land so fish and wildlife could thrive there. The results have been wonderful. Healthy fish now swim in the waters of the preserve. People love to visit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

About 240,000 people visit the preserve every year. That is a lot of happy visitors! They come to watch wildlife, walk the trails, and enjoy nature. The area brings in millions of dollars for the local community.

The US government helped make this happen. A group called NOAA works to protect wetlands, rivers, and coastal areas across the country. Healthy habitats keep our water clean and protect shorelines from storms.

Stories like Robinson Preserve show what is possible. Old, damaged land can become a thriving natural treasure. Fish, birds, and people all benefit. It is a reminder that caring for nature brings joy and good things for everyone.

New Zealand's Wild Island Glows With Life

Far south of New Zealand lies a very special island. It is called Stewart Island, or Rakiura. That name means "glowing skies" in the Māori language.

The island glows for a beautiful reason. The southern lights, called the aurora australis, shine over it at night. Colorful ribbons of light dance across the dark sky. It is a breathtaking sight.

The island is also home to thousands of kiwi birds. The kiwi is New Zealand's beloved national bird. It cannot fly, but it thrives here. In fact, thousands of kiwi live on the island. Only about 500 people live there too. The birds outnumber the people by far!

Most of the island is a national park. Thick green forests cover the land. Ancient trees grow tall and produce sweet fruits. Colorful bellbirds sing in the branches. Their calls are clear and beautiful. The rare kākāpō parrot also lives here. Wetlands and sandy coastal dunes add to the scenery.

A NASA satellite recently took a photo of the island from space. The image showed the island bright green and mostly free of clouds. It looked like a jewel in the deep blue sea. Stewart Island is a true natural treasure.

Young Scientists Help NASA Study the Sky

A group of college students spent their summer doing real science work with NASA. They helped study the air above the Texas coast. It was an exciting adventure!

The students released large balloons high into the sky. Each balloon carried a special tool called an ozonesonde. This tool measured the air as the balloon floated up. The students watched the data come in as it rose.

NASA paired the students with experienced scientists and professors. Together, they worked on four topics: air, oceans, land, and water. Each student designed their own research project and shared their findings at the end.

Some students even flew on a NASA aircraft to gather data from above the clouds. They also compared their results with readings from NASA satellites in space. It was real science, just like the professionals do!

"This is such an awesome experience," said one student, right after releasing her balloon into the blue sky. NASA hopes programs like this inspire young people to pursue careers in Earth science for years to come.

Art Brings Healing and Hope to Cancer Families

A special club in Detroit helps people touched by cancer feel less alone. It is called Gilda's Club Metro Detroit. The club offers free support to patients, families, friends, and caregivers.

The club is named after Gilda Radner. She was a beloved comedian and Detroit native. She was diagnosed with cancer in 1985. Her name lives on through this caring organization.

One of the most popular programs at Gilda's Club is art therapy. Drawing, painting, and creating help people share feelings that are hard to put into words. "Art gives people a way to begin healing," said staff member Adrian Benedict. More and more people are joining these art sessions every year.

The club recently received a \$24,000 grant to keep its art programs running. This money comes from the National Endowment for the Arts. It helps make sure that art therapy stays free for all members. Many members have limited incomes, so free programs matter very much.

Art therapy outside of a clinic can be very costly. This grant makes healing through art possible for everyone. At Gilda's Club, no one has to face cancer alone. There is always warmth, creativity, and hope waiting inside.

New Program Helps Science Students Learn on the Job

America is making a big investment in its future scientists. A major program will help hundreds of students earn their highest science degrees faster and better.

The National Science Foundation is spending \$47 million over five years. Dozens of universities and companies are joining in too. Together, they will help more than 250 students earn science degrees called PhDs.

What makes this special? Students will get real work experience while they study. They will spend time inside actual companies doing real research. This helps them learn skills they can truly use.

In the past, most PhD programs trained students only for teaching jobs at universities. But today, most science graduates go to work for businesses instead. This new program helps students prepare for the jobs that are actually waiting for them.

America has always led the world in science and new ideas. This program helps make sure that continues. It gives talented young people every tool they need to succeed and make discoveries that will help us all.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

PAINTING

PRESERVE

BALLOON

STUDENT

HEALING

OZONE

COAST

