

GENTLE.NEWS

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*"There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and
that is not being talked about."*

— Oscar Wilde

Scientists and Fishermen Team Up to Protect Scallops

America loves scallops. They are one of the most popular seafoods in the country. And thanks to a smart program, scientists are working hard to keep them plentiful for years to come.

A group called NOAA Fisheries runs a special program. It gives researchers a portion of scallops to harvest. The researchers then sell those scallops to pay for their work. No government tax dollars are needed. It is a clever idea.

This year, 14 research projects received awards. Together, they will harvest more than one and a half million pounds of Atlantic sea scallops. That is a lot of scallops! The work is expected to bring in about 25 million dollars in total.

Researchers will study where scallops live and how many there are. They will also use computers to help read photos taken underwater. Fishermen help collect information too. Scientists and fishing families work side by side.

The U.S. sea scallop fishery is the largest in the world. In 2025, fishermen brought in scallops worth 417 million dollars. This wonderful partnership between science and the sea helps make sure scallops will be enjoyed for generations.

Smart Robots Will Run the Labs of Tomorrow

Scientists have exciting news about the future of research. A famous science lab is building laboratories that can run themselves. These "self-driving labs" use robots and smart computer systems to do experiments automatically.

The lab leading this work is called SLAC. It is part of the U.S. Department of Energy. SLAC is teaming up with Stanford University and several other top science centers across the country.

In these new labs, robots will carefully handle tiny samples. Smart computers will watch over special beams of light called X-rays. The computers will check the results of experiments right away, as they happen.

This is a big deal because science experiments usually take a very long time. With robots and smart systems helping, discoveries could happen much faster. New medicines, materials, and technologies could reach people sooner.

The project was announced at a special science summit in Washington, D.C. Leaders from universities, national labs, and businesses are all working together. Scientists hope these smart labs will change how research is done all across America.

Space Telescope Solves Mystery of Distant Radio Bursts

Scientists have made an exciting discovery deep in space. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope found the source of a rare and mysterious signal from far away.

These signals are called fast radio bursts. They are tiny flashes of radio energy that last less than a second. Scientists first spotted them back in 2007. Nobody knew exactly where they came from.

Now, the Webb telescope has tracked one of these bursts to its home galaxy. That galaxy is very small and full of young, newborn stars. It is the most distant burst scientists have ever traced. This is a huge breakthrough for space research.

The Webb telescope is very powerful. It can see things billions of light-years away. Its special cameras detect light that human eyes cannot see. This helps scientists study the early universe.

Learning where these bursts come from helps us understand how stars and galaxies are born. Each new discovery brings us closer to understanding our vast and wonderful universe. Scientists are thrilled and look forward to finding even more answers soon.

Pearl the Seal Finds Her Forever Home

A young seal named Pearl has found a safe and loving forever home at an aquarium in Connecticut. She is a gray seal, just two years old, with a beautiful silver coat that inspired her name.

Pearl was found on a beach in New York in 2025. Kind beachgoers noticed she was hurt and called for help right away. A rescue team came quickly to care for her. Doctors discovered that Pearl had a curved spine. This meant she could not survive safely on her own in the ocean.

Pearl had actually been rescued and cared for before. An aquarium in Connecticut recognized her from an earlier visit. She had been given special tracking tags so scientists could follow her movements in the wild. Finding those tags helped rescuers piece together her story like a puzzle.

After months of gentle care and healing, experts decided Pearl needed a permanent home. The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut, happily welcomed her. Staff there are trained to care for seals just like Pearl.

Now Pearl is safe, comfortable, and well looked after every single day. She is a reminder that when people work together with kindness, wonderful things can happen. Pearl's story truly has a happy ending.

Two Nature Teachers Win Big National Awards

Two wonderful teachers have won special awards for their work helping young people love nature. Both winners work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They teach children about the natural world in fun and exciting ways.

The awards are called the Sense of Wonder Awards. They are named after Rachel Carson, a famous nature expert. She believed that wonder and curiosity about nature were gifts worth sharing. These awards honor teachers who share that same spirit.

There are two award categories. The Impact Award goes to someone with many years of service. The Spark Award honors someone with a fresh and exciting new program. Both winners this year came from the Northeast region of the country.

David Stoughton won the Impact Award. He has worked in conservation for over 24 years. He served in the Navy before starting his nature career. He has worked at famous places like the Statue of Liberty. Now he helps visitors at a wildlife refuge in Philadelphia.

The winners were celebrated at a special national workshop. People came together to honor their hard work and dedication. Their efforts remind us that helping children connect with nature truly matters. Nature is a gift, and these teachers help the next generation enjoy it.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

WILDLIFE

SCALLOP

HARVEST

REFUGE

STARS

LASER

SEAL

