

Internodes

XenoNET

Are the new methods of techno-science leaving you in the lurch? Or do you, at the least, want to be able to bluff your way through a recombinant DNA discussion on your next Harley Davidson club ride? Well, don't let it slow you down, Bucky! Come up to speed with some of the following techno-savvy websites!

You can virtually test-drive some technically advanced biological tools thanks to the folks at Howard Hughes Medical Institute at www.hhmi.org/grants/lectures/biointeractive/vlabs.html. Diagnose the troubled heart of a virtual cardiac patient, identify some bacteria through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, or investigate neurological dynamics by prodding the simple nerve system of some leeches. They're "virtually" guaranteed not to suck your blood.

If you're want to try some genetic recombinations, but don't want to release a new monster into the world, try some virtual DNA manipulations on some good old fruit flies, the classic organisms of genetics. Register for a free 7-day trial at: <http://vcourseware5.calstatela.edu/VirtualFlyLab/IntroVflyLab.html>. You can induce mutations in

your own *Drosophilean* superflies, hatch 'em out, and see what happens. There are 11 other virtual biology labs including biochemistry of plants (do you recall the differences between C-3 and C-4 photosynthesis?); evolution; the human heart's reactions to variables like exercise and pharmaceuticals; and achieving zero population growth in your own brave new world by manipulating population dynamics.

And who said the study of rocks was just for jocks? You can essentially experience the study of geology while becoming a certified virtual seismologist! Then, you can rock your world with the simulated earthquake of your choice at: <http://vcourseware5.calstatela.edu/VirtualEarthquake/VquakeIntro.html>.

And while you're at it, try some classic Mad Scientist projects from the Mad Scientist Network at www.madsci.org/experiments. Talk about childhood memories! Try out that foamy old favorite, the vinegar and baking soda volcano! And nothing can really compare with coming up with your own bucket o' slime!

—Mike Bodle

MARK YOU CALENDAR

54th Annual Southern Weed Science Society Conference, Beau Rivage, Biloxi, MS. **January 22-24, 2001**. Contact: www.weedscience.msstate.edu/swss/.

Weed Science Society of America. **February 11-15, 2001**. Greensboro, NC. Contact: Charlotte Eberlein, 208/763-3600, ceberl@uidaho.edu.

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council "2001 Conference: A Weed Odyssey". Georgia Center for Continuing Education, University of Georgia, Athens. **March 21-24, 2001**. Contact: Cheryl McCormick, cheryl@uga.edu.

League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF), annual conference, **March 22-25, 2001**. Leesburg, FL. Contact: eileen_tramontana@district.sjrwmd.state.fl.us

Association of Southeastern Biologists/Southern Appalachian Botanical Society/SE Chapter of Ecological Society of America/Tri-Beta: 62nd Annual Meeting, **April 4-7, 2001**. New Orleans, LA. Contact: www.loyno.edu/~asb

16th Annual Symposium, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, **September 12-14, 2001**, St. Augustine, FL. Contact: Kathy Burks, kathy.burks@dep.state.fl.us

Join the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council!

Annual Membership Dues Include:
Quarterly magazine, *Wildland Weeds* • Quarterly newsletter
Legislative updates regarding exotic plant control issues.

Membership:

INDIVIDUAL

Student - \$10 • General - \$20
Contributing - \$50 • Donor - \$51-500

INSTITUTIONAL

General - \$100 • Contributing - \$500
Donor - \$501-\$10,000 • Patron - \$10,000 or more

Wildland Weeds subscription - \$15/year (does not include other membership benefits)

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Mail to: **Dan Thayer, 3301 Gun Club Rd., West Palm Bch., FL 33406**